

Spring Ephemerals

Spring Beauty (**Claytonia virginica*)
Blood Root (*Sanguinaria Canadensis*)
Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
Cutleaf Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*)
Prairie Trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*)
Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)
Liverwort (*Hepatica nobilis*)
Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
White Trout Lily (*Erythronium albidum*)
Rue Anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*)
False Rue Anemone (*Enemion biternatum*)
Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

(Grow among plants that emerge later)

Tiny, will spread if it likes location
Be sure to include this
Lovely, requires high-quality location

Watch for this to pop up
A must-plant
Leaves may be reddish
Will colonize location it likes
Takes a long time to mature, bloom

Dramatic

Edge of the Woodlands

Bellwort, or Merry Bells (*Uvularia grandiflora*)
Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)
Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum commutatum*)
False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina racemosa*)
Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*)
Plaintain-leaved Sedge (*Carex plantaginea*)

(Most are very easy to grow)

Delightful, likes part-sun, too
Loaded with blue in early spring
Blooms underneath the leaves
Blooms at the tip of the leaf stem
Blooms blue – delicate-looking leaves
Larger and lighter in color - lovely

Ground Cover

Wild Stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*)
Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
Big-leaved Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*)
May Apples (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
Meadow Anemone (*Anemone Canadensis*)

(Ordered roughly shortest to tallest)

Very low, spreads
Blooms inconspicuous, under leaves
Sends up bloom stalks in late summer
A woodland staple – can colonize
Recommended by Rory Klick

Larger Woodland Plants

Spikenard (<i>Aralia racemosa</i>)	A favorite – very large and dramatic
Green Dragon (<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>)	A fun addition (Jack's larger cousin!)
Blue Cohosh (<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>)	Another favorite
Doll's Eyes (<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>)	White berries that have a black dot
Red Baneberry (<i>Actaea rubra</i>)	Fabulous red berries
Early Meadow Rue (<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>)	Airy, beautiful plant
Wild Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>)	It volunteers
Wild Geranium (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>)	Particularly easy to grow
Zigzag Goldenrod (<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>)	If you want goldenrod, these will grow
Blue-stemmed Goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>)	in some shade
Purple Meadow Rue (<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>)	Taller drama than Early Meadow Rue

Ferns

Marginal Shield Fern (<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>)	More shade
Christmas Fern (<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>)	Light shade
Lady Fern (<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>)	Likes humidity and protection
Maidenhair Fern (<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>)	Lovely and recognizable
Royal Fern	Light shade and more moisture – taller

(In my experience, none of these spreads aggressively like the Ostrich Ferns do.)

* When shopping, check the botanic name to be sure to get the intended plant. Common names vary and can be confusing.