



**Natural Selection** Once part of a vast estate in Dover, this home is set on a large parcel surrounded by woodland. When the current owners purchased the property, they hired Dan Gordon Landscape Architects ([dangordon.com](http://dangordon.com)) to develop a plan for the yard that included several distinct spaces such as a sports area, pool, terrace and fire pit with seating. “When the property was redeveloped, a landscape plan wasn’t created for the house,” says Dan Gordon, whose team worked to make naturalized areas that follow the contour of the land. “We took plants that had been installed and reworked them so, rather than feel ornamental, they blended with the natural context.” Along with robust perennial shrubs and plantings, wildflower meadows that slope and roll to the existing conditions were created. “Meadows are fun in that they have a lot of seasonal change,” says Gordon. “They require minimal maintenance if you want that look, or you can cut them back once a year for a more ornamental quality.” Right off of the back of the house, the fire pit looks out over the central lawn: a separate space that’s clearly part of a verdant, unified landscape.