

Spring Ephemerals

(Grow among plants that emerge later)

Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica)	Tiny, will spread if it likes location
Blood Root (Sanguinaria Canadensis)	Be sure to include this
Dutchman's Breeches (Dicentra cucullaria)	Lovely, requires high-quality location
Cutleaf Toothwort (Dentaria laciniata)	
Prairie Trillium (Trillium recurvatum)	Watch for this to pop up
Shooting Star (Dodecatheon meadia)	A must-plant
Liverwort (Hepatica nobilis)	Leaves may be reddish
Virginia Bluebells (Mertensia virginica)	Will colonize location it likes
White Trout Lily (Erythronium albidum)	Takes a long time to mature, bloom
Rue Anemone (Anemonella thalictroides)	
False Rue Anemone (Enemion biternatum)	
Jack-in-the-Pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum)	Dramatic

Edge of the Woodlands

(Most are very easy to grow)

Bellwort, or Merry Bells (Uvularia grandiflora)	Delightful, likes part-sun, too
Woodland Phlox (Phlox divaricata)	Loaded with blue in early spring
Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum commutatum)	Blooms underneath the leaves
False Solomon's Seal (Smilacina racemosa)	Blooms at the tip of the leaf stem
Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium reptans)	Blooms blue – delicate-looking leaves
Plaintain-leaved Sedge (Carex plantaginea)	Broader leaves, lighter green
Woodland Phlox (Phlox divaricata)	Abundant blue flowers

Ground Cover

(Ordered roughly shortest to tallest)

Wild Stonecrop (Sedum ternatum)	Very low, spreads
Wild Ginger (Asarum canadense)	Blooms inconspicuous, under leaves
Pennsylvania Sedge (Carex pennsylvanica)	A staple
Big-leaved Aster (Eurybia macrophylla)	Sends up bloom stalks in late summer
May Apples (Podophyllum peltatum)	A woodland staple – can colonize
Meadow Anemone (Anemone Canadensis)	Recommended by Rory Klick
Golden Ragwort (Packera aurea)	Abundant yellow blooms

Larger Woodland Plants

Doll's Eyes (<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>)	White berries that have a black dot
Red Baneberry (<i>Actaea rubra</i>)	Fabulous red berries
Blue Cohosh (<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>)	Another favorite
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
Green Dragon (<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>)	A fun addition (Jack's larger cousin!)
Purple Meadow Rue (<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>)	Taller drama than Early Meadow Rue
Spikenard (<i>Aralia racemosa</i>)	A favorite – very large and dramatic
Black Cohosh (<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>)	Large, dramatic and very rare

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.)

Sedges (*Carex*) for Moist Part-shade

- Bur Sedge / Gray's Sedge (*Carex grayi*)
- Palm Sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*)
- Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)
- Frank's Sedge (*Carex frankii*)

Goldenrods and Asters for Part-Shade

Zigzag Goldenrod (<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>)	
Blue-stemmed Goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>)	Blooms along its arching stems
Elm-leaved Goldenrod (<i>Solidago ulmifolia</i>)	
Blue Wood Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</i>)	Light shade to part sun
Calico Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i>)	Light shade to part sun, moist
Short's Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum shortii</i>)	Partial sun
New England Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>)	Full to part sun

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