The Garden

At College of the Atlantic we believe that humans have the power to heal the world. This wild edible garden is a tangible demonstration of our ideals and values. It includes more than 20 species of native plants that support endangered pollinators and provide habitat to local wildlife.

In addition, most of the plants in the garden have medicinal properties and provide a source of fresh and free local food.
Adaptive Reuse

In 2015, the COA Gardening Club started maintaining and working in the Sunken Garden. The club members weeded the beds, cleaned the paths, and held educational workshops. In the fall of 2017, Isabel Mancinelli’s course Landscape Architecture Design Studio stabilized the entrance arch with the help of Alyssa Abbott and Gibran Buell from Creative Stone.

In 2018, Yaniv Korman, a COA student and a member of the Gardening Club, proposed to create a sustainable, low-maintenance garden to educate the local community and provide food for people, birds, and insects. Since the garden is part of a college that values sustainability, education, and accessibility, Yaniv did not restore the Sunken Garden to its historical annual flower garden state. Rather, he created an edible wild garden, while preserving elements of the garden’s historic structure and its role as a space in which people can interact with nature.

Enjoy

You are welcome to use the Plant Booklet to learn more about the different plants that grow in the garden. In order to find each plant please use the garden map on the following page. We hope you will enjoy the bounty of nature while respecting the needs of the wildlife and other members of the community who would like to enjoy it after you.
1 Amelanchier alnifolia
2 Aronia melanocarpa
3 Cornus mas
4 Forsythia sp.
5 Lonicera caerulea
6 Malus sp.
7 Philadelphus lewisii
8 Prunus maritima
9 Rhododendron sp.
10 Ribes rubrum
11 Rosa glauca
12 Sambucus canadensis
13 Sorbaria sorbifolia
14 Swida alternifolia
15 Syringa vulgaris
16 Vaccinium corymbosum
17 Viburnum trilobum
18 Actaea racemosa
19 Actinidia arguta
20 Althea officinalis
21 Astilbe sp.
22 Brunnera sp.
23 Hydrastis canadensis
24 Iris sibirica
25 Leucanthemum sp.
26 Paeonia suffruticosa
27 Rodgersia aesculifolia
28 Vaccinium angustifolium
29 Adiantum pedatum
30 Anemone canadensis
31 Anemone hupehensis
32 Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
33 Asarum canadense
34 Dicentra spectabilis sp.
35 Digitalis grandiflora
36 Echinacea purpurea
37 Epimedium grandiflorum
38 Fragaria vesca
39 Gaultheria procumbens
40 Geranium sp.
41 Heuchera americana
42 Hemerocallis fulva
43 Iris versicolor
44 Ligularia stenocephala
45 Physostegia virginiana
46 Rheum palmatum
47 Tanacetum vulgare
48 Tiarella cordifolia
49 Sanguinaria canadensis
50 Vaccinium macrocarpon