These plants are excellent choices for your home garden landscape. They are non-invasive, are resistant to disease and insects which eliminates the need to use pesticides, and require little or no watering or fertilization once established.

Anise Hyssop

Anise hyssop provides beautiful lavender blooms in late summer. This clumping southwestern PA native perennial grows 2 – 4 feet tall and thrives in full sun and a variety of soils. Bees, hummingbirds and butterflies are all attracted to the nectar. The aromatic leaves can also be used in herbal teas.

Bluestar

Bluestars are native to the United States and form clumps 2 – 3 feet tall and wide. Blue, star-shaped blossoms attract butterflies in the spring and bright yellow to orange, willow-shaped leaves stand out in the fall garden. Plant amsonia in full sun and well-drained soils. Two species that we recommend are eastern bluestar (Amsonia tabernaemontana) and Hubricht’s bluestar (Amsonia hubrichtii).

Cinnamon Fern

This southwestern PA native fern gets its specific epithet cinnamonum from the fertile fronds that deepen to a rich brown. The fiddleheads also emerge from the base of the plant and unfurl into large, erect sterile fronds that reach 2 – 3 feet. This fern is especially useful in moist garden soils and part- to full-shade. The fuzz on young fiddleheads is a favorite nesting material for birds.

False Indigo

This upright plant can reach 3 feet in height. Blooming in early summer, its bright, lupine-like flowers spring from stalks that rise a foot above the plant. It makes a dense, shrub-like clump of very attractive blue-green foliage that stands up to heat and is large enough to use as a single specimen. False indigo prefers full sun and room to spread.

Lenten Rose

This hardy shade perennial is known for its late winter interest, with white, cup-shaped flowers blooming in winter and early spring. It can grow 18 – 24 inches tall and 24 – 30 inches wide, slowly spreading. Thick, smooth, evergreen leaves are deer resistant. Grows best in rich, moist, well-drained soil, in part to full shade.

Mountain Mint

Mountain mints are native to southwestern PA, have a soothing minty fragrance and can be used in teas. Growing up to 3 feet tall, they contain small white or light purple flowers. Pycnanthemum virginiunum prefers full sun and soil that stays moist while Pycnanthemum muticum tolerates shadier spots with 4 – 6 hours of sun and average soil. Both offer nectar and attract a wide variety of pollinators.

Rattlesnake Master

Rattlesnake master is an interesting native plant with spherical flower heads that rise up from tall stems. They can be found growing in the meadow communities of eastern and central North America. This tap rooted plant doesn’t transplant well, so find a sunny site with dry to medium, well-drained soils and wash it self-seed! It attracts pollinators.

Threadleaf Tickseed

Threadleaf tickseed has thread-like green foliage and many bright, golden-yellow flowers during summer. It attracts butterflies and other pollinators and, if pruned occasionally, flowers will bloom into the fall. Clump-forming and slow-spreading, it will grow 8 – 12 inches high, and 18 – 32 inches wide. This perennial is easy to grow and loves full sun. Plant in average, well-drained soil.

Virginia Bluebells

A spring ephemeral, this early-blooming perennial, a southwestern PA native, has clusters of pink buds opening to light blue, trumpet-shaped flowers on upright plants in March or April. It is deer-resistant and is spectacular in mass plantings, but the foliage dies back by mid-summer. It grows best in light shade and moist soil.

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