

**PROTECTED NATIVE PLANTS  
of NEW YORK STATE**

Revised edition, 2003



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**FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF  
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**CHARTER MEMBER,  
NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**

On behalf of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State a special thank you is extended to Auralie Logan who updated and edited this "Protected Native Plants" publication.

The native plants of New York are part of our heritage. Please use this booklet to help identify this special heritage and protect these plants for future generations. Enjoy the beauty, but leave them in place for your children and grandchildren.

Donna Pair  
President, FGCNYS, Inc.

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#### INTRODUCTION to 1997 edition

The purpose of this publication is threefold: to make individual garden club members aware of the law and the complete list of protected native plants of New York State (referred to in the glossary of Handbook for Flower Shows, National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., 1977 edition, as "Conservation List"); to assist them in identifying a selection of these plants; and to set forth Federated Garden Clubs of New York State policies regarding their exhibition in flower shows.

In order to prevent threatened species of native plants from becoming extinct, New York State, in 1974, enacted a law protecting them. A list of specific species was compiled by scientists and professional plantmen, conservationists, garden club members and concerned lay people. Included were fragile plants which are quickly eradicated by picking, plants which are rare or endangered to the point of extinction, annuals and biennials which need a chance to reseed, and showy plants which can be sold commercially. Since 1974, research has continued and now the law protects more than 500 species.

Garden club members are urged to become familiar with as many of the protected native plants as possible, to leave them undisturbed in the wild, and when creating nature trails or private wildflower gardens to acquire plants solely from nursery-propagated sources.

As garden club members and stewards of the environment, we are dedicated to protecting and conserving each species in the ecosystem, knowing that each has a unique set of genetic material which has a vital role to play in the web of life.

Nina V. Powell, Chairman  
Endangered Plant Species

## POLICIES

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State policies regarding the use of protected native plants in flower shows are as follows:

1. Plants named on the New York State list, "Protected Native Plants," cannot be exhibited in competitive classes, except in Special Exhibits Division as an Educational Exhibit. Such plants must have been acquired in a lawful manner and may be cut specimens and/or container grown plants (April 1992)

2. Commercially developed hybrids or cultivars (NOT NATURAL VARIETIES) of plants on the New York State List "Protected Native Plants" are permitted in competitive classes, but ONLY when the DISTINGUISHING FEATURE is evident. (April, 1992)

### NOTE:

Federation policy allows Districts to add to the New York State list those species which they wish to protect within their Districts.

### KEY:

R = Rare

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

V = Exploitably Vulnerable



### *Arisaema dracontium*

(Green Dragon)

ARACEAE (Arum family)

4" to 8" long-pointed spathe enveloping the spadix. Rich woods, May-June

(V)

### *Asclepias tuberosa*

(Butterfly Weed)

ASCLEPIADACEAE (Milkweed family)

Bright orange bloom. Hairy stems, spindle-shaped seed pods.

Dry fields, June-September.

(V)



### *Campanula rotundifolia*

(Bluebell, Harebell)

CAMPANULACEAE (Harebell family)

Wiry, hairlike stems, linear leaves, violet blue flowers at tips. Meadows and rocky slopes, June-

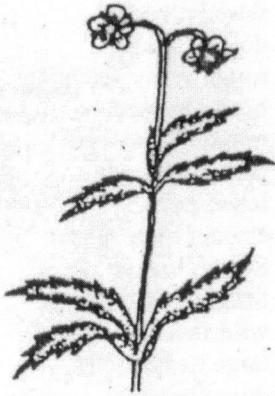
September (V)

3

*Celastrus scandens* (American Bittersweet)

CELASTRACEAE (Staff-Tree family)

Climbing vine. Orange seedpods hang in terminal panicles at tips of branches, not in leaf axils, in autumn. Twining, woody stem. Dense shrubs and underbrush, September—November (V)



*Chimaphila maculata* (Spotted Wintergreen)

PYROLACEAE (Wintergreen family)

Whitish pattern on pointed, toothed leaves, waxy white or pink flowers. Woods, June—August (V)

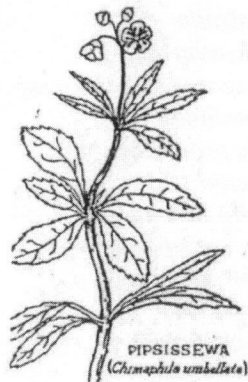
*Chimaphila umbellata*

(Pipsissewa)

PYROLACEAE (Wintergreen family)

Trailing stems send up narrow, leafy, flowering branches, 5" to 12" high. Pinkish flowers. Dry woods, June—August (V)

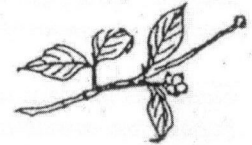
4



*Cornus florida* (Flowering Dogwood)

CORNACEAE (Dogwood family)

Tree, 7-40 feet. Bracts cover blossoms in winter—open petal-like, white or pale pink, in early spring. Fruit scarlet. Foliage colorful in fall. (V)



*Drosera filiformis* (Dew Thread)

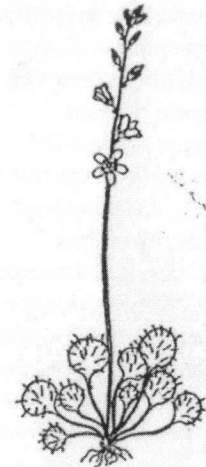
DROSERACEAE (Sundew family)

String-like leaves with sticky hairs. Purplish flowers on a separate stalk open singly. Damp sand. June—September (R)

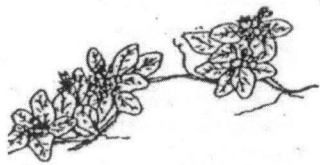
*Drosera rotundifolia* (Sundew)

DROSERACEAE (Sundew family)

Small rosette of round leaves; slender, hairy, sticky stalk. White flowers open only in sun. Insect-eating plant. Peat bogs. June-August (V)



5

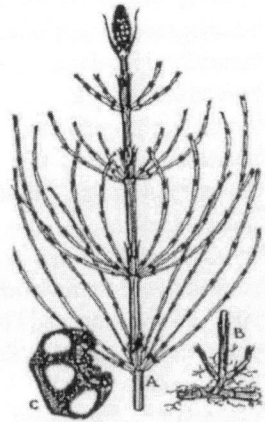


*Epigaea repens* (Trailing Arbutus)  
ERICACEAE (Heath family)  
Oval, leathery, evergreen leaves.  
Woody stems. Pink or white tubular,  
fragrant flowers in clusters at end of  
branches. Woods, March—May  
(V)



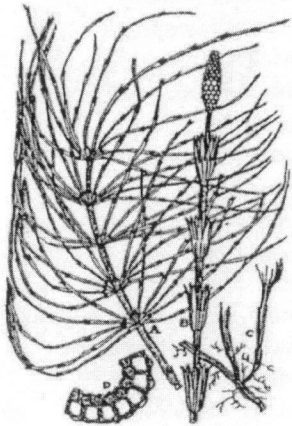
*Euonymus americana*; (E);  
*E. obovata* (V) (Strawberry  
Bush, Bursting Heart)  
CELASTRACEAE (Staff-Tree  
family)  
Deciduous shrubs or trees.  
Leaves opposite; small flowers;  
Fleshy fruit in autumn. Alkaline  
woods. May—June

*Equisetum palustre* (Marsh  
Horsetail)  
EQUISETACEAE (Horsetail  
family)  
Thin, wiry branches ascend from  
prostrate stems to form flat-  
topped inverted triangles. To 18".  
Wet wooded swampy areas,  
July—August (T)

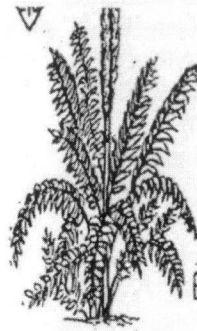


Ferns: all native species **except**  
*Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken);  
*Dennstaedtia punctilobula* (Hay-Scented Fern);  
*Onoclea sensibilis* (Sensitive Fern)

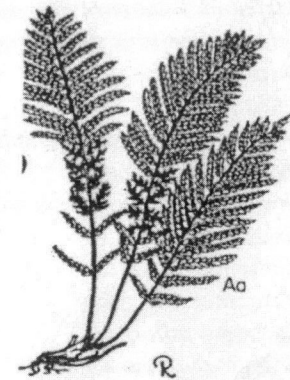
OSMUNDACEAE (Osmunda family, Flowering Ferns)  
Several species of large, coarse ferns having spore cases on segregated  
fertile pinnules either on wholly fertile leaves or in the middle of other-  
wise sterile leaves. Surface creeping rootstocks. Moist, shady places.



*Equisetum pratense* (Meadow  
Horsetail)  
EQUISETACEAE (Horsetail  
family)  
Delicate, spidery, whorls of  
horizontal or drooping branches  
Cool, rocky woods, April—May  
(T)

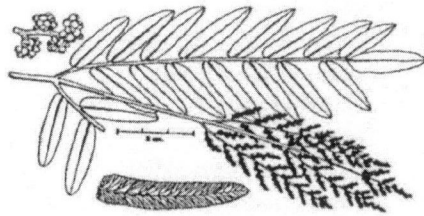


*Osmunda cinnamomea*  
(Cinnamon fern)  
Leaves to 5'. Fertile leaves in  
center becoming cinnamon-  
brown as spores mature. (V)

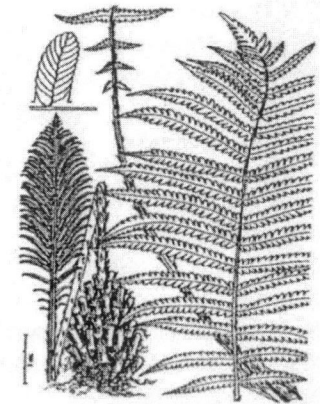


*Osmunda Claytonia* (Interrupted  
Fern). Leaves to 4'. Fertile pin-  
nules in center of fronds. (V)

*Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern)  
Fronds in large crowns, to 6 feet  
(V)

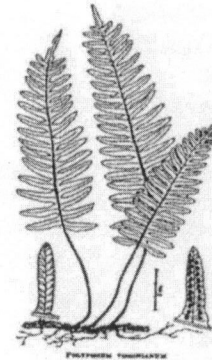
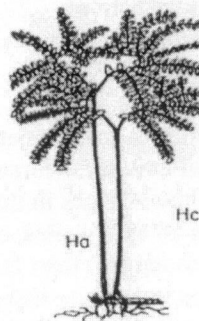


*Matteuccia struthiopteris*  
(Ostrich Fern)  
POLYPODIACEAE (Polypody  
family) Large fern forming a  
vase-like crown, to 5'. Cool  
shade, rich soil. (V)

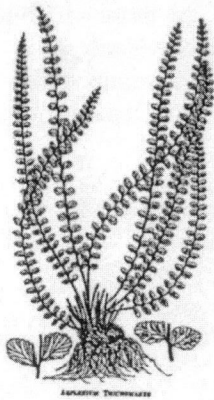


POLYPODIACEAE (Polypody family) The largest family of ferns—  
most of the common, low ferns without tree-like trunks.

*Adiantum* spp. (Maidenhair Ferns)  
POLYPODIACEAE (Polypody  
family)  
Two species in our area. Thin, brittle red or dark brown stalks support delicate, lacy leaves in flat fronds. 16". Spore cases in distinctive patterns. (V)

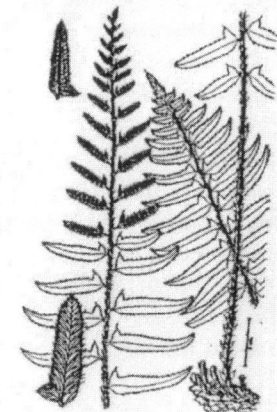


*Polypodium virginianum* (Rock  
polypody; Common polypody)  
POLYPODIACEAE (Polypody  
family)  
Small, evergreen fern, with  
leathery leaves to 10" Rock  
clefts. (V)



*Asplenium* spp. (Spleenwort Ferns)  
POLYPODIACEAE (Polypody  
family)  
Eight species of small, evergreen  
ferns in our area. May cross-breed  
and vary in leaf shape. Spore cases  
on underside of fronds. (V)

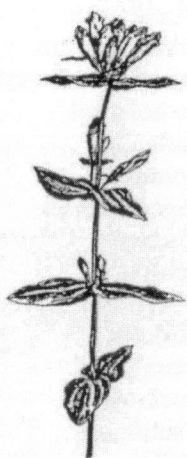
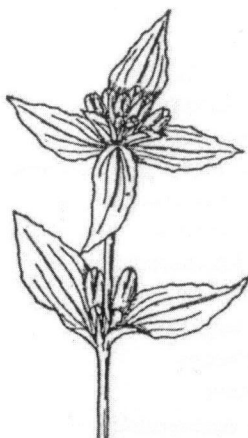
*Polystichum acrostichoides*  
(Christmas Fern)  
POLYPODIACEAE (Polypody  
family)  
Evergreen, leathery, lance-  
shaped leaves, 2' long. Many  
variations. (V)



*Gentiana Andrewsii*; *G. clusa*  
(Blind Gentian, Bottle Gentian,  
Closed Gentian)

GENTIANACEAE (Gentian  
Family)

Blue flowers in terminal clusters,  
completely closed. Wet woods,  
Aug.-Oct. (V)



*Gentianella quinquefolia* (Stiff  
Gentian)

GENTIANACEAE (Gentian  
Family)

Annual plant, to 2 feet. Pale lavender flowers in terminal clusters. Moist meadows, Aug.-Oct. (V)

*Gentianopsis crinita* (Fringed Gentian)

GENTIANACEAE (Gentian Family)

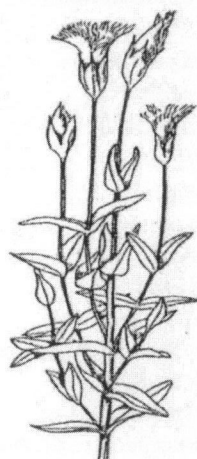
Blue, vase-like flowers with 4 fringed petals. Leaves opposite.

1-3 feet. Wet woods. Aug.-Sept. (V)

*Gentianopsis provera* (Lesser  
Fringed Gentian)

Resembles *G. crinita*, but flower petals fringed only on sides.

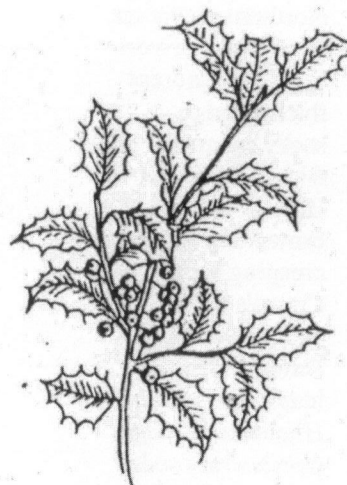
Wet places. Aug.-Sept. (E)



*Ilex glabra* (Inkberry)

AQUIFOLIACEAE (Holly family)

Evergreen shrub; to 6 feet. Glossy black berries, shiny leaves. (V)



*Ilex opaca* (American Holly)

AQUIFOLIACEAE (Holly family)

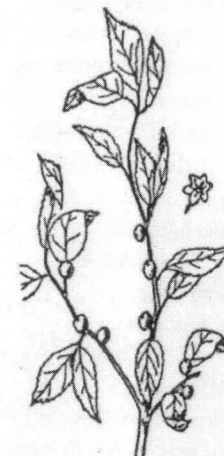
Evergreen tree, to 50 feet. Bright red berries on this year's growth; spiny, dull green leaves. (V)

*Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry,  
Black Alder)

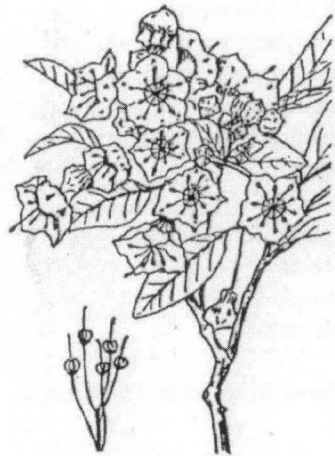
AQUIFOLIACEAE (Holly family)

Deciduous shrub or small tree, to 15 feet. Red (sometimes yellow) berries, spirally arranged on stem.

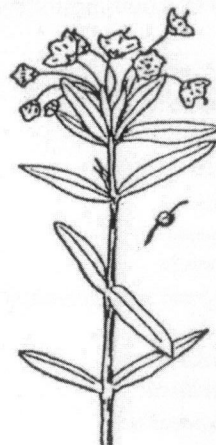
Moist areas (V)



*Kalmia angustifolia* (Sheep Laurel)  
 ERICACEAE (Heath family)  
 Small, evergreen shrub, to 3 feet. Narrow, drooping leaves. Crimson-pink flowers not terminal, surmounted by newer, upright leaves. Pastures, rocky slopes. May-July (V)



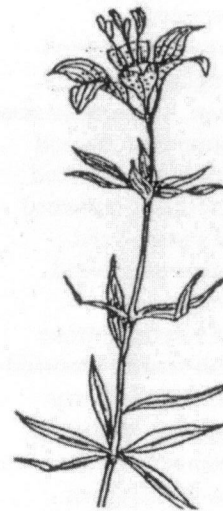
*Kalmia latifolia* (Mountain Laurel)  
 ERICACEAE (Heath family)  
 Evergreen shrub, 13-15 feet. Shiny, leathery leaves. Bowl-shaped clusters of cup-shaped pink flowers, May-June. Rocky woods (V)



*Kalmia polifolia* (Pale Laurel)  
 ERICACEAE (Heath family)  
 Small shrub, to 2 feet. Similar to Sheep Laurel but pink flower cluster terminal. (V)

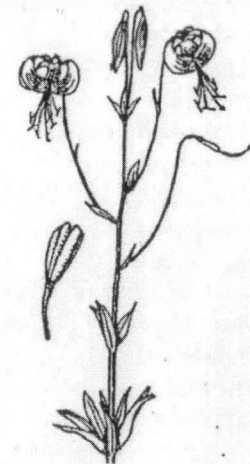
12

*Lilium Canadense* (Canada Lily)  
 LILIACEAE (Lily family)  
 Stems to 5'; leaves whorled; Pendulous yellow flowers spotted brown-purple inside. Moist meadows, June-August (V)



*Lilium philadelphicum* (Wood Lily)  
 LILIACEAE (Lily family)  
 Orange to scarlet, upward facing, spotted flowers. 1-3 feet. Sandy or acid soil, meadows, wood openings. June-July (V)

*Lilium superbum* (Turks-Cap Lily)  
 LILIACEAE (Lily family)  
 Orange flowers have completely reflexed petals, green central star. 3-8 feet. Meadows, wet ground, July-August (V)



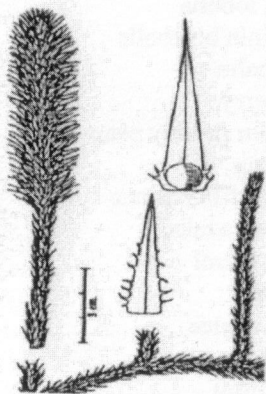
13



*Lobelia cardinalis* (Cardinal-Flower)  
 CAMPANULACEAE (Bluebell  
 family)  
 Slender spike, to 4 feet, of brilliant  
 scarlet flowers. Wet places, stream  
 banks, swamps, July-September (V)

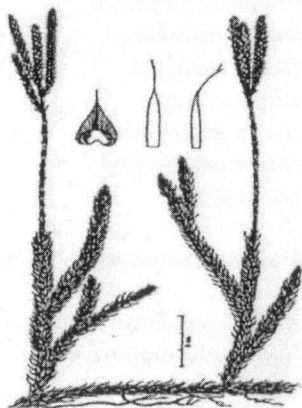


ALL NATIVE CLUB MOSSES  
 including:

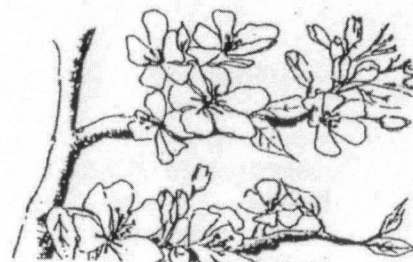
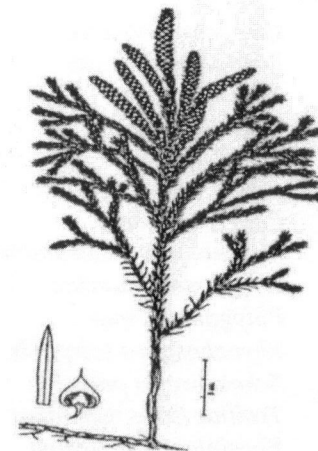


*Lycopodium alopecuroides* (foxtail  
 clubmoss)  
 LYCOPODIACEAE (Club Moss  
 family)  
 Creeping, evergreen, perennial.  
 Showy, plume-like cones.  
 Coastal plains. (V)

*Lycopodium clavatum* (Running  
 Cedar)  
 LYCOPODIACEAE (Club Moss  
 family)  
 Creeping evergreen stems, to 9  
 feet. Branches, very leafy.  
 Moist shade (V)

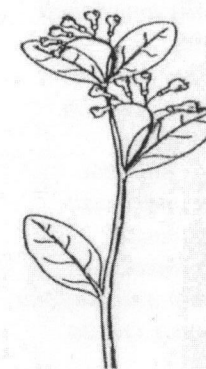


*Lycopodium obscurum* (Ground  
 Pine, Princess Pine)  
 LYCOPODIACEAE (Club Moss  
 family)  
 Small, creeping, evergreen, per-  
 ennial sometimes used in Christ-  
 mas greens. Moist shade. (V)

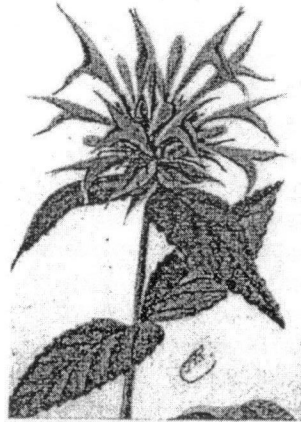


*Malus glaucescens* (American  
 Crab)  
 ROSACEAE (Rose family)  
 Small, thorny, deciduous tree, to  
 25 feet. Lobed leaves. White to  
 pink flowers in early spring.  
 Fruit, yellow, fragrant. (E)

*Mertensia virginica* (Virginia  
 Bluebells)  
 BORAGINACEAE (Borage  
 family)  
 Nodding, trumpet-like flowers,  
 pink in bud, turning to blue. 1-2  
 feet. Moist woods. March-May  
 (V)



*Monarda didyma* (Beebalm)  
 LABIATAE (Mint family)  
 Ragged scarlet pompon of tubular flowers, red bracts. Leaves paired on square stem. Fragrant. Wet places, July–September (V)



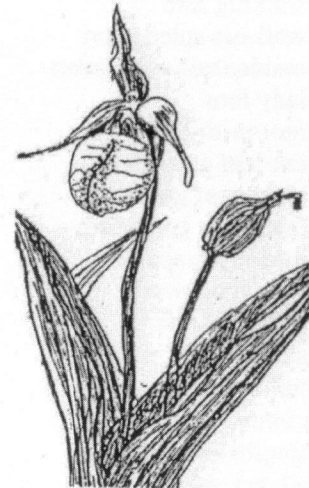
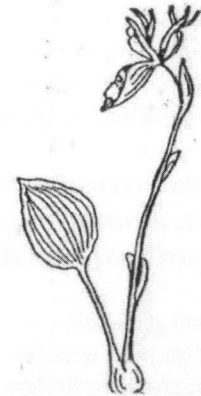
*Myrica pensylvanica* (Bayberry)  
 MYRICACEAE (Wax Myrtle family)  
 Deciduous or sometimes evergreen shrub, to 9 feet. Small, fragrant gray berries used in candles. (V)



*Opuntia humifusa* (Eastern Prickly Pear)  
 CACTACEAE (Cactus family)  
 Jointed pads with tufts of bristles. Showy yellow flower often has a reddish center. Red, pulpy fruit. Rocks, sandy soil, June–August. (V)

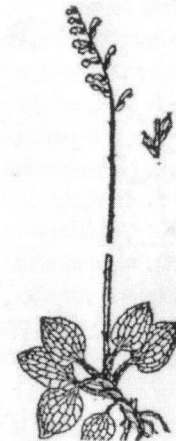
ALL NATIVE ORCHIDS  
 including:

*Calypso bulbosa* (Calypso, Fairy-Slipper)  
 ORCHIDACEAE (Orchid family)  
 Small, pink terrestrial orchid - solitary flower on stem to 8". Lip somewhat like Lady's Slipper. Bogs and damp woods, May–July (E)



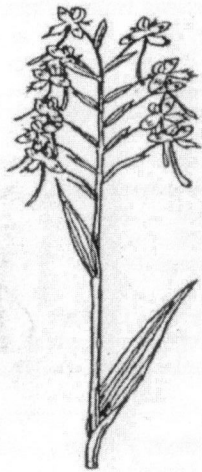
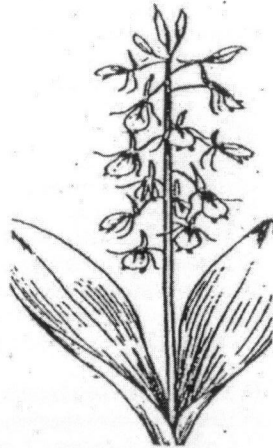
*Cypripedium* spp. (Lady's Slippers, Moccasin Flowers)  
 ORCHIDACEAE (Orchid family)  
 Terrestrial orchids with solitary flowers having inflated sac-like lips. Moist, acid places, May–July. (V)

*Goodyera pubescens* (Downy Rattlesnake Plantain)  
 ORCHIDACEAE (Orchid family)  
 Terrestrial orchid foliage, a rosette of blue-green leaves boldly marked with white veins. Flowering stalk densely packed with greenish-white florets. Moist places, July–Aug. (V)



*Liparis* spp. (Twayblades)  
 ORCHIDACEAE (Orchid family)  
 Terrestrial orchids, terminal few- to many-flowered racemes. Flowers small, petals much narrower than sepals.

*Liparis liliifolia* (Large Twayblade)  
 Moist places, May-July  
 (E)

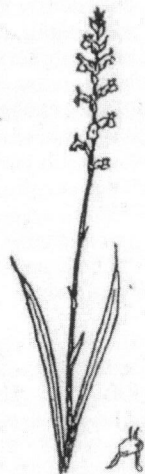


*Platanthera* spp. (also sometimes called *Habenaria*) (Fringed orchids)  
 ORCHIDACEAE (Orchid family)  
 Terrestrial orchids - many-flowered terminal raceme. Florets with fringed lips.

*Platanthera blephariglottis*  
 (White Fringed Orchid)  
 White florets with copiously fringed lip. Bogs and wet meadows, June-Aug. (V)

*Spiranthes* spp. (Lady's-Tresses)  
 ORCHIDACEAE (Orchid family)  
 Terrestrial orchids with tuberous roots. Inflorescence, densely flowered terminal spikes, often twisted. Bogs and wet meadows.

*Spiranthes cernua* (Nodding Lady's Tresses)  
 White flowers in twisted spike, narrow leaves. Wet meadows, Sept. - Oct. (V)

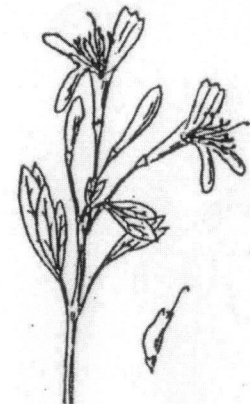


*Orontium aquaticum* (Golden Club)  
 ARACEAE (Arum family)  
 Golden club-like spadix covered with tiny bright yellow flowers. Long-stalked elliptical leaves. Ponds and swamps, April-June  
 (T)



*Panax quinquefolius* (Ginseng)  
 ARALIACEAE (Ginseng family)  
 5-toothed Horse-Chestnut-like leaves, 8-16 inches high. Pale yellow flowers in small round cluster on slender stalk. Fruit bright red. Rich woods, July-Aug. (V)

*Rhododendron canadense*  
 (Rhodora)  
 ERICACEAE (Heath family)  
 Magenta flowers, with shallowly 3-lobed upper lip and two narrow petals below, appear before the leaves unfold. 1-3 feet. Bogs and rocky slopes, March-June (T)



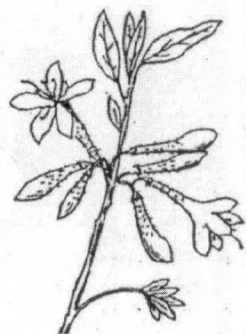
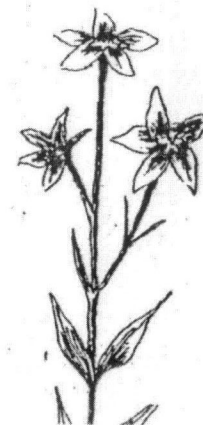
*Rhododendron maximum* (Great Laurel)

ERICACEAE (Heath family)  
Evergreen tree-like shrub. Large pink flowers, spotted with yellow-green or orange. Sticky stems. Wet woods, June-July (V)



*Sabatia campanulata* (Slender Marsh-Pink)

GENTIANACEAE (Gentian Family)  
Annual, 8-24 inches. Narrow, linear leaves. 5-petaled pink flower with red-bordered yellow eye. Coastal plain, July-September. (E)



*Rhododendron periclymenoides* (Pinxter Flower)

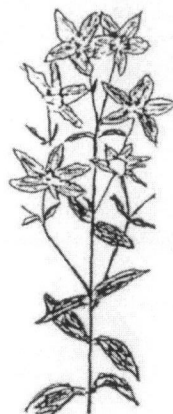
ERICACEAE (Heath family)  
Deciduous shrub, to 9 feet high. Umbelled clusters of slightly scented, pink to purplish funnel-form flowers precede leaves. Swamps, thickets, May (V)



*Sabatia stellaris* (Sea-Pink)  
GENTIANACEAE (Gentian Family)

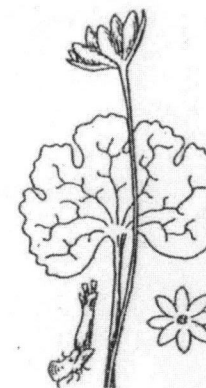
Annual, to 2 feet. 5-petaled flowers, solitary at ends of branches, pink, with red-bordered yellow eye. Coastal marshes, July-Oct. (T)

*Sabatia angularis* (Rose Pink)  
GENTIANACEAE (Gentian Family)  
Annual plant. Paired flowering branches and thick 4-angled stem. 1-3 feet. 5-petaled pink flowers with greenish eye. Moist fields, roadsides, July-September. (E)



*Sanguinaria canadensis* (Bloodroot)

PAPAVERACEAE (Poppy family)  
Large, pale green, lobed leaf embraces the solitary flower stalk bearing a showy white 8-10 petaled flower. 6-12 inches. Rich woods, March-May (V)

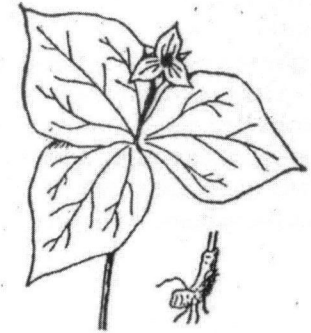


*Sarracenia purpurea* (Pitcher Plant)  
SARRACENIACEAE (Pitcher Plant family)

Carnivorous plant. Pitcher-like red or green leaves, usually half-filled with water, lined with downward-pointing bristles. Nodding, globular, dull red flower on separate stalk. 8-24 inches. Sphagnum bogs. May-July (V)



*Trillium erectum* (Purple Trillium, Stinking Benjamin)  
LILIACEAE (Lily family)  
Simple stem, to 16 inches, terminated by three leaves, and a single ill-scented liver-red flower borne upright on a short stalk. Rich woods, April-June (V)

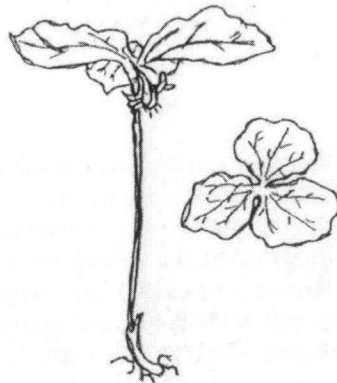


*Silene caroliniana* (Wild Pink)  
CARYOPHYLLACEAE (Pink family)  
Clusters of flowers with wedge-shaped pink petals, 4 to 10 inches high, from a tuft of slender leaves at base. Dry or rocky woods, April-June (V)

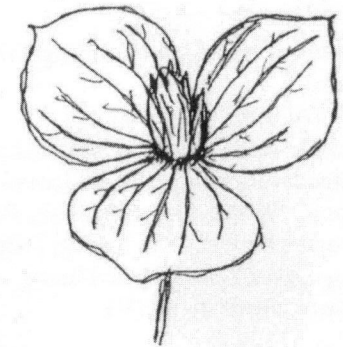


*Trillium Grandiflorum* (White Trillium)  
LILIACEAE (Lily family)  
Three broad leaves and three showy petals, 12-18 inches high. The most variable of Trillium species. Large white flower turns pink with age. Rich woods, April-June (V)

*Trillium cernuum* (Nodding Trillium)  
LILIACEAE (Lily family)  
Simple stem, 10-18 inches, terminated by three very broad leaves in a whorl. White, or rarely pink, flower dangles beneath the leaves, followed by an ovoid purplish-red berry. Acid woods, April-June (V)



*Trillium sessile* (Toad-Shade)  
LILIACEAE (Lily family)  
Stout stem to 1 foot, terminated by three leaves, sometimes marbled. Flower is stemless, maroon, purple or yellowish-green, and appears closed. Rich woods, April-June. (E)



*Trillium undulatum* (Painted Trillium)

LILIACEAE (Lily family)

Upright stem, to 8-20 inches, terminated by three ovate leaves, and a showy white three-part flower with a crimson center. Moist woods, April-June. (V)



*Viola pedata* (Birds-Foot Violet)

VIOLACEAE (Violet family)

Deeply segmented leaves, 4-10 inches; single, large flower, to 1 inch across. Upper petals flare backward. May be purple, light blue, or bi-colored. Dry, sunny sites, April-June.