

Plant NNK Natives  
Go Native—Grow Native

# Garden Plans

Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society





## About the NNK Natives Garden Plans

These plans use plants that should be available through garden centers, native plant societies or native plant catalogs. There are two “island” gardens that are viewable from all sides and two “border” gardens that can be used along a walkway or patio. You should feel free to expand or contract the plans depending on the size you want or your budget.

Please note that these garden plan schematics indicate the color of the blooms, however, the plants will not all bloom at the same time, so the colors in your actual garden will change over the seasons. Also, most garden centers stock plants only when they are in bloom, so it is unlikely that you will be able to purchase all plants at once. Meanwhile, you can mulch the open areas or fill in with annuals.

## General information

- The “island” plans allow for stepping stones for access to maintain the garden.
- They also include a vine on a purchased or built six ft. high trellis.
- The “border” gardens can be easily expanded to fit your site by repeating or flipping the pattern.
- When designing your gardens, orient the plans so that north arrow on the plan points north, if possible.
- Space is allowed for mature plants, so mulch around your new plants until full size is achieved.
- Many plants will self-seed or spread, so consider that when deciding how many plants to purchase initially. If you are patient, you can purchase fewer plants and allow them to fill in the spaces on their own. You can also use the “volunteers” to enlarge your garden or start new ones.
- Leave the dried plants in place through the winter to provide food and shelter for birds. Cut down in March prepare for spring growth.

These plans are intended to be flexible. Plant NNK Native Plants garden center partners (visit: [nnnps.org](http://nnnps.org)) have information on alternatives available for different colors and for sites with more moisture.

### Cover photographs (left to right)

*Kosteletzkya pentacarpos* / Seashore Mallow / Carol Hammer

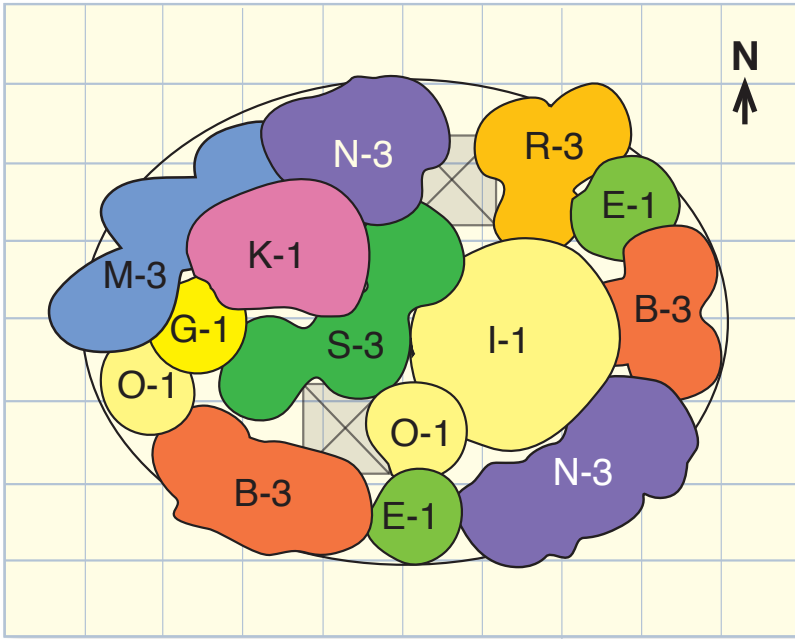
*Aquilegia canadensis* / Wild Columbine / Carol Hammer

*Conoclinium coelestinum* / Mistflower / Jan Newton

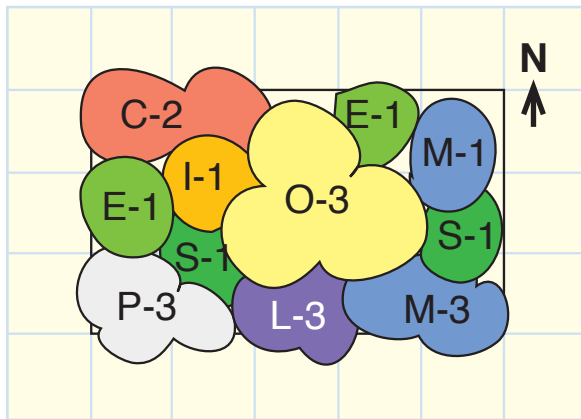
### Garden (left)

Swallowtail butterfly on *Verbena hastata* / Blue Vervain / Janet Pawlukiewicz

# Sunny Gardens



Sunny Garden 6ft x 8ft



Sunny Border 3ft x 5ft

## Sunny garden site needs

- No less than 6-8 hours of full sun daily during growing season
- Average to lean soil, average draining or mildly moisture retentive
- Do not over enrich soil; add compost only to sandy or clay soil
- Mulch around plants with shredded hardwood bark as needed

Code	Latin Name	Common Name	Height *	Season	Color	Ever-green	Notes
<b>C</b>	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine	low-med	Spr-S	red & yellow	semi	allow some re-seed, deadhead rest
<b>L</b>	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyre-leaf Sage	low	Spr	pale blue	yes	allow some re-seed, deadhead rest
<b>M</b>	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Mistflower	med	S-F	blue		deadhead after bloom
<b>E</b>	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple Lovegrass	low	S-F	purplish		winter interest, cut down in Feb.
<b>S</b>	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Shenandoah'	Switchgrass	med	all	foliage w/ red streaks		winter interest, cut down in Feb.
<b>O</b>	<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	Narrow-leaf Sundrops	low-med	S	yellow	yes	cut down in late fall to basal foliage
<b>R</b>	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-eyed Susan	med	S	golden yellow		deadhead after bloom
<b>R</b>	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-Eyed Susan	med	S	golden yellow		must re-seed
<b>B</b>	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	low	S-F	orange		late to emerge, mark plants or leave foliage overwinter
<b>I</b>	<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	Yellow Wild Indigo	tall	S	yellow		blue-green foliage interest
<b>P</b>	<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	Plaintain-leaf Pussytoes	low	Sp	gray white	semi	
<b>K</b>	<i>Kosteletzkya pentacarpos</i>	Seashore Mallow	tall	S	pink		
<b>G</b>	<i>Solidago sp.</i>	Goldenrod	med-tall	S-F	yellow		your pref.
<b>N</b>	<i>Symphotrichum sp.</i>	Aster	tall	F	blue or purple		your pref., cut to reduce height if desired

\* Height: Low 0-5 - 1 ft, Med 1.5-3 ft, Tall up to 6 ft; Vine: prune to height of support

### Key



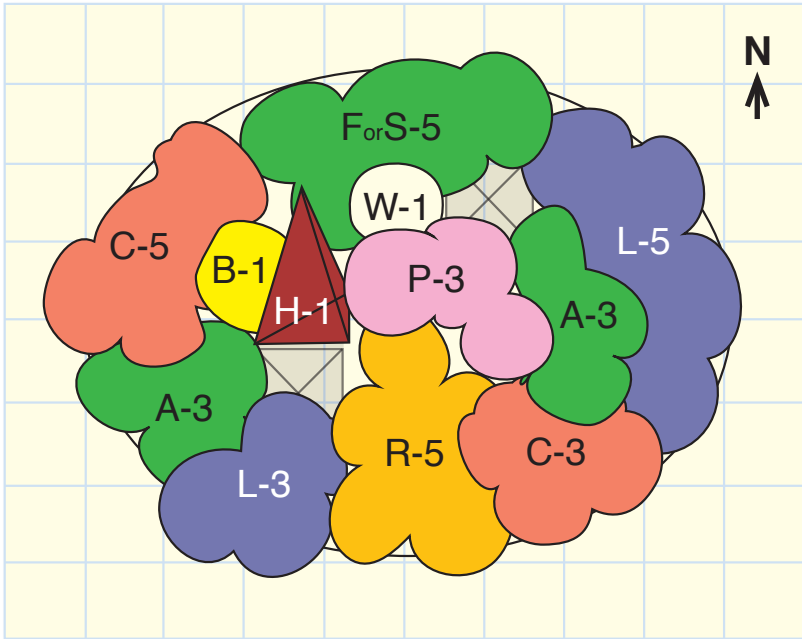
1 Sq. Ft.



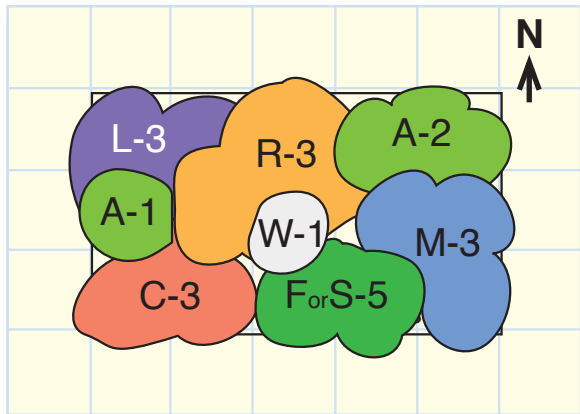
Stepping Stone

**K-1** Letter=Plant Code Numeral=Number of plants

# Shady Gardens



Shady Garden 6ft x 8ft



Shady Border 3ft x 5ft

## Shady garden site needs

- Deciduous shade on south and west side, needs some morning sun
- Moisture retentive organic soil from decomposed oak leaves OR amended soil with 4-6 inches of mushroom compost or other natural organic compost
- Mulch around plants with pine needles, pine fines, shredded hardwood or ground up oak leaves

Code	Latin Name	Common Name	Height *	Season	Color	Ever-green	Note
<b>C</b>	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine	low-med	Sp-S	red/yellow	semi	allow some self-seed & deadhead rest
<b>F</b>	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	False Solomon's-seal	low	Sp	cream		
<b>L</b>	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyre-leaf Sage	low	Sp-S	pale pink	yes	allow some self-seed & deadhead rest
<b>A</b>	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	American Alumroot	med	Sp-S	yellow-green	yes	use for foliage; deadhead after bloom
<b>W</b>	<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	White Wood Aster	med	Fall	cream		deadhead
<b>B</b>	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Blue-stemmed Goldenrod	med-tall	S-F	yellow		deadhead
<b>P</b>	<i>Penstemon laevigatus</i>	Smooth Beard-tongue	med-tall	Sp-S	pale pink		allow some self-seed & deadhead rest
<b>S</b>	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's-seal	med	Sp	cream		
<b>H</b>	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Coral Honeysuckle	vine	Sp-F	red/yellow	semi	support, prune to size in Feb.
<b>M</b>	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Mistflower	low-med	S-F	blue		deadhead
<b>R</b>	<i>Packera aurea</i>	Golden Ragwort	med	Sp	yellow	yes	allow some self-seed & deadhead rest
<b>GC**</b>	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridge-berry	low	Sp	white	yes	use for foliage & ground cover

\* Height: Low 0-5 - 1 ft, Med 1.5-3 ft, Tall up to 6 ft; Vine: prune to height of support

\*\*If desired, interplant prior to mulching, with Partridge-berry, as a ground cover

### Key



1 Sq. Ft.



Stepping Stone



Trellis 6ft. tall

**K-1** Letter=Plant Code Numeral=Number of plants

## Plant NNK Natives: Go Native—Grow Native

The Plant NNK Natives: **Go Native—Grow Native** campaign seeks to inspire those who live and work in the Northern Neck to use native plants in their gardens and landscapes and to protect existing native vegetation.

Native plants provide many ecological benefits. For example, they provide food and habitat year round for resident and migratory birds, butterflies and moths. Because Northern Neck native plants are indigenous, that is, they were likely growing in one or more of the four Northern Neck counties before European settlers came to the area, they are well adapted to local soils and climate and can tolerate varying conditions such as drought and flooding. They usually require less watering, fertilization and pesticide application than non-native plants.

**Go Native—Grow Native** campaign activities will increase both the demand for and supply of Northern Neck native plants.

### Go Native—Grow Native Products

- A full color guide to the Native Plants of the Northern Neck.
- Native plant identification tags and promotional banners for partner retail establishments to help gardeners identify native plants for their gardens.
- A website to provide up-to-date information on activities and educational materials of the **Go Native—Grow Native** campaign. Visit [nnnps.org](http://nnnps.org)



Virginia Native Plant Society  
NORTHERN NECK CHAPTER



#### Credits

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Editor / Janet Pawlukiewicz

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