Native and Non-Native Plants

Look around to find the remnants of the immigrant neighborhoods—the built environment of the home foundations, sidewalks and streets. But also notice the vegetation. Not all of the plants you see are native to this region. The immigrants who migrated to pry out the iron ore, brought seeds and seedlings from their homeland providing comforting, familiar foods and flavors to this harsh new environment.

French Canadians brought multiplier onions, the Swedes brought chives, the Italians brought garlic and grapes, while the English brought rhubarb, Johnny-Jump-Ups, parsley, and parships. The Germans brought horseradish and hops. Some persisted and thrived in their new environment.

The most common non-native species you will find are lilac bushes, apple trees, lily of the valley, sweet peas, and periwinkle.