

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.