



Native Plants of the Year 2018



Tamarack | Photo courtesy of Judy Semroc

The Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity is a consortium of organizations working together in the glaciated lands and waters south of Canada from Sandusky Bay, Ohio to the Allegheny River in western Pennsylvania and New York. LEAP members are involved in identifying, protecting and restoring ecosystems and habitats with the goal of enhancing the region's biodiversity.

Using native plants in public and private landscapes and gardens can help reduce the threat of invasive non-native species to the region's biodiversity. The LEAP Native Plants of the Year campaign highlights native species that can make exceptional additions to area landscapes and gardens. Native plants in the garden:

- Attract native wildlife
- Reduce soil erosion
- Require less fertilizer and watering
- Promote native regional biodiversity
- Thrive under natural conditions
- Connect people to nature

LEAP Native Plants of the Year 2018



Photos courtesy of Judy Semroc (above) and Jennifer Grieser (below)

Great Blue Lobelia *Lobelia siphilitica*

This clump-forming perennial provides late summer blooms to the garden. It prefers wet to moist soil and partial sun however its seeds require light to germinate.



Its flowers provide special value to bees.



Photos courtesy of Judy Semroc

Virgin's Bower *Clematis virginiana*

A vigorous vine with sweet, aromatic white flowers that bloom from August through October. It is best used in native plant gardens and woodlands.



It prefers full sun and will attract pollinators.



Photos courtesy of Bill Hendricks (above) and Judy Semroc (below)

Tamarack *Larix laricina*

This deciduous conifer likes moist, well-drained soil and full sun to partial shade and provides good fall color when its needles turn yellow in the fall.



Its green needles grow in brush-like clusters.