

## Plants - Sides of Building & Berm



The ground cover to the right of the building is **Pennsylvania Sedge** (*Carex pensylvanicum*), a lovely grass-like sedge that slowly spreads by runners to fill up a space. It is frequently seen locally along trails in part shade with dry to average moisture.

The 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 to 3 feet tall and will colonize if it likes the conditions. It grows in sun and part shade, is drought tolerant and deer/rabbit tolerant.



Behind the shrubs is **Hollow Joe-Pye Weed**



(*Eutrochium fistulosum*). All the Joe-Pye varieties are tall, with billowy purple flowers in late summer that are highly attractive to pollinators. This variety should be 4 to 6 feet tall by late summer, and gradually expand into larger clumps, forming a great backdrop to a garden. It is deer and rabbit resistant.

The larger shrubs on top of the berm are **Sweet Pepperbush** (*Clethra alnifolia*). Eventually these shrubs can grow 5 feet tall. They have white spike 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. It grows in sun and part shade and prefers average to moist soils. Once established it is drought tolerant.



On the left side behind the flagpole are **Bayberry** (*Morella carolinensis*), which are very common on Cape Cod. It grows 4 to 6 feet, can spread by rhizomes, and is drought tolerant and deer/rabbit resistant. It has small flowers but showy berries traditionally used for candles.

### Acknowledgement

We want to express our great appreciation of the many volunteers who help care for our Mini-Meadow.



### Learn More

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

Native Plant Trust  
[NativePlantTrust.org](http://NativePlantTrust.org)

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

APCC's Native Plant Finder  
[CapeCodNativePlants.org](http://CapeCodNativePlants.org)

### Where to Buy Native Plants

Most local nurseries carry a selection of native plants:

- Agway of Cape Cod (three locations)
- Cape Abilities (Dennis)
- Cape Coastal Nursery (Dennis)
- Crocker Nursery (Brewster)
- Hyannis Country Gardens (Hyannis)
- The Farm (Orleans)

For a wider selection, off-Cape nurseries:

- Blue Stem Natives (Norwell)
- Native Plant Trust/Garden in the Woods (Framingham)

For a digital copy of this leaflet and more information on CCF's activities and volunteer opportunities, scan QR code.



Photos courtesy of CCF staff (unless noted).



## Mini-Meadow on Main Cape Cod Native Plantings

Mayo House  
540 Main Street  
Chatham, Mass.



Preserving land in perpetuity  
for the benefit of the people, plants,  
animals, and ecosystems of Chatham.



## Plants - Front of Building

**Prairie Dropseed** (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), which grows about 2 feet high, forms the main sweep of grass in front of the building. In fall, there are attractive brown seed heads to add interest. This warm-weather grass does well in drought conditions.



**Butterfly Weed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*), a native that supports Monarch butterflies, has long-lasting orange flowers – a magnet for many kinds of pollinators. It forms the typical milkweed seeds that waft through the breeze to spread into new areas.



**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 and returns to the garden in later years.



The ground cover is **Wild Strawberry** (*Fragaria virginiana*). This three-leafed plant sends out runners to effectively cover the soil. There are white flowers in May, and if you get there before the critters, small flavorful alpine strawberries in June and July.



**Blue Vervain** (*Verbena hastata*) is a volunteer in the Mini-Meadow. It is a taller plant often seen in meadows or roadsides and blooms for most of the summer. It prefers full sun and average to moist soils and is attractive to pollinators.



Chatham Conservation Foundation, Inc.

## Mini-Meadow of Cape Cod Natives at Mayo House

When the Chatham Conservation Foundation (CCF) moved its headquarters to the Mayo House on Main Street, we decided to replace the traditional lawn with plantings more reflective of our environmental mission.

Our mini-meadow, installed in 2018 with a selection of all Cape Cod native plants, continues to educate the public about the benefits of native plantings. In contrast to a traditional lawn that requires excessive water and harmful additives to maintain, this planting supports pollinators, thrives with modest levels of maintenance after initial establishment, provides visual interest, and demonstrates the possibilities of using native plants in private and public gardens.



**Wild Bergamot** (*Monarda fistulosa*), known for its pretty blooms in mid/late summer, is a full-sun plant that thrives in average soil and attracts pollinators and hummingbirds. It is deer and rabbit tolerant, and is useful for rain gardens.

Another volunteer is **Boneset** (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*). It prefers full sun and moist soil and can grow up to 3 feet. It seeds easily so can spread to create more plants. The leaves are unusual in how each pair encircles the stem.



**Canadian Goldenrod** (*Solidago canadensis*) is ubiquitous on the Cape; its seeds are wind-borne and it will appear in any garden or open space. It is a pollinator magnet, one of the best for late summer when other blooms are fading.



**Goldenrod 'Fireworks'** (*Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks') is a better-behaved selection that is still a pollinator powerhouse, but spreads slowly by rhizome, not by seed. They are tough, drought-tolerant plants whose blooms are along the end of the stem, rather than branching in a cluster, giving it the appearance of a fireworks display.

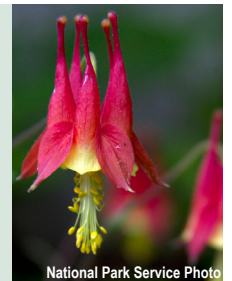
There are several kinds of mountain mint, all tough plants that have white flowers and attract pollinators. This is the **Broad Leaf Mountain Mint** (*Pycnanthemum muticum*), which also has attractive silver bracts just below the white flower heads, making a striking appearance. It is 2 to 3 feet tall, prefers sun, and can grow in dry to moist soils. It is rabbit resistant and is highly attractive to bees and butterflies.



The taller spiky looking plant is in the rush family, and we believe it is a **Soft Rush** (*Juncus pylaei*). It volunteered as a single plant, and its seeds then spread. It is both drought and deer/rabbit tolerant.



Popping up throughout the meadow is **Wild Red Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*), a spring-blooming perennial with red and yellow flowers that droop over the plants. It tends to be short-lived, but it can seed itself and emerge nearby.



**Foxglove Beardtongue** (*Penstemon digitalis*) is a tall wildflower that blooms in late June. It prefers full sun and can tolerate droughts.