nature forward

Formerly Audubon Naturalist Society, Est. 1897

Connecting people and nature in the Capital Region

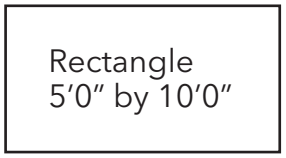
Pollinator Plant Kit

Nature Forward
Town of Edmonston

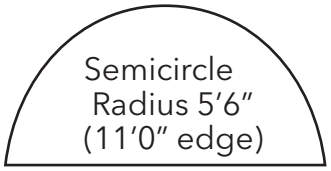
SITE PREPARATION
Removing Existing Vegetation

1. Decide where to locate your plant kit and how to lay it out. The planting requires 50 square feet- this packet includes four different designs to choose from. Pick one of these layouts: orientation does not matter.

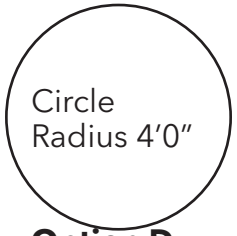
Option A



Option B



Option C



Option D

2. Once you've chosen which layout will fit the best in your space, mark out that shape on the ground using a measuring tape and prepare to kill the existing vegetation! You can use either cardboard or plastic to smother the existing plants. If it is an area with tree roots from an existing tree, use cardboard- plastic will stop the tree roots from getting water. Otherwise, use whichever you have available: pizza boxes, old trashbags, broken down recycling- anything works! Plastic often works faster.

3. Next, mechanically remove the vegetation (no need to dig it up- just mow it or weed-whack it) then cover the area with your material of choice and weigh it down with something heavy, like rocks, bricks, or branches. You can also use landscape staples.

4. Now, you wait! You can leave it "smothered" until you are ready to plant.

NOTE: If you use plastic you may end up with a puddle or two. If there's a danger of standing water, use a mosquito prevention product with active ingredient BTI (Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis) only.

PLANTING

1. Remove the cardboard or plastic that is smothering your grass. If the ground is very hard, you can use a garden fork to pierce the ground every few feet. If it it not very hard this is not necessary. If you want, you can put one bag of Leaf compost (such as Leaf Gro) spread thin over the surface and plant into iit. Otherwise, just plant into the dead grass

2. Layout your plants according to the template you chose. I like to start with one species, identify the symbol for it on the template, and then simply place those plugs on the ground, popping them out of the tray. Then move on to the next species. Being precise is not important- in general, plant all plants roughly one foot apart.

3.` Once all plugs are lying on the ground, start planting! Use a small trowel or soil knife, stick it into the g\round and twist. The hole does not need to be larger than the plant. Then stick the plant in. The surface of the soil should match- do not bury the plant deep, but do not leave it sticking up from the surrounding soil either. You want the soil of the plug and the surrounding soil to be touching with no pockets of air in between.

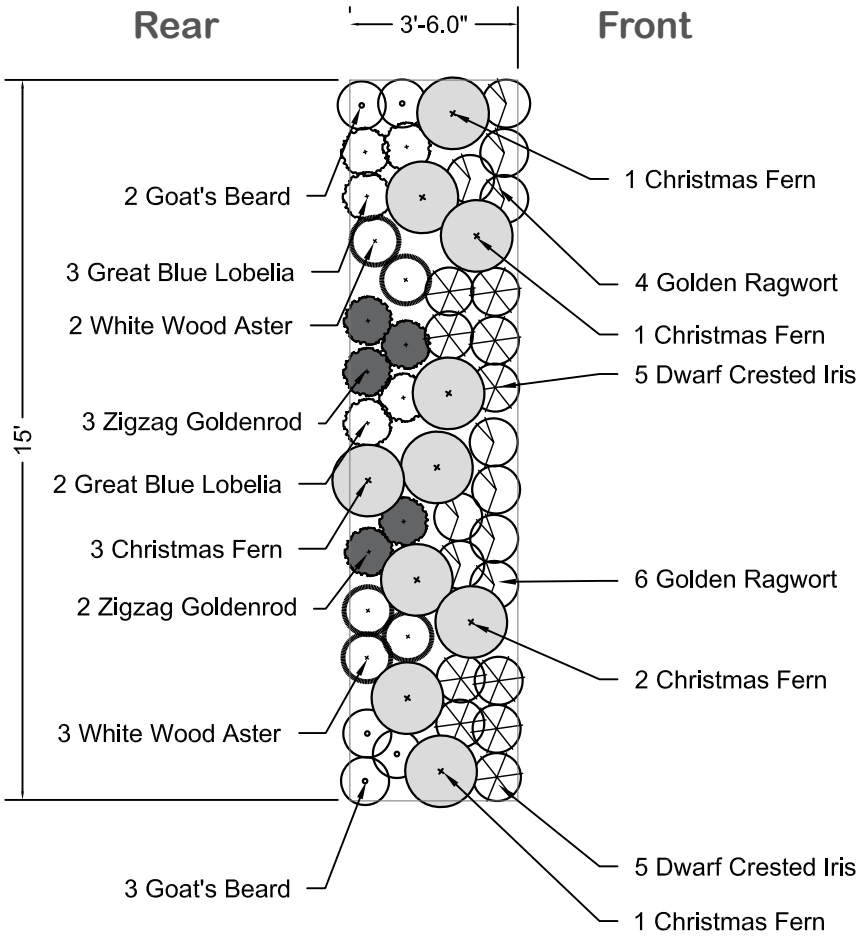
4. Once the plugs have been planted,you can water them.

5. That's it! If you put compost down before, that counts as your mulch. If you did not, you do not need to mulch, but if you want to, use leaf compost instead of shredded bark.

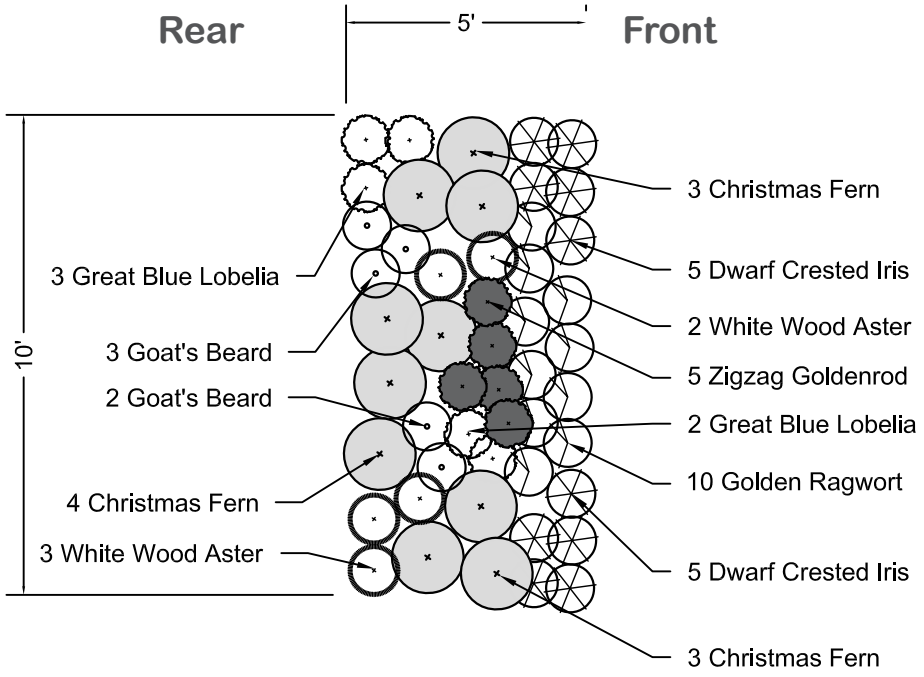
PLANT PALETTE

QTY.	KEY	BOTANICAL/COMMON NAME	SIZE	TYPE	COMMENTS
10		Iris cristata Dwarf Crested Iris	6-12"	Semi-Evergreen	Blue Flowers in Spring Plant 8"-12" apart
10		Packera aurea Golden Ragwort	4-12"	Evergreen	Yellow flowers in Spring Plant 8"-12" apart
10		Polystichum acrostichoides Christmas Fern	18"-2'	Evergreen	Blue foliage in summer, Orange in winter Plant 18"-24" apart
5		Solidago flexicaulis Zigzag Goldenrod	18"-2'	Deciduous	Yellow blooms in Fall Plant 8"-12" apart
5		Aruncus dioicus Goat's Beard	3'	Deciduous	White blooms in Summer Plant 8"-12" apart
5		Eurybia divaricata White Wood Aster	18"-2'	Deciduous	White blooms in Fall Plant 8"-12" apart
5		Lobelia siphilitica Great Blue Lobelia	18"-2'	Deciduous	Blue flowers in Summer Plant 8"-12" apart

Shady Pollinator Kit
PLANT PALETTE



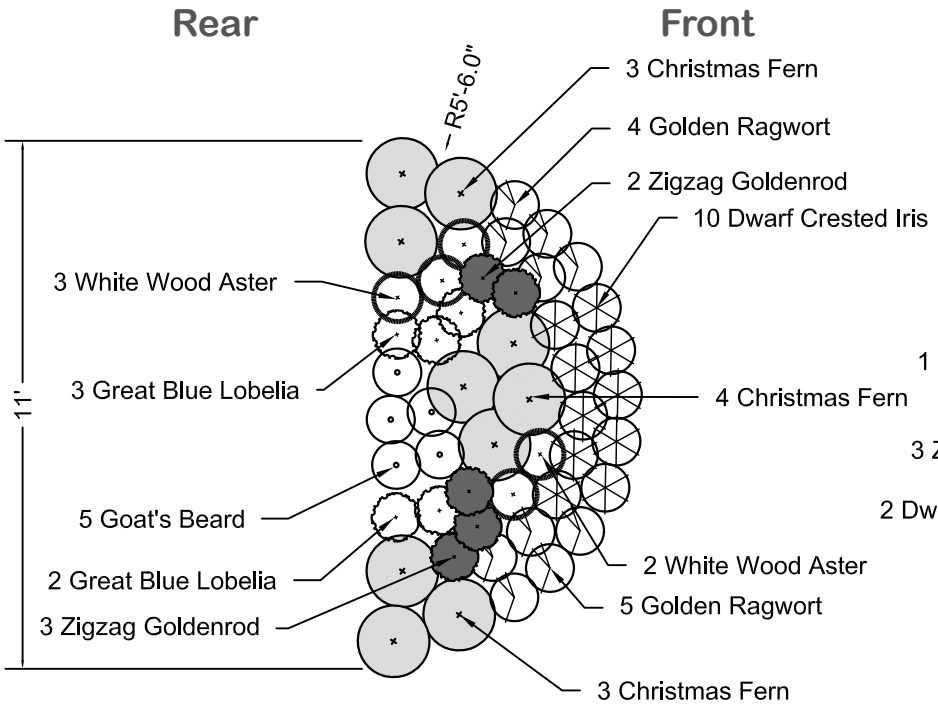
Option A



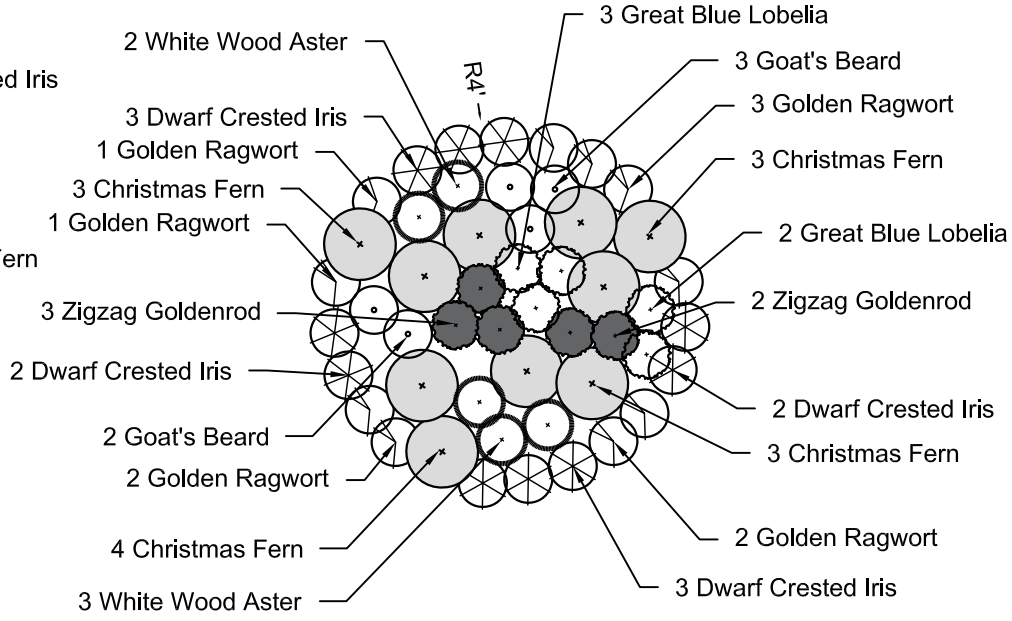
Option B

Shady Pollinator Kit
PLANTING PLAN
1/4"=1'-0"

1. All proposed planting to have turf removed as part of planting process. Compacted soil should be decompacted with fork or other method prior to planting.



Option C



Option D

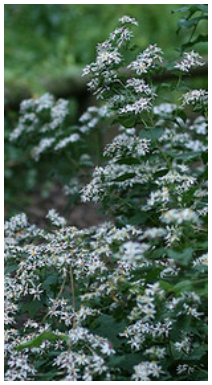
Shady Pollinator Kit
PLANTING PLAN
1/4"=1'-0"

1. All proposed planting to have turf removed as part of planting process. Compacted soil should be decompacted with fork or other method prior to planting.

PLANTS

5 of each

Goat's Beard
Aruncus dioicus
A woodland native with showy flowers from late spring into summer. Resistant to deer and rabbit- up to 4' tall.



White Wood Aster
Eurybia divaricata
A native of dry woods with dappled shade- profuse white blooms late summer into fall- beloved by pollinators, a good seed source for birds. Up to 3' tall.

Great Blue Lobelia
Lobelia siphilitica
Amazing blooms in late summer- tolerates wet to medium, and not preferred by deer. Hummingbirds and pollinators love it.

Zigzag Goldenrod
Solidago flexicaulis
A non-aggressive shade loving goldenrod. Blooms in late summer to fall.

10 of each

Golden Ragwort
Packera aurea
A short evergreen groundcover. Spreads rhizomatically- yellow blooms in March. Full sun to part shade, medium to wet.

Dwarf Crested Iris
Iris cristata
A shade loving ground cover that can handle moist to dry soil- deer-resistant foliage is 4-6" year round, with blooms April to May.

Christmas Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides
Native to dry and moist shady woods. Evergreen fronds of up to 2 feet in length.

BLOOM CALENDAR | Shade Kit

APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEP OCT` NOV

Golden Ragwort

White Wood Aster

Crested Iris

Goat's Beard

Great Blue Lobelia

Zigzag Goldenrod

Christmas Fern

MAINTENANCE PLAN

You may not need to do many, or even most, of these tasks annually; the length of establishment of your garden, whether you are planning to expand, and whether you include annuals, are all factors.

APRIL

Sharpen cutting tools.

Prune Woody plants (except flowering trees and shrubs).

Begin dividing perennials and grasses.

Weed! (ongoing)

Begin to smother any unwanted vegetation for new planting areas.

MAY

Cut back perennials and grasses from last fall once the seeds have been eaten by birds. If possible, leave cut stems and leaves from last fall- many bees require 14 months to emerge. Fireflies stay up to 2 years in fallen leaves.

Begin planting, if needed.

Thin, divide, and transplant as needed.

Water newly planted plants if rain is less than 1" per week.

JUNE

Water newly planted plants if rain is less than 1" per week.

Prune blooming woody plants after they flower (ongoing, depends on bloomtime).

Weed!

JULY AUGUST

Water newly planted plants if rain is less than 1" per week.

Water established plants if drought stress is observed.

Weed!

Note chronically weedy areas- consider planting more densely in these areas in fall to reduce weeding in future.

SEP OCT

Divide and transplant as needed. Plant if desired.

Water newly planted plants if rain is less than 1" per week.

Weed!

Begin to smother any unwanted vegetation for new planting areas for next spring.

NOV

Move leaves from walkways into plant beds. Cut back seed heads from prolific self-seeders (i.e. Ironweed); and snap a few stems for bees to lay eggs. Allow seedheads to feed birds throughout winter.

Seed any native grasses or perennials, as needed.

Clean and sanitize garden tools.

RESOURCES

Sources for Native Plants

In addition to looking at nurseries local to you, here are some others that often stock native plants.

Lauren's Garden Service	https://www.laurensgardenservice.com/
Go Native Tree Farm	https://www.gonativetrees.com/ordering/
Chesapeake Natives	http://chesapeakenatives.org/
Earth Sangha	https://www.earthsangha.org/
Izel Native Plants	https://www.izelplants.com
Adkins Arboretum	https://www.adkinsarboretum.org/nursery/
Herring Run Nursery	https://bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery/
Nature by Design	http://www.nature-by-design.com/
Hill House Native Plants	http://hillhousenativeplants.com/plant_list
Watermark Woods	http://watermarkwoods.com
Schott Nursery	https://www.schottnurseries.com/

More Information on Gardening with Native Plants

Check our website, www.natureforward.org/programs/native-plant-gardening for downloadable resources. Check our class schedule for opportunities to learn about gardening for habitat, planting design, and more!