



Wilson's Nursery



Order Puller, Lydia, selecting great plants for your orders.



2 of our infamous loading crew, Arturo and Eduardo, assisting in culling and weeding some plants in the shrub lot.



Brianna, our Lead Order Fulfillment Specialist, displaying some of our beautiful perennials we are growing for you!

Please take a moment to enjoy Connie's Article this week! She was able to sneak in a little time into her schedule to provide us with another gem!

In addition to Connie's wonderful article, please enjoy the photography provided by Autumn, our incredible Customer Service Representative. She has been out photographing and updating the photos for our online catalog. Along the way she has taken some really nice shots of some of our team.
Thank you, Autumn!



Connie's Corner

**Written 7/18/24*

Images below taken by Connie

Running in the Shadows

by Connie Kratzke

Our yard is completely ruled by trees we did not plant. Not that I'm complaining. They keep our home comfortable more often than not. Despite being a constant source of debris, they are quite welcome. What else do I have to do other than rake nine months out of the year? All of those life insurance payments would be a total waste if I wasn't flailing around in the air with blades every few months. The view from our roof is actually quite lovely! Where it's harder to find a silver lining, is the vast expanses of mud where the lawn won't grow.

I have tried Vinca and Pachysandra in some of my driest, shadiest areas and they've survived. I'd really like to see something thrive, though. My latest strategy involves Carex rosea, Carex pensylvanica and Waldsteinia ternata. I've woven these around the bases of our two largest Sugar Maples. Sink or swim little buddies. Supplemental water will be provided, but the rest is up to you. I feel pretty good about this strategy. The two sedges are drought-tolerant, woodland natives; seldom phased by root competition. The Barren Strawberry is rumored to be as rugged as its name. We'll see how well it spreads in dense, dry shade.

People tend to focus on the light aspect of shade. However, when absence of light is the result of trees, root competition and allelopathy may add to the challenge. Tree roots pull vast amounts of moisture. While it's a myth that they absorb enough to dry out flooded areas, they are perfectly capable of dehydrating shallow-rooted companions. Black Walnuts produce additional challenges by producing a chemical that stunts (or kills) many woody plants, nightshade vegetables and staple conifers. A shorter list of perennials will struggle beneath their canopies.

There are plants for all scenarios. Lilies of the Valley (Convallaria) are shade

and juglone tolerant rock stars that aren't planted enough. While they often go through an ugly phase after transplanting, they'll take over the world the following year. *Galium odoratum* (Sweet Woodruff), *Lysimachia nummularia* (Creeping Jenny) and *Ajuga* (Bugleweed) perform well under light to moderate root competition. All three grow harmoniously with Black Walnuts. Canadian Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) is another one willing to hang with a toxic friend. Mulch improves moisture retention, but often hinders the spread of groundcovers. Sometimes it also holds too much water for drought-tolerant perennials. Plenty of trees exist within beds and borders, blanketed with shredded wood or bark. Clump-forming perennials like Hostas and Daylilies are good options. However, that's been done and over done. Solomon's Seal is a native with great, architectural form that can tolerate dry, allelopathic shade. *Monarda fistulosa* performs admirably beneath trees whether there's mulch or not and I suspect *Monarda punctata* will too. I hope to do more experimenting in this type of setting. Athyriums and Asters seem like they may have the potential to hack it.

I intend to plant some Canada Anemones, Spotted Bee Balms (*Monarda punctata*), Pussy Toes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*) and Raydon's Favorite Asters this weekend. They will be planted beneath Hackberries, Red Cedars and Black Walnuts on a steep, south-facing slope. I hope I'm not sentencing them to death, but I have to test my latest theories. Erosion control is one of my goals, although our trees hold the slope quite nicely. Establishment of native plants is another, since our lakeshore is home to numerous furballs and feathered friends. The group I've chosen must endure: heat, drought, wind, shade, competition and juglone. I'll let you know how it goes!



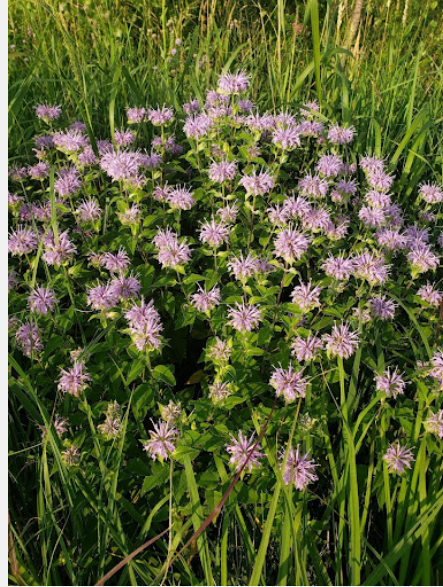
Above: Sedges in their native environment.



Above: *Carex flacca*, *Carex rosea* and others at the nursery.



*Above: Carex pensylvanica
experiment in my yard.*



*Above: Monarda fistulosa in the
wild- also an excellent spot for
partially shaded areas between
trees.*

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Current Hours of Operation
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