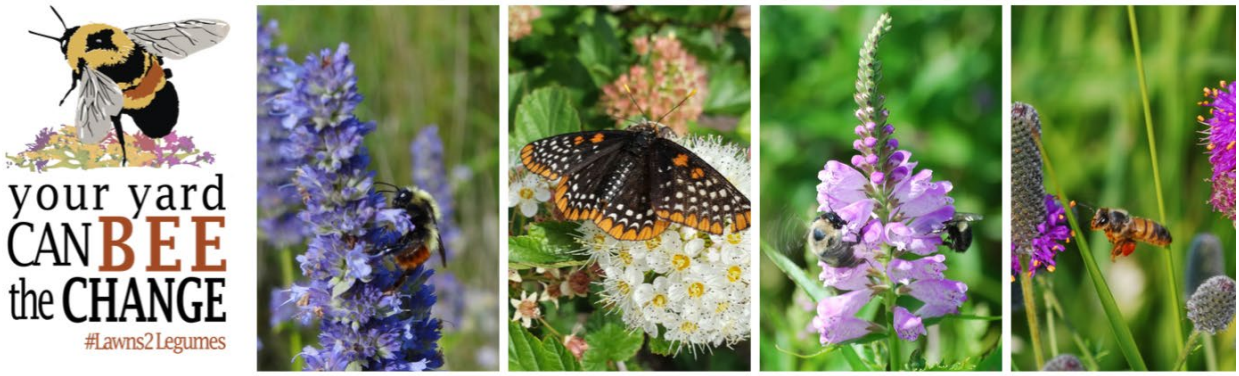


Lawns to Legumes

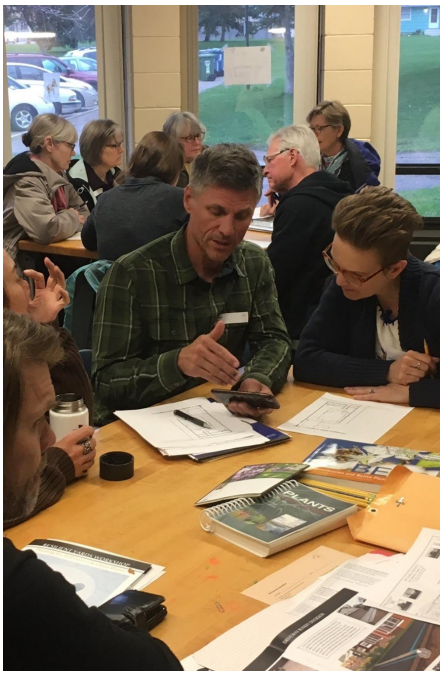
COACHING GUIDE

LAST UPDATED: APRIL 2020

BWSR · Metro Blooms · Blue Thumb PLANTING FOR CLEAN WATER® · ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

Coaching Guide:

Lawns to Legumes Individual Support



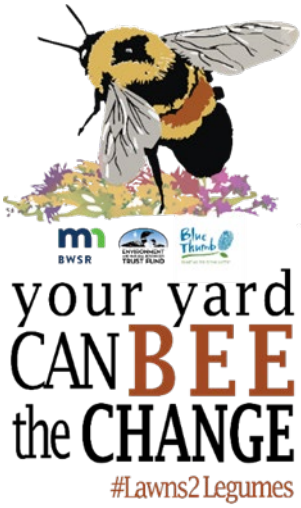
Thank you for volunteering to be a coach for the Lawns to Legumes program. Coaches will be connected with Minnesota residents who were awarded $350 for Lawns to Legumes Individual Support grant funding (reimbursement for creating new pollinator habitat).

The Lawns to Legumes Grant Program provides workshops, free planting guides, and opportunities to apply for reimbursement — enabling Minnesota residents to create pollinator habitat in their yards. Please visit the BWSR Lawns to Legumes webpage to view the program's Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide and other technical resources. Visit the Blue Thumb website to view the Lawns to Legumes application page.

There is also a separate webpage where you can sign up to be a coach if you have not already done so.

In this guide:

- Key Principles for Guiding Residents
- Different Types of Coaching
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Site Assessment Form and List of Rusty Patched Bumblebee Plant Species



Key Principles for Guiding Residents

Below, you'll find information on key program principles and guidance on different types of coaching including coaching calls and emails, assisting with workshops, on-site or virtual consultations and tabling at events. Individual support awardees are asked what type of coaching they need and matched with coaches accordingly. Information is also provided about COVID-19 considerations related to this program.

• **Role of Coaches**: Coaches play a key role in this program, so it is important that they work with residents in a professional manner and can make a commitment to providing needed assistance. Coaches aren't expected to have all the answers but should use their best judgement when working with residents.

• **Setting Coaching Expectations**: When starting to work with residents, it is helpful to set expectations about how much assistance can be provided (see suggested time commitments under the summary of "different types of coaching").

• **COVID-19 Considerations**: Some aspects of working with landowners have been updated in this document to address COVID-19 concerns. The primary change is that workshops will be conducted through ZOOM (an interactive online conferencing software) or other online conferencing programs until concerns about the virus have decreased. Coaches will still be needed for these online webinars, but they will be working with residents online instead of at tables during in-person workshops. Additional detail will be provided to coaches to prepare them for these webinars.

Tabling at events is on hold until public events can again be held. On-site consultations are also on hold until shelter in place orders have been lifted. After the executive order concludes, on-site consultations that practice social distancing (6-feet of distancing) and do not involve the exchanges of handouts or other materials may be an option at the coaches' discretion. BWSR and Metro Blooms will keep coaches updated about future plans for on-site consultations. Safety of coaches and residents — and the communities they are a part of — is our first priority.

• **Keep in Mind**: When working with landowners, please help verify that projects are being conducted on residential property. Landowners who are working under a Demonstration Neighborhood grant will not qualify for Lawns to Legumes Individual Support grant. Residents are eligible for one or the other, but not both.

• **Benefitting the Rusty Patched Bumblebee**: Plantings should focus on benefitting the Rusty patched bumblebee. See the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of preferred plant species for the Rusty patched bumblebee at the end of this document (included in the project assessment form.)

• **Bloom Seasons**: It's important to plant a mix of at least three blooming species in early, mid, and late season to ensure the continuous availability of food as some pollinators including the Rusty patched bumblebee are active April through October.

• **Aesthetic Considerations:** Plantings should have a focus on aesthetics using features such as edging, walls, fencing, hardscapes, etc., as well as grouping plants in masses and by height to help give gardens a sense of order. The program's Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide has many images and templates for projects that incorporate design considerations.

• **Setting Project Expectations**: A key role for partners is to set realistic expectations for residential residents about how large and complex of a project they can take on. Starting small is often a good idea for all involved. Not all of the grant money needs to be spent.

• **Local Ordinances**: It is important to check into local ordinances for vegetation restrictions. Many cities restrict the types of projects that can be undertaken in the boulevard right of way.

• **Project Types**: Residents can choose one of the following project types:

- **Pollinator pocket plantings:** A space as small as 10 square feet can serve as pollinator habitat. Native pocket plantings are small clusters of native flowers and grasses that can provide places for pollinators to rest and feed from spring through fall. This practice is recommended for new gardeners. Pocket plantings can have different variations such as raingardens, shoreline plantings and boulevard plantings (construction of these variations is not covered, but the plantings and materials are covered).
- **Beneficial trees and shrubs:** Groupings of trees and shrubs can offer nesting areas, overwintering habitat and early-season food sources for pollinators. Beneficial native species include willows, American basswood trees, raspberry bushes and black chokeberry. This practice is recommended for new and intermediate gardeners.

- **Pollinator lawns:** Species such as Dutch white clover, creeping thyme, and self-heal are seeded into fine fescue lawns to create a landscape that maintains the aesthetics and recreation associated with a traditional lawn, while providing high quality forage for pollinators.

- **Pollinator meadows:** Large plantings of diverse native plants provide habitat and water-quality benefits. Pollinator meadows require additional planning and maintenance; they're recommended for experienced gardeners.

• **Lawn Function**: Think about how the resident uses their lawn, and which planting types would be conducive to their needs. Residents that frequently use their lawn area for recreation may want to consider a small or isolated planting, while residents that do not use their lawn as much may want to consider a larger project.

• **Siting a Planting**: When determining a project site, consider factors like sunlight and the movement of water while working with a resident. Bees prefer to forage in sunny areas of a yard, and placing a planting where water flows through a yard can help reduce runoff, filter runoff and improve water quality.

• **Stress the Need for Maintenance:** Residents signed an agreement for maintaining their projects for a minimum of three years. We generally recommend that residents conduct maintenance on or around Memorial Day, the 4th of July and Labor Day at a minimum, especially in the establishment years, and to use manual methods of pulling, digging, and cutting back to interrupt weed spread.

• **Match Requirements:** Residents must **provide at least a 25% match** for any funding received. This match can be in the form of purchasing materials, hiring contractors or as in-kind time spent planting or maintaining plants (at $25/hr). Paid receipts and before and after pictures need to be submitted for reimbursement, so it is important that residents remember to take "before pictures" at the beginning of the project.

• **Eligible Expenses:** Program funding can only be spent on native vegetation, but residents are free to add other horticultural species into plantings at their own expense**.** Eligible expenses include onsite consultation from a landscape designer or contractor, site preparation (sod removal, tilling, weed control), plants, seeds, weed suppression papers, wood mulch, seed and plant installation, and maintenance of projects (through the one year time period), in accordance with the approved grant agreement. A list of example plants and materials that qualify for reimbursement can be found here.

Non-herbicide methods of site preparation and management are preferred; see Xerces Society guide to Organic Site Preparation Methods.

• **Reimbursement Requirements**: Residents are asked to submit paid receipts and photos of their completed projects within one year to receive reimbursement. Once projects are established, applicants who receive cost-share funding will be asked to map their project and upload project before and after photos to Blue Thumb's website. They can submit receipts for reimbursement once their project has been mapped. Awardees can request reimbursement for up to $350 for project costs.

Different Coaching Types

The following is a summary of different types of coaching that may be conducted as part of the program. Coaches will be given contact information for one to several residents depending on their capacity. To protect the privacy of coaches' phone numbers, it is up to the coaches to reach out to their assigned residents since residents will not be provided with contact info for their coach until the coach reaches out. Coaches should send an introductory message to their assigned residents to provide the best way to be in touch.

Please see the information provided below related to COVID-19 considerations. We will also be covering this topic as part of future communication to coaches.

- **Coaching Calls and Email**: Some residents who receive funding will primarily need to talk with a coach on the phone or email questions. We will be setting an expectation with residents that generally coaches will have the capacity for three coaching calls during the establishment of the project so that coaches are not overwhelmed with calls. It will be up to coaches to let residents know how much time they have available to provide assistance through a combination of email and phone calls.
    - **Privacy:** If you wish to keep your personal phone number private when connecting with residents, you can do so by typing the code *67, then proceeding to type the number you wish to call. If you choose to use this option, keep in mind that it will be your responsibility to reach out to the residents you are paired with.

- **Workshop Participation**: Around 40 workshops are planned over the course of the three years of the pilot program. These workshops will generally have a focus on raingardens, resilient yards, lawn alternatives and soil health, but they will all have a focus on the Lawns to Legumes program. Due to COVID-19 concerns, workshops will be conducted through ZOOM (an online, interactive conference call) or other online

conferencing software until concerns about the virus have diminished. Coaches will still be needed for these on-line webinars, but they will be working with residents online instead of at tables. Additional detail will be provided to coaches to prepare them for these webinars. Coaches with landscape design and plant selection experience are needed for these workshops. Master Water Stewards and Master Gardeners are common coaches for these workshops.

- **Tabling at Events**: There is a need for coaches to help represent the Lawns to Legumes program at events, though no tabling events are currently being planned due to COVID-19 concerns. Generally, coaches are needed that have a basic understanding of the program but can also answer landowner questions about landscape planning and design. BWSR can provide handouts for tabling at future events.

- **On-Site Consultations**: Some residents who receive funding will need on-site consultation assistance. Coaches that are eligible to do on-site consultations must work for a local, state, federal government organization, educational institution or be a Blue Thumb partner. On-site consultations are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 stay at home order. BWSR and Metro Blooms will keep coaches updated about future plans for on-site consultations. Virtual consultations conducted through ZOOM are encouraged. The workshop experience provides an opportunity to try out some of the online resources and tools available through ZOOM to conduct a virtual consultation.

  Once on-site consultations are available again, we will be setting an expectation with residents that generally, coaches will have the capacity for one on-site consultation to guide their design and that generally one call or email will follow the on-site consultation as a way to check-in on their progress. It will be up to coaches to let residents know how much time they have available to provide follow up communication and assistance through a combination of email and phone calls. At the end of this coaching guide, you'll find a form designed to be used as part of on-site consultations to help guide decisions making about the type of project, how it should be designed, and planned maintenance.

Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a summary of questions and answers from the Lawns to Legumes Landowner webinar. Coaches can use this as a guide as they receive questions from the residents they are working with.

The introductory webinar can be found here. Please note: this webinar was recorded in October 2019, when the program was still in the early stages. We plan to record an update version soon and will provide that to both residents and coaches.

Q: Can these pollinator plants be planted along a fence, around the perimeter of the yard?

Yes, pollinator plantings can be installed along the fence or around the perimeter of a yard, but try to keep in mind that plantings may spread, and neighbors views on these lawn alternatives will vary. If you have a neighbor that may have hesitations with plantings spreading to their yard, it may be worthwhile to install plantings in a more central location within your residence, or to plant along hard edges that communicate intent and limit the ability of plants to spread into neighbor's yards.

Q: How do we know for certain where we fall on the Lawns to Legume Priority Area map? Do we submit a zip code?

Interested parties can determine where they fall on the map by visiting BWSR's priority area map and typing their address into the search bar. The priority map webpage can be found here.

Q: How do we work with neighbors that use pesticides?

While we are not able to force neighbors to adopt best management practices for pollinator health, sharing information with neighbors may help them realize the potential benefits of using alternative management techniques. Alerting neighbors that harmful insecticides, like neonicotinoids, can have negative lethal and sublethal effects on bees may convince neighbors to refrain from using these products. Also, providing neighbors with resources that show them where they can purchase pesticide-free plantings can be helpful. Wild Ones has a comprehensive list of pesticide-free plant providers here.

Q: Is there any limit to where in your yard you can install plant projects? Boulevards, sides of garages, etc.?

For the most part, you are free to install plantings in your yard as you see fit. For boulevard plantings, you may need to consult with your local government unit and request their

permission (take a look at local ordinances in your community) to install an alternative planting within the boulevard. For plantings along a fence, or nearby a neighboring property, it may be worthwhile to install edging, or take some measures to ensure that plantings do not spill over into nearby yards. Any exposure the site has to road salt, and the general condition and soil moisture of boulevards and along alleyways should be considered when selecting plants.

Q: What are the requirements of the seed mixes used? Are you requiring specific species, specific recipes, or specific vendors?

Lawns to Legumes plantings must:

- Include Minnesota native species, sourced from 175 miles from one's location, or closer (with the exception of pollinator lawns).
- Have at least three species blooming per season in the spring, summer, and fall to ensure diversity.
- Be free of treatment by neonicotinoid insecticides.

Q: Is there a plan to measure the benefit to the pollinator population that this initiative may bring?

BWSR and partners collaborating on this project are still determining the best ways to measure the benefits and impacts of this project. For now, we encourage interested individuals to post pictures of bumble bees they observe visiting flowers on bumblebeewatch.org. An expert on the back end will then identify the bee species. This will help us determine if and where the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee is present throughout the state of Minnesota.

Q: Is there priority for funding for people who can find others in the neighborhood who want to participate?

At this time, there is not priority for funding for people who can find others in the neighborhood who want to participate. Groups of individuals within a shared geographic range can work with a local government affiliate, tribe, or non-profit entity to apply for funding as a demonstration neighborhood in future grant rounds if funding is secured (the Demonstration Neighborhood Grant application period closed on January 10th, 2020.). That being said, we encourage all participants to spread awareness for the Lawns to Legumes program, including information about best management practices that can be adopted by neighbors.

Q: Is the funding very competitive?

BWSR has funding available to distribute 700-1200 individual support awards during the 3-year pilot program. We are hoping to receive as many applications for funding as possible to

demonstrate the degree to which Minnesotans value pollinator conservation. In doing so, we hope to receive additional funds for this project, and other similar projects, moving forward.

Q: Will the program cover the rock barrier to line a back lawn to prevent spread to neighbors?

Yes, edging, like rock barriers, will be an eligible expense for reimbursement as long as they are not using up the majority of the funding. Edging helps to communicate the intent of a project and can facilitate maintenance.

Q: Is white Dutch clover really a robust resource for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee?

Over 50 species of bees have been observed foraging on Dutch white clover. Although we are yet to observe a Rusty Patched Bumble Bee on Dutch White Clover in Minnesota, it is listed as a known plant food source for the Rusty-patched Bumblebee according to the Ontario recovery plan for the RPBB.

Q: Where can I sign up for email updates on this program?

You can sign up for email updates by following this link.

Q: Do these habitats also increase nuisance insects like wasps and hornets?

These plantings will be attractive to various species of wasps, including hornets. While some may view these insects as a nuisance, they do provide value to our ecosystems as pollinators and as members of the food web.

Q: My kids are a little freaked out we want to invite MORE bees into our yard. Any advice on how to avoid getting stung?

Bees are generally not aggressive, unless you disturb them in their nests or while feeding. However, to further avoid getting stung, follow these tips:

1. Wear close-toed shoes in areas where you think bees may be present.
2. Refrain from interacting with bees when you see them feeding on a flower. Bees may become aggressive if they feel threatened while feeding.
3. If you want to lessen the extent to which you cross paths with bees, try to keep your flowering plants in an isolated area of your yard. A raised bed garden is a great example of how to accomplish this.

Q: Is it possible to have a consultation with someone from the program to assess possibilities before we submit the application?

If you attend a Lawns to Legumes Resilient Yard Workshop, you will be able to work one-on-one with a landscape designer to determine which planting types are best suited for your residence. However, please note we have a small staff responding to a high volume of inquiries, so workshops and your coach are your best resources for advice.

Q: Once a habitat is established at a residence, is it protected by law to not be changed?

In Lawns to Legumes grant applications, we ask all project participants to agree to maintain their plantings for at least three years to the extent possible. In the event that a resident sells their residence, we ask that the project participant communicates the intent of the landscape with the new resident and let us know they are moving so we can also share information about its importance and how to manage it with the new owner.

Q: Since we are inviting pollinators in, how can humans/bees live peacefully? Are there certain colors to wear? Certain times of day they are most active- to avoid the flowered areas?

The best way to share your yard space with pollinators is to choose a planting option that only takes up part of your yard, rather than the entirety of it. A native pocket planting only requires a small portion of your yard, and still leaves plenty of room for recreation. For the most part, bees are not aggressive and prefer to keep to themselves. They are most active during the warmest parts of the day, between 10 a.m. and 4p.m. Wasps are generally more aggressive than bees, while bees will generally keep to themselves unless you interact with them directly.

Q: Instead of expanding a plant bed, could I replace one with native plants? I have a plant bed that is only hostas.

Yes, that would be an eligible expense.

Q: Should we keep creeping charlie and dandelions? Or eliminate all of that when we install these pocket gardens?

While Creeping Charlie is a forb that bees will occasionally visit, the quality of its resources to bees is rather low. Further information on Creeping Charlie and its value to pollinators can be found at the following link. Dandelion is a strong nectar source for pollinators that can be included in plantings if residents do not mind the aesthetics and aggressive nature of the plant.

Q: If I have an impervious surface (shared driveway that has 2-4' needing to be converted) can this be part of lawns to legumes?

No, the construction needed to convert an impervious surface into a planting would not be covered under the lawns to legumes program. Costs for obtaining permits that are required for project also would not be covered by the program. The plants purchased after this conversion, however, would qualify as an eligible expense if you are approved for individual support funding.

Q: If I hire a native gardening company to create my pollinator garden, can I still apply for the reimbursement program?

Work done by contractors may qualify for reimbursement as long as the services fall under the list of eligible expenses outlined in the individual support grant application page. The resident must be approved for the grant before any expenses can be requested for reimbursement.

Q: How can I find a designer to help me with my garden? I want to take on a big project.

You can be connected with a designer by attending a Lawns to Legumes individual support workshop. You may also be connected to someone with design experience by contacting your coach, who will be assigned to you after you are awarded a grant. Individuals who do not receive an individual support grant, but are still interested in receiving design help may contact landscape designers by visiting the Blue Thumb website.

Q: Is fine fescue okay to use for a bee lawn if the lawn will have dogs using for bathroom purposes and playing?

Fine fescue is sensitive to wear and tear damage especially in the form of abrasion. If a lawn is heavily used by dogs, where abrasion is commonplace, a homeowner may be better off using either Kentucky bluegrass, or a mix of bluegrass and fescue in their bee lawn mix. You could also temporarily fence off a section of yard until the project gets established.

Q: I have a couple large mulched perennial gardens that have primarily native plants. I'm thinking about applying for a native pocket planting grant to fill out plant diversity. Is there any sort of documentation (pictures, etc.?) I should gather pre-snow?

Providing before/after pictures will serve as adequate reporting. In your instance, specifying the new species that have been added to your planting would be beneficial.

Q: If we live next to a creek bank with an easement of 50ft, can we plant native prairie to help with pollinators and erosion?

If the creek bank is residential property, then it does qualify for Lawns to Legumes funding. Only residential areas are eligible for funding.

LAWNS TO LEGUMES - ONSITE CONSULTATION/COACH FORM

Property Owner:_____ Coach:_____ Date: _____

Address:_____ County / Watershed:_____

_____

your yard CAN BEE the CHANGE

#Lawns2Legumes

PROJECT TYPE:

☐ 1. Native Plant Pocket Planting
   a. Raingardens
   b. Boulevard Gardens
   c. Lakeshore Planting

☐ 2. Pollinator Beneficial Trees and Shrubs

☐ 3. Pollinator Lawns

☐ 4. Pollinator Meadows

SITE INFORMATION:

SOILS: Clay ☐ Silt/Loam ☐ Sand ☐

LIGHT: Front Yard - Sun(6 hrs) ☐ Part Sun/Shade (3-6 hrs) ☐ Shade(<3 hrs) ☐

Back Yard - Sun(6 hrs) ☐ Part Sun/Shade (3-6 hrs) ☐ Shade(<3 hrs) ☐

DRAINAGE ISSUES:

BEST LOCATIONS FOR INSTALLATION:

Other Factors Affecting Yard:

- Kids, Pets, Vegetable Garden, Entertaining, Sports

Future Plans Affecting Yard:

- New Construction, Garage, Vegetable Garden

Plant Preferences:

- Species Preferences _____
- Color_____
- Height_____
- Bloom time_____

MAINTENANCE:

- Goals and Expectations
- Review Maintenance for Native Plantings

COST SHARE NOTES:

NEXT STEPS: DIY ☐ Design Assistance ☐ Contractor Install (Blue Thumb Partners) ☐

Maintenance Info ☐ Plant Info ☐ Other ☐

Email/Phone Follow-up by:_____

Plants for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee

Herbaceous Species

Pollinator Super-Foods

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Light	Soil	Height'
Spring	Red Columbine	*Aquilegia canadensis*	sun to shade	dry	3
	Wild Geranium	*Geranium maculatum*	full to part sun	dry to mesic	1 to 2
	Virginia Waterleaf	*Hydrophyllum virginianum*	full to part shade	mesic	1 to 2
	Wild Lupine	*Lupinus perennis*	full sun	dry	2
	Virginia Bluebells	*Mertensia virginica*	full to part shade	mesic	2
	Wood Betony	*Pedicularis canadensis*	full to part sun	dry to mesic	1
	Shooting Star species	*Primula spp*	full to part sun	mesic	1
Summer	Giant Hyssop species	*Agastache spp*	full to part sun	dry	4
	Milkweed species	*Asclepias spp*	full to part sun	dry to mesic	2 to 4
	Wild White Indigo	*Baptisia alba*	full sun	dry	4 to 5
	Cream Indigo	*Baptisia bracteata*	full sun	dry	2
	White Prairie Clover	*Dalea candida*	full sun	dry	1 to 3
	Purple Prairie Clover	*Dalea purpurea*	full sun	dry	1 to 3
	Coneflower species	*Echinacea spp*	full to part sun	dry	3 to 4
	Joe Pye	*Eutrochium spp*	full to part sun	mesic	4 to 6
	Jewelweed	*Impatiens capensis*	sun to shade	mesic to wet	2 to 5
	Blazingstar species	*Liatris spp*	full sun	dry to mesic	2 to 4
	Bee Balm	*Monarda fistulosa*	full to part sun	dry to mesic	3 to 4
	Beardtongue species	*Penstemon spp*	full to part sun	dry	1 to 3
	Mountain Mint	*Pycanthemum virginianum*	full to part sun	dry to mesic	3
	Culver's Root	*Veronicastrum virginicum*	full to part sun	mesic	6
Fall	Native Field Thistle	*Cirsium discolor*	full sun	dry to mesic	3 to 7
	Native Swamp Thistle	*Cirsium muticum*	full to part sun	mesic to wet	3 to 8
	Gentian species	*Gentiana spp*	full to part sun	dry to mesic	2 to 3
	Goldenrod species	*Solidago spp*	full to part sun	dry	2 to 5
	New England Aster	*Symphyotrichum novae-anglia*	full to part sun	mesic	3 to 6

Woody Species

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Light	Soil	Height'
Spring	Serviceberry	*Amelanchier spp*	full to part sun	dry	5 to 30
	Plums and Cherries	*Prunus spp*	sun to shade	dry	5 to 60
	Gooseberry and Currants	*Ribes spp*	full to part sun	dry to mesic	2 to 6
	Willows	*Salix spp*	full sun	mesic to wet	6 to 80
	American Basswood	*Tilia americana*	full to part sun	dry to mesic	60 to 100
Summer	Leadplant	*Amorpha canescens*	full to part sun	dry	1 to 3
	New Jersey Tea	*Ceanothus americanus*	full to part sun	dry	2 to 3
	Buttonbush	*Cephalanthus occidentalis*	full to part sun	mesic	12
	Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	*Diervilla lonicera*	sun to shade	dry	4
	Wild Roses	*Rosa spp*	full sun	dry	5
	Spiraea	*Spirea spp*	full to part sun	mesic	4 to 6
	Large Cranberry	*Vaccinium macrocarpon*	full sun	mesic to wet	<1

find more information at bluethumb.org