

**Catherine Zimmerman The Meadow Project**  
***www.themeadowproject.com***

***Site analysis checklist***

- ✓ Draw a diagram of the meadow area, note where north is to help determine the path of the sun over the area. As you examine the site make sure to mark areas that differ in soil, light or water conditions.
- ✓ Take a soil sample. If you have noted different soil types and conditions, make sure to do a separate sample of that area. The soil test evaluates soil pH (how acid or alkaline is the soil), buffer pH (value used to determine how much lime or sulfur should be added to bring soil to desired pH), soil nutrients and minerals and the organic matter content.
- ✓ Determine soil type, texture and structure—clay, sandy or gravelly, silt, loam.
- ✓ Moisture level: • low spot where water drains • high water table • poorly drained soil
- ✓ Make note of sun and shade conditions. Is there at least a half-day of sunlight?
- ✓ Topography—Flat? Hills or slopes? And which direction do they face?
- ✓ Is the site in its native state or has mulching, or removal or addition of topsoil altered it?
- ✓ Does the site have periods of water inundation or natural standing water areas/wetlands?

Help getting started with your neighbors and local governments:

<http://www.wildones.org/weedlaws/weedlaw.html>

## ***Right Plant, Right Place***

All meadow plants listed below are native to Connecticut.

### **Dry:**

*Achillea millefolium* Common yarrow 2-3'  
*Asclepias tuberosa* Butterflyweed 2-3'  
*Symphyotrichum laeve* Smooth blue aster 2-4'  
*Rudbeckia hirta* Black-eyed Susan 1-3'  
*Liatrix scariosa* Northern blazing star 2-4' (Dry or moist soil)  
*Solidago speciosa* Showy goldenrod 2-5'  
*Panicum virgatum* Switchgrass 3-6'  
*Schizachyrium scoparium* Little bluestem 2-3'  
*Sorghastrum nutans* Indiangrass 2-7'  
*Sporobolus heterolepis* Prairie dropseed 2-4'

### **Mesic/Medium:**

*Aquilegia canadensis* Wild columbine 2-3'  
*Baptisia tinctoria* Wild indigo 2-3'  
*Echinacea purpurea* Purple coneflower 2-4'  
*Heliopsis helianthoides* False sunflower 4-6'  
*Penstemon digitalis* Smooth penstemon 2-3'  
*Ratibida pinnata* Greyheaded coneflower 3-5'  
*Tradescantia ohiensis* Ohio spiderwort 2-3'  
*Andropogon gerardii* Big bluestem 5-8'  
*Panicum virgatum* Switchgrass 3-6'  
*Tridens flavus* Purpletop 2-5'

### **Wet:**

*Asclepias incarnata* Swamp milkweed 3-5'  
*Desmodium canadense* Showy tick trefoil 3-5'  
*Eupatorium perfoliatum* Common boneset 3-6'  
*Helenium autumnale* Sneezeweed 3-4'  
*Iris versicolor* Northern blue flag 2-3'  
*Lobelia cardinalis* Cardinal flower 2-5'  
*Monarda didyma* Scarlet bee balm 3-5"  
*Vernonia noveboracensis* New York ironweed 3-6'  
*Veronicastrum virginicum* Culver's root 3-6'  
*Calamagrostis canadensis* Bluejoint 3-5'  
*Muhlenbergia capillaris* Hairy-awn muhly 1-3'  
*Spartina pectinata* Freshwater cord grass 3-6'

Resources: BONAP's (The Biota of North America Program) <http://www.bonap.org>

NPIN Native Plant Data Base <http://www.wildflower.org/plants>