Native Plant of the Year:
Cardinal Flower
*Lobelia cardinalis*

**Unique Characteristics**
The cardinal flower, a water-loving perennial, produces brilliant stalks of bright red blooms beginning in mid-summer. Its affinity for water makes this flower an excellent choice for rain gardens, swales, ditches and pond edges.

**Plant type:** deciduous perennial

**Native range:** North America

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Water:** medium to wet

**Soil:** wet soil

**pH:** 6.1 to 7.8

**Height:** 2 to 4 feet

**Wildlife:** attracts hummingbirds and butterflies

**Hardiness zones:** 3 to 9

Photos courtesy of Forest Buchanan (top) and Judy Semroc (bottom left and right)