

General Growing Conditions - 2019 Birdy Dozen

Note: Many plants will grow in a variety of light and moisture conditions. They will be most robust in their preferred conditions, but may grow well in sub-optimal conditions. The conditions below are a combination of recommendations from LBJ Wildflower Center (www.wildflower.org), Don Leopold's book *Native Plants for the Northeast*, US Fish & Wildlife Service's Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping and others. They may not address your own yard's conditions.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Size (ft)	Blooms	Light	Soil	Notes
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy serviceberry, Common shadbush	15-25	Mar-May, white Fleshy fruit, red to purple	S-PS-Sh	D-M	Used by 58 species of wildlife, 35 bird species. Important early summer food.
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild columbine, Red columbine	0.5-3	Apr-Jul, red-yellow, showy. Fruit: capsule	S-PS	D-M	Nectar for hummingbirds, seed for finches. Needs well-drained soil, drought tolerant. Spreads by seed. Rocky woods, slopes, ledges.
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	Woodland sunflower	1.5-6.5	Jul-Sept, white Fruit: capsule	PS	D-M	Gives color to shady understory. Seeds have high fat content. Dry open woods, slopes.
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	50-75, Spread 35-50	Mar-Apr, red-purple Fruit: Jul-Mar, conelike	S-PS	D-M	Evergreen. Berries eaten by over 50 species of birds.
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush, Northern spicebush	6-16	Mar-May, yellow Fruit: Sept-Oct, scarlet berry	PS-Sh	M-W	Fast growing, drought, cold and heat resistant shrub. Fall color yellow. Aromatic. Host plant for spicebush swallowtail.
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	3-6	Jul-Aug	S-PS	D-M-W	Warm season grass. Food for sparrows. Grows in clumps, prevents erosion. Deer resistant.
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper, Woodbine	Spread 3- 35, vine	Jun-Aug, greenish white Fruit Sep-Feb, dark blue berry	S-PS-Sh	D-M-W	Fruit eaten by variety of wildlife. Bank stabilizer. Woody, deciduous vine; high climbing or trailing. Can be ground cover.
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	American chokecherry	20-30 Spread 20-35	May-Jun white Fruit: Aug-Sept, fleshy	S-PS	M	Fast growing, short-lived. Open, moist sites, pioneer after fire. Fall color dark red, purple. Important summer wildlife food.
<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy willow	12-20	Mar, white, green Fruit: furry catkins	S	M	Fast growing, can be cut back every few years. Spring food source.
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Rough, or Rough- stemmed Goldenrod	2-6	Aug-Nov, yellow Fruit: capsule	S-PS	M-W	Forms clumps, likes well-drained soil. Fields, woods, floodplains, roadsides.
<i>Sporobolus heterolepsis</i>	Prairie dropseed	1-2	Jun-Aug, yellow, green, pink	S	D	Slow growing, clump-forming warm season grass. Fine textured, not flattened by snow.
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York ironweed	3.5-8	Aug-Oct, purple Fruit: capsule	S-PS	M-W	Brilliant flowers. Tall, upright form adds structure to garden. Spreads. Tolerates clay. Juglone tolerant.

Key: **Light:** **S** = Sun, at least 6 hours/day direct sun in growing season
 PS = Part Sun **PSH** = Part Shade
 Sh = Shade, less than 3 hours direct sun/day, or filtered light
 Soil: **D** = Dry, water does not remain after a rain **M** = Moist, soil is damp, may be occasionally saturated
 W = Wet, soil is saturated for much of the growing season, except in droughts