

## Mini-Meadow Plants



Prairie Dropseed  
(Sporobolus heterolepis)

The main area in front of the building is a mini-meadow of primarily grasses interspersed with tough native perennials. The grass is Prairie Dropseed (Sporobolus heterolepis), which grows about 2' high and has light grass blades that flow in the breeze. In fall, there are attractive brown seed heads to add interest.



Butterfly weed  
(Asclepias tuberosa)

Butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa), a relative of the common milkweed that supports Monarch butterflies, has a long-lasting orange flower that is a magnet for many kinds of pollinators.



Wild Indigo  
(Baptisia tinctoria)

This shrub-like plant with delicate leaves is the Wild Indigo (Baptisia tinctoria). It has yellow flower spikes in June and pea-pod-like seeds later in the summer. Its long tap root helps it better survive in sandy soil.



Spotted Bee Balm  
(Monarda punctata)

The Spotted Bee Balm (Monarda punctata) is a striking plant with unusual lilac flowers in July and August. It is a short-lived perennial but self-seeds to return to the garden in later years.

The Chatham Conservation Foundation has replaced the traditional lawn at its headquarters on Main St. in Chatham, MA, with a selection of all Cape Cod native plants. In contrast to a lawn that requires excessive water and harmful additives to maintain, this planting will support pollinators, thrive with little maintenance after initial establishment, provide visual interest and demonstrate the possibilities of using native plants in our gardens.

All these plants prefer the lean sandy soil of Cape Cod, and require little if any supplemental watering, no fertilizers or soil amendments, and an annual cutting of dead flower stalks in early spring.

## Ground Covers



Wild Strawberry  
(Fragaria virginiana)

The ground cover along the walkway and to the left of the building is Wild Strawberry (Fragaria virginiana). This three-leaved plant sends out runners to effectively cover the soil and the plant recovers quickly if it is walked on. There are white flowers in May, and if you get there before the critters, small flavorful alpine strawberries in June and July.



Pennsylvania Sedge  
(Carex pennsylvanicum)

The ground cover to the right of the building is Pennsylvania Sedge (Carex pennsylvanicum), a lovely grass-like sedge that slowly spreads by runners to fill up a space. It can be left as 10-inch flowing blades, or it can be mowed to 4" (only once is needed, in late May). While not suitable for backyard footfall, it too can be walked on.

## Shrubs



Sweet Fern  
(Comptonia peregrina)

The low shrub around the trash can is Sweet Fern (Comptonia peregrina). While it looks like a fern, it is a tough woody shrub that grows 2-3' tall and has small flowers with seed heads that persist all winter.



Sweet Pepperbush  
(Clethra alnifolia)

The larger shrubs on top of the berm are Sweet Pepperbush (Clethra alnifolia). Eventually these shrubs can grow 5' tall and 8' wide. They have lovely white spiky flowers in July and August, followed by seeds that look like peppercorns. The seeds stay on all winter, making it easy to identify these shrubs *all year long*. There are many attractive cultivars of this shrub available at local nurseries.



Canadian Anemone  
(Anemone canadensis)

Underneath the shrubs is Canadian Anemone (Anemone canadensis) a perennial with interesting cut leaves and delicate white flowers in June. This plant is known for spreading aggressively, so it makes a different kind of ground cover when it has room to run.



Joe-Pye Weed  
(Euchatorium fistulosum)

Behind the shrubs is Hollow Joe-Pye weed (Euchatorium fistulosum). All the Joe-Pye varieties are tall, with billowy purple flowers in late summer. This variety should be 4-6' tall by late summer, and should gradually expand into larger clumps, forming a great backdrop to a garden.

## Learn More

Chatham Conservation Foundation, Inc.  
[www.ccfinc.org](http://www.ccfinc.org)

Grow Native Massachusetts  
[www.grownativemass.org](http://www.grownativemass.org)

New England Wild Flower Society  
[www.newenglandwild.org](http://www.newenglandwild.org) Go Botany

Missouri Botanical Garden  
[www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)  
Gardens and Gardening/Plant Finder

[Native Plants for New England Gardens](#)  
by Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffe (NEWFS)

## Plants Sourced From:

New England Wild Flower Society (Framingham)

The Farm (Orleans)

Cape Abilities (Dennis),

Pine Tree Nursery (Chatham),

Crocker Nursery (Brewster)

## Acknowledgement:

The idea to establish a sustainable garden of native plants in front of the Mayo House came from Cathy Weston, who was also the principal designer. Oonie Burley, President of CCF and Jeanne Branson, Trustee assisted. The Foundation thanks Rellan Monson for brick walk addition, Robb Morisson for side tree removal, Kalinowski Mechanical for outdoor spigot installation, Pine Tree Nursery for the garden preparation and Simmons Irrigation for drip hoses. And to the many community members who came together to plant the garden in June 2018 -

*Thank you!*

Brochure also available on foundation's website:

[www.chathamconservationfoundation.org](http://www.chathamconservationfoundation.org)

# MAYO HOUSE



## NATIVE PLANTINGS



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