

Native Herbaceous Plants of South Central Pennsylvania

The plants on this list have been compiled by Cumberland County Master Gardener Susan Skender and identified as native to south central Pennsylvania. Note that some may have been introduced so long ago that no one knows when they arrived. This list concentrates on Cumberland, Adams, Franklin, Perry, York and Dauphin counties. These plants have been selected because they are often (or sometimes) available from local retail stores. If you cannot locate a plant you'd like to try, ask your favorite garden center if it can order it for you. This is by no means a comprehensive list. It endeavors to list plants that are showy and suitable for the home landscape. If only one county is not listed for a designated plant, it is probably native to that county as well but has not been documented. On the other hand, if only one county is listed, the plant may have been introduced. Plants marked with an asterisk (*) means they are listed in Allan Armitage's book on native plants as "garden-worthy."

Legend for County Locations: A - Adams; C - Cumberland; D - Dauphin; F - Franklin P - Perry; Y - York

Flowering Plants

Botanical Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	White baneberry, Doll's eyes	D, F, P, Y
<i>Agastache foeniculum*</i>	Giant Blue hyssop	not local; introduced western PA
<i>Ageratina altissima</i> *syn. <i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>	White Snakeroot	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana*</i>	Eastern Blue Starflower	not local - scattered eastern PA
<i>Amsonia hubrechtii*</i>	Hubrecht's Bluestar	not PA - Ok/Ark
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly Everlasting	C, D, F, P
<i>Anemone canadensis*</i>	Canadian Windflower	C, D, F
<i>Anemonella thalictroides*</i> syn. <i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	Rue-anemone	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	Pussytoes	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Aquilegia canadensis*</i>	Canadian columbine, red columbin	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Arisaema triphyllum*</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Arisaema dracontium*</i>	Green Dragon	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Aruncus dioicus*</i>	Goat's Beard	Not local; SW PA
<i>Asarum canadense</i> *	Wild Ginger	A, D, F, P, Y
<i>Asclepias incarnata*</i>	Milkweed, Swamp	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Asclepias tuberosa*</i>	Milkweed, Butterfly	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Aster cordifolius</i> syn. <i>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</i>	Common blue wood aster	C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Aster divaricatus*</i> syn. <i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	White Wood Aster	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Aster ericoides*</i> syn. <i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i> var. <i>er</i>	White heath aster	P, Y

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<i>Aster laevis</i> * syn. <i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i> var. <i>laeve</i>	Smooth Blue Aster	C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Aster laterifolius</i> * syn. <i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i>	Calico Aster	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i> * syn. <i>Symphyotrichum novae-angli</i>	Aster, New England	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Aster novae-belgii</i> * syn. <i>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</i> va	Hairy New York aster	in SE PA only
<i>Aster oblongifolius</i> * syn. <i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</i>	Aromatic aster	P
<i>Baptisia australis</i> *	False Indigo	not local; scattered PA
<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i> *	Wild indigo, horsefly weed	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Boltonia asteroides</i> *	False Aster, white doll's daisy	D, Y
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Common harebell	D, Y
<i>Chelone glabra</i> *	White Turtlehead	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Chelone lyonii</i> *	Pink Turtlehead	not PA - SE US
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> *	Green and gold, golden star	F
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i> syn.* <i>Actaea racemosa</i>	Black snakeroot, black cohosh, Black	A, D, F, P, Y
<i>Claytonia caroliniana, virginica</i> *	Spring beauty	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Clematis virginiana</i> *	Virgin's Bower	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i> *syn. <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Blue Mistflower	A, C, F, Y
<i>Coreopsis, rosea</i> *	Coreopsis, Pink	not local; one county in SE introduced probably
<i>Coreoptis tripteris</i> *	Tall tickseed	D, Y
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> *	Thread-leaf Tickseed	not PA; east coast US
<i>Cynoglossum virginianum</i> *	Wild Comfrey	A, D, F, Y
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i> *	Pink Lady's slipper	A, D, F, P, Y
<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> v. <i>pubescens</i> *	Large Yellow Lady's Slipper	A, D, F, Y
<i>Cypripedium pubescens</i> *	Large Yellow Lady's Slipper	A, D, F, Y
<i>Delphinium exaltatum</i> *	Tall larkspur	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i> *	Dutchman's breeches	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Dicentra exima</i> *	Fringed Bleeding heart	not local, scattered in PA
<i>Dodecatheon amethystinum</i>	Shooting Star	A, D, P, Y
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i> *	Shooting Star	F, P
<i>Echinacea purpureum</i> *	Purple Coneflower	not local; SE PA
<i>Eryngium aquaticum</i> *	Rattlesnake master, Marsh eryngo	not local; SE PA
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> *	Button eryngo, Rattlesnake master	not PA; mid Atlantic
<i>Erythronium americanum</i> *	Yellow Troutlily	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> *	Boneset	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Eutrochium dubium</i> 'Little Joe'* syn. <i>Eupatorium dubium</i>	Joe Pye Weed	not local; SE PA
<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i> * syn. <i>Eupatorium fistulosus</i>	Joe-Pye Weed, Trumpet weed	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i> * syn. <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> ss	Spotted Joe-Pye Weed	not local; scattered PA

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<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i> *syn. <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Sweet scented Joe-Pye Weed	A, D, F, P, Y
<i>Filipendula rubra</i> *	Queen of the prairie	C; scattered PA
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i> *	Closed bottle gentian	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Gentiana clausa</i> *	Meadow Closed Gentian	A, D, F, Y
<i>Geranium maculatum</i> *	Wood Geranium	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Gillenia trifoliata</i> * syn. <i>Porteranthus trifoliatus</i>	Bowman's root	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Helenium autumnale</i> *	Common Sneezeweed	A, C, D, P, Y
<i>Helianthus</i> *	Sunflowers -some native PA	many are naturalized from midwest
<i>Helianthus annuus</i> *	Common sunflower (annual)	C, D introduced
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> *	Oxeye Sunflower	A, C, D, F, P
<i>Hepatica americana</i> *	Round lobed liverwort	C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Heuchera americana</i> *	Alum root	C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Heuchera sanguinea</i> *	Coral Bells	D
<i>Heuchera villosa</i> syn. <i>macrorhiza</i> *	Hairy alumroot	throughout PA ; provenance unknown
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> *	Crimson-eyed Rosemallow	not local; scattered PA
<i>Iris cristata</i> *	Dwarf crested iris -	Y
<i>Iris versicolor</i> *	Harlequin Blue Flag	Y, D
<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i> *	Twingleaf	P, F
<i>Liatrix spicata</i> *	Dense blazing star, gayfeather	various subspecies throughout PA
<i>Lilium superbum</i> *	Turk's cap lily	A, C, D, F, P
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> *	Cardinal flower	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> *	Great blue lobelia	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Meehania cordata</i>	Creeping mint	not local - SW PA
<i>Mertensia virginica</i> *	Virginia Bluebells	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Monkeyflower	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Monarda didyma</i> *	Bee-Balm, Scarlet Bee balm	C, D, F, P
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> *	Horsemint, wild bergamot	C, D, F, Y
<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i> *	Common Sundrops (narrowleaf)-	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	Eastern Prickly-pear cactus	C, F
<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i> *	Allegheny spurge	not local -SE PA only
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i> *	talus slope penstemon	A, D, F, P, Y
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i> *	Hairy beardtongue	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Phlox divaricata</i> *	Woodland phlox	C, D, F, Y
<i>Phlox maculata</i> *	Wild Sweet William	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Phlox paniculata</i> *	Garden, summer phlox	A, D, F, P, Y
<i>Phlox pilosa</i> *	Downy phlox	A, D
<i>Phlox stolonifera</i> *	Creeping phlox	not local - west of mountains

Botanical Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Phlox subulata</i> *	Moss Phlox	A, C, D, P
<i>Physotegia virginiana</i> *	Obedient Plant -	C, D, F, Y
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i> *	Mayapple	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Polemonium reptans</i> *	Jacob's Ladder	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i> * var. <i>commutatum</i> *	Small Solon's seal	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Heal-all, self-heal	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Pycnanthemum incanum</i> *	Hoary Mountain Mint	A, D, F, P, Y
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i> *	Clusted or Short toothed Mountain	C, D, Y
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> *	Mountain Mint	C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>fulgida</i> * (not <i>Goldsturm</i>)	Orange coneflower	A, C, D, P, Y
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> *	Black-eyed Susan	A, C, D, P, Y introduced
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> *	Cut-leaf coneflower	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i> *	Three-lobed Rudbeckia	A, C, D, F, P
<i>Ruellia humilis</i> *	Wild petunia	F
<i>Salvia lyrata</i> *	Lyre-leaved sage -	A, D, F, Y
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> *	Bloodroot	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Sanguisorba canadensis</i>	Burnet	A, C, F, Y
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Great or Canadian Burnet	throughout PA ; provenance unknown
<i>Scutellaria incana</i> *	Skullcap	D, F, P
<i>Sedum ternatum</i> *	Wild stonecrop	A, C, D, P, Y
<i>Senecio aurea</i> syn. <i>Packera aureas</i> *	Goldenragwort	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Silene caroliniana</i> *	Sicky catchfly, wild silene	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i> *	Cup flower	D and SE PA
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i> *	Common blue-eyed grass	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Smilacina racemosa</i> * syn. <i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> su	False Lily of the Valley	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Solidago</i> spp.*	Goldenrod, many (<i>rugosa</i> , <i>speciosa</i>)	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Spigelia marilandica</i> *	Indian pink in	not PA
<i>Spiranthes cernua</i> *	Lady's Tresses	D, F, P, Y
<i>Stokesia laevis</i> *	Stoke's Aster	not PA; SE US
<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i> *	Celadine poppy, wood poppy	not local
<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i> *	Tall meadowrue	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	Rue Anemone	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Thermopsis caroliniana</i> * syn. <i>T. villosa</i>	Carolina Bushpea	not local; 1 county No. PA; East coast
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> *	Allegheny foamflower	F, Y
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Common spiderwot	not local - scattered PA
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i> *	Virginia Spiderwort	A, D, F, P, Y
<i>Trillium cernuum</i> *	Nodding trillium	A, D, F, Y

Botanical Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Trillium erectum</i> *	Wake Robin -	D, Y
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i> *	Great White Trillium	not local - primarily western PA
<i>Trillium sessile</i>	Toadshade	F
<i>Uvularia perfoliata</i> *, <i>sessilifolia</i> *	Bellwort, Merry bells	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Veratrum viride</i> *	False hellebore, itchroot -	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Vernonia glauca</i> *	Upland Ironweed	not local; SE PA
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i> *	Ironweed	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> *	Culver's root	A, C, F, P, Y
<i>Viola labradorica</i> *	Alpine violet	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Viola pedata</i> *	Bird's foot violet	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Viola pubescens</i> *	Hairy yellow violet	A, D, F, P, Y
<i>Viola sororia</i>	Common Blue violet	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Viola striata</i> *	Creamy violet	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i> *	Barren strawberry	A, F, P
<i>Zizia aurea</i> *	Golden Alexander,	A, D, F, P, Y

Grasses

Botanical Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> *	Big Bluestem	C, D, F, Y
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats Grama	C; scattered PA
<i>Briza media</i>		
<i>Carex appalachica</i>	Appalachian Sedge	not local ; scattered PA
<i>Carex laxiculmis</i>	Bunny Blue Sedge	F; scattered PA
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania Sedge	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> *	Northern Sea Oats	Y
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> 'Goldtau'	Tufted Hair Grass	not local; scattered PA
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> *	Wavy hair grass	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Elymus</i> spp.	Wild rye	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple Love Grass	C, D, Y
<i>Muhlenbergii capillaris</i>	Pink Muhly Grass	eastern U.S.; introduced Lancaster
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> *	Switch grass	C, D, Y
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> *	Little Bluestem	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass -	A, C, D, F, Y
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> *	Prairie Dropseed	not local; SE PA

Ferns

Botanical Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i> *	Maidenhair fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	Hay-scented fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Dryopteris cristata</i> *	Crested Wood Fern	A, C, D, Y
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> *	Male fern scattered PA	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i> *	Goldies fern	D F
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i> *	Marginal wood fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich fern	C, D, Y
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> *	Sensitive fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> *	Cinnamon fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i> *	Interrupted fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Osmunda regalis</i> *	Royal fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y
<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York fern	A, C, D, F, P, Y

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"Not PA" means it is not native to PA and is not growing here in the wild.

Revised 3/28/2015