

BOSCOBEL HERB GARDEN PLANT LIST,

showing the common and botanical names of the plants

as well as a brief notation of their uses in a household of the early 1800s offered for historical interest only

(**Colonial Use Key:** M = Medicinal; C = Culinary; H = Household; B = Attracts Bees; D = Delight)

| Boscobel Plant List | | Colonial Uses/Comments | Approximate Date of Introduction to USA |
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| Ajuga <i>Ajuga reptans</i> | M | Ointment for wounds | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Alkanet <i>Alkanna tinctoria</i> | H | Purple dye from roots | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Angelica <i>Angelica archangelica</i> | B/C/M | Wide medicinal use; now considered unsafe | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Anise Hyssop <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> | B | Attracts bees | Used Medicinally by Native Americans |
| Applemint <i>Mentha suaveolens</i> | C/H | Aids digestion; flavors foods/teas; repels insects | Mint Listed in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Artichoke <i>Cynara scolymus</i> | C/D | Summer vegetable | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Autumn Crocus <i>Colchicum autumnale</i> | D/M | Treats gout | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Basil <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> | C/M | Flavors food; treats bee stings | In Colonial Gardens by 1776 |
| Bay Laurel <i>Laurus nobilis</i> | C/H | Primarily culinary uses | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Bean <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> | C | Eaten fresh or dried for winter use | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Bee Balm <i>Monarda didyma</i> | B/C/M/H | Tea; potpourri; attracts bees; treats insomnia | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Beets <i>Beta vulgaris</i> | C | Food crop, useful for winter storage | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Betony <i>Stachys officinalis</i> | B/M | Historically considered a sovereign remedy | In Colonial Williamsburg |
| Black Cohosh <i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i> | B/M | Treatment of rheumatism and female problems | Native American plant |

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| Borage <i>Borago officinalis</i> | B/C/M | Cucumber flavor in foods; tea reduces inflammation | In Colonial Williamsburg |
| Buckwheat <i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> | C/H | Food crop; green manure; animal feed | Mentioned in Elizabeth Dyckman's letters |
| Butterfly Weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> | B/M | Used to treat lung ailments | Native American Plant |
| Caraway <i>Carum carvi</i> | C | Seeds flavor baked goods | In Colonial Gardens by 1700; in manuscript cookbook by Elizabeth Dyckman |
| Carrots <i>Daucus carota</i> | C | Food crop, useful for winter storage | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Catmint <i>Nepeta cataria</i> | C/B/M/H | Attracts bees; tea treats colds, diarrhea; salve for wounds | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Celery <i>Apium graveolens</i> | C | Food crop; seeds used as flavoring and in herbal medicine | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Chamomile <i>Chamaemelum nobile</i> | C/M/H | Soothing tea; treats skin irritations; potpourri | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Chives <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> | C/B | Mild onion flavor in foods | In Colonial Williamsburg |
| Clary Sage <i>Salvia sclarea</i> | M/H/C | Infusion clears the eyes; fixative in perfumes; added to beer to enhance drunkenness | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Clove Pinks <i>Dianthus carophyllus</i> | D/H | Dried flowers used in potpourri | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Columbine <i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> | M/D | Formerly treated headaches; no longer used | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Comfrey <i>Symphytum officinale</i> | M/B/H | Salve for wounds and arthritis; garden mulch | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> | M/B/D | Beneficial effect on immune system | North American Native |
| Costmary <i>Tanacetum balsamita</i> | C/H | Flavors foods; potpourri | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Cranesbill Geraniums | M/B | Used as astringent | North American Native |

Geranium maculatum

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| Cucumber <i>Cucumis sativus</i> | C | In salads and pickled | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Daylilies <i>Hemerocallis fulva</i> | M/H/D | Blossom used for dye | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Dill <i>Anethum graveolens</i> | C/B/H/M | Flavor for cooking; tea for dyspepsia | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Egyptian Onion <i>Allium cepa</i> | C | Flavoring and food source | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| False Indigo <i>Baptisia australis</i> | H | Provides blue dye | North American Native |
| Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> | C/B/M/H | Soothes digestion; flavor for food; oil used in perfume | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Feverfew <i>Tanacetum parthenium</i> | M/B/D | Lowers fever; treats migraine | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Flax <i>Linum usitatissimum</i> | H/M | Source of linseed oil and linen; treats constipation | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Flowering Tobacco <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> | D | Flowering form of tobacco used as relaxant | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> | M/B | Used to slow and strengthen heartbeat | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Gas plant <i>Dictamnus albus</i> | D | Volatile oil on leaves ignites | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Geraniums, Scented <i>Pelargoniums</i> | C/D | Used in teas, potpourris | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Germander <i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> | M/B | Historically used to treat gout and other maladies | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Herb Robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i> | M/D/H/B | General anti-inflammatory; insect repellent | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Hollyhock <i>Alcea rosea</i> | M/H/D/B | Attracts bees; treats stings; dye from flowers | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Hops <i>Humulus lupulus</i> | C/H | Flavors beer; shoots eaten as vegetable; yellow dye | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |

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| Horehound <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> | M | Used to treat cough | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Horseradish <i>Armoracia rusticana</i> | C/M | Valued condiment; treats gout, poor circulation | In Thomas Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Hyssop <i>Hyssopus officinalis</i> | C/B/M/H | Treatment for lung ailments; used in soups; strewing herb | In Colonial Gardens by 1776 |
| Iris <i>Iris germanica</i> | H | Used in potpourri and perfumes | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Jacob's Ladder <i>Polemonium reptans</i> | D | Had religious associations; historically used medicinally | Native American plant |
| Lettuce <i>Lactuca sativa</i> | C | Summer food source | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Lady's Bedstraw <i>Galium verum</i> | D/M/C/H | Red & yellow dye; cheese-making rennet; anti-flea mattress stuffing; treat wounds | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Lady's Mantle <i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i> | D/M | General astringent; treats women's problems | In Chelsea Physic Garden in 1772 |
| Lamb's Ears <i>Stachys byzantina</i> | D/M | Wound dressing | In Colonial Gardens by 1776 |
| Lavender <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> | C/M/H/D/B | Used in cooking, toiletries, sachets, potpourri | In Colonial Gardens by 1776 |
| Leeks <i>Allium porrum</i> | C | Widely used in cooking | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Lemon Balm <i>Melissa officinalis</i> | C/M/H/B | Lemon flavor to foods; relaxing tea; insect repellent | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Lemon Verbena <i>Aloysia citrodora</i> | H/D | Flavoring in food; relaxing tea; used in potpourri | Arrived in North America by 1700s |
| Lovage <i>Levisticum officinale</i> | C/M/H | Sharp celery flavor; historically used in love charms. | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Lungwort <i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i> | M | Used to treat pulmonary ailments | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Madder | H | Red dye from roots | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |

Rubia tinctorum

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| Marigold <i>Tagetes patula</i> | H/B/D | Cut flower for the house; companion plant in gardens | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Mayapple <i>Podophyllum peltatum</i> | M | Useful in liver ailments | North American Native |
| Mullein <i>Verbascum thapsus</i> | M/B | Treats wide range of ailments | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Myrtle <i>Myrtis communis</i> | M/B/H | Treats respiratory / urinary ailments; oil in perfumes | In Colonial Gardens |
| Nasturtium <i>Tropaeolum majus</i> | C/H | Added to salad | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Nigella <i>Nigella damascene</i> | D | Spring beauty | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Onion <i>Allium cepa</i> | C | Culinary uses | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Pear <i>Pyrus communis</i> | C | Fruit prepared in many ways | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Peanuts <i>Arachis hypogea</i> | C/H | Food for man and beast | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Peas <i>Pisum sativum</i> | C | Summer food source | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Peppermint <i>Mentha x piperita</i> | C/B/M/H | Remedy for nausea | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Oregano <i>Origanum vulgare</i> | H | Culinary bouquet for soup; pot pourri | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Parsley <i>Petroselinum crispum</i> | C/M | Flavors foods; used as diuretic, externally as poultice | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Parsnips <i>Pastinaca sativa</i> | C | Food crop, useful winter food source | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Pennyroyal <i>Mentha pulegium</i> | M/H | Wide historical use; no longer considered safe | In Colonial Williamsburg |
| Peony | D/B/M/H | Flower petals used as dye | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |

Paeonia officinalis

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| Phlox <i>Phlox paniculata</i> | D | Beautiful, fragrant summer flower | In Colonial Gardens by 1776 |
| Poppy <i>Papaver somniferum</i> | D/B/M | Famous plant used in pain management since earliest times | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Pot Marigold <i>Calendula officinalis</i> | C/M/H/B | Many uses medicinally; dyes dairy products, fabrics | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Primulas <i>Primula vulgaris</i> | M/D | Tea treated anxiety; candied flowers as decoration | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Quince <i>Cydonia oblonga</i> | C/B | Important source of pectin; fruits used for jams, etc. | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Radish <i>Raphanus sativus</i> | C | Food crop | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Rhubarb <i>Rheum x cultorum</i> | C/M | Pies, jams; mild laxative; leaves poisonous | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Rosemary <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> | C/M/H/B | Medicinal tonic; flavoring in foods; used in cosmetics, Potpourris | In Colonial Williamsburg |
| Rose 'Charles de Mills' <i>'Bizarre Triomphant' (Gallica)</i> | D/H | Perfumes, potpourris; hips have Vitamin C; culinary flavoring | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Rose 'Maiden's Blush' <i>Rosa 'Incarnata' (Alba)</i> | D/H | Perfumes, potpourris; hips have Vitamin C; culinary flavoring | Brought by Stuart Loyalists to New York in 1773 |
| Musk Rose <i>Rosa moschata</i> | D/H | Perfumes, potpourris; hips have Vitamin C; culinary flavoring | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Damask Rose <i>Rosa damascena versicolor</i> | C/M/H/B | Perfumes, potpourris; hips have Vitamin C; culinary flavoring | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Rue <i>Ruta graveolens</i> | M | Historical use only; antidote to poison; prevent plague; Warning: Skin irritant | In Colonial Williamsburg |
| Salsify | C | Known as Oyster plant; | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |

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| <i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i> | | root is winter food source | |
| Sage <i>Salvia officinalis</i> | C/M/H/B | Flavors foods; medicinal tonic; oil in soap perfume | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Santolina <i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> | M/H | Insect repellent as lotion or in potpourri | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Savory, Summer <i>Satureja hortensis</i> | C/B/M | Culinary affinity to beans; improves digestion | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Savory, Winter <i>Satureja montana</i> | C/B | Same uses as Summer Savory; longer season of use | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Sneezewort <i>Helenium autumnale</i> | M | Native American use as head cold remedy | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Soapwort <i>Saponaria officinalis</i> (Also 'Bouncing Bet', an old term for a washerwoman) | H | Lather from leaves and rhizomes cleans linens | In Colonial Gardens by 1776 |
| Sorghum <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> | C/H | Stems for brooms, leaves for fodder, seeds for grain, stalks for syrup | In Colonial Gardens by 1776 |
| Sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i> | M/C | Historically treated scurvy; limited use in sauces, soups | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Southernwood <i>Artemisia abrotanum</i> | M/H | Insect repellent; early used to expel worms | In Colonial Williamsburg |
| Spearmint <i>Mentha spicata</i> | C/B/M/H | Stays bleeding, hiccough | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Speedwell <i>Veronica officinalis</i> | M | General cure-all | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Spider Lily <i>Tradescantia virginiana</i> | D | Native American plant grown for its beauty | In Colonial Williamsburg |
| Squills <i>Scilla siberica</i> | M/D | Early Spring delight; diuretic, treats "dropsy" | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Sweet Cicely <i>Myrrhis odorata</i> | C | Imparts anise flavor to foods and liqueurs | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Sweet Woodruff <i>Galium odoratum</i> | C/M/H | Used to flavor wine; sedative, anti-coagulant properties; potpourri | In American Colonial Gardens |

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| Tansy <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> | C/M/H | Expels intestinal worms; repels insects; historically baked into Lenten cakes | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Tarragon <i>Artemisia dracunculus</i> | C/H | Flavors foods, vinegars; oil used in perfume | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> | H | Seed heads used to prepare wool for spinning | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Tulips <i>Tulipa</i> | D | Celebrated garden flower | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Thyme <i>Thymus serpyllum</i> | C/B/M/H | Seasons foods; used in medicine; oil in perfumes | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Valerian <i>Valeriana officinalis</i> | M | Treats nervous conditions; lowers blood pressure | In Colonial American Gardens |
| Weld <i>Reseda luteola</i> | H | Bright yellow dye from leaves, flowers, seeds | Reseda Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Woad <i>Isatis tinctoria</i> | H | Leaves produce a blue dye | In Colonial Gardens by 1700 |
| Wormwood <i>Artemisia absinthium</i> | H/M | Insect repellent, expels worms; flavoring in Absinthe | Mentioned in Jefferson's Garden Book |
| Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | M | Staunch bleeding, heal wounds; mix with hops in ale | In Colonial American Gardens |

Colonial Use Key: M = Medicinal; C = Culinary; H = Household; B = Attracts Bees; D = Delight

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Prepared by Felicia Saunders and Matthew Weigman, May 2019, updated October 2020

Philipstown Garden Club <https://www.philipstowngardenclubny.org>

Check <https://www.philipstowngardenclubny.org/community-projects> for an article about the renewal of the Boscobel Herb Garden.