nature forward

Formerly Audubon Naturalist Society, Est. 1897

Connecting people and nature in the Capital Region

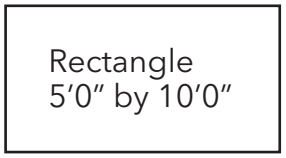
Pollinator Plant Kit

Nature Forward
Town of Edmonston

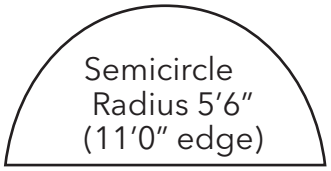
SITE PREPARATION
Removing Existing Vegetation

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.

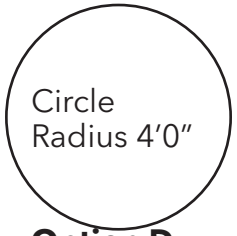
Option A



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 your plant kit is delivered- you will likely be able to plant straight into the dead plant material without removing it. The volunteer who delivers your plant kit will help you begin to lay things out!

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.

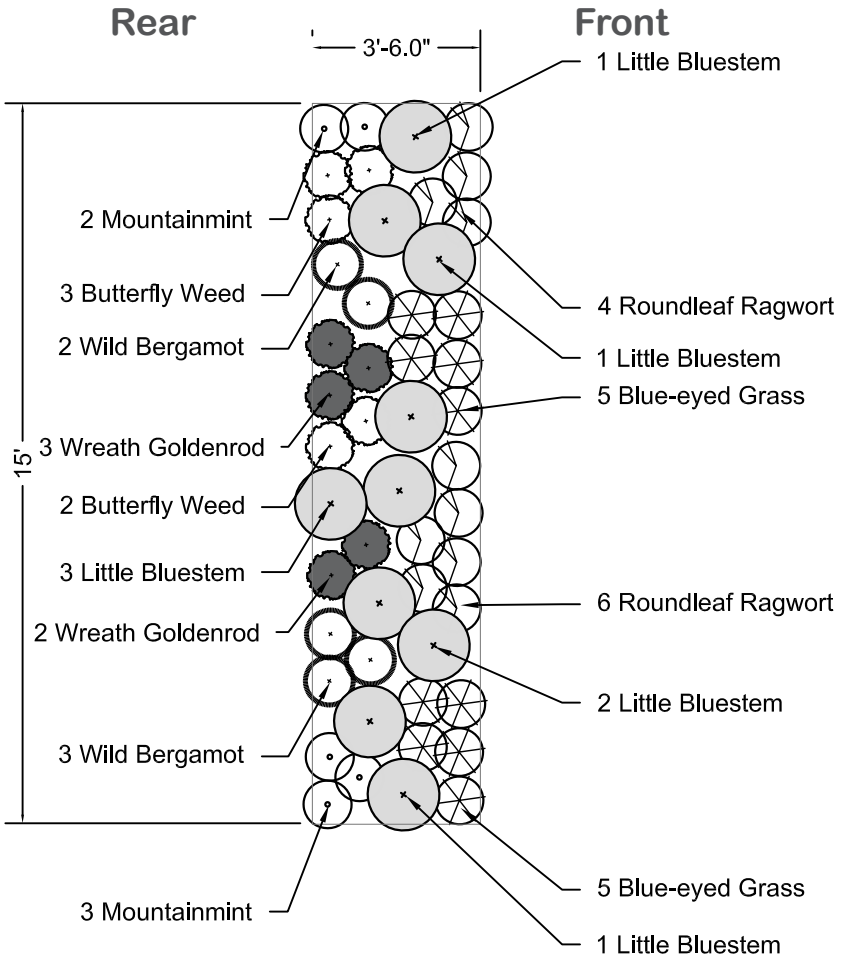
4. Once the plugs have been planted,you can water them.

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.

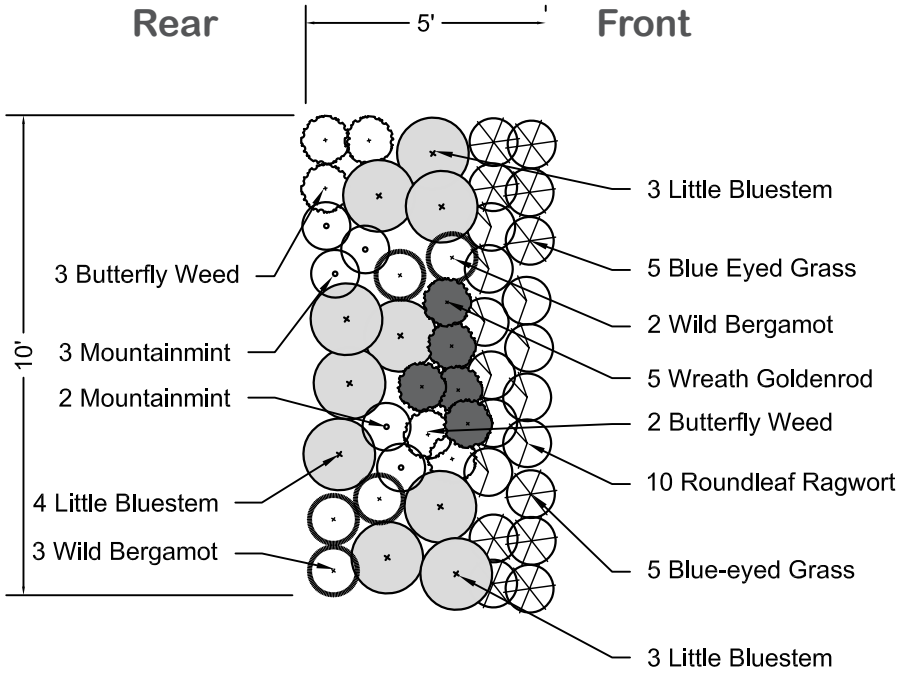
PLANT PALETTE

QTY.	KEY	BOTANICAL/COMMON NAME	SIZE	TYPE	COMMENTS
10		Sisyrinchium angustifolium Blue-eyed Grass	6-12"	Semi-Evergreen	Blue Flowers in Spring Plant 8"-12" apart
10		Packera obovata Roundleaf Ragwort	4-12"	Evergreen	Yellow flowers in Spring Plant 8"-12" apart
10		Schizachyrium scoparium Little Bluestem	2'-3'	Warm Season Grass	Blue foliage in summer, Orange in winter Plant 18"-24" apart
5		Solidago caesia Wreath Goldenrod	18"-2'	Deciduous	Yellow blooms in Fall Plant 8"-12" apart
5		Pycnanthemum tenuifolium Mountainmint	'2-3'	Deciduous	Silver foliage and blooms in summer Plant 8"-12" apart
5		Monarda fistulosa Wild Bergamot	2'-3'	Deciduous	Purple blooms in Summer Plant 8"-12" apart
5		Asclepias tuberosa Butterfly Weed	18"-2'	Deciduous	Orange flowers in Summer Host of Monarch Butterfly Plant 8"-12" apart

Sunny Pollinator Kit
PLANT PALETTE



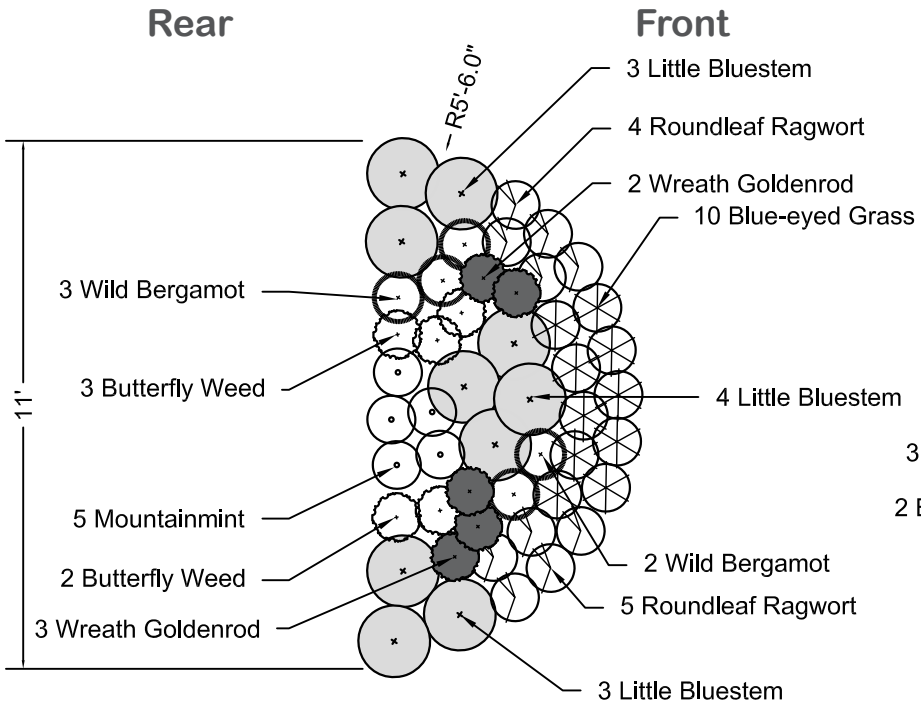
Option A



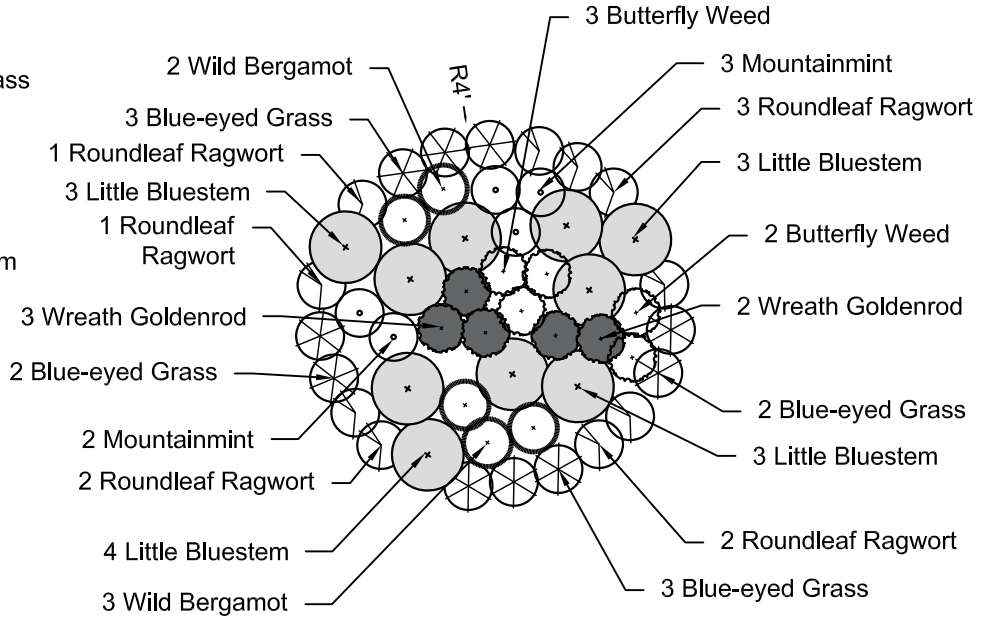
Option B

Sunny 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

Sunny 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

Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa
Obligate host genus of the Monarch Butterfly. 2 feet tall with orange flowers in summer and interesting seed pods in fall.

Wild Bergamot
Monarda fistulosa
Beautiful blooms in mid-summer. Very deer resistant, loved by pollinators.Seed heads create a bird feeder all fall and winter.

Mountainmint
Pycnanthemum muticum
Silvery foliage and blooms July through September. Deer resistant. Spreads enthusiastically.

Wreath Goldenrod
Solidago caesia
A 2' tall tough plant with a long bloom from summer into late fall. Better behaved than Canada Goldenrod, but will spread a bit over time.

10 of each

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

Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium
A beautiful native grass with lovely blue tones in summer, and orange/red hues in fall. 2 feet tall.

Blue-eyed Grass
Sisyrinchium angustifolium
Semi-evergreen, low growing groundcover with grassy foliage and small blue flowers in May and June.

BLOOM CALENDAR

APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEP OCT` NOV

Roundleaf Ragwort

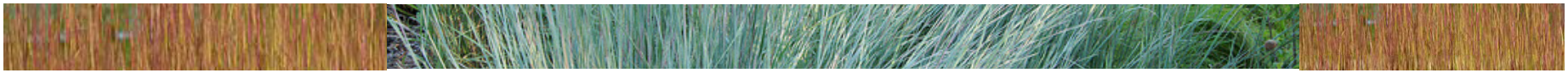
Wild Bergamot

Butterfly Weed

Blue-eyed Grass

Mountainmint

Wreath Goldenrod



Little Bluestem

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!