

# EDGE of the Woods

## Native Plants

Bring life to your  
landscape with  
native plants



Ornamental grasses: once unheard of in a traditional garden, we've come to appreciate their texture, their form, the airy seed heads, the way they dance in the winter wind. We especially love how easy they are to grow and the way they can tough out long hot dry spells.

Taller grasses can be used as screening, or as a backdrop for perennials and shrubs. Smaller grasses can be used as edging or filler. A single clump of grass can be an excellent specimen plant or focal point. Grasses are great in containers and in cut flower arrangements.

The four grasses below are some great choices.

*Elymus hystrix*, or Bottle Brush Grass, is a wonderful in part shade. It will place itself in niches here and there, sending up its delicate seed head to mix elegantly with the other flowers in your garden. The seed heads are wonderful additions to cut flower arrangements.

Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) is a low growing, fine textured, clump forming grass. Great for edging in a formal garden, it is drought tolerant, takes full sun, and turns a wonderful orange color in fall.

Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*) can take drought and periodic standing water. There are a number of cultivars of switch grass: "Heavy Metal" has a well-developed blue green color; 'Cloud Nine' and 'Northwind' are tall (six foot or more) and remain reliably upright through most winter; 'Shenandoah' (pictured above) turns a deep maroon as the season progresses and is one of the shorter switch grasses, topping out at about 4 feet.

Little Blue Stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) is wonderful planted in drifts. Its soft blue color and gentle seed heads take on a slight reddish glow in the fall. Great for your garden, containers, or cut flower arrangements.



During this hot weather, don't forget to water your plants. Even drought tolerant native plants need water the first year they are planted, and well-established plants may need some water during this extended hot dry spell. We have tree watering bags available to help you provide the slow drip watering trees need:

- A single bag holds 15 gallons of water
- Two bags can be zipped together and used in pairs for larger trees
- Single bag fits 1" to 4" diameter tree
- Two bags together fit up to 8" diameter tree
- Easy to use
- Saves time watering trees
- Provide continuous watering for newly planted trees
- Encourages deep root growth
- Stop in to purchase yours today! (\$24.99)



*photo by Catherine Zimmerman*

**Create a Meadow in your Landscape**  
(No Room? How about Converting a Small Patch of Lawn to Meadow?)

**Saturday September 8**  
**Urban and Suburban Meadows:**  
**Bringing Meadows to Big and Small Spaces**

Join author and film-maker Catherine Zimmerman for a day of learning about meadows. Reduce your lawn chores, increase habitat and create an ever-changing tapestry of bloom by installing a small meadow patch in your landscape. Meadows provide important habitat for birds, butterflies, and insects.

The morning session will include Catherine's stunning photography and her

practical step-by-step instructions on creating a meadow. After a break for lunch, Catherine will demonstrate, and we'll all take a turn at preparing a sample site and planting. There's no better way to learn than by 'doing'!

#### Workshop Schedule

11 - 12:30: Step by step instruction on how and why to create a meadow.

12:30 - 1:30: Lunch (box lunch available or bring your own)

1:30 - 3:30: Hands on experience with the plants and tools.

[Tickets available online](#), (\$20 per person, \$30 for couple) or by calling 610 395 2570.

We have limited space for this special workshop, so be sure to reserve your spot today.

**Participants will receive Catherine's DVD, a \$21 value.**



#### **Garden Tours: "Tuesdays at Ten"**

On Tuesday mornings, 10 am, we'll tour the gardens, take a look at what's blooming and what could work in your landscape, and socialize with the butterflies we meet along the way. (So far our list of butterfly sightings is up to over 10 species and the season is just getting started.) Its a fun, informal time to walk around and ask questions about the nursery and your landscape.

#### **Evening Garden Tour 6:30 PM**

Evening is the loveliest time at Edge of the Woods. Stroll through the gardens, discover what's blooming, enjoy the sound of the birds and the cool evening air.

**Thursday July 19 and Thursday August 16**



Rare Plant Project at Lehigh Gap Nature Center

We are pleased to be working with the Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC) in Slatington, which has native habitat gardens on site and encourages members and visitors to use native plants in their landscaping.

LGNC plans to create a "rare and forgotten flora trail" at their refuge. The trail will serve as a model and they will recruit homeowners, municipal and school officials, churches, corporate complex managers, and others to plant native plants, including rare ones, on their properties as part of a "Plant Refuge Network."

Rare plants will be provided free of charge to participating organizations and homeowners but must be matched with other native plantings.

For more information contact LGNC at 610-760-8889 or [lgnc@ptd.net](mailto:lgnc@ptd.net).

#### Hours through July

Tuesday/Wednesday: 9 am to 5 pm

Thursday/Friday: 9 am to 6 pm

Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm

Sundays: closed

Mondays: by chance or by appointment

#### Hours change monthly.

Please call ahead to check our hours  
in the event of inclement weather or excessive heat.

*Located on Route 100, 1.7 miles North of Fogelsville/Tilghman Street.*

#### [Directions](#)

*Your source for native edibles: persimmon, paw paw, blueberry, serviceberry, gooseberry, raspberry, elderberry.*

[info@edgeofthewoodsnursery.com](mailto:info@edgeofthewoodsnursery.com) | 610.395.2570 | [www.edgeofthewoodsnursery.com](http://www.edgeofthewoodsnursery.com)

2415 Route 100 Orefield PA 18069

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