Mountain Laurel (naturalizing and 'Nathan Hale')
(Kalmia latifolia)

Mature size about 5 to 12' tall, dense-compact or loose-open, depending on amount of light; becomes picturesque with gnarly twisting trunks in maturity.

CT native, found in rocky or lowland woods, bogs, peat lands, pine barrens.

Charming cup-shaped ¾-1" white to pink flowers with purple dot markings in a circle, in 4-6" clusters, June.

Leaves dark green and glossy above.

Prefers partial shade to full sun, with more flowers in sun; cool moist well-drained acidic organic soil, avoid windswept sites.

Wonderful in masses, gardens, shrub border, foundations, woodland edges, understory, hillsides.

Habitat for songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies.

Species flower →

Connecticut State Plant

'Nathan Hale' Mountain Laurel: 6-8' dense rounded symmetrical plant; excellent red buds, opening to pastel pink flowers; thick shiny dark foliage; stems of new growth purplish red. Excellent grower.

Photos 1, 2, 6:
North Central Conservation District
Photo 3:
Missouri Botanic PlantFinder
mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder
Photo 5:
Rebecca Bullene
Brooklyn Botanic Garden