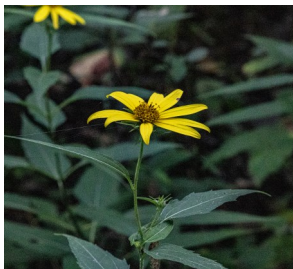


# Summer Wild Flowers of Weston

## Casanova, Virginia June — September, Vol 1

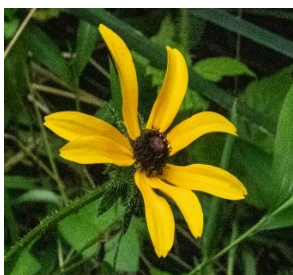
During the spring of 2025, the Warrenton Antiquarian Society produced and distributed a four-page publication highlighting twenty-two flowers common to historic Weston during the months of March through May. This newsletter's wild flower publication highlights twelve summer flowers found at Weston from June to September. A more extensive documentation is available upon request and will be provided to Weston visitors during the scheduled events this September. Both publications, spring and summer, are provided with the support of the **Virginia Native Plant Society, Piedmont Chapter**. We hope our friends and neighbors will find these resources helpful for exploring the wilder areas of our community and will share with others. Please join us for one of our many wild flower walks.



**Thinleaf sunflower, *Helianthus decapetalus*.** This native perennial produces bright yellow daisy-like flowers from mid-summer to fall and is found along woodland edges, riverbanks and wet meadows. It is a valuable host for various butterflies species and provides seeds for birds.



**Carrot, Queen Anne's lace, *Daucus carota*.** A host for eastern black swallowtail caterpillars, the 3-4 ft plant with hairy stalks is an ancestor of the garden carrot and has a similar smell. Its nectar attracts butterflies and bees. Poison hemlock, its deadly look-alike, has a smooth stem with purple spots and should be avoided.



**Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*.** Distinguished by its prominent dark brown or black center, this plant is native to eastern and central North America. It is a host to several species of butterflies including the Silvery checkerspot. Dragonflies are attracted by its tiny pollinators.



**Jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis*.** Also known as Spotted touch-me-not, this native is found in moist, shady areas along streams and within woodlands. Native Americans used the watery plant juice to relieve itching from poison ivy, insect bites, and stinging nettle burns.



**Cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*.** This plant's tubular flower attracts hummingbirds, its primary pollinator, and butterflies. It is most often found along riverbanks, swampy areas and within shaded forests. Native Americans used its root as a medicinal tea for stomach troubles and to expel worms, and its leaves for fevers, rheumatism and colds.





**Wingstem, *Verbesina alternifolia*.** A member of the aster family, this plant is known for its “winged” stems and bright yellow flowers that bloom into fall. It thrives in open meadows and along streams, spreads by seed and rhizomes, and provides a significant food sources for pollinators. It is a host plant for the larvae of several butterflies.



**Carolina horse nettle, *Solanum carolinense*.** This prickly member of the nightshade family has spined leaves and stems and yellow, tomato-like berries. Even though all parts of the plant are poisonous, it was used to treat epilepsy, asthma and parasites.



**Winged monkeyflower, *Mimulus alatus*.** This perennial grows best in partial shade and wet to moist conditions. Butterflies and birds are attracted to its blue-to-violet flowers. Bumblebees are its primary pollinator. Its leaves provide food for caterpillars. Its upper and lower lip petals suggest a monkey’s face.



**Wild basil, *Clinopodium vulgare*.** A member of the mint family, this plant’s leaves are edible and have a mild basil-like flavor. A rounded cluster of pinkish-purple flowers at the top of the plant, which attract native bees and other insects, are a key feature.



**New York ironweed, *Vernonia noveboracensis*.** This plant has clusters of small, fluffy deep purple blooms on upright stems reaching 5-7 feet. It inhabits moist woods and field edges with a strong root system which helps with erosion control. It provides an important food source for pollinators, offering nectar when other plants are no longer available.



**Blue waxweed, *Cuphea viscoissima*.** A native annual plant and member of the loosestrife family, this plant has sticky stems and small, purple flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. It grows to 10-20 inches tall. It is found in meadows, fields, and the edges of wetlands.



**Field thistle, *Cirsium discolor*.** Known for its tall, hairy stems, spiny, lobed leaves with white undersides, and large pink to purple flowers, this plant provides nectar and seeds for various insects and birds. Unlike invasive non-native thistles, this field thistle is not considered a problematic weed.