Mountain Laurel (species and ‘Pink Charm’)  
( *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 (see ancient specimen in woods, Photo 4).

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, but likes good air circulation

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

Habitat for songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies.

Connecticut State Plant

‘Pink Charm’ Mountain Laurel (photos below):

5-8’, has 4-8” clusters of flowers that are dark red-pink in bud, opening to clear pink flowers with a narrow dark-pink band inside the flower near the base. It sets flower buds well, even at a young age. Glossy foliage.

Photos 1, 2, 4, 5: North Central Conservation District  
Photo 3: Missouri Botanic PlantFinder  
mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder

3 Photos Above:
Photo A:  S. and J. Perkins, American Rhododendron Society, MA Chapter  
rosebay.org/chapterweb/djgtgt35.htm  
Photos B, C:  JC Raulston Arboretum, NC State University  
jcra.ncsu.edu/horticulture/our-plants/results-by-name-serial-number.php?serial=102990