

Recommended Native Plants

The plants listed on the following pages were selected for our specific area by experienced gardeners, Master Gardeners, and our local Native Plant Society. They were chosen for their performance, availability, establishment, sustainability in extreme weather conditions, seasonal interest, and natural habitat attractiveness. The list includes vegetation from all three layers mentioned above including trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, vines, and ground covers. When selecting plants for a site, consider the soil conditions, slope and sunlight. Many of these native plants are suitable for use throughout your landscape.

Soil: W-Wet; M-Moist; D-Dry; DT-Drought Tolerant
Bloom Time: LS-Late Spring; S-Spring; SM-Summer; F-Fall Riparian; ESM-Early Summer
Zones: 1-usually flooded, wetlands; 2-streamside, may flood; 3-wet forest, poorly drained; 4-upland
Light: SU-Sun; PS-Part Shade; SH-Shade

LARGE TREES							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Soil	Light	Plant Height	Riparian Zones
Red maple	Acer rubrum	red flowers	S	M-W	SU	40'-100'	1-4
River birch	Betula nigra	dark brown	LS	M-W	SU	50'-75'	2-3
Eastern red cedar	Juniperus virginiana	red purple	S	D, DT	SU	50'-75'	2-4
Black gum, Sour gum	Nyssa sylvatica	white blooms	S	D-W	SU-PS	30'-75'	2-4
Sourwood	Oxydendrum arboreum	white blooms	SM	D-M	PS-SH	15'-50'	3-4
Loblolly pine	Pinus taeda			D-W	SU	70'-90'	2-4
White oak	Quercus alba	yellow/green	S	D-M	SU-PS	75'-100'	3-4
Scarlet oak	Quercus coccinea	yellow/green	S	D-M	SU	40'-70'	3-4
Red oak (southern/northern)	Quercus (fulcata/rubra)			D-M	SU	70'-90'	3-4
Pin oak	Quercus palustris			M-W	SU	50'-80'	2-3
Black willow	Salix nigra	yellow/green	S	M-W	SU-PS	35'-50'	1-2
Bald cypress	Taxodium distichum	purple	S	M-W	SU	50'-100'	1-3
SMALL TREES							
Canada serviceberry	Amelanchier Canadensis	White blooms	S	M	PS	35'-50'	2-4
Eastern redbud	Cercis canadensis	pink flowers	S	M	PS-SH	20'-35'	2-4
White fringe tree	Chionanthus virginicus	White blooms	S	M	SU-PS	12'-35'	3-4
Flowering dogwood	Cornus florida	White blooms	S	D-M	PS	15'-50'	3-4
American holly	Ilex opaca (americana)	White flowers	S	D	SU-SH	15'-50'	2-4
Sweetbay magnolia	Magnolia virginiana	White flowers	S	W-M	SU-SH	10'-30'	2-3

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SHRUBS							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Soil	Light	Plant Height	Riparian Zones
Common (smooth) alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	purple catkins	S	W-M	SU	12'-20'	1-3
Red chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	white blooms	S	M	PA	2'-12'	2-4
Groundsell tree	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	white to green	S	W-D	SU	6'-12'	2-4
Beautyberry, American	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	light pink	S	D-M	SH-PS	6'	3-4
New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	white	S	D	SU-PS	3'	4
Button bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	white blooms	SM	M-W	SU-SH	3'-12'	1-2
Summer sweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	white blooms	SM	M-W	PS-SH	6'-12'	2-3
Silky dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	white blooms	S	W-M	SU-PS	6'-12'	2-3
Strawberry bush	<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	pale green	SM	D-M	PS	6'-12'	4
Witch hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	yellow	F	M-D	PS-SH	15'-30'	4
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	white	E SM	D-M	SU-SH	6'-10'	2-3
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	white blooms	LS	M-W	SU-SH	6'-12'	2-4
Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>	white blooms	LS	M-W	SU-SH	3'-10'	2-3
Mountain laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	white-pink	E SM	D-W	PS-SH	5'-20'	4
Sweetbells, Fetterbush	<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>	pink	S SM	M-W	SH-SU	6'-12'	2-3
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	tiny yellow flowers	S	M	SH	6'-16'	2-4
Bayberry, Wax myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	green	S	D-M	SU-SH	5'-15'	1-4
Swamp azalea	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	pink	S	M-W	SH	3'-10'	2-3
Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium fuscum</i>	pale pink	S	D-W	SU-SH	6'-12'	2-4
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	white blooms	LS SM	D-M	SU	10'-15'	2-4
Possumhaw	<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	white blooms	SM	M-W	SU-SH	6.5'-20'	1-3

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PERENNIALS							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Soil	Light	Plant Height	Riparian Zones
Blue Star	Amsonia tabernaemontana	pale Blue	S	M, DT	SU	3'	3-4
Columbine	Aquilegia canadensis	red & yellow	S	M	PS-SH	1'-2'	4
Butterfly Weed	Asclepias tuberosa	orange	SM	D, DT	SU-PS	1'-3'	4
Green & gold	Chrysogonum virginianum	yellow	S	M	SU-SH	.5'-1'	4
Maryland golden aster	Chrysopsis mariana	yellow	SM-F	D	SU	.5'-2'	4
Blue mistflower	Conoclinium coelestinum	blue, lavender	SM, Late	D-W	PS-SH	1'-3'	3-4
Lanceleaf coreopsis	Coreopsis lanceolata	yellow	SM	D, DT	SU	1'-2'	4
Threadleaf coreopsis	Coreopsis verticillata	yellow	SM	D-M, DT	SU-PS	.5'-3'	4
Coneflower	Echinacea sp (E. purpurea)	white, yellow, pink-purple	SM	M-D	SU-SH	3'	3-4
Joe-pye weed, Trumpetweed	Eupatorium fistulosum	pink, purple	SM	D-W	SU-PS	1.5'-10'	2-4
Wild geranium, spotted geranium	Geranium maculatum	lavender, pink	S	D-M	SU-PS	1'-2'	4
Sneezeweed	Helenium autumnale	yellow	F	M	SU-PS	1.5'-6'	1-3
Oxeye Sunflower	Heliopsis helianthoides	yellow	SM	D-M	SU-PS	1'-5'	4
Rose mallow	Hibiscus moscheutos	pink or white	SM	W	SU	3'-6'	1-2
Virginia blue flag	Iris virginica	blue	LS	M-W	SU-PS	1'-3'	1-2
Turk's cap lily	Lilium superbum	orange	L SM	M-W	SU	3'-8'	1-3
Cardinal flower	Lobelia cardinalis	red	SM	M-W	SU-PS	2'-4'	1-3
Lupine	Lupinus perennis	blue	LS	D	SU-PS	1'-3'	4
Virginia bluebells	Mertensia virginica	pink-blue	S	M-W	PS	1'-2'	3-4
Wild Quinine, American fever-few	Parthenium integrifolium	white	SM	D	SU	1'-3'	4
Wild blue phlox	Phlox divaricata	blue, white	S	M-D	PS-SH	.5'-1.5'	3-4
Virginia meadow beauty	Rhexia virginica	pink	SM	W	SU	1'-3'	1-3
Black-eyed Susan, orange cone-flower	Rudbeckia hirta; R.fulgida, R.triloba,	yellow	SSM	D-M	SU-PS	1'-4'	3-4

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PERENNIALS CONTINUED							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Soil	Light	Plant Height	Riparian Zones
Lizard's tail	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	white	SM	W	PS	1'-3'	1-2
Hyssops skullcap, Helmet flower	<i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>	blue, pink, white	SM	M	SU	1'-2'	2-3
Blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	blue	S-SM	M	PA	6"-18"	2-4
Goldenrod (sweet, gray, seaside, late, wrinkleleaf)	<i>Solidago</i> sp (odora, nemoralis, sempervirens, altissima, rugosa)	yellow	SM-F	M-D	SU-PS	2'-6'	2-4
Aster (blue wood, smooth)	<i>Symphotrichum</i> (cordifolium, laeve)	lavender, violet	SM-F	D-M	SU-SH	1'-3'	3-4
New York aster	<i>Symphotrichum novi-belgii</i>	Violet-blue	SM	D-M	SU	1'-3'	2-3
New York Ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	purple	SM	M	SU	2'-7'	2-4
GRASSES							
Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	reddish	SM	D-W	SU	6'	2-3
Bushy bluestem	<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	light brown	F	M DT	SU	3'-6'	3
Split bluestem	<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>	tan	F	D	SU	2'-5'	3-4
River oats, Indian oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	tan	SM-F	M	PS	2'-5'	2-4
Purple lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	purple	SM-F	D-M	SU	1'-3'	2-4
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	brown	SM	M-W	SU-PS	1'-4'	1-3
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Shenandoah', 'Heavy Metal', 'Dallis Blue', 'Northwind'	red, purple	SM-F	M-W	SU	4'-6'	1-3
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	blue foliage, red fall foliage	SM	D-M	SU	3'-5'	2-4
Woolgrass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	brown	SM	M-W	SU	4'-5'	1-2

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VINES							
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Soil	Light	Plant Height	Riparian Zones
Crossvine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	orange-red	S; F, fruit	D-M	SU	20'-50'	2-4
Trumpet creeper	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	orange	SM-F	D-M	SU	20'-50'	3-4
Virgin's bower	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	white	L SM	D-M	SU-SH	6'-12'	1-4
Climbing hydrangea	<i>Decumaria barbara</i>	white	SM-F	M	PS-SH	30'	2-3
Carolina jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	yellow	S	M	SU-PS	20'	2-4
Trumpet honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	coral	S-F	M	SU-PS	6'-20''	2-4
Partridgeberry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	white	SM	M-D	PS-SH	1'-2'	2-4
Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	fruit blue on red stems	F (fruit)	M-D	SU-SH	25'-40'	2-4
Passionflower	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	lavender	S-SM	M-D	SU-PS	12'-36'	3-4
American wisteria	<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	purple, pink, or blue	E SM	M	SU	12'-36'	2-4
FERNS							
Southern ladyfern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> ssp. <i>asplenioides</i>			M	PS	1'-3'	1-4
Sensitive fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>			M	SH	2'	3-4
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>			M	SH	to 4'	2-3
Royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>			M-W	SH	to 5'	1-3
Christmas fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>			M	SH	to 2'	4
Marsh fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>			M-W	SU-PS	2'-3'	1-3
Netted chain fern	<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>			M-W	PS-SH	1'-2'	1-3
Virginia chainfern	<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>			M	SH	1'-3'	1-2

