

Twinleaf

Jeffersonia diphylla

Perennial wildflower

Height: 0.5-1 ft. **Flower Color:** white
Partial to full shade; moist to dry soil

Deer Resistance: moderate

Habitat: well-drained, moist, rich, usually calcareous, open ground of woods. **Wildlife:** pollen for bees and other pollinators; seeds for ants.



Spicebush

Lindera benzoin

Deciduous shrub

Height: 6-15 ft.

Flower Color: pale yellow
Sun to full shade; moist, sandy, well-drained soil

Habitat: low, deciduous woods, stream banks, swamps.

Wildlife: early nectar and pollen for native bees, host plant for butterflies and moths, berries for birds and mammals.



Golden Ragwort

Packera aurea

Perennial wildflower

Height: 0.5-2.5 ft. **Flower Color:** yellow

Sun to full shade; moist to wet soil

Habitat: meadows, boggy swales, low woods. **Wildlife:** early nectar and pollen for pollinators, groundcover shelter for insects.



Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis

Perennial wildflower

Height: 0.5 ft. **Flower Color:** white
Partial to full shade; moist to dry soil

Habitat: rich, often dry or rocky, shaded ground of mixed deciduous woods, slopes.

Wildlife: pollen for mining and sweat bees, host plant for armyworm and tufted apple bud moths.



Wild Columbine

Aquilegia canadensis

Perennial wildflower

Height: 1-2 ft. **Flower Color:** red/ yellow

Partial to full shade; moist to dry soil

Deer Resistance: high

Habitat: rich, dry, or rocky ground of woods, banks, ledges, and cliffs.

Wildlife: nectar for pollinating insects and hummingbirds.



Running Foamflower

Tiarella cordifolia

Perennial wildflower

Height: 0.5-1 ft. **Flower Color:** white

Partial to full shade; moist to wet soil

Habitat: rich, moist, shaded ground of wooded hills, bogs, stream sides.

Wildlife: early nectar for pollinators, groundcover shelter for insects and small mammals.



Purple Trillium

Trillium erectum

Perennial wildflower

Height: 0.5 ft. **Flower Color:** dark red

Partial to full shade; moist soil

Deer Resistance: low **Habitat:** rich, moist soil of woods. **Wildlife:** attracts flies and gnats as pollinators, seeds for ants.



Wild Geranium

Geranium maculatum

Perennial wildflower

Height: 1-2 ft. **Flower Color:** pink

Partial to full shade; moist to dry soil

Deer Resistance: high **Habitat:** well drained grounds of woods and shaded edges. **Wildlife:** early nectar and pollen for pollinators, seeds for birds.



Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Arisaema triphyllum

Perennial wildflower

Height: 0.5-1 ft. **Flower Color:** green/ red
Sun to partial shade; moist to wet soil

Deer Resistance: moderate to high

Habitat: moist to wet, shaded soils of woods and edges, swamps and bogs, slopes. **Wildlife:** berries for birds and small mammals.



False Solomon's Seal

Maianthemum racemosum

Perennial wildflower

Height: 1-3 ft. **Flower Color:** white

Partial to full shade; moist soil

Habitat: moist, rich, rocky soil of woods, shaded edges, and bluffs.

Wildlife: berries for birds and small mammals.



Alumroot

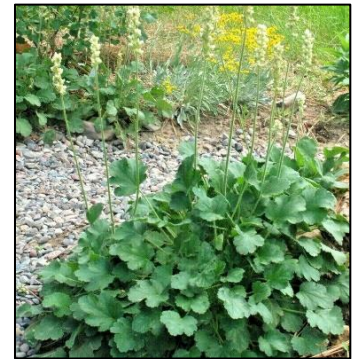
Huechera americana

Perennial wildflower

Height: 0.5-1 ft. **Flower Color:** white

Partial to full shade; moist to dry soil

Habitat: rich, dry, usually limestone ground of upland woods, rock outcrops. **Wildlife:** nectar and pollen for native bees.



Wild Leek

Allium tricoccum

Perennial wildflower

Height: 0.5-1 ft. **Flower Color:** white

Partial to full shade; moist to wet soil

Deer Resistance: high

Habitat: moist to wet, low ground of woods edges, meadows, fields, and swamps. **Wildlife:** soil health.



Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

Perennial wildflower

Height: 1-6 ft. **Flower Color:** red

Sun to shade; moist to wet, rich soil

Habitat: marshes, stream banks, low woods. **Wildlife:** Nectar source for hummingbirds.



Marsh Marigold

Caltha palustris

Perennial wildflower

Height: 1-2 ft. **Flower Color:** yellow

Partial to full shade; wet, rich soil

Habitat: wet woods, marshy hollows, stream edges. **Wildlife:** pollen and nectar for pollinators, shelter for amphibians.



Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum

Nonflowering perennial

Height: 8-30 in.

Dark, shiny stems, pinnae fanned in circular pattern; burgundy red fiddleheads in early spring

Partial to full shade; moist soil

Habitat: moist, cool, rich woods, shaded areas, especially northern exposures, rocky seeps, springs.

Wildlife: groundcover shelter for amphibians and small mammals.



Essex County Environmental Center Native Plant Forest Garden

Bloom schedule in order of appearance:

Plant	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Cardinal Flower								
Wild Leek								
Alumroot								
False Solomons Seal								
Golden Ragwort								
Jack-in-the-Pulpit								
Wild Geranium								
Purple Trillium								
Running Foamflower								
Wild Columbine								
Marsh Marigold								
Bloodroot								
Spicebush								
Twinleaf								

You can learn more about New Jersey native plants through the **Native Plant Society of New Jersey** at npsnj.org.



**Native Plants of Essex County
Wetlands Forest Understory**



Native plants have evolved in our bioregion’s ecosystem over thousands of years. However, the results of human behavior like forest fragmentation and limited predation have led to overabundant deer populations. Heavy deer grazing through the forest understory causes serious, long-term damage to native plants, the animals that rely on them for food and shelter, and overall forest health. A variety of Essex County’s ground- and shrub-nesting birds, like oven birds, indigo buntings, and black and white warblers, need understory vegetation to build and protect their nests and to support the abundance and diversity of bird communities in our forests.

ECEC’s Native Plant Forest Garden is designed to keep deer out and allow native understory plants to thrive. You will find a variety of ferns, deciduous shrubs, and perennial wildflowers, including several spring ephemerals. Spring ephemerals are the first plants to bloom in early spring after snow melts and before tree leaves begin blocking sunlight to the forest floor. They provide essential food for pollinators like native bees emerging from winter nests. Spring ephemerals also add beauty, grace, color, and cause for celebration on our landscape.