Native Plant List - Small Space Garden 54th Street

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Amelanchier, Serviceberry, Shadbush

Serviceberry is in the Roseaceae (rose) family and native to Europe, Africa, Northern America, and Temperate Asia. It is one of the first shrubs to flower in the spring, just before the dogwoods. It acquired the common name serviceberry because it blooms as soon as the ground starts to thaw, when people were able to dig graves and bury their dead after the winter. It also derives the common names of shadbush and shadblow from the fact that the masses of flowers tend to open at the same time that shad ascend the rivers in early spring to spawn.



Ilex glabra, Gallberry, Inkberry

Ilex glabra, commonly called inkberry or gallberry, is a slow-growing, upright-rounded, stoloniferous, broadleaf evergreen shrub in the holly family. It typically matures to 5 to 10 feet tall, and can spread by root suckers to form colonies. It is native to the coastal plain from Nova Scotia to Florida to Louisiana where it is most commonly found in sandy woods and peripheries of swamps and bogs. This plant is moderately salt-tolerant and adaptable to both light and heavy soils.



Schizachyrium scoparium, Little Bluestem

Little bluestem is a perennial, ornamental, warm season grass with attractive foliage. It is native to eastern North America and is found naturally in a wide range of moist to dry habitats. The narrow erect clumps may grow to 2 to 4 feet tall with an equal spread.



Muhlenbergia capillaris, Purple Muhly Grass

Muhly grass is an absolute showstopper source of late-season color. As a native ornamental grass, it is a great complement to those landscape beds with fading summer annuals. The delicate plumes of flower panicles create a striking pink haze above the dark green, glossy foliage.



Gaillardia aristate, Blanketflower or Indian Blanketflower

Blanket flower is a flowering plant in the sunflower family growing 1 to 3 feet tall with showy daisy-like 3"- 4" flowers that bloom from May through September. Grows well in hot, dry sites in full sun but may need supplemental water during extended drought conditions. The flowers attract pollinators like bees and butterflies and the seed heads attract birds.



Baptisia australis, Blue False Indigo, Wild Indigo

Blue False Indigo is a native herbaceous perennial plant in the bean family that grows in forests or natural areas in woodland borders. It grows from 3 to 4 feet tall, and with its showy blue flowers it is a spring highlight.



Penstemon digitalis, Foxglove Beardtongue

Penstemon digitalis is a clump-forming perennial in the plantain family that can be found in the mountains of NC. It grows up to 5 feet tall in prairies, wood margins, and open woods of eastern and central USA. In late spring to early summer, tall clusters of showy white tubular flowers appear that attract bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. It has no serious disease or pest problems.



Silene virginica, Pink Fire, Pink Scarlet, Catchfly

Fire Pink is a short-lived, herbaceous perennial that may grow 2 to 3 feet tall and has hairy, sticky stems. The majority of leaves originate at the base of the stem and have 2 to 8 pairs of stem leaves. Each stem terminates in a cyme of 3 to 10 scarlet flowers that are five-petaled and notched on the tips. They bloom from late May to early July.



Rudbeckia fulgida, Black-eyed Susan, Orange Coneflower

Black-eyed Susan is an erect herbaceous perennial in the Asteraceae (daisy) family native to the eastern part of the United States. With prolific yellow daisy-like flowers that have a brownish-purple center that first mature in early summer and continue into the fall this plant may quickly reach 2 to 3 feet tall. Leave the seed heads on as a winter food source for the birds.



Erigeron pulchellus, Lynnhaven Carpet Flower, Robin's Plantain

The hybrid fleabanes are beautiful, much more refined than their weedy relatives that grow along roadsides. The daisy-like flowers bloom in summer and sporadically into fall. Divide in the fall or propagate by stem cuttings or seeds. Growing from seed allows you to place the seeds in paving or wall cracks, where they will become a showy mass of blooms.



Symphyotrichum oblongifolium, October Sky Asters

Aromatic aster is a native perennial wildflower in the Asteraceae (daisy) family. In nature it is found on rock outcrops and dry woodlands over limestone, and calcareous shale. The common name comes from the balsam-like fragrance it gives off when its rigid stems are crushed. Plant in the full sun with well-drained soil. Reaching a mature height and width of 3 feet aromatic aster creates dense low mounds.



Echinacea pallida, Pale Purple Coneflower

The Pale Purple Coneflower is a herbaceous perennial of the genus Echinacea. They are native to North America, and there are nine known species of Echinacea. Echinos is Greek for "hedgehog" or "sea urchin" which is reflective of the plants spiny center cone. Pallida is Latin and translated means "pale." This is in reference to their petal color which is a pale pink-purple. Echinacea was first used by Native Americans for treatment of insect stings and bites as well as snake bites.



Tradescantia ohiensis, Ohio Spiderwort, Smooth Spiderwort

Smooth spiderwort is a clump-forming perennial in the Commelinaceae (dayflower) family native to central and eastern North America. This native perennial grows to a height of 2 to 3 feet and a width of 2 feet and is best known for its purple to rose-blue, 3-petaled flowers. In the wild, it is found growing in meadows, along roads, and along woodland margins.



Liatris pycnostachya, Blazing Star, Prairie Blazing Star

Prairie blazing star is an herbaceous perennial in the Asteraceae (daisy) family. Often grown as an ornamental, prairie blazing star reaches a maximum height of 5 feet but usually 2-4 feet. The purple disc flowers arranged in heads, are crowded on a coarse, hairy, leafy stem and bloom from top to bottom. The prairie blazing star is native to the central and southeastern United States where it prefers moist to dry, well-drained soils with full sun exposure.



Pycnanthemum virginianum, Mountain Mint

Mountain Mint is a native wildflower and herb that attracts many bees and butterflies with its wonderful minty smell and abundant nectar. Its native habitat is dry to wet thin woodlands, thickets and meadows. The densely packed heads have many small flowers that bloom from about June to August. It grows 3- 6 feet tall and about 2 feet wide. Mountain Mint is easy to grow in average to dry soils in full sun to partial shade. Use in a pollinator garden or naturalized area.



Solidago caesia, Bluestem Goldenrod

Bluestem Goldenrod is an herbaceous perennial that grows 3 feet tall with showy clusters of yellow flowers that hug greenish-purple stems in the summer and early fall. In recent times goldenrods have been blamed for hay fever, but its irritating symptoms are actually caused by ragweed (Ambrosia species), whose pollen is air borne when goldenrod is in flower. This species does not spread as rapidly or aggressively as some other goldenrods. It works well planted in a native garden, cottage, butterfly, or woodland garden.



Coreopsis grandiflora, Common Coreopsis

Large-Flower Tickseed is a native perennial wildflower in the aster family. It has very showy bright yellow flowers and blooms from late spring to late summer. Deadhead the spent flowers to prolong the blooming season. It is clump-forming and grows 1-3 feet tall and wide. It prefers a sunny location in well-drained soil in the drier portion of the garden. Its preference is for sandy or rocky soils but can adapt to clay soils if it's well-drained. Large-Flower Tickseed may not always be reliably perennial but will reseed itself in the garden. Clumps can also be divided in early spring.