

The Ecological Plant Conference (Dec. 7, 2018)
Brooklyn Botanical Garden

Native Wildflowers – Beyond their Beauty: How They Integrate into the Environment
Carol Gracie

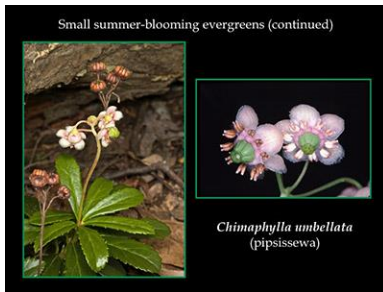
Handout of species discussed



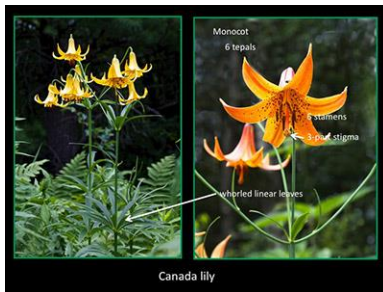
1. Partridgeberry (2-9)
Flowers in June
Conjoined flowers & fruits
An evergreen groundcover
On rocky slopes, in dappled shade
Pollinated by bumblebees
Clonal
Heterostylous
Don't pick



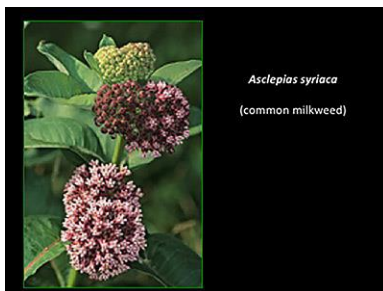
2. Wild lupine (10-14)
Flowers in June
Open, sandy areas
Host for rare butterfly (the Karner Blue), but
original range is a fragment of the original
Pollinated by bumblebees



3. Spotted wintergreen, pipsissewa, etc. (15-17)
Flowers in early July
All are evergreen ground covers
Pretty flowers, but small & low
Inhabits shady understory with mostly acidic soils



4. Lilies (18-26)
Flowers in July
Showy yellow, orange, or red flowers
Some species in shade, others in sun
often in moist soils
In the genus *Lilium*; daylilies (*Hemerocallis*)
are not native
Problems: Scarlet lily leaf beetle, deer



5. Common milkweed & other milkweeds (27-43)
Flowers in July-Aug
Supports a guild of insects, the monarch
butterfly is the best known
Common milkweed needs sun
some other species grow in shade
Common milkweed is aggressive;

hard to control

Other milkweeds in this area: swamp, butterfly-weed, 4-leaved, poke, purple, whorled, green



6. Jewel-weed (44-49)
Flowers in August
Grows in wet areas in shade to semi-shade
Visited by bumblebees, hummingbirds,
& honeybees
Seeds are edible



7. Cardinal Flower (50-56)
Flowers in August–September
Grows in semi-shade, but tolerates sun
In the wild, usually found along streams
& wet places, but does fine in regular garden soil
Flowers have male phase followed by female phase
Pollinated by hummingbirds, but some rob nectar



8. Great Blue Lobelia (56-59)
Flowers in August
Blue is attractive to bees

Bumblebees main pollinators, long tongue (glossa)
can reach nectar, but they may also rob nectar
Hummingbirds will visit
Grows best in sun
Some plants have white flowers



9. Swamp Rose-mallow (60-70)
Flowers in August–September
Large, showy flowers
Usually grows along brackish or fresh water
margins in open sun
Sandy, moist soil, but can also be grown in
gardens (often as cultivars)
Nectar & pollen a resource for bees (*Ptilothrix* bees
are pollinators in s. NJ and south; in more northern
regions, bumblebees (*Bombus*) serve as pollinators)



10. Goldenrods (71-77)
Flowers in August–October
Pollinated by insects, not wind
Grows mostly in open sunny fields,
but some in woodlands
Important food source for insects in late summer-fall
Owlet moth larvae feed on goldenrod
Three common galls
Canada goldenrod is native but behaves
as an invasive; has been introduced to other
countries & is now a problem there



11. Asters (78-81)

Flowers in August–October

Most grow in open, sunny environments,
but some tolerate shade

Colors range from white to pink, lavender,
& purple

Flowers attract butterflies, bees, flies,
& many other insects

Owlet moth caterpillars feed on asters
and goldenrods

New England aster spreads easily