**Recommended Native Plants for Shade and Semi-Shade**

Developed by Rosemary Eiden, Wild Ones mentor, 1/8/15

1. **Aquilegia canadensis Columbine**

This beautiful woodland native has intricate red and yellow bell-like flowers with unique, backward-pointed nectar tubes. The nectaries are the perfect shape for hummingbirds and long-tongued insects that are especially adapted for reaching the nectar inside. Columbine is attractive to a variety of pollinators - hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and hawk moths - as an early season nectar source from May through June.

1. **Asarum canadense Wild Ginger**

A highly popular groundcover, Wild Ginger's large heart-shaped leaves can be 6" in diameter, and its sturdy rootstocks create a dense network that creeps to cover woodland slopes. Once established, a cover of Wild Ginger can fend off Garlic Mustard and other invasive in the woodland environment. As a woodland native this deer resistant plant enjoys shade and tolerates a variety of soil types. An attractive dark red flower, usually hidden from view by the foliage, blooms in early spring and fades fairly quickly.

**3. Aster divaricatus Woodland Aster**

The showiest of the shade-loving Asters! Aster divaricatus dons clusters of bright white flowers in late summer, brightening up the late season woodland scene. The glossy, deep green foliage of the White Woodland Aster looks great all season. Plant with early blooming woodland flowers for season-long interest.

1. **Carex pennsylvanica Pennsylvania sedge**

Fine textured leaves and a creeping habit make this a great lawn alternative for dry soils in shade. Planted one foot on center, it will fill in to form a dense low growing turf that never needs mowing. Requires a well-drained soil, in light to full shade.

**5. Chasmanthium latifolium Northern sea oats**

Showiest of the Woodland Grasses! The gorgeous seedheads look as good in dried arrangements as they do in the garden. This woodland grass occurs in shaded areas with fertile soils from Missouri to New Jersey and southwards. Excellent for planting under the light shade of oaks and hickories, and along semi-shaded woodland edges. When planted in a protected location.

1. **Geranium maculatum Wild geranium**

Wild Geranium's lovely lavender blooms are a spring favorite! Unlike most other spring bloomers, Wild Geranium (Geranium maculatum) retains its attractive foliage all season long. Long-lived, it expands slowly to form a nice clump. Prefers shade, but will grow in full sun in a rich, slightly damp soil.

1. **Huechera americana Alumroot**

American Alum Root is a fantastic foliage plant – it's ruffled leaves are streaked with silver and red-purple highlights for year-round interest. The seed for this strain was collected from plants on a shaded cliff in Eastern Tennessee. Despite their southern heritage, these plants have proven themselves hardy for northern conditions.

1. **Mertensia virginica Virginia bluebells**

Virginia Bluebells is a woodland favorite and a true harbinger of spring! The distinctive blue-pink flowers appear soon after the snows of winter are gone. Long-lived, it expands slowly to form beautiful clumps that return year after year. Does best in rich, moist soil.

1. **Phlox divaricata Wild blue phlox**

Wild Blue Phlox (Phlox divaricata) has bright blue-pink flowers attractive to hummingbirds arriving for a springtime drink of nectar. It is Widely adaptable and mixes well with ferns and other spring flowers, spreading slowly but steadily. Also commonly called Blue Phlox, Woodland Phlox or Sweet William. As a woodland plant, it does best in light to medium shade.

1. **Podophyllum peltatum Mayapple**

Mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum) is often referred to as "Umbrella Plant" because of its large, widely-spreading leaves. Creeps slowly by rhizomes to form a miniature "forest" when planted two feet on center, and is known to do well under some pines. The umbrella-like leaves protect beautiful and fragrant white flowers that attract a wide variety of pollinators in April and May. Grows in any well-drained soil in shade, and in full sun in rich, heavy soil.

1. **Polygonatum biflorum Solomon’s seal**

Solomon's Seal is prized for its deep blue berries in late summer and fall, and for the structural interest it adds to the woodland garden. The tall arching stems look great all summer long, and the leaves turn a bright gold in autumn. Looks great when planted with ferns!

1. **Polystichum acrostichoides Christmas fern**

The firm deep green leaves of Polystichum acrostichoides make it a great companion for woodland wildflowers. Strongly evergreen, fronds of the Christmas Fern were used by early New England settlers for Christmas decorations. Grows best on well-drained slopes with low to moderate fertility, in neutral to strongly acid soils. Not recommended for rich soils or moist areas.

1. **Sedum ternatum Stonecrop**

The succulent light-green leaves of Wild Stonecrop are covered with star-like white flowers in late spring and early summer. Less than a foot tall, it creeps rapidly to form a splendid groundcover in damp, rocky soils in light to medium shade. Sedum ternatum is native to the eastern and east-central U.S.

1. **Silene virginica Fire pink**

Fire Pink, Silene virginica, is a real woodland standout! The bright crimson to pink flowers can bloom for a month or longer. Native to rich woodlands and rocky slopes of the eastern and SE U.S., it requires a well-drained soil in light to medium shade. Short-lived, it will often self-sow in open soil.

1. **Solidago flexicaulis Zig zag goldenrod**

Zigzag Goldenrod (Solidago flexicaulis), notable for its brilliant yellow flowers, is a shade-loving Goldenrod with attractive, finely-serrated oval leaves. Named for the way the flowers zig and zag their way up the stem, this is a great plant for adding color and interest to the late fall woodland.

1. **Tiarella cordifolia Foamflower**

Foamflower is one of the showiest of all spring-blooming wildflowers and an excellent shade garden plant! The large white flower spikes are often accented with a tinge of pink, with handsome 'mapleleaf' foliage that stays attractive all summer, and turns a beautiful red in autumn. Tiarella cordifolia requires a rich soil.

1. **Viola sororia Violets**

**A common plant, but a great groundcover non-the-less. They re-seed and form small colonies. Easy to maintain.**

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1. **Zizia aurea Golden alexanders**

Golden Alexanders (Zizia aurea) are a food source for swallowtail butterfly larvae. Brilliant golden flowers decorate this late-spring bloomer that grows one to two feet tall. An excellent choice for heavy clay soils in semi-shade to full sun. The leaves serve as an important food source for Eastern Black Swallowtail Butterfly Caterpillars.