

# Mesic Shade Pollinator Garden Design

## *What is a “Mesic Shade” design?*

This pollinator garden is designed for part- to full-shade locations with average soil moisture. A flagstone pathway allows access through the garden, passing through groupings of Illinois native woodland forbs, shrubs and sedges that attract a wide variety of pollinators from spring through fall. Leave foliage standing through winter to provide overwintering habitat for wildlife and visual interest throughout the season.

## *What plants are included in this design?*

The native plants used in this design were selected to support pollinators with floral resources throughout the growing season. Plants of various sizes and textures were included in an arrangement created to mix the various sizes, shapes and colors into a visually appealing design. Plants were included in groupings of 3-5 to increase pollinator foraging success by concentrating bloom density into these small clusters of plants. For each plant, we have included a backup, which is another plant of similar visual appeal and pollinator attraction which can be substituted into the design if the original plant is not available.

- **Spicebush** (Latin name *Lindera benzoin*) –
  - Full sun to part shade
  - Medium to wet soil moisture
  - Yellow flowers in Spring
  - Attracts bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, and caterpillars
  - Grows 6 to 12 feet tall and 6 to 8 feet wide
  - Backup plant: Winterberry (Latin name: *Ilex verticillata*)
- **Spotted Joe Pye Weed** (Latin name *Eutrochium maculatum*) -
  - Partial shade to full sun
  - Medium to Wet Soil moisture
  - Pink to purple flowers mid- to late-summer
  - Attracts bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, and caterpillars
  - Grows 4 to 6 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide
  - Backup: Smooth Blue Aster (Latin name *Symphyotrichum laevis*)
- **Smooth Hydrangea** (Latin name *Hydrangea arborescens*) -
  - Full sun to part shade
  - Medium soil moisture
  - Purple flowers in summer
  - Attracts Bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and caterpillars
  - Grows 3 to 8 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide
  - Backup plant: Coralberry (Latin name *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)
- **Cinnamon Fern** (Latin name *Osmunda cinnamomea*) -
  - Shade to partial shade
  - Medium to wet soil moisture
  - Fronds turn yellow to gold.
  - Spore-bearing fronds turn brown and persist into winter

- Attracts caterpillars
- Grows 2 to 5 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide
- Backup plant: Lady Fern (Latin name *Athyrium filix-femina*)
- **Columbine** (Latin name *Aquilegia canadensis*) -
  - Full sun to part shade to full shade
  - Medium soil moisture
  - Yellow, Orange, Pink, Red flowers in spring
  - Attracts Bees, butterflies, caterpillars, hummingbirds
  - Grows 1 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 3 feet wide
  - Backup plant: Wild Ginger (Latin name *Asarum canadense*)
- **Wild Geranium** (Latin name *Geranium maculatum*) -
  - Partial shade to full sun
  - Medium soil moisture
  - Pink to purple flowers in Spring
  - Attracts Bees, flies, butterflies, caterpillars
  - Grows 1 to 2 feet tall and 1 foot wide
  - Backup plant: White Wood Aster (Latin name *Eurybia divaricata*)
- **Jacob's Ladder** (Latin name *Polemonium reptans*) -
  - Partial shade to full sun
  - Medium soil moisture
  - Purple flowers in mid-Spring
  - Attracts Bees, flies, butterflies, moths
  - Grows 1 foot tall and 1 foot wide
  - Backup: Foamflower (Latin name *Tiarella cordifolia*)
- **Goatsbeard** (Latin name *Aruncus dioicus*) -
  - Shade, Partial Shade, Full Sun
  - Medium to wet soil moisture
  - White flowers in late Spring
  - Attracts Bees, wasps, flies, beetles, caterpillars
  - Grows 3 to 6 feet tall and 2 to 4 feet wide
  - Backup: Sensitive Fern (Latin name *Onoclea sensibilis*)
- **Christmas Fern** (Latin name *Polystichum acrostichoides*) -
  - Shade to partial shade
  - Medium soil moisture
  - No flowers
  - Attracts caterpillars
  - Grows 1 to 2 feet tall and 1 to 3 feet wide
  - Backup: Little Bluestem (Latin name *Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- **Pennsylvania Sedge** (Latin name *Carex pensylvanica*) -
  - Shade to partial shade to full sun
  - Dry to medium soil moisture
  - Green flowers in mid-Spring
  - Attracts caterpillars and beetles
  - Grows 1 foot tall and 1 foot wide
  - Backup: Rosy Sedge (Latin name *Carex rosea*)