

The YMCA & Community Center Pollinator Garden

Resource Manual



A Community Project Supported By The Skaneateles Garden Club and Stifel

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Butterfly



Did you know...

- Antarctica is the only continent on which no butterflies have been found.
- Butterflies can see red, green, and yellow.
- Many adult butterflies never excrete waste – they use up all they eat for energy.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- Butterfly wings are clear – the colors and patterns are the reflections of the tiny scales covering them.



Bee

Did you know...

- Bees have 5 eyes and 6 legs.
- Male bees in the hive are called drones.
- Female bees in the hive are called worker bees.
- Honeybees pollinate more than 100 crops in the U.S.
- There are more than 20,00 species of bees.

National Garden Bureau

Catmint



Also known as: Catnip, Mussin’s catmint, Garden catmint, Eastern cat-mint.

Botanical Name: *Nepeta racemosa*

Description: Catmint are herbs that are native to Europe and now grow throughout North America as well. Catmint is also reportedly a strong mosquito repellent.

Pollinator: Although most gardeners associate catmint (catnip) with cats, these plants from the mint family can also be attractive to birds. The small flowers are great sources of nectar for hummingbirds, and attract butterflies and other pollinators, which then attract insectivorous birds to your garden. Visitors you can expect include flycatchers, catbirds, tufted titmice, warblers, tanagers, and thrushes. The seeds are also enjoyed by finches, sparrows, and buntings.

The Catmint Name: A chemical called nepetalactone in the herb is attractive to cats, giving the plant its nickname, “catnip”. When cats sniff or rub against catmint, it drives them to act strangely or with overwhelming happiness: rolling over, pawing and rubbing. Another common nickname for the plant is “catsworth”.

Interesting Fact: Catmint can also be used by humans for its calming and sedative effects. This is a far cry from the wacky effect many cats seem to enjoy.

Symbolism: Good spirits and great luck.

Characteristics:

- Plant Type – Herb
- Lifespan – Perennial
- Bloom Time - Summer
- Plant Height – 2 feet
- Flower Size – 1-2 inches

Garden Tip: The beautiful flowers and lush foliage of catmint not only form a beautiful landscape in your garden, but also has a unique fragrance that drives off annoying insects. It is a long bloomer that will keep you company from summer to fall.

Sunlight: Full sun to partial sun.

Care: Catmint is a very adaptable plant that can grow at the edge of the garden or around a rock. Catmint can invade the space of other plants nearby and hinder their growth. Take care to control its growth. It is not difficult to grow catmint as long as you provide enough light and moisture.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Nepeta* – Catnips, Catmints.

Family: Lamiaceae – Mint, Labiatae, Deadnettle, Sage.

Order: Lamiales – Mints plantains olives and allies.

Class: Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons, Dicots, Eudicots.

Phylum: Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

Common milkweed



Also known as: Silkweed, Butterfly flower, Silky swallow-wort.

Botanical Name: *Asclepias syriaca*

Description: Common milkweed is a flowering perennial herbaceous plant native to North America. It contains milky latex which can be toxic to sheep, cows, and other larger mammals (including humans) if it is consumed in large amounts. Many insect species are attracted to common milkweed, most notably monarch butterflies.

Pollinator: These perennial flowering plants are available in almost 200 species, which are probably most famous as the host plant to the majestic and dwindling monarch butterfly. Common milkweed are sometimes visited by hummingbirds, although their flowers are not as attractive to them as tubular-shaped ones. Due to the fact that they are a great insect lure, they can also be grown to attract various insectivorous birds.

The Common milkweed Name: The flowers are popular with butterflies and other insects, earning them the common name of “butterfly weed” and “butterfly flower”. It was described as one of the earliest North American species Cornut in his masterpiece, *Canadensium Plantarum Historia* in 1635. As it is the most common species in the genus, it is called common milkweed.

Interesting Fact: Every part of this plant will secrete white fluid if they are being damaged and broken. Its seeds are white and fluffy like dandelions in the wind.

Symbolism: Adaptability, remembrance, dignity, freedom

Characteristics:

- Plant Type – Herb
- Lifespan – Perennial
- Bloom Time - Summer
- Plant Height – 3 to 4 feet
- Flower Size – 0.2 to 0.3 inch

Garden Tip: Milkweeds can be planted roadside, near rock edges, or against walls to create beautiful flowering hedges, making it an attractive addition to any garden.

Sunlight: Full sun to partial sun.

Care: Common milkweed grows in well-drained soils of dry to medium moisture. As it prefers full-sun, gardeners may consider regular watering to keep the soil moderately moist . However, common milkweed is drought tolerant and can survive poor soils. Milkweed is super easy to take care of, with resistance to almost all pests and diseases.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Asclepias* – Milkweeds.

Family: Apocynaceae - Dogbane

Order: Gentianales – Gentians, dogbanes, madders, and allies.

Class: Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons, Dicots, Eudicots.

Phylum: Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

Common Zinnia



Also known as: Zinnia, Elegant Zinnia, Youth-and-age, Garden Zinnia, Young's Helleborine, Youth and Old Age, Wild Zinnia

Botanical Name: *Zinnia elegans*

Description: The common zinnia is a popular garden plant. It thrives in relatively dry conditions with good airflow. Garden varieties come in many colors, usually having been hybridized from different wild varieties. Common zinnias are considered an allergy-safe pollen producing flower. Common zinnia flowers bloom from summer to fall, looking gorgeous both in the garden and harvested as fresh-cut flowers.

Pollinator: Zinnias bloom all summer long and attract pollinating insects, especially butterflies. The richly colorful flowers of common zinnia are available in over 100 cultivars, perfect for a bird-friendly garden. They are very effective at attracting hummingbirds, which are drawn by the bright colors and come to eat the nectar, especially that of the red and orange flowers. Common zinnia also attracts granivorous birds which enjoy the small seeds, and goldfinches, in particular, will pluck out the pedals to get to the seeds before they ripen.

The Common zinnia Name: The genus name, Zinnia is also often used as its common name. In fact, the name, Zinnia is given to the plant in memory of the German botanist, Johann Gottfried Zinn. As the plant is the most famous species of the genus and is often cultivated as an ornamental plant, it is called common zinnia.

Interesting Fact: Since the center of the Zinnia appears as if a new flower is blooming within an older one, it became popular in Victorian America referred to as Zinnia "youth-and-age." The elegant zinnia is a part of the Compositae plant family originating in tropical America. It has been widely planted because of its large and beautiful flowers with unique shape and long flowering period. Generally, the flower represents excitement. Mixed colors of the flower symbolize the meaning of deceased friends; red ones represent steadfastness; white ones mean kindness; and yellow ones are an everyday greeting. People with this birth flower are enthusiastic and lively. They are easily excited by their surroundings. They are also very emotional, especially in the face of love, their thoughts are rather difficult to predict, making their lovers feel hopeless.

Symbolism: endurance, lasting friendship, remembrance.

Characteristics: Plant Type – Herb

Lifespan – Annual

Bloom Time – Summer and Autumn

Plant Height – 6 to 39 inches

Flower Size – 2 inches to 2.5 inches

Garden Tip: Water common zinnia often enough to keep the soil moist but not waterlogged, averaging twice a week in warm or dry weather. Avoid getting water on the foliage as it can cause mildew. Check the soil surface for dryness every few days. If the top few inches of the soil are dry, then it is time to water Common zinnia. Common zinnia is most popularly planted in flowerbeds. Usually appreciated for its distinctively fluffy, bright blooms, it is also planted in vegetable gardens to attract pollinators and thus increase yields. The varying heights, sizes, colors, and forms available can suit just about any type of garden. Common zinnia can look particularly striking next to Purple fountain grass, Dahlias, and Toothpick weed.

Sunlight: Full sun to partial sun.

Care: Common zinnia is super easy to take care of, with resistance to almost all pests and diseases. Watering during the day instead of night will also avoid mildew. It is a perfect option for gardeners with brown thumbs. The plant needs little care; with a little work, you can set it and forget it.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Zinnia* - Zinnias

Family: Asteraceae – Daisy, Compositae, Aster, Composite, Sunflower.

Order: Asterales – Asters bellflowers, fanflowers and allies.

Class: Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons, Dicots, Eudicots.

Phylum – Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

Daylily



Also known as: Lemon daylily, Lemon lily, *Hemerocallis flava*, Custard lily, Pale daylily.

Botanical Name: *Hemerocallis liloasphodelus*

Description: The yellow daylily is an ornamental perennial herbaceous plant with very fragrant yellow flowers. It is commonly cultivated in flowerbeds, containers and as a groundcover plant. Due to its dense semi-evergreen leaves and early-blooming flowers, yellow daylily is highly appreciated amongst gardeners.

Pollinator: Available in thousands of cultivators, yellow daylily are very popular ornamental plants that will attract hummingbirds to your garden. These beloved long-snouted pollinators will visit the showy, trumpet-shaped flowers, especially the red, orange and purple cultivators. The flowers are also popular with other pollinators and insects. Yellow daylily often spread through underground runners (or stolons), and some cultivators produce no seeds at all, reducing their attractiveness to seed-eating birds.

The Yellow daylily Name: Everyone who sees its flowers thinks it is very similar to a lily, but it is not a lily. What is more amazing than its shape is that each flower blooms only one day, and the genus name *Hemerocallis*, also means “the beautiful day”. Since its flowers are also yellow, it is called yellow daylily.

Interesting Fact: Although used as an ornamental in the western world, yellow daylily has a culinary use in China and Japan. The edible parts of yellow daylily are leaves, tubers, and flowers. However, due to the similarity to lilies (inedible and some toxic), cross-pollination and hybrids, changes in taxonomy, an untrained eye can easily make a mistake, so it’s advised to research carefully before consuming yellow daylily.

Symbolism: Wealth, Pride, Joy, Love, Motherhood.

Characteristics: Plant Type – Herb
Lifespan – Perennial
Bloom Time - Summer
Plant Height – 1.6 - 3 feet
Flower Size – 4 inches

Garden Tip: The yellow daylily is a pretty, perennial flowering plant grown in gardens across the world. Despite looking delicate, the yellow daylily is surprisingly hardy and very low maintenance, making it perfect for beginners. It is loved for its fragrant flowers, which bloom for a day and wither by the night. As long as it has well-draining soil, it will continue to produce bright yellow, red and orange flowers throughout the warmer months.

Sunlight: Full sun to partial sun.

Care: Yellow daylily is super easy to take care of, with resistance to almost all pests and diseases. As long as the soil is well-drained, yellow daylily can likely grow in it. It prefers soils of a medium moisture. However, they can withstand heat and tolerate dry or poor soils.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Hemerocallis* – Daylilies.

Family: Asphodelaceae - Asphodel.

Order: Asparagales – Asparagus and allies, Agaves, orchids, irises, and allies.

Class: Liliopsida – Monocotyledons, Monocots.

Phylum: Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

Goat's beard



Also known as: Bride's feathers, Buck's beard, Eastern goat's beard, Sylvan goat's beard.

Botanical Name: *Aruncus dioicus*

Description: The Latin name *Aruncus dioicus* means 'having the male reproductive organs on one plant, and the female on the other.' It has received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

Pollinator: Goat's beard is a host plant for butterfly and moth larvae (caterpillars). The nectar attracts butterflies and bees. Bees, butterflies, and moths all utilize Goat's beard for foraging.

The Goat's beard Name: The word "Aruncus" comes from the Greek word *aryngos* meaning "goat's beard" which refers to the plume of the flowers. The bi-pinnately compound leaves are toothed and the lower leaves tend to be larger than the higher leaves.

Interesting Fact: Native Americans have used goat's beard for medicinal purposes. For example, poultices made from the root have been used on sores. Infusions from the roots have been used for a variety of cures including rheumatism, sore throats, fevers, and blood disease.

Symbolism: strength and confidence

Characteristics: Plant Type – Herb

Lifespan – Annual

Bloom Time – Summer

Plant Height – 4 to 6 feet

Flower size – 0.02 to 0.06 inches

Garden Tip: Goat's beard grows tall, so it is a good choice in areas where a backdrop for showier plants is needed. It tolerates shade and wetter soils well; this makes it great in a woodland garden or in lower areas near water that don't get as much sun.

Sunlight: Full sun to full shade.

Care: Planting time is Spring and Autumn. Goat's beard is known to be highly sensitive to changing water conditions. Even a small period of drought can kill the plant. You should maintain a consistent water level in the soil by frequently testing with your finger: If it's still dry 1-2 inches below the surface, it's time to water.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Aruncus* - Aruncus

Family: Rosaceae - Rose

Order: Rosales – Roses, elms, figs, and allies.

Class: Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons, Dicots, Eudicots.

Phylum – Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

Hairy mountain mint



Also known as: American mountain mint, Whorled mountainmint.

Botanical Name: *Pycnanthemum verticillatum*

Description: Hairy mountain mint is indigenous to North America and grows well in the prairies and other hot, dry conditions.

Pollinator: The flowers are very attractive to a wide variety of pollinators including honey bees, native bees, wasps, butterflies, and moths. As a member of the mint family, this plant possesses a strong minty scent which often discourages mammals from interacting with it.

The Hairy mountain mint Name: The common name is derived from the mint fragrance emitted from the leaves.

Interesting Fact: Hairy mountain mint is said to be soothing to irritated skin. Sprinkle on carpets to freshen the whole house or rub crushed flowers on clothing to repel insects. This is an edible plant. Dried, it can be used as a hot, spicy, minty seasoning for salads, meats, soups, stews and mint-like tea.

Characteristics:

- Plant Type – Herb
- Lifespan – Perennial
- Bloom Time - Summer
- Plant Height – 1- 3 feet
- Flower Size – 1 inch

Garden Tip: Hairy mountain mint forms an attractive mound of strongly peppermint-scented leaves and white button-shaped flowers from June through August.

Sunlight: Full sun to partial sun.

Care: Hairy mountain mint is very easy to grow. The plant will adapt to most soils, ranging from moist, rich soils to dry and sandy/rocky soils. This mountain mint survives torrential rainfall and hot, dry weather unfazed, and reliably comes back year after year.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Pycnanthemum* – Mountain mints.

Family: Lamiaceae – Mint, Labiatae, Deadnettle, Sage.

Order: Lamiales – Mints plantains olives and allies.

Class: Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons, dicots, Eudicots.

Phylum: Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

Perennial salvia



Also known as: Salvia, Woodland sage, Balkan clary, Blue sage, Wild sage, Purple wood sage.

Botanical Name: *Salvia nemorosa*

Description: Salvia (Perennial salvia) is a clump-forming plant that is known for its purple flowers that grow on upright purple stems. This plant is especially attractive to butterflies and bees and the leaves give off a minty fragrance. This perennial should be cut back after flowering has concluded, usually in early fall.

Pollinator: The salvia plant family is a magnet for all pollinators including bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Sun loving salvias are easy to grow, beautiful, have a long bloom time, and are generally tolerant of dry conditions.

The Perennial salvia Name: It is a remarkable plant that is easy to grow and cultivate and has been used by gardeners for many years. Many well-known varieties are hybridized from this plant. As it is a perennial plant, it is called perennial salvia.

Interesting Fact: Essential oil extracted from salvia (purple wood sage) can be used to produce cosmetics.

Symbolism: Family, happiness, family values.

Characteristics:

- Plant Type – Herb
- Lifespan – Perennial
- Bloom Time – Summer and Autumn
- Plant Height – 1.5 - 2 feet
- Flower Size – 1 inch

Garden Tip: Most *Salvia* species are low-maintenance, hardy and drought resistant. They are an ideal choice for gardens that require little care.

Sunlight: Full sun.

Care: *Salvia* is tolerant to heat and drought but will perform best with regular watering. This is especially important during their long blooming season, from early summer until the first frost. *Salvia* is very easy to grow and super easy to take care of, with resistance to almost all pests and diseases.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Salvia* – sages.

Family: Lamiaceae – Mint, Labiatae, Deadnettle, Sage.

Order: Lamiales – Mints plantains olives and allies.

Class: Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons, dicots, Eudicots.

Phylum: Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This* App

Perennial sunflower



Also known as: Cheerful sunflower

Botanical Name: *Helianthus laetiflorus*

Description: One of the few naturally occurring hybrids, cheerful sunflower enjoys frequent cultivation in home gardens across the northern hemisphere. Its Latin name, *Helianthus laetiflorus*, reflects the parentage from which it was naturally born. This perennial grows rather aggressively, sometimes enough to even colonize areas such as meadows and prairies, though it isn't categorized as invasive.

Pollinator: Perennial sunflower not only have gorgeous yellow petals that attract bees and butterflies, but they have delicious seeds that feed insects, humans, and birds. These seeds are included in many birdseed mixes because they're extremely popular with songbirds. They are high in fat and protein, which gives many songbirds the energy needed to power through cold winters. Some of the birds who love cheerful sunflower include the American finch, cardinal, black-capped chickadee, eastern towhee, grosbeak, house finch, indigo bunting, pine siskin, purple finch, re-bellied woodpecker, ruby-throated hummingbird, tufted titmouse, and white-breasted nuthatch.

The Perennial sunflower Name: Perennial sunflower is a crop of sunflowers that developed by crossing wild perennial and domestic annual sunflower species.

Interesting Fact: Perennial sunflower plants actually make up the majority of sunflower varieties native to North America. Most of the popular garden varieties that you see are annuals, but you can get a lot more range of size and even color when you look into perennial sunflowers. Globally, sunflowers are the fourth most important oil crop. Most of the sunflower seed crop is crushed for oil, and most of the oil is consumed by humans.

Symbolism: happiness and loyalty

Characteristics: Plant type – Herb
Lifespan – Perennial
Bloom Time – Summer and Autumn
Plant Height – 8 to 20 feet
Flower Size – 2 to 4 feet

Garden Tip: Sunflowers belong to the genus *Helianthus*, of the Asteraceae family. They are summer flowering herbs with bright and beautiful flowers. There are many stunning varieties of sunflower. Sunflowers can be planted in containers or cultivated in the garden. They are easy to care for, and they make impressive cut flowers.

Sunlight: Full sun.

Care: Sunflowers prefer a warm and sunny position. In different stages of growth, cheerful sunflower requires different amounts of water, and in general, it is drought resistant.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Helianthus* – Sunflowers

Family: Asteraceae – Daisy, Compositae, Aster, Composite, Sunflower.

Order: Asterales – Asters bellflowers, fanflowers and allies.

Class: Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons, Dicots, Eudicots.

Phylum – Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

Scarlet beebalm



Also known as: Oswego tea, Crimson bee-balm, Bergamot, Scarlet monarda.

Botanical Name: *Monarda didyma*

Description: This perennial forms a cluster of bright-red flowers atop a 3-foot-long stem, which are particularly attractive to hummingbirds. They have a long blooming period and are often planted in large numbers to provide a unique landscape. The leaves are aromatic, with a minty smell, and can also be brewed into tea, used to make seasonings and desserts.

Pollinator: Scarlet beebalm is grown ornamentally for its showy and fragrant red flowers which are a great attractor of butterflies, bumblebees, and hummingbirds. The scarlet beebalm is a great addition to any bird-friendly garden. Its tubular flowers are very attractive to hummingbirds, especially if you opt for cultivators with red or purple flowers. Scarlet beebalm nectar is attractive to not just hummingbirds, but also numerous insects, which will in turn lure various species of birds that feed on insects. Sparrows like to eat the fruit of flowers in this genus, and goldfinches and redpolls have been known to eat them as well.

The Scarlet beebalm Name: The common name beebalm, refers to the use of a resin which is derived from its utility for healing and pain-relieving, especially from bee stings. Besides that, most of the flowers are scarlet red-colored, so it is often called scarlet beebalm.

Interesting Fact: Scarlet beebalm always gives a cool and refreshing feeling. Its fragrance is calming and soothing, and its flowers are also very beautiful. At the turn of summer and autumn, its flowers attract a hummingbird's attention for food.

Symbolism: Person of virtue, good health, courage

Characteristics: Plant Type – Herb
Lifespan – Perennial
Bloom Time – Summer
Plant Height – 2-5 feet
Flower Size – 2.5 inches

Garden Tip: Plants of the genus *Monarda* are usually planted in courtyards or flower beds. They can also be used as potted plants and are easy to care for.

Sunlight: Full sun to partial sun.

Care: Scarlet beebalm prefers soil that is evenly moist, especially in its growing season. Mulch will help it retain its moisture so you can water less frequently. Scarlet beebalm is super easy to take care of, with resistance to almost all pests and diseases.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Monarda* – Bergamot, Bee balm, Oswego tea, Horsemint

Family: Lamiaceae – Mint, Labiatae, Deadnettle, Sage.

Order: Lamiales – Mints plantains olives and allies.

Class: Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons, dicots, Eudicots.

Phylum: Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

Spiderwort



Also known as: Blue jacket, Smooth spiderwort, Widow's tears, Common spiderwort.

Botanical Name: *Tradescantia ohiensis*

Description: Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) is named after John Tradescant (1608-1662), the gardener to King Charles 1. This cheerful blue flowering plant is common along roadsides, in ditches and makes a great addition to any garden. It has a unique tendency to bloom in the morning and then close in the afternoon sun.

Pollinator: Spiderwort has an extended bloom of delicate blue flowers that attract small pollinators like bees, butterflies and birds. Bumble bees are the plant's major pollinator while butterflies enjoy the nectar of this plant.

The Spiderwort Name: Some believe that it is called spiderwort for those angular leaves and stems which resemble spider legs. Others say it is due to the strands of sap the plant secretes whenever it is cut or injured, manifesting the appearance of spider webs. In fact, the specific epithet *ohiensis*, actually holds the meaning 'of' or 'from Ohio', therefore, often referred to as Ohio spiderwort.

Interesting Fact: Spiderwort usually blooms with the morning dew and withers at noon. Japanese people are very fond of beautiful and transient things. In Japanese history and culture, spiderwort is closely related to autumn, which is very popular and is frequently quoted in haiku.

Symbolism: Respect

Characteristics:

- Plant Type – Herb
- Lifespan – Perennial
- Bloom Time - Spring and Summer
- Plant Height – 6 to 45 inches
- Flower Size - 1 inch

Garden Tip: With spectacular, long-blooming flowers, the Ohio spiderwort is a popular ornamental plant in home gardens and can also be kept as a highly decorative house plant.

Sunlight: Full sun to partial sun.

Care: Ohio spiderwort is super easy to take care of, with resistance to almost all pest and diseases. Although the spiderwort can survive in dry soils, it prefers moist soil. You should add enough water to moisten the soil, but err on the side of adding too little water rather than too much. Allow the soil to drain before another watering. The roots will rot in standing water. It is a perfect option for gardeners with brown thumbs.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Tradescantia* – Spiderworts, Spiderlilies, Inchplants, Dayflowers, Wandering dudes.

Family: Commelinaceae – Spiderwort, Dayflower.

Order: Commelinales – Spiderworts and allies.

Class: Liliopsida – Monocotyledons, Monocots.

Phylum: Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This* App

Sundrops



Also known as: Narrow-leaved sundrops, Suncups, Common sundrops, Shrubby sundrops, Flatrock sundrops, Narrowleaf evening primrose.

Botanical Name: *Oenothera fruticosa*

Description: Sundrop is a flowering plant native to North America. It displays uniquely dark foliage, red stems and buds, and buttercup-yellow blooms. Sundrop grows in woodland areas and dry rocky soils. The taxonomy of this species is controversial in the scientific community, as they can interbreed freely with many other evening primroses.

Pollinator: The most common pollinator of the Sundrop is bees. Sundrops also attract butterflies, songbirds, hummingbirds, and an array of non-bee pollinators to its yellow petals. The seeds of the *Oenothera fruticosa* are consumed by birds including the eastern goldfinch and mourning dove,

The Sundrop Name: Cultivated as a sport from the Evening Primrose family, this variant's name translates to "fireworks" in large part due to its fiery summer coloration.

Interesting Fact: Sundrops bloom in daylight, while the flowers of evening primrose open at dusk. Before the yellow flower blooms, its buds are a bright red color.

Symbolism: Hope

Characteristics:

- Plant Type – Herb
- Lifespan – Perennial
- Bloom Time - Spring and Summer
- Plant Height – 16 to 36 inches
- Flower Size – 1 to 2 inches

Garden Tip: The genus *Oenothera* is characterized by sturdy plants that can grow in various conditions commonly used for ornamental and landscaping purposes. They originate from the Americas and can be found anywhere from temperate to subtropical regions.

Sunlight: Full sun.

Care: The Sundrop flowering period lasts from the end of the spring to the end of the summer. Their size varies according to the species and can be anywhere between 4 inches to 10 feet. Sundrops thrive in full sun, and therefore, they are drought resistant. It is easy to grow and adds color and brightness to a garden.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Oenothera*

Family: Onagraceae

Order: Myrtales

Class: Tracheophytes, Angiosperms, Eudicots, Rosids

Phylum: Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

Turtlehead



Also known as: Pink turtlehead, Rose turtlehead, Shellflower, Purple turtlehead, Twisted shell flower.

Botanical Name: *Chelone obliqua*

Description: Turtlehead is a wildflower that is native to North America and can be found throughout most of the eastern half of the United States. In some states it is considered endangered.

Pollinator: Turtlehead attracts bees, and occasionally, hummingbirds and other pollinators. However, the bitter foliage deter deer.

The Turtlehead Name: Turtlehead gets its name from its flowers, which are said to resemble the head of a turtle. The name is derived from the Greek word for tortoise.

Interesting Fact: Chelone, which is pronounced kee-LO-nee, rhymes with baloney. These blooms appear in late to mid-summer and do not have any fragrance.

Characteristics: Plant type – Herb
Lifespan – Perennial
Plant Height – 2 to 3 feet
Flower Size - 1 inch
Bloom Time – Summer and Autumn

Garden Tip: Turtlehead is an interesting choice for gardeners due to its spikes of pink and purple open-mouthed blooms that resemble a turtle's head. This clump forming plant is particularly suitable for cottage and informal gardens, and when grown in groups, turtlehead is great as a lush background for smaller flower plants.

Sunlight: Full sun to partial sun.

Care: Turtlehead can be grown in medium to wet soil. Gardeners should keep the soil consistently moist. Although it can tolerate periods of dry soil, it will flourish with regular water.

Scientific Classification:

Genus: *Chelone* - Chelone

Family: Plantaginaceae – Plantain.

Order: Lamiales – Mints plantains olives and allies.

Class: Magnoliopsida – Dicotyledons, Dicots, Eudicots.

Phylum – Tracheophyta – Vascular plants, Seed plants, Ferns, Tracheophytes.

Source: *Picture This App*

