



This is a designed garden with labeled native and naturalized plants. Here's a breakdown of the species shown in the image and a short description of each:

Betula nigra (River Birch)

- **Type:** Deciduous tree
 - **Range:** Native to eastern and central U.S.
 - **Description:** Known for its peeling, cinnamon-colored bark and tolerance of wet soils. Provides habitat and food for birds and pollinators.
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Deschampsia cespitosa (Tufted Hairgrass)

- **Type:** Perennial cool-season bunchgrass
 - **Range:** Widespread across North America, especially in moist meadows and woodlands
 - **Description:** Forms graceful, tufted clumps with airy seed heads that catch the light. Excellent for shady, moist sites.
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Galium odoratum (Sweet Woodruff)

- **Type:** Perennial groundcover herb
 - **Range:** Native to Europe and Asia, but widely naturalized in North America
 - **Description:** Forms dense mats of whorled leaves, with tiny white flowers in spring. Leaves are fragrant when dried (once used in potpourri and flavoring May wine).
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Arctostaphylos uva-ursi ‘Massachusetts’ (Bearberry)

- **Type:** Evergreen groundcover shrub
 - **Range:** Native to northern North America
 - **Description:** Low-growing, with leathery leaves, pink urn-shaped flowers in spring, and red berries that attract wildlife. Tolerant of poor, sandy soils.
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Panicum virgatum ‘Heavy Metal’ (Switchgrass)

- **Type:** Warm-season perennial grass
 - **Range:** Native across most of North America (prairies, open woods, roadsides)
 - **Description:** Strong, upright blue-green foliage with airy flower panicles. Provides cover and seeds for birds. Cultivar ‘Heavy Metal’ is especially upright with a metallic sheen.
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Of these, **Betula nigra**, **Deschampsia cespitosa**, **Arctostaphylos uva-ursi**, and **Panicum virgatum** are native to North America.

Galium odoratum (Sweet Woodruff) is not native but is often used as a shade-tolerant groundcover.

Here's a clear comparison table for the plants labeled in your photo. I included **habitat, wildlife value, and growth needs** for each:

Plant (Latin / Common Name)	Habitat	Wildlife Value	Growth Needs
Betula nigra (River Birch)	Streambanks, floodplains, moist woods	Seeds eaten by birds; nesting habitat; caterpillar host plant	Prefers moist to wet soils, full sun to part shade; tolerates flooding
Deschampsia cespitosa (Tufted Hairgrass)	Meadows, woodland edges, wetlands	Provides cover for insects; seeds for birds	Moist, well-drained soil; thrives in part shade to sun; cool-season grass
Galium odoratum (Sweet Woodruff)*	Shaded forests, naturalized in gardens	Low wildlife value; occasional pollinator visits	Moist, well-drained soil; prefers shade; spreads easily
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi 'Massachusetts' (Bearberry)	Sandy or rocky soils, dry slopes, pine barrens	Berries feed birds and mammals; nectar for pollinators	Dry, acidic, sandy or rocky soils; full sun to part shade; evergreen groundcover
Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal' (Switchgrass)	Prairies, open fields, savannas	Seeds for songbirds; cover for wildlife; host plant for skipper butterflies	Tolerates drought and poor soils; full sun best; upright clumping grass