

Native Plants at the Watertown Post Office

Aronia melanocarpa (Black Chokeberry): A deciduous shrub with ornamental clusters of white flowers in spring and dark purple berries that ripen in late summer. The shrub grows 3 to 6 feet tall with glossy green leaves that turn red in the fall. It grows in full sun to part shade and tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. The berries are extremely astringent when raw but rich in antioxidants and can be used to make jams and jellies. The berries are also valuable food for birds and other wildlife in winter.

Heuchera villosa 'Caramel': A cultivar of the native *Heuchera villosa* with striking apricot to amber foliage (depending on light conditions) and airy pinkish flowers on long stems (up to 30") in mid to late summer that attract native bees. Most heuchera demand shade but those with *villosa* parentage can tolerate more heat and sun.

Tiarella cordifolia (Foam Flower) 'Running Tapestry': A cultivar of the native woodland perennial known both for its delicate, foamy white flowers visited by pollinators in spring and attractive foliage. All *Tiarella* varieties thrive in shady, moist, humusy soil but can tolerate some dryness once established. Most grow from 12 to 18 inches in height. The 'Running Tapestry' cultivar features heart-shaped leaves with burgundy speckles along the veins and spreads aggressively through runners to form a groundcover.

Tiarella cordifolia 'Brandywine': A foamflower cultivar that features up to eight weeks of bloom from spring into summer and maple-shaped leaves with sharper lines of burgundy along the veins. This plant expands into neat clumps through very short runners and turns a rich bronze in the fall.

Monarda bradburiana (Bradbury's Beebalm): A perennial wildflower in the mint family with pink/lavender tubular flowers in May to July that attract hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. More tolerant of dry soils, less prone to mildew, and more compact than other bee balms, this one thrives in full sun to part shade and grows from 1 to 2 feet tall.

Carex appalachia (Appalachian Sedge): A clumping, grass-like perennial with very fine 12" to 18" leaves that arch over when full length. It prefers partial shade and dry soil and makes an attractive, naturalistic lawn substitute under these conditions while its roots improve the temperature and permeability of soil below the surface. The foliage hosts the larva of skipper and satyr butterflies. Its neat appearance works well in containers.