Native Plants for Southeast Virginia

including Hampton Roads Region

Plant Southeast Virginia Natives!

Plant HR Natives

Swamp Milkweed *(Asclepias incarnata)* and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail *(Papilio glaucus)*

This guide showcases the attractive variety of plants native to Southeast Virginia, which includes the Hampton Roads region. Native plant species have evolved within specific areas and been dispersed throughout their range without known human involvement. These plants form the primary structure of the living landscape and provide food and shelter for native animal species.

Although this guide is not comprehensive, the native plants featured here were selected because they are attractive, relatively easy for the home gardener to acquire, easy to maintain, and offer various benefits to wildlife and the environment.

This guide is being provided by the Hampton Roads organizations listed below to promote the use of these plants in the urban and suburban landscapes of Southeast Virginia for their many social, cultural, and economic benefits, and to increase the availability of these native plants in retail centers throughout the region.

Butterfly Society of Virginia
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Eco Images
Elizabeth River Project
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Hermitage Museum and Gardens
John Clayton Chapter, VNPS
Keep Norfolk Beautiful
Lynnhaven River Now
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Southern Branch Nursery
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Wetlands Watch
Wild Works of Whimsy

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Cover Photos: (left) *Cephalanthus occidentalis* – Buttonbush, Button Willow with bee by Trista Imrich, Wild Works of Whimsy; (center) *Rudbeckia hirta* – Black-eyed Susan with Goldfinch by Seig Kopinitz, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS; (right) *Phlox paniculata* – Garden Phlox with Eastern Tiger Swallowtail by Jan Newton, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS.

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30th Anniversary 1986-2016 Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce

Why Virginia Natives Are the Best Choice


Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Southeast Virginia native plants provide visual beauty year round. Unique flowers, vibrant fall colors of leaves and stems, fruit shapes and colors, bark textures, are all reasons to purchase native plants.

Local native plants support more wildlife species than non-native plants. Native plants host specific insects and are essential for pollinators. Birds, mammals, and invertebrates rely on insects to survive. **Native trees, shrubs, and vines that feed the insects, birds, and animals are essential for maintaining biodiversity.** As natural habitats are lost, home gardeners more than ever need to landscape with native plants to support the local ecosystem, or community, and prevent the extinction of species.

Southeast Virginia native plants show a sense of place. Bald cypress, magnolias, and live oaks let you know you are on the coastal plain. The dogwood in spring, sassafras in fall look more at home in the landscape than a palm tree. **There are local native species unique to Southeast Virginia not found in other parts of Virginia.** If the general public demands more local native plants the supply will be greater and more plant species will become available for the home garden.

Planting Southeast Virginia native plants is essential for a healthy watershed. Local native plants provide oxygen and habitat for fresh and salt water ecosystems, or communities. Plant roots absorb nutrients and prevent sediment from entering our local waterways; reducing pollution and improving water quality.

Local native plants are adapted to local temperature and rainfall fluctuations. Once established they require less watering and fertilizing, saving natural resources, time, and money.

Spraying pesticides for insects or diseases is generally not necessary for native plants. Insects that feed on local plants rarely eat enough to hurt the plant as the insects need to come back another time to feed again. One saves time and money not having to spray chemicals. Seeing butterflies, dragonflies, birds and lightning bugs around your plants is much more pleasing than seeing nothing at all.

As its common name suggests, Butterfly Weed attracts butterflies and is a larval host and nectar source for the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Photo by Jan Newton, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS.

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Conoclinium coelestinum, Mistflower with grasshopper by Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

How to Use This Guide

Key to Perennial (Forb), Grass, Groundcover, Fern, Vine, Shrub, and Tree Sections

Scientific name

common name(s) per Flora of Virginia

Aquilegia canadensis ● **Wild or Eastern Red Columbine**

key

- 1–3 feet ← height of plant at maturity
- Nodding, red and yellow bell-like flower with upward spurred petals in April–May, occasionally June ← flower/berry color, bloom time
- Part sun/shade ← light requirement
- Sandy, well-drained soils, medium loam, sandy loam ← soil/moisture requirements
- Native to dry rocky woodlands to moist, well-drained forests ← natural habitat

Although a short-lived perennial, Columbine readily self-sows. The backward-pointed tubes of the flower contain nectar that attracts insects and hummingbirds with long-tongues especially adapted for reaching the sweet secretion.

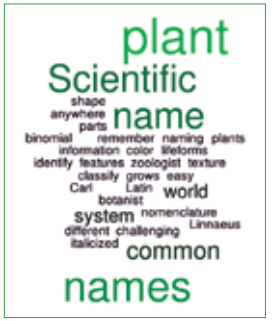
↗ interesting fact(s) about plant

Stunning flower. Attracts hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and hawk moths. Larval host to Columbine Duskywing.

↖ environmental, aesthetic, and economic benefits

A selection of the many beautiful, resilient, and beneficial plants native to Southeast Virginia, including the Hampton Roads region is highlighted, beginning on page 6, including a photo and details on each plant's characteristics and requirements. A more comprehensive index of plant species begins on page 62. Plants were included only if currently documented as native to the area by the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora.

Plants are highighted in the guide and listed in the index alphabetically by scientific name.



Plant names can be interesting, confusing and intimidating, even to people in the plant business. Common names are usually easy to remember, but one plant can be known by several different common names depending on where you are in the world or how you first learned the name. Scientific names are based on binomial nomenclature, a two-part naming system used to classify all lifeforms. Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist, physician, and zoologist, developed the system in the 1700s. Each plant has only one Scientific name, in italicized Latin; that can identify it to anyone anywhere around the world. Scientific names are often challenging to read, spell and pronounce; but they can tell you a lot about a plant. Sometimes information on the plant's discoverer, where it grows, or features like color, shape, or texture are included in the parts of a plant's scientific name.

Always know and use a plant's scienitific name to be sure you are getting the Southeast Virginia plant you are looking for!

Key to Terms & Symbols

Light requirement:

- *Full sun:* 6 or more hrs sun
- *Part sun/shade:* 2 to 6 hrs sun
- *Full shade:* 2 hrs or less sun

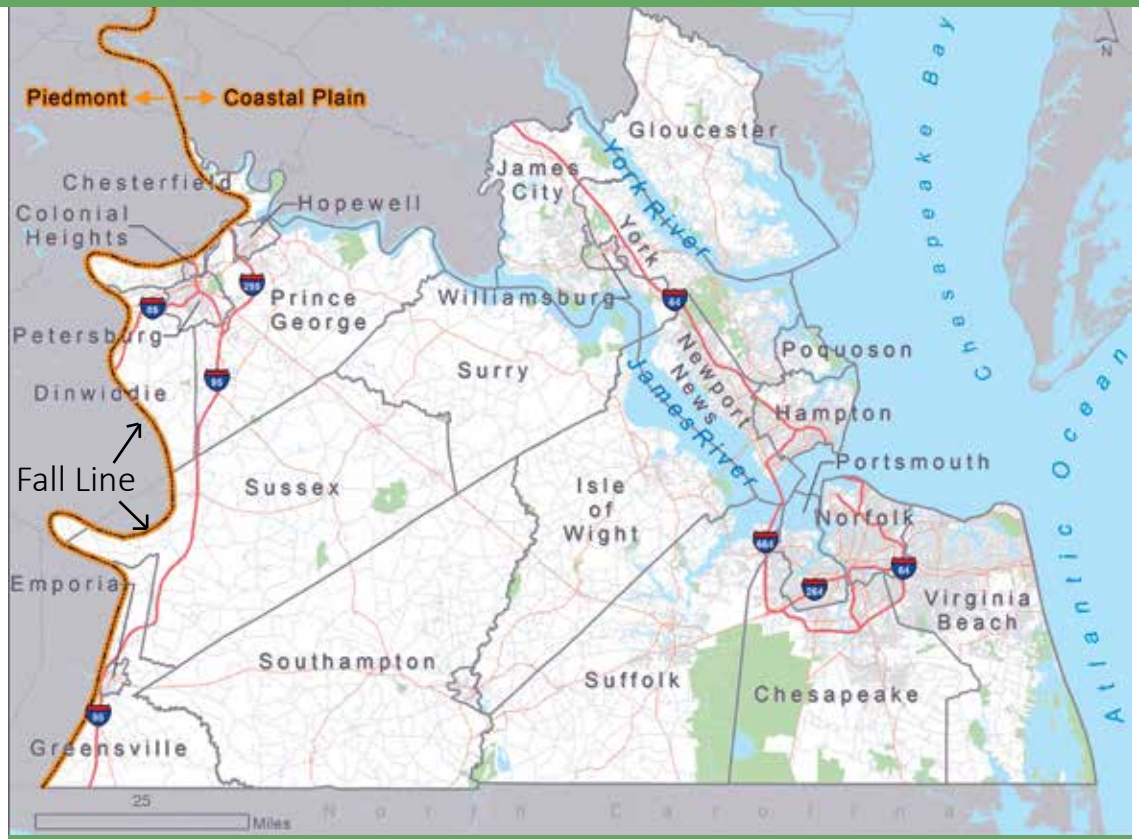
Soil moisture:

- *Dry:* no signs of moisture
- *Moist:* looks & feels damp
- *Wet:* saturated

Wildlife supported by plant:

- Food source for birds *(berries, nectar or insects resident on plant)*
- Nectar source for pollinators - butterflies, moths, bees or other insects
- Larval host for butterflies or moths *(larva are newly hatched forms of insects before they undergo metamorphosis)*

What Area Does This Guide Cover?



This guide highlights native plants found in Southeast Virginia, including the Hampton Roads area. This region encompasses the entire Southern Coastal Plain (south of the James River, east to the Atlantic coastline and west to the Fall Line), and a portion of the Northern Coastal Plain (north of the James River), as well as a portion of the Outer Coastal Plain, including the cities of Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton, Poquoson and the lower end of York and Gloucester counties.

Coastal Plain Physiographic Province

Virginia is divided into several physiographic provinces based on geologic history *(see map of provinces below)*. Each province is unique in topography, soil pH, soil depth, elevation, availability of light, and hydrology. These characteristics all combine to influence the species of plants and animals found there. Virginia's Coastal Plain is bordered by the Fall Line to the west and by the Atlantic Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries to the east.

The Coastal Plain varies in topography from north to south. The Northern Coastal Plain consists of the three peninsulas formed between the four major tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay; the Potomac, the Rappahannock, the York, and the James Rivers. In the north, the Northern Neck is somewhat hilly and well drained. As you move southward across the Middle Peninsula and Lower Peninsula the topography flattens until south of the James River the landscape is basically level in the Southern Coastal Plain. (The Eastern Shore, separated from the mainland by the Chesapeake Bay, exhibits little topographic relief.) These subtle differences in topography and the variety of fresh, brackish, and saltwater systems from ocean and inland bay to rivers, ponds, and bogs, have contributed to the great variety of natural communities found on the Coastal Plain.

For a detailed description of these natural communities, go to *www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/natural-communities/nctoc* and *www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/natural-communities/document/ncoverviewphys-veg.pdf* (*Overview of the Physiography and Vegetation of Virginia*, Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, February 2016)

Plant Growing Requirements

Native plant species evolved within specific regions and dispersed throughout their ranges without known human involvement. Native plants are distributed across the landscape based on a number of conditions—temperature, rainfall, soil fertility, soil moisture, drainage, and amount of light, among others.

Soils in Southeast Virginia are quite variable due to the region's diverse geology and development. Topsoils are often removed, compacted or relaced during development.

Soil Type

Local geology and prior land disturbance affects soil fertility and air and moisture-holding capacity.

You should have your soil tested every three years and before adding anything to it. To get a soil test kit, contact your county or city Virginia Cooperative Extension Office (*www.ext.vt.edu/offices*), or your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

For more soil information and maps visit:
USDA Soil Survey: *http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm*

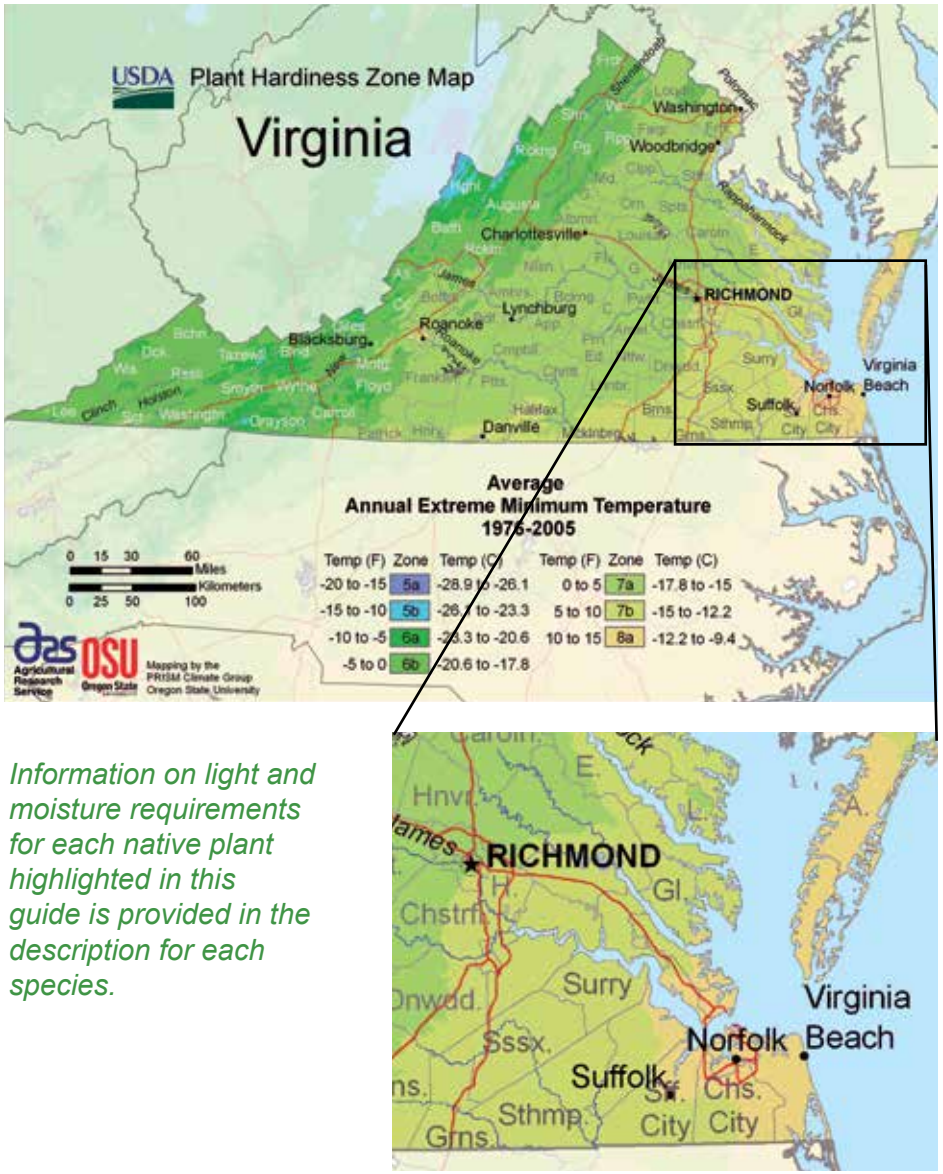
Hardiness Zone

A hardiness zone is a geographically-defined zone in which a specific category of plant life is capable of growing, as defined by temperature hardiness, or ability to withstand the minimum temperatures of the zone.

Temperatures in the Southeast Virginia area range from USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 8a to 7b.

All plants in this guide are suitable for this range of climatic conditions.

Although terms like physiographic region or hardiness zone can describe general conditions across a large area, the local conditions in your yard determine what will best grow there.



Information on light and moisture requirements for each native plant highlighted in this guide is provided in the description for each species.

Perennials (Forbs)


Trista Imrich/Wild Works of Whimsy

Perennial plants (also known as forbs) live for two or more years and lack woody stems at or above the ground. Usually flowers produce seed each year, but some plants reproduce by means of bulbs, tubers, woody crowns, and rhizomes. Some perennials die back to ground level at the end of the growing season, remain dormant during the winter, and resume growth in the spring (herbaceous). Others remain semi-green or totally green in winter (evergreen). Perennials are common in a wide range of landscapes including sunny, shady, dry, wet, windy, salty, formal and natural. The position and composition of leaves, stems, roots, and other parts of perennial plants are specific to an individual plant's needs in order to survive. They might have specialized stems or crowns that allow them to survive periods of dormancy over cold or dry seasons during the year. The many different colors of flowers, seeds or leaves of perennials are the showy, decorative parts of a landscape. They stand out when surrounded by complimentary or contrasting colors or surrounded by groundcovers in a landscape. Perennial plants are usually better competitors than annual plants, due to the development of larger root systems which can access water and nutrients deeper in the soil and cause them to emerge earlier in the spring.

Lilium superbum ● Turk's-cap Lily


Gary Fleming/DCR

- 4–8 ft.
- Red, orange, yellow in July–September
- Full sun
- Moist, loam, sand, acidic soils; good drainage essential
- Native to meadows, swamps, wood's edge

Largest and most spectacular of the native lilies of our region; up to 40 flowers have been recorded on a single plant.

The recurved sepals and petals of Turk's-cap Lily, which presumably resemble a type of cap worn by early Turks, and the showy extruded stamens are distinctive features. Indians used the bulbs for soup.

Achillea millefolium ● Common Yarrow

- 1–3 ft.
- Flat-topped clusters of small white flowers with a yellow flower in the center atop stems with fern-like leaves in June–August
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Clay, loam, dry to moist soil
- Native to fields, meadows, roadsides, clearings, and upland forests

Common Yarrow can be used in fresh or dried arrangements and has a pleasing fragrance.

Attracts pollinators, butterflies, hawk moths.

Aquilegia canadensis ● Wild or Eastern Red Columbine

- 1–3 ft.
- Nodding, red and yellow bell-like flower with upward spurred petals in April–May, occasionally June
- Part sun/shade
- Sandy, well-drained soils, medium loam, sandy loam
- Native to dry rocky woodlands to moist, well-drained forests

Although a short-lived perennial, Columbine readily self-sows. The backward-pointed tubes of the flower contain nectar that attracts insects and hummingbirds with long-tongues especially adapted for reaching the sweet secretion.

Stunning flower. Attracts hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and hawk moths. Larval host to Columbine Duskywing.

Arisaema triphyllum ● Common Jack-in-the-pulpit

- 1–3 ft.
- Large, cylindrical, hooded flower, green in color with brown stripes in April; in late summer, a cluster of bright red berries appears
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist to wet soils
- Native to humus-rich woods, bottomland forests

Jack-in-the-pulpit grows most vigorously in moist, shady, seasonally wet locations. The intriguing blossom of this woodland perennial occurs on a separate stalk at the same height as the leaves. This plant has calcium oxate crystals, harmful if ingested raw and irritating to the skin.

Excellent woods-garden plant. Birds and mammals eat the berries. Very easy to cultivate.

Asclepias incarnata ● Swamp Milkweed

- 2–5 ft.
- Clusters of pink, purple flowers in May–August
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist/wet, rich soils, tolerates clay, can be grown in a pond
- Native to wet freshwater areas - meadow, field, riparian area, swamp, marsh

Swamp Milkweed cannot be transplanted because of its deep taproot. It is deer resistant. Will inevitably have aphids, but the insects are not a problem unless the plant looks sick; at that point an effective treatment is to spray the plant and aphids with soapy water.

Showy flower clusters attract butterflies and hummingbirds. It is larval host and an important food source for the Monarch caterpillar (*Danaus plexippus*).

Perennials (Forbs)

Asclepias syriaca • Common Milkweed

- 3–8 ft.
- Pale pink to purple flower in May–July
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist; medium to fine sandy, clay, or rocky calcareous soils; also found in well- drained soil
- Native to old fields, roadsides

Common Milkweed is fragrant. Because of its long taproot, it cannot be transplanted. A vigorous grower, this plant spreads aggressively.

Best plant to host Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*).

Asclepias tuberosa • Butterfly Weed

- 1–3 ft.
- Yellow-orange to bright orange in May–August
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist or dry, well-drained sandy soils
- Native to dry/rocky open woods, glades, fields and roadsides

Easily grown from seed, Butterfly Weed is somewhat slow to establish and may take 2-3 years to produce flowers. Mature plants may freely self-seed in the landscape if seed pods are not removed prior to splitting open. Does not transplant well due to its deep taproot and is probably best left undisturbed once established.

Attracts butterflies, and is a larval host and nectar source for the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Drought tolerant.

Baptisia tinctoria • Yellow Wild Indigo

- 2–3 ft.
- Clusters of yellow pea-like flowers in May–July
- Sun
- Dry, loam, sandy, acidic soils
- Native to dry open woods and clearings

The genus name of Yellow Wild Indigo, from the Greek baptizein *(to dye), refers to the fact that some species are used as an inferior substitute for true indigo dye.*

A larval host for the rare Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*) and Wild Indigo Duskywing (*Erynnis baptisiae*) butterflies.

Caltha palustris • Marsh Marigold

- 1–3 ft.
- Large yellow flowers in April–May
- Part sun/shade to full shade
- Moist to wet soils
- Native to wet woods, marshy hollows, stream edges

Marsh Marigold is a succulent plant with glossy, heart- or kidney-shaped leaves and a thick, hollow, branching stem with bright, shiny yellow flowers. The flowers of this showy spring plant resemble large buttercups rather than the marigolds. Leaves are toxic and plant juices can cause blisters if touched.

Attracts birds and bees.

Chelone glabra ● White Turtlehead

- 3–6 ft.
- White, pink (often lavendar-tinged) tubular flowers in July–September
- Sun to shade
- Rich, wet to moist soils
- Native to brushy marshes, stream banks, wet ditches, low meadows, woodlands

The 2-lipped flowers of White Turtlehead resemble turtle heads, which gives it its distinctive common name. Its genus name is derived from the Greek chelone *(tortoise). The related* Chelone obliqua *(often sold as* C. lyonii*) has pink inflorescences.*

Nectar source for butterflies. Larval host of the Baltimore Butterfly (*Euphydryas phaeton*).

Chrysopsis mariana ● Maryland Golden Aster

- 1–1.5 ft.
- Yellow flowers in August–October
- Sun
- Wet to moist soils
- Native to pine woods, sandy areas, open forests, old fields, roadsides

Maryland Golden Aster provides a low, sturdy rosette effect until late summer when its flowering branches lift clusters of yellow, aster-like flowers 1 ft. off the ground. The foliage is woolly when young, becoming smoother with age.

Fruiting heads of this perennial are attractive.

Claytonia virginica ● Spring Beauty, Virginia Spring Beauty

- 4–8 in.
- Pink or whitish flowers, striped with dark pink, in loose clusters in March–May
- Part sun/shade to shade
- Rich, moist soils; prefers high humus
- Native to rich woods, thickets, old fields, well-drained floodplains

Spring Beauty is a perennial and ephemeral. It disappears from above ground in the summer shortly after the seed capsules have ripened. It grows from an underground tuber like a small potato, which has a sweet, chestnut-like flavor. Native Americans and colonists used them for food.

Attractive spring perennial that is spectacular in large patches.

Clitoria Mariana ● Maryland Butterfly Pea

- 3–4 ft. twining vine
- Pink and blue, large, pea-like, usually solitary flowers in June –August
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Dry, sand soil; tolerant of a range of soil types and chemistries
- Native to dry, open forests, rocky and sandy woodlands, shale barrens, clearings, and roadsides

Maryland Butterfly Pea is often confused with Spurred Butterfly Pea (Centrosema virginianum), which has upside-down flowers, the banner pointing downward, while that of Clitoria stands erect.

Attracts birds.

Perennials (Forbs)

Conoclinium coelestinum ● Mistflower

- 1–3.5 ft.
- Bright blue, violet flowers in July–November
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist, usually sandy acidic soil or clay
- Native to clearings, and other disturbed, open or shaded sites

The fluffy-edged flowers of Mistflower are a magnet for late-season butterflies. Disk flowers are almost ¼ inch long, they form almost a flat top. This wildflower spreads easily. It is a colonizing groundcover.

Attracts butterflies.

Coreopsis verticillata ● Whorled or Threadleaf Coreopsis

- 6 in.–3.5 ft.
- Yellow in May–August
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Dry, well-drained primarily acidic soils
- Native to dry, open woods

This plant spreads by rhizomes.

Attracts birds and butterflies. Drought tolerant.

Eupatorium hyssopifolium ● Hyssopleaf Thoroughwort

- 2–3 ft.
- White florets in June–October
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Sandy, moist soils; it can grow in a variety of soils if well-drained
- Native to dune grasslands and scrub, interdune swales, bogs, dry woodlands and barrens, riverside prairies, damp to dry clearings, old fields, and roadsides

The vase-shaped Hyssopleaf Thoroughwort has flowers that resemble Babies' Breath.

Adds interest throughout the winter.

Equisetum hyemale ● Tall Scouring Rush

- 1–3 ft.; can reach 6 ft.
- Reproduces by spores
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist to wet soils
- Native to floodplain forests, riverbanks, rocky shores; eroding high bluffs where shell deposits are prevalent

Tall Scouring Rush is a spreading, reed-like perennial with narrow dark bands with tiny leaves. Instead of fruits it has tiny cones.

Highly resistant to deer.

Eutrochium dubium ● Three-nerved Joe Pye-Weed

- 2–5 ft.
- Tiny purple flowers in dome-shaped clusters, 4–7 in across in July–October
- Sun to part/sun shade
- Moist, usually sandy acidic soil
- Native to bogs, swamps (all types), floodplain forests, wet flatwoods, wet clearings, and ditches; usually in acidic, nutrient-poor soils

This Joe-Pye Weed is sometimes called Coastal Joe-Pye Weed. It has distinctive purple spots on the stem. Flower heads do not re-bloom, so leave the spent flowers on the plant and let them go to seed.

Flowers are magnets for butterflies, especially Swallowtails and Monarchs. Fluffy seed heads provide nesting material for birds.

Eutrochium fistulosum ● *Hollow Joe-Pye Weed*

- 2–8 ft.
- Huge domed flower head, 6– 14 in. across, with tiny pale, pinkish-lavender flowers in July–September
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist to wet well-drained, humus-rich, sandy and clay soils
- Native to floodplain forests, swamps, riverbanks, flood-scoured stream shores and bars, wet meadows, low pastures, and ditches

An important source of nectar for pollinators. Attracts birds and numerous pollinators. Special value to native bees.

Eutrochium purpureum ● Sweet or Purple Joe-Pye Weed

- 2–7 ft.
- Large domed flower head with mauve pink florets in July–September
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist soils and mesic soils; it can tolerate drier soils than the other Joe-Pye Weeds
- Native to dry-moist upland forests, less frequently in dry forests, woodlands, barrens, well-drained floodplain forests, swamps

The flowers of this Joe-Pye Weed have a vanilla fragrance. It is a native replacement for Butterfly Bush.

An important source of nectar for pollinators. It is deer resistant.

Eupatorium perfoliatum ● Boneset

- 3–6 ft.
- White florets in June–October
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist to wet soils
- Native to floodplain forests, freshwater tidal marshes, tidal swamps, bogs, interdune swales and ponds, stream banks and riverbanks, flood-scoured sandy and rocky bars, wet meadows, fields, ditches

The tiny, white fragrant flowers of Boneset are arranged in fuzzy clusters top of the stems of this perennial. Paired leaves, united basally, are perforated by the erect stems as suggested by the Latin name.

Attracts birds, butterflies, and native bees.

Perennials (Forbs)

Helenium autumnale ● Common or Autumn Sneezeweed

A beautiful attraction to your landscape with many elongate leaves and numerous flower heads which attract butterflies and bees.

- 1.5–5 ft.
- Yellow daisy-like flowers with fan-shaped rays in July–November
- Sun
- Moist, clay soils
- Native to open meadows, bogs, along streams and ponds; wet meadows

Sneezeweed does not cause sneezing. The common name is based upon the former use of its dried leaves in making snuff, inhaled to cause sneezing that would supposedly rid the body of evil spirits. The leaves, flowers, seeds are poisonous to humans, and toxic if eaten in large quantities.

Helianthus angustifolius ● Narrow-leaved Sunflower

Conspicuous flowers on Narrow-leaved Sunflower attract birds and native bees.

- 3–8 feet
- Bright yellow, star-shaped flowers in August–October
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist to wet soils; clay, loam, sandy acid-based
- Native to bogs, ditches, wet clearings

Narrow-leaved Sunflower has the narrowest leaves. This perennial can be used for ornamental bogs and ponds.

Hibiscus moscheutos ● Swamp or Eastern Rose-mallow

Strikingly showy species with large, heart-shaped leaves. It is a nectar source for hummingbirds.

- 3–8 ft.
- Creamy-white flowers with a red center in July–October
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Wet or moist soils
- Native to edges of salt marshes but is more common in upper-valley wetlands

Clumps of Swamp Rose-mallow start to grow late in the season and flower over a long period in late summer. Rose mallow is easily grown from seed. Seeds are ready to collect when they are dark-brown.

Iris virginica ● Virginia Blue Flag

Valued for its ornamental blooms and color. Attracts birds. Depends on hummingbirds, which feed on the nectar, for pollination.

- 3–6 ft.
- White and blue flowers with 3 petal-like sepals in May
- Sun
- Moist, rich acid soils
- Native to marshes; wet pinelands; swamps; wet meadows

This conspicuous, showy iris is highly deer resistant. It is an ideal plant for edges of ponds, lily pools, drainage ditches.

Kosteletzykya pentacarpos ● Seashore or Salt Marsh Mallow

- 3–6 ft.
- Light pink, occasionally white flowers in June–October
- Sun
- Moist soils, prefers sand, but will tolerate clay, somewhat salt tolerant; does better with high acidity
- Native to brackish marshes, coastal plains, swamps

The flowers of the Seashore Mallow close at night. This perennial takes 5 years to fully mature and lives for 5 years. It is easily propagated from seed.

Great color in late summer through fall, this pretty two inch flower attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Liatris pilosa ● Grass-leaf or Gayfeather Blazing Star

- 1.5 ft.
- Lavender flowers in July–November
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Poor-average loam with sand gravel, clay, acid moderate soils
- Native to dry woodlands, shale barrens, clearings, and roadsides

Blazing Star belies the notion that straight native plants can't compete with cultivars or non-natives for show. Great for use in bouquets and it makes a stunning accent in the garden.

Important nectar plant for native bees, hummingbirds and butterflies. It hosts four species of native caterpillars. Good for use in rain gardens.

Lobelia cardinalis ● Cardinal Flower

- 1–6 ft.
- Red flowers in July–October
- Sun to full shade
- Moist to wet, humus-rich, sandy & clay soils
- Native to low areas, woodlands edge, stream banks, roadsides, meadows

Cardinal Flower is a short-lived perennial that self sows. The common name of this flower alludes to the bright red robes worn by Roman Catholic cardinals. All parts of this plant are toxic. This species is not drought tolerant.

Valued for its ornamental blooms and color. Attracts birds. Depends on hummingbirds, which feed on the nectar, for pollination.

Lobelia siphilitica ● Great Blue Lobelia

- 1.5 - 4 ft.
- Lavender-blue, tubular flowers crowded together on the upper stem from July–October
- Sun to part shade
- Moist to wet clay, loam or sandy soils
- Native to moist woodlands, meadows, swamps

This blue counterpart of the Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis) is a most desirable plant for woodland gardens, especially as it blooms bright blue in late summer. This species is not drought tolerant. Supports Conservation Biological Control, meaning it is a plant that attracts predatory or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.

Attracts birds and hummingbirds. Special value to bumble bees and other native bees.

Perennials (Forbs)

Lupinus perennis ● Sundial Lupine

- 1–2 ft.
- Showy, elongate clusters of purple or blue, pea-like flowers on an erect tall stem in April–July; showy palm-like compound leaves divided into 7-11 leaflets
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Dry, sandy soils; requires good drainage, but is very adaptable
- Native to dry, sandy, open forests, woodlands, clearings, and roadsides

Sundial Lupine was once thought to deplete the mineral content of the soil; hence the genus name derived from the Latin lupus (wolf). Actually the plant enhances soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen in a useful form.

Larval host for the Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*) butterfly. Birds and small mammals eat the seeds.

Maianthemum racemosum ● Eastern Solomon's-plume, False Solomon's-seal

- 1–3 ft.
- Tiny white flowers at tip of stem (a 1–4 inch plume or panicles) March–June, followed by bright red berries
- Part shade to full shade
- Well-drained, medium to moist, slightly acidic soil
- Native to deciduous woods, shaded banks and ditches

Eastern Solomon's-plume is a beautiful choice for home landscaping in lightly shaded settings. It spreads by rhizomes but not aggressively enough to ever be invasive. Multiple arching stems, 1–3 feet long, grow from a single parent plant, making it a good option for a taller ground cover.

Birds are attracted to the berries, which last through late summer and into fall.

Monarda punctata ● Horsemint, Spotted Beebalm

- 1–3 ft.
- Rosettes of aromatic,yellowish, purple spotted tubular fragrant, flowers occur in whorls in April–August; forms a dense spike at the end of the stem; each whorl is supported by large, conspicuous, whitish, purple-tinged, leaf-like bracts Sun
- Dry, sandy soils
- Native to maritime forests, dune
- woodlands and grasslands, sandy upland forests, fields, and roadsides

Linnaeus named the genus Monarda in honor of a 16th century Spanish physician/ botanist, Nicolas Bautista Monardes (1493-1588).

Nectar source for butterflies and other pollinators.

Oenothera fruticosa ● Narrow-leaf Sundrops, Southern Sundrops

- 1–3 ft.
- Golden-yellow in May–September
- Sun
- Moist, well-drained soils
- Native to woods, roadsides, meadows

Narrow-leaf Sundrops spread rapidly under favorable conditions, but does not usually become aggressive.

Attracts birds and hummingbirds. Of special value to native bees.

Opuntia humifusa ● Eastern Prickly-pear

- 1-2.5 ft., evergreen with 1–3 levels of flattened pads, each up to 10 in. long, 7 in. across, and 1.5 in. thick
- Yellow buds, one or more, can form on top of pad and each produces a single satiny-yellow flower about 3–4 in. across followed by a pear-like fruit in late spring to mid-summer
- Sun
- Dry, sandy soil
- Native to rock outcrops

The blooming period of Eastern Prickly-pear occurs from late spring to mid-summer and lasts about a month for a colony of plants, although each flower lasts only a single day. It is faster and easier to start new plants using pads rather than seeds.

Attracts pollinating bees. A striking plant with beautiful, showy flowers.

Parthenium integrifolium ● Wild Quinine

- 1.5–3 ft.; long-stalked, rough perennial with large, toothed basal leaves which become smaller upwards
- Clumps of white button-like flowers in June–August; flowers only appear on top of the plant
- Sun to part shade/sun
- Dry, acidic to moderately basic soils
- Native to moist to dry, open forests, woodlands, barrens, and clearings

Long blooming.

Phlox paniculata ● Fall or Garden Phlox

- 3–6 ft.
- White to pink or lavender flowers in a 4–8 in. wide, pyramidal cluster in June–August
- Sun to part shade/sun
- Loam, tolerates clay soils
- Native to rich, open woods; thickets; meadows; moist roadsides

Fall Phlox needs at least 6 hours of sun in order to prevent powdery mildew.

A showy clump-former.

Podophyllum peltatum ● Mayapple

- 8 in.–1.5 ft.
- Solitary, nodding, white to rose-colored flower; 6–9 waxy white petals in March–May; followed by large, fleshy, lemon-shaped berry
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist to dry, humus-rich soils
- Native to deciduous woods, shaded banks and various moist disturbed habitats

Mayapple spreads by roots. This species is ephemeral, which means that its foliage dies back in summer. All parts contain toxins, some of which have medicinal applications.

Cross-pollinated by bees. New colonies started by box turtles, which consume the yellow fruit and thereby spread the seed.

Perennials (Forbs)

Polygonatum biflorum • Solomon's Seal

- 2–3 ft.
- Whitish-green, bell-shaped, flowers along an arching stem in April–June, followed by blue berries
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist to dry, acidic soils; does best in rich woodland soil but quite versatile and will do well at the base of trees
- Native to rich, dry to moist woods; thickets; calcareous hammocks

The rootstalk of Solomons Seal is jointed; the leaf stalk breaks away from it, leaving a distinctive scar said to resemble the official seal of King Solomon.

Birds consume the berries of this plant (but they are poisonous to humans). Solomon's Seal is an excellent woodland plant.

Pontederia cordata • Pickerelweed

- 3–3.5 ft.
- Deep blue flowers in June–November
- Shallow, quiet water; freshwater marshes, up to a foot under water
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Native to wet or moist, sandy, loam or clay soils

Pickerelweed produces one spike covered with small flowers that bloom in succession from the bottom up.

Provides nectar for bees and butterflies. Good for wetland gardens and habitat. Seeds eaten by waterfowl. Attracts dragonflies.

Rudbeckia hirta • Black-eyed Susan

- 1–3.5 ft.
- Bright-yellow flower with dark-brown center in June–October
- Sun, part shade, shade; may bloom longer with some afternoon shade
- Moist to dry, well-drained acidic soils; drought tolerant
- Native to meadows, pastures, woodland edges

Black-eyed Susan forms mature seed cones about three to four weeks after flowering. (Check by breaking a cone open and if the seeds are dark, they are mature.) This plant is easy to grow and tolerant of most soils. It reseeds and establishes clumps.

Cheerful blossoms liven up bouquets. Birds, especially goldfinches and chickadees, enjoy the ripe seeds. Nectar attracts bees, butterflies.

Rudbeckia laciniata • Cut-Leaf Sunflower, Green-Headed Coneflower

- 2–8 ft.
- Yellow flowers with greenish-yellow center and back-tilted golden rays in June–August
- Sun to light shade
- Moist, slightly acid soil
- Native to low, rich woods; wet fields; alluvial thickets

The center cones of Cut-Leaf Sunflower elongate and become brownish as the seeds ripen. Because it spreads rampantly by underground stems, cut-leaf coneflower is only appropriate for large sites. May need staking in garden situations but otherwise very hardy.

Cheerful blossoms liven up bouquets. Birds, especially goldfinches and chickadees, enjoy the ripe seeds. Nectar attracts bees, butterflies.

Rudbeckia triloba ● Three-Lobed Sunflower, Brown-Eyed Susan

- 2–5 ft.
- Bright yellow flower with brown center in June–October
- Full sun to part shade; adapts to several hours of shade
- Dry to moist soil; drought-tolerant
- Native to open, moist woods

Propagates very easily from seed sown in fall or spring. Large plants with numerous overlapping basal leaves, all from a single woody crown, may be divided in late winter or early spring

Seeds attract birds.

Sanguinaria canadensis ● Bloodroot

- 6–14 in.
- Clear white, many-petaled flower with orange center in March–April; single, large, round leaf and flower each on a separate stem; at first leaf completely enwraps flower bud opening in full sun, and closing at night
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist, well-drained, humus-rich soils
- Native to moist to dry upland forests, dry woodlands, well-drained floodplain forests

Bloodroot may spread to form a colony. The red juice from the underground stem was used by Indians as a dye for baskets, clothing, and war paint, as well as for insect repellent. Root is poisonous.

Scutellaria integrifolia ● Hyssop Scullcap

- 1–2 ft.
- Bluish-lavendar showy 2-lipped flowers (arched upper lip and flaring lower lip) in May–July; flowers grow in clusters with separate flowers attached by short stalks at equal distances along a central stem
- Sun
- Wet to moist soils
- Native to moist to dry forests, floodplain forests and alluvial swamps, seepage swamps, depression swamps and ponds, wet flatwoods, wet meadows, and other low, disturbed habitats

The many different Skullcaps are recognized by the tiny projection, or hump, on the top of the calyx surrounding the base of the flower.

Symphiotrichium grandiflorum ● Large-flowered Aster

- 1–3 ft.
- Showy violet with a bright yellow center in September–November
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Dry to average soil
- Native to dry woodlands, clearings, and road banks; not particular about soil chemistry

Attracts butterflies and is deer resistant.

Symphiotrichium lateriflorum • Calico or Starved Aster

- 2–3 ft.
- White with a yellow center in August–October
- Sun
- Moist soils
- Native to moist to dry upland forests, woodlands, swamps (all types), wet flatwoods, clearings, old fields, meadows, roadsides, and other disturbed habitats

Very showy flower. Attracts butterflies and moths.

Thalictrum thalictroides • Rue Anemone

- 1 ft.
- White, pink flower with seven petals and a yellow center in March–June; lacy whorl of 3-parted, dark-green leaves above which rises delicate, reddish-brown stems bearing blossoms
- Part sun/shade
- Moist, acidic, humus rich, sometimes can survive dry soil
- Native to floodplain forests, tidal swamps, stream banks, wet meadows; occasionally in moist upland forests

This slender spring flower is easily cultivated and is similar to Wood Anemone (Anemone quinquefolia), except for the numerous flowers and rounded leaflets.

Solidago

Solidago is a genus of 90 to 110 species. The species listed below are native to Southeast Virginia and will add eye-catching, splashes of yellow and gold to home gardens and other cultivated landscapes in the late summer–early fall. Goldenrods average one to four feet but the taller species can reach eight feet. They grow in a broad range of soils, light and moisture. They attract bees, native bees, pollinators, butterflies. Goldenrods support the greatest number of caterpillars of any of the wildflowers -112 caterpillars, an important staple in a bird's diet!

Goldenrod is often mistakenly believed to cause hayfever; the real offender is ragweed, which blooms at the same time. The heavy pollen of goldenrods can only be transported by insects while the tiny molecules of ragweed pollen is transported by wind and aggravates allergies.

Species that grow in a range of part shade/part sun:

Solidago caesia	Blue-stemmed Goldenrod, Wreath Goldenrod
Solidago nemoralis	Gray, Dwarf, Old Field Goldenrod
Solidago odora	Sweet Goldenrod
Solidago rugosa	Roughstemmed or Wrinkleleaf Goldenrod

Species that prefer full sun:

Euthamia graminifolia	Flat-top Goldenrod
Solidago altissima	Tall Goldenrod, Late Goldenrod
Solidago juncea	Early Goldenrod
Solidago pinetorum	Pineywoods Goldenrod, Small's Goldenrod
Solidago puberula	Downy Goldenrod
Solidago rugosa	Rough-stemmed Goldenrod, Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod
Solidago sempervirens	Seaside Goldenrod

Vernonia noveboracensis ● New York Ironweed

- 3–6 ft.
- Red-purple flowers in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Found in moist soils in the wild, but will flourish in regular or dry soil; tolerates clay and neutral to acidic conditions
- Natural to floodplain forests, riverbanks, meadows, roadsides

As a tall, narrow plant, New York Ironweed is suited for the back of the border or tight spaces.

Flowers attract butterflies and seed heads attract birds. Special value to native bees.

Zephyranthes atamasca ● Atamasco Lily

- 8–15 in.
- Single, lily-like, white flower (rarely pink), with six distinct lobes, united to form a funnel in April–May; from underground bulb
- Moist, humus-rich soils; prefers acidic soils but also found on limestone
- Part sun/shade to shade
- Native to floodplain forests and swamp hummocks, wet flatwoods, and moist upland forests

May form a colony of plants if conditions are right. The genus name alludes to Zephyrus, goddess of flowers. The species name, derived from a Powhatan word meaning stained with red, describes the flower.

Very showy flower.

Insect–Plant Coevolution:

The Story of the Yucca and the Yucca Moth

- 6 ft. flowering stalk rises above 2-3 ft. high clumps of erect, dagger-like, blue-green leaves
- White, nodding, bell-shaped flowers in April–August
- Dry, sandy soil
- Sun

Flowers attracts hummingbirds.

Native plants form the primary structure of the living landscape and provide food and shelter for native animal species. Native plants co-evolved with native animals and have formed complex and interdependent relationships. One of the most extraordinary partnerships between an insect and a plant is that of the yucca and the Yucca Moth. They are so interdependent that one cannot live without the other.

***Yucca filamentosa* - Common Yucca, Adam's Needle** depends upon the Yucca Moth (*Tegeticula maculata*) as its agent of pollination. The moth depends on the yucca for food. At flowering time the female moth gathers a mass of pollen from the anthers of the yucca and then flies to another yucca flower, where she deposits a number of eggs into the ovary among the ovules (immature seeds). Next, she places the pollen mass on the stigma of the flower, thus ensuring pollination and subsequent development of the ovules into seeds. As the seeds enlarge, they become the food source for the moth larvae. Many of the seeds remain uninjured and are eventually dispersed, potentially producing new plants. At maturity, the larvae leave the seed capsule, drop to the ground, and pupate. The adult moth emerges next season as the yucca begins to flower.

Groundcovers


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Groundcover plants, when properly taken care of, provide dense soil cover, retard weed growth, and prevent soil erosion. Groundcovers can range in height from an inch to four feet. They can be woody or herbaceous; clumping or running; evergreen or deciduous. Groundcovers create various moods: small leaved, smooth textured groundcovers used in broad curved plantings can convey a feeling of spaciousness. Large leaved coarse textured groundcovers create a feeling of closeness. There is a wide array of colors and textures to choose from. They unify different components in the landscape and can be used as hedging materials, as visual guides, as lawn substitutes, or even as traffic barriers. They can soften hardscapes such as walks, steps and driveways. Groundcovers will retard weed growth if one uses about 60 percent of them with 30 percent of plants that are being highlighted in the garden rising above them. This mimics the way plants grow in the wild with layered canopies and makes for more dramatic and beautiful landscaping.

Chamaecrista fasciculata ● Common Partridge Pea


Jan Newton/John Clayoton Chapter, VNPS

Important nectar source for butterflies, and native bees.

- 1–3 feet
- Yellow, 5-petaled, flower in July–October; petals are of unequal size and irregular shape, about 1 inch across; upper petals have red spots at the base and the lower petal is larger than the others
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist soils with good drainage
- Native to dry woodlands, dunes, old fields, clearings, and roadsides

Although an annual it very readily re-seeds itself.

Anemone virginiana ● Thimbleweed, Tall Anemone

- 1–3 ft.
- Greenish-white flower with a slightly elongated center resembling a short thimble in May–July
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Dry, moist acidic soils, tolerates lime soils
- Native to woodlands, forest edges, prairies, meadows, fields

After frost, Thimbleweed matures to a cottony tuft. All parts are poisonous when fresh.

White flowers and seeds are attractive in gardens and meadows. Fluffy seed heads also ornamental.

Asarum canadense ● Common Wild Ginger

- 4–8 in.
- Reddish to greenish brown flower at ground level beneath leaves in April–May
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist, rich soils, pH of 6 to 7 best
- Native to woodlands

Wild Ginger is a good, low groundcover for woodlands and shaded landscapes. Beautiful heart-shaped velvety green leaves. The fleshy rootstock, which has a strong, gingery flavor, can create a crowded network on the woodland floor, resulting in a dense ground cover. Seed dispersed by ants.

Host plant of the Pipeline Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*).

Fragaria virginiana ● Wild Strawberry

- Up to 1 ft.
- Hairy, 6 in. long, flower stalk gives rise to a loose cluster of small, five-petaled, white flowers in April–June followed by wild strawberries
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Dry soil
- Native to moist to dry upland forests, woodlands, and well-drained alluvial forests; more characteristic of old fields, meadows, pastures

Wild Strawberry is a ground-hugging plant rising from a fibrous, perennial root system. The Cultivated Strawberries are hybrids developed from this native species and the South American one.

Attracts Butterflies and pollinators. It is the host plant of the Fray Hairstreak Butterfly (*Strymon melinus*).

Mitchella repens ● Partridge-Berry

- No taller than 2 in.; evergreen herb
- Pinkish-white fragrant, tubular flowers in pairs flowers in May–October, followed by scarlet berries
- Part sun/shade to shade
- Dry or moist, acidic; it is sensitive to drought unless the soil is very rich
- Native to dry to moist forests, woodlands, and on hummocks of bottomland forests and swamps

A most attractive, dainty, woodland creeper, Partridge-Berry can be used as a groundcover under acid-loving shrubs and in terraria in the winter. It was used medicinally by Native American women.

Common name implies that the scarlet fruits are relished by partridges, and they are consumed by a variety of birds and mammals.

Rhexia mariana ● Maryland or Pale Meadow Beauty

- 1– 2.5 ft.
- Pink flowers, with prominent yellow stamens pistils in June–August, followed by green fruit
- Part sun/shade to shade
- Moist to wet, fertile soils, sandy, loam, acid based
- Native to depression ponds, bogs, interdune swales, open wet forests, low fields, ditches, pine barrens; sometimes in non-wetland habitats

Pollinated by bumblebees. Host plant to Large Lace Border moths (*Scopula limboundata*).

This perennial has a conspicuous flower which is lovely in a water garden, a bog or a pond area. The fruit turns from green to copper and when they are dry and brittle, the seeds are mature.

Salvia lyrata ● Lyre-leaf Sage

- 1– 2.5 ft.
- Light blue, violet flowers in April–June; basal leaves are semi-evergreen, often with a purplish tint in winter
- Sun to shade
- Adaptable; well drained, acid or calcareous soils
- Native to fields, clearings, moist to dry forests and woodlands, well-drained floodplain forests, limestone and dolomite barren

Flowers attract native bees, bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Hosts five species of native caterpillars.

Lyre-leaf Sage tolerates drought, temporary flooding and overwatering. It is an excellent groundcover native alternative to Ajuga.

Silene caroliniana ● Wild Pink, Northern Wild Pink

- 1 ft.
- Pink flowers in April–June
- Sun to Part sun/shade
- Moist, well-drained, rocky or sandy soils
- Native to dry rocky or sandy forests, woodlands, barrens, and outcrops; tolerant of a range of soils and rock chemistries

A single wild pink plant can produce 50-100 showy, rose-pink, tubular flowers. These dense clusters of flowers are just even with the tips of the narrow, basal leaves. The plant is slender-stemmed and forms a 3-8 in. compact mound.

Sisyrinchium angustifolium ● Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass

- 1–3 ft.
- Light-blue, star-shaped flowers bloom a few inches above the leaves in March–June
- Sun to Part sun/shade
- Moist, wet, poor to average soils; does not tolerate droughts or flooding
- Native to moist to dry upland forests, woodlands, fields, meadows, and floodplain forests

Benefits native bees and pollinators.

Although Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass is small and has grass-like leaves, it is a miniature member of the Iris family. Native Americans used the plant and the root medicinally. Like iris, they should be divided every two years.

Viola • Violets


Confederate Violet - Jan Newton/VNPS


Primrose-leaved Violet - Phillip Merritt/VNPS


Bird's Foot Violet - Jan Newton/VNPS


Common Blue Violet - Primrose-leaved Violet - Phillip Merritt/VNPS

Viola, the violets are considered one of the first signs of spring. Violets thrive in shady parts of the yard and can also double as a groundcover. Some Viola species maintain a winter presence which will give them year-round interest in your landscape. Species vary in their preference to moisture and drainage, which presents a better opportunity to get the right violet for your space. They are a host for 27 species of native caterpillars, including the Greater and Lesser Fritillary butterflies. Flowers attract native bees, bumblebees, butterflies and pollinators and seeds attract gamebirds. Violets will seed freely in your yard but are easily pulled up if you want to tame their numbers.

BLOOM TIME: March–June
HEIGHT: 3-12 Inches

Viola affinis • Sand Violet, Lecompte's Violet

- Purple flower with a white throat
- Moist soil
- Native to moist meadows; low woods; shady stream banks
  Heart-shaped toothed leaves.

Viola cuculata • Marsh Blue Violet

- Blue, violet flower with a deeper blue center
- Moist, wet, clay, loam, sand soils
- Native to bogs, fens, seeps, seepage swamps, spring branches, and rocky stream margins; characteristic of saturated, springy habitats where water flows rather than where the ground is simply wet.
  Similar to Common Blue Violet, but grown in very wet habitats.

Viola pedata • Bird's Foot Violet

- Blue, purple with orange anthers
- Has bird's-foot like leaves and grows in small clumps
- Acidic, dry, sandy or rocky soils
- Native to dry rocky or sandy forests, woodlands, barrens, clearings, and road banks.

Viola primulifolia • Primrose-leaved Violet

- White flower
- Moist, acidic soil
- Native to bogs, seeps, seepage swamps, mafic fens, sea-level fens, wet flatwoods, pond margins, boggy clearings, and small-stream floodplain forests
  Leaves are elongated shape.

Viola sororia • Common Blue Violet, Confederate Violet

- Light or dark blue flower with a white center
- Easily grown in average, medium wet, well-drained soil. Prefers humusy, moisture-retentive soils.
- Native to forests, fields, pastures, roadsides.
  Will tolerate full-sun if provided with adequate moisture. It is deer resistant.

Ferns


Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

There are thousands of species of ferns in the world. Ferns have many parts somewhat similar to flowering plants. The frond, which can vary greatly in size, is the part of the fern that we notice as the leaf. These fronds arise from rhizomes which are comparable to “stems” in flowering plants. Then below are the roots. Modern ferns have no flowers or seeds; this is what distinguishes them from other plants. They reproduce by means of miniature sacks or capsules containing dust-like spores. A fern may drop millions of spores but few find the appropriate conditions to grow into a fern. A fern can die back to the ground in fall and regrow in spring or be evergreen throughout the year. Ferns can grow in a variety of landscapes, climates and growing conditions. For gardens with some or much shade, they can offer varied texture, shapes and many shades of green and plant forms. They have also been used to remediate contaminated soils, and have been the subject of research for their ability to filter some chemical pollutants from the air. They continue to play a role in mythology, medicine, and art.

Osmundastrum cinnamomeum • Cinnamon Fern


Ken Lawless

Fuzz that covers the young fiddleheads is a favorite nesting material for birds. Hosts three species of native caterpillars, including the Osmunda Borer moth (*Papaipema speciosissima*).

- 2–6 ft.; frequently forms large clumps and spreads by rhizomes
- Thick, spore-bearing spikes, or fronds, that turn from green to chocolate brown appear April–May
- Full sun to full shade
- Muddy, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils
- Native to upland forests, swamps, wet flatwoods, bogs, fens, pocosins, floodplain forests, alluvial and tidal swamps

The fronds of Cinnamon Fern occur in groups, rising from a shallow, black rootstock. Fertile fronds appear first as silvery, furry fiddleheads, and become stiff and erect creating a dramatic feature in the landscape with the infertile fronds bending outwards in a vase-shaped circle enclosing the fertile fronds.

Asplenium platyneuron • Ebony Spleenwort

- 6–18 in.; dainty evergreen upright fern that can range from individual fronds to small asymmetrical clumps
- Part sun/shade to full shade
- Gravelly, slightly acid, well-drained soils; sandy, sandy loam, medium loam; grows well in acid or alkaline soils; does not grow well in clay or tolerate flooding
- Native to forests, old fields, clearings, woodlands, outcrops

Ebony Spleenwort is one of the most drought-tolerant ferns. It takes more sun than many, provided it is kept moist enough. The word ebony refers to the fact that the stalk turns a shining black with age. With its interesting foliage, this fern is good for light, airy cover.

Plant juice is eaten by small insects and fronds are utilized by small mammals.

Athyrium asplenioides • Southern Lady Fern

- 2–3 ft.; slow-growing clumps; small colonies of plants are often produced from rhizomes
- Stems are greenish-yellow to red
- Part sun/shade to full shade
- Loam, rich, loose, well-drained, acid-moderate soils
- Native to upland forests, well-drained floodplain forests, swamp forest hummocks

Southern Lady fern has beautiful upright feathery fronds which give the illusion of a dainty fern. It can be used as a groundcover plant on the northeast side of buildings. Protect it from wind.

Hosts three species of native caterpillars.

Dennstaedtia punctilobula • Hay Scented Fern

- 1–3 ft.
- Forms colonies from the rhizomes, creating a carpet-like mat
- Part sun/shade to full shade
- Adaptable; rocky, acid-moderate soils
- Native to forests, woodlands, rock outcrops, pasture clearings, road banks

Hay Scented fern can be aggressive in the right conditions. Leaves are attractive but in fall become more ragged in appearance. The soft, hairy surface of its fronds is distinctive. Common name comes from the hay-like scent of the drying leaves during late summer or autumn or if the frond is crushed.

Foliage grown en mass provides cover for wildlife. Hosts 3 species of native caterpillars.

Osmunda spectabilis • Royal Fern

- 2–5 ft.; forms a symmetric clump 18 in. wide
- Grows slowly from rhizome stem
- Part sun/shade, shade
- Wet, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils, tolerates year-round, standing but not moving, shallow water
- Native to freshwater wetlands, bogs, fens, floodplain forests and along streambanks

The form and texture of Royal Fern are unique. The fronds are cut twice into large rounded leaflets, resulting in foliage that resembles that of the pea family. It can spread to be a groundcover. One of the most widespread of all living species; it is found on every continent except Australia.

Foliage can provide cover for wildlife when grown en mass. Hosts six species of native caterpillars, including the Osmunda Borer moth (*Pappaipema speciosissima*).

Vines


Jan Newton,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Vines are often rapidly growing climbing or twining plants that can offer many benefits to the homeowner. The plants can be trained over walls, pergolas, arches, fences, brick and stones. They can be used for screening and for energy conservation through passive solar heating and cooling in the landscape. Vines can grow by various means to attach themselves to supporting structures. Some like Clematis use petioles or twisted stems. Some like Virginia Creeper use both petioles and adhesive pads that attach themselves to the support. Still others like Maypop use tendrils to attach themselves. Vines give shelter to many birds and provide birds with protected areas in which to build their nests.

Gelsemium sempervirens ● Yellow or Carolina Jessamine


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Aromatic, showy evergreen vine. Flowers attract hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies. Heat and cold tolerant. Highly deer resistant.

- 12–36 ft.
- Yellow tubular flowers (1-1.5 inches) in March–May, December
- Sun to part shade; best in sun
- Moist, well-drained, humus-rich, sandy or clay soils; pH adaptable
- Native to thickets, woods, fence rows, hammocks

Yellow Jessamine is an adaptable and tenacious evergreen that will climb trees, scramble over fences and structures, or will develop a mound of tangled stems if left to its own devices. It has no serious disease or insect problems. All parts of this plant are toxic.

Bignonia capreolata ● Crossvine

Flowers are a nectar source for hummingbirds and butterflies.

- 36–50 ft.
- Two–tone all red or red and orange, 2 inch, trumpet-shaped flowers in March–May
- Sun to part sun/shade (blooms best in sun)
- Moist, acidic, calcareous, sandy or clay. Tolerates cold.
- Native to floodplain forests, swamps, dry upland forests and rocky woodlands

Crossvine, an evergreen perennial, has claws at the end of its tendrils allowing Crossvine to cling to stone, brick, pergolas, and fences without support. In fall the green leaves become purple until spring.

Campsis radicans ● Trumpet Creeper

Nectar source of hummingbirds and long tongue bees. Host of Plebeian sphinx moth (*Paratraea plebeja*).

- Up to 35 ft.
- Red, orange, yellow showy, 3–5 inch, flower in June–September
- Sun to part shade; best in sun
- Well-drained, sandy, loam or clay soils; high drought tolerance
- Native to moist woods or along fence rows in old fields

Trumpet Creeper is a high-climbing, aggressively colonizing woody vine, climbing or scrambling over everything in its path by aerial rootlets. It is a good soil stabilizer. Cut back branches to two buds in the winter to encourage bushier growth and more blooms.

Clematis virginiana ● Virgin's Bower

Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Caution this plant is poisonous and can cause skin irritation if touched. If burned the smoke is toxic.

- 12–15 ft.
- Clusters of creamy white flowers turning into showy sprays of silky seeds that glisten with backlighting in July–September
- Sun to full shade
- Moist to dry, rich soils
- Native to woods, thickets, stream banks

Lacking tendrils, Virgin's Bower, a deciduous vine, supports itself by means of twisted stems, or petioles, that wrap around other plants. These fast-growing stems can grow 20 feet in one year. They may be pruned at any time during the growing season.

Decumaria barbara ● Climbing Hydrangea

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to several skipper species. It is deer resistant.

- 12–36 ft., deciduous
- White flower in May–October
- Part sun/shade
- Rich, moist, acid soils
- Native to low woods, swamps and river banks

Climbing hydrangea can be used as a ground cover, a high climber on trees, or a cover for ledges & rock outcrops, though it will only bloom when climbing and on new wood. It is well-suited to moist situations.

Vines

Lonicera sempervirens ● Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle

- 3–20 ft.
- Red outer, sometimes yellow inner, tubular flowers with heaviest bloom in March–July followed by bright-red berries
- Full sun (best for blooming) to part sun/shade
- Adaptable to many soil conditions; tolerates poor drainage for short periods
- Native to awide range of natural habitats

Great for arbors, and valued for its evergreen habit. Deer resistant. The yellow blooming Lonicera sempervirens, John Clayton, was discovered in Gloucester County by Sylvia Sterling, a member of the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society.

Frequently visited by hummingbirds and butterflies. Host to 33 spring caterpillars including Spring Azure Butterflies, Hummingbird Clearwing moths. Fruits attract Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Hermit Thrush, and American Robin.

Passiflora incarnata ● Maypop, Purple Passionvine

- 6–30 ft.
- Lavender, 3 inch, flowers in April–September
- Sun (best) to part shade
- Moist, rich clay and sandy non-saline soils
- Native to roadsides, fields, forest borders

The fruit of Maypop is a large greenish-yellow berry with edible pulp. This vine is excellent for use on arbors, fences, walls and columns. The name Maypop comes from the hollow, yellow fruits that pop loudly when crushed. Maypop spreads easily by root suckers that can be contained by removing suckers or mowing.

Flowers attract native bees and the plant hosts 5 species of caterpillars including Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) and Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*).

Parthenocissus quinquefolia ● Virginia Creeper

- 3–40 ft.; structure it climbs is the limiting factor to its height
- Yellowish-green flowers in May–June, followed by berries that turn from red to mauve to black
- Sun to part shade
- Adaptable to acid-base soil
- Native to forested to open habitats, streams, riverbanks

Virginia Creeper has brilliant fall color. It tolerates pollution and can be pruned to control its growth. A vigorous grower it adheres to walls, arbors etc. via adhesive discs and may even be used as a ground cover for erosion control.

Berries eaten by songbirds, but are toxic to humans. Foliage provides cover for birds. Hosts 32 species of native caterpillars, including Virginia Creeper Moth.

Wisteria frutescens ● American Wisteria

- 25–30 ft., deciduous
- Lilac or bluish purple in April–May
- Sun to full shade
- Moist, rich, sandy, loam or clay, neutral to slightly acid soils; prefers a good loamy soil in a sunny south or southwest-facing position
- Native to moist or wet woods, river banks, upland thickets

American Wisteria's large, fragrant, drooping clusters of flowers—6–9 inches long—appear only on new wood and after the plant has leafed out, a difference from the popular Asian species. Less aggressive than the similar Asian wisteria species.

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to several skipper species. It is deer resistant.

Bring Life to Your Garden

Native plants attract a variety of birds, butterflies, pollinators, and other wildlife by providing diverse habitats and food sources. Native plants feed the insects that are the base of the food web, and insects that are especially important as food for young songbirds. Native plants also feed pollinators. We may not notice the hummingbirds, bats, bees, beetles, butterflies, and flies that carry pollen from one plant to another as they collect nectar, yet without them, wildlife would have fewer nutritious berries and seeds and we would miss many fruits, vegetables, and nuts. By planting a diverse palette of native plants, we invite not only the plant-eating insects, but also their predators as well as pollinators, seed dispersers, and recyclers, which work together to make a garden function like a system. *Because our native plants and animals have evolved together, they support each other, and we enjoy the beauty and fruits of their labor.*

With a simple, but profound, observation that nothing was eating the Multiflora Rose he was clearing from his property, Dr. Douglas Tallamy launched a line of research that has become a cornerstone of the native plant movement. He has shown that not all plants are of equal value to wildlife and that native wildlife prefers native plants. For example, native oaks support 532 species of native caterpillars, while the non-native Butterfly Bush supports only one. Caterpillars are important because they are the primary food source for nestlings of 96 percent of all bird species. This insight led to a call embodied in the title of his book *Bringing Nature Home* to share our suburban landscape with wildlife by planting native plants.

One important aspect of landscaping for wildlife is a change in the status of turf grass. It is not that turf no longer has a place in your landscape, but it is high maintenance, high cost, and low wildlife value. Each square foot of turf should be examined and subjected to the question “Why?” Sometimes turf is the right cover, but that should be decided only after consideration of native plant alternatives like Pennsylvania Sedge, moss, or other materials such as mulch or stepping stones.

The use of native plants in landscaping should not and does not preclude designing a landscape that meets your needs. Landscaping for wildlife should be a mix of human and natural design concepts. The overall plan should satisfy your needs—a place for the kids and dog to play and a quiet place to sit and enjoy your yard—and should follow human design concepts. But, the execution of the plan should be informed by nature’s design concepts: using plants in layers; avoiding straight lines; and smoothing forest into field into wetland. Above all: use a diverse array of native plants!


Jan Newton./John Clayton Chapter, VNPS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Grasses, Sedges and Rushes


Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Grasses, sedges and rushes are plants without woody parts. Grasses have jointed stems sheathed by leaves. Their leaves are usually narrow but may vary in length and width. They flower in spikes and have seed-like fruits. Grasses vary greatly in height. While sedges and rushes are not in the grass family, they are grass-like and used similarly. Grasses, sedges and rushes are important as food, fodder, building material and biofuels. All three are of use to humans, grazing animals, small mammals, birds, butterflies and pollinators. In the Southeast Virginia area, they provide erosion control and help protect river banks, pond edges and shores from storms. They have an important use in landscaping as "ornamental," in rain gardens, along river and stream banks, around ponds, and on sand dunes. There are grasses, sedges and rushes for many different types of soils, moisture, and growing conditions. The difference between grasses, sedges and rushes lies in the stem. Grasses have round mostly hollow stems. Sedges have a triangular stem which gives rise to the saying: "Sedges have edges." Rushes have a round stem with fewer leaves. Sedges have a reduced spike with flowers that we don't really notice, but they often have interesting and beautiful seed heads that attract our attention.

Andropogon glomeratus ● Bushy Bluestem


Dot Field/DCR-NH

Provides seed and nesting material for birds. Ideal for wetland gardens. Larval host for Satyrs and Skippers.

- 2–6 feet
- White fluffy flower heads in August–November
- Sun to light shade
- Wet or moist, relatively sterile, sandy, clay or loam soils, tolerates salinity (poor drainage okay, even preferred)
- Native to low, moist grassland areas, bogs, clearings, pocosins, sea-level fens, depression ponds, interdune swales and ponds, damp to wet clearings and roadsides

Bushy Bluestem's foliage is blue-green in summer and coppery in winter. Perhaps best for large-scale gardens and landscapes as it seeds out heavily and may fall over as it reaches maximum height.

Andropogon virginicus ● Broomsedge, Broomstraw


Dot Field, DCR/NH

- 1–3 ft.
- Yellow, reddish brown in August–November and provide attractive early fall color
- Full sun
- Moist or dry sandy soils, loam
- Native to dry fields, thin woods, upper shores of ponds

Broomsedge's seeds are striking in fall and winter when the fine hairs of the expanded racemes catch the sunlight. The attractive clump-forming, perennial grass turns a tawny brown in fall.

Helps control erosion on disturbed lands and provides cover, nesting material and seed food for birds. Beneficial to native bees and butterflies. Larval host of Zabulon Skipper (*Poanes zabulon*).

Andropogon ternarius ● Splitbeard Bluestem


Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

- 1–4 ft.
- Silvery-white tufts at the end of stems in September–October
- Full sun to part sun/shade
- Well-drained sand or sandy loam; poor soil with good drainage
- Native to meadows, open woodlands

Splitbeard Bluestem is a stunning grass that grows in clumps, and is a very decorative garden accent. In the summer the narrow, ribbon-like stems are bluish-green turning copper and red in the fall.

Songbirds eat the seeds. Host plant for the Wood Nymph butterfly (*Cercyonis pegala*). Birds use in nesting. It also benefits native bees.

Carex comosa ● Bottlebrush or Bristly Sedge


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

- 1–3 ft.
- Green large brush-like seed heads in June
- Full sun
- Moist, mucky, slightly sand wet soils
- Native to moist woods swamps, marshes and ditches

Bottlebrush Sedge is a good rain garden plant. It is salt tolerant.

Very decorative and offers contrast and stands out in the landscape. It attracts pollinators.

Carex crinita ● Long-fringed Sedge


Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter VNPS

- 2–3 ft.
- Whitish-green in June–August
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Wet or boggy soil, clay
- Native to moist woods, swamps, marshes, swales, damp thickets and ditches

Long-fringed Sedge has the male flower in one elongated spike and the female elongated and drooping flowers in another spike. This sedge can form an intermediate step between mud and dry land by spreading rhizomes and acting as a landfill for other vegetation to grow. This sedge is native to every county in Virginia.

Can be planted as an ornamental in garden soil as their interesting spikes provide attractive contrast. Attracts birds.

Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

Carex lupulina • Hop Sedge

- 2–3 ft. very dense mounds
- Bright green spikes in June–August
- Sun to light shade
- Medium to wet soils
- Native to wet floodplain forests, swamps, ponds, tidal freshwater marshes, wet meadows, ditches and seasonally flooded, disturbed wetlands

Hog Sedge is useful in rain gardens.

Looking like a medieval weapon, the interesting spikes of Hog Sedge make an ornamental and attractive statement in the garden.

Carex stricta • Tussock or Upright Sedge

- 1–3 ft., 3 ft. wide
- April–June
- Sun
- Moist clay, loam or sandy soils
- Native to swamps, low woods, seasonally flooded sites, wetlands, bogs, tidal wetlands, tidal marshes

Excellent nesting habitat for rails, snipes. Larval host of the Black Dash Butterfly (*Euphyes conspicua*)

Danthonia spicata • Poverty Oatgrass

- 4–24 in.
- Straw in May–July
- Sun, part sun/shade, shade
- Sand, rocky shallow, compacted, poor soil, well-drained, acid-moderate soils
- Native to rocky, shallow, or compacted moist to dry soils in open forests, woodlands, barrens, outcrops, clearings, old fields, pastures, roadsides

Poverty Oatgrass' tufts of curly leaves provide winter interest. It is being evaluated as an alternative turf, and is valuable for stabilization of disturbed soil. It is named for French botanist Etienne Danthoine.

Native Oatgrasses host various native caterpillars, including the Indian Skipper butterflies (*Hesperia sassacus*).

Eragrostis spectabilis • Purple Love Grass, Tumblegrass

- 8–18 in.
- Purplish red panicles in August–
- October
- Sun
- Dry to moist sandy soil
  Native to woodlands, fields, dune grasslands, river shores and bars, interdune swales, riverside prairies

When grown en masse this delicate grass creates a lovely purple cloud-like haze in late summer. In the late fall the stems of the flowers fall and blow in the wind, like a tumble grass.

Birds and other wildlife eat seeds.

Juncus effusus ● Common Rush, Soft Rush

- 1–4 ft.
- Clusters of very small, greenish-brown, scaly flowers in June–September
- Sun
- Wet or moist, clay, sandy or loam soils
- Native to swamps and on damp open ground

The soft, grass-like stems of Common Rush, a strictly wetland plant, grow in clumps, and provide very good shoreline protection.

Muskrats feed on the rootstalks of Common Rush, and birds find shelter among the stems.

Panicum virgatum ● Switchgrass

- 3–6 ft.
- Red-purple seed head in August–October
- Sun
- Dry to moist, sandy, clay or loam soils; poor drainage is OK
- Native to open areas and along streambanks

Switchgrass is a clump-forming, warm-season grass with bright green leaves up and down the stem, turning bright yellow in fall. Grows in large clumps, with many persistent, curly leaves. It is pollinated by wind. It has become of major interest as a source of biofuels and to revegetate surfaces such as mined land.

Attracts birds and butterflies. Host plant for the Delaware Skipper (*Anatrytone logan*) and the Dotted Skipper (*Hespera attalus*). Can also provide garden accent.

Schizachyrium scoparium ● Little Bluestem

- 1–4 ft. very dense mounds
- White cotton tufted seedhead in August–October
- Sun to light shade
- Adaptable, well drained, poor, moderate acid soil
- Native to open forests, woodlands, barrens, outcrops, riverside prairies, dry clearings, meadows, roadsides

Wonderful planted en masse, Little Bluestem provides a changing visual dynamic that ranges from blue-green stems in late summer to radiant mahogany-red, white-tufted seed heads in fall. A reddish-tan color persists during winter. It is an excellent plant in inhospitable conditions.

In winter, fuzzy white seeds of particular value to small birds. Provides nesting material. Of value to native bees. Host to six species of native caterpillars.

Scirpus cyperinus ● Woolgrass

- 4–6 ft.
- Brown to yellow-brown flower clusters 6-12 inches in July–September
- Sun
- Moist to wet clay, loam or sandy soils
- Native to freshwater and tidal marshes, tidal swamps, alluvial swamps, maritime swamps, interdune swales and ponds, depression swamps and ponds, bogs, fens, seeps, impoundments, ditches, wet meadows

Woolgrass is a densely-tufted, clump-forming perennial, 4–6 ft. high, with an erect stem that is leafy up to the flower cluster, which is composed of fuzzy spikelets that become wooly with fruit.

One of the most important species of wetland plants that provide food and cover for waterfowl and other wildlife. It is the host plant for the Dion Skipper (*Euphyes dion*).

Shrubs


Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Shrubs often form the backbone of our landscapes. They are the transitional zone between lower growing perennials and ground cover and the taller tree canopy. They provide significant habitat for resident and migratory bird populations, especially along the edges of fragmented forests, and also in places that may not be appropriate for larger trees. As woody plants, shrubs can provide overwintering locations for insects, and shelter for birds. Evergreen shrubs in particular can function as living screens in a hedgerow, or provide birds respite from harsh winter winds and low temperatures. Many shrubs also offer flowers for pollinators and berries for birds, mammals, and people. It is important to introduce biodiversity into your shrub selections to provide multi-season habitat, as well as multi-season visual interest. For example, some shrubs, like Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), may begin flowering very early in spring, providing early color in the landscape and a source of pollen for pollinators when they emerge on warmer days. Summer brings a plethora of blooms, but birds and mammals need the shade offered by shrubs to escape from the heat on warm, sunny days. Fall starts to bring berries and seeds, many of which persist into winter, like the beautiful native Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), providing food to resident mammals and birds and fuel for migrating species. Shrubs also provide a wide availability of texture and color to set a striking landscape backdrop.

Callicarpa americana ● American Beauty-berry


Dot Field/DCR-NH

Seeds and berries are important foods for many species of birds. Valuable for edge landscapes, or as a screen in wet or wooded locations or under shade trees in a garden setting and requires little maintenance.

- 3–6 ft. deciduous understory shrub; loose, graceful arching form
- Small, pink-purple flowers (June –August) in dense clusters at the bases of leaves Branches are laden with magenta purple berry clusters (September–March) that remain after leaves drop through winter
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, rich, sandy and clay, acidic soils (cold and heat tolerant)
- Native to woodlands and forest floors

Genus name comes from Greek meaning beautiful fruit.

Alnus serrulata ● Smooth or Hazel Alder

- 10–20 ft., multiple-trunked, deciduous shrub or small tree; foliage becomes yellow, tinged with red, in fall
- Flowers are purple catkins; males in drooping clusters, females in upright clusters (March–April); fruit resembles a small, woody cone and persists from August–February
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Wet or moist, fine sandy loams; clay and flood tolerant
- Native to boggy ground near water; best for streambanks, pond margins

Use to improve wildlife habitat (space 5–10 ft. apart to allow for crown development and to optimize seed production). Birds feed on the seed.

Smooth Alder is the only alder native to the southeastern United States. Its flexible stems and fibrous root system make it very suitable for streambank stabilization.

Aronia arbutifolia ● Red Chokeberry

- 6 –10 ft., deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub grows in vase-shaped form
- Many clusters of small, white to light pink flowers in April followed by bright red berries that persist into December
- Average, medium moisture, well-drained soil; tolerant of clay soil
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Native to wet and dry thickets; good for naturalized areas where it can sucker

Nectar source for pollinators. Berries persist through much of the winter, and are occasionally eaten by songbirds.

Red Chokeberry is one of the best shrubs for brilliant fall color—intense, shiny, raspberry to crimson, with purplish highlights. Can also have some orange mixed in, especially in shady sites.

Baccharis halimifolia ● High-tide Bush, Groundsel Tree

- 6–12 ft. deciduous shrub; gray-green oval leaves; numerous branches from short trunks covered densely with branchlets
- White to green flowers in August–September in small, dense, terminal clusters; silvery, plume-like achenes appear in fall on female plants
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Wet to dry, sandy, loam soils; tolerates salt water inundation
- Native to salt marshes, shores, wet places

Marsh wrens and other small birds frequently nest in the openly branched, brittle stems. Flowers attract pollinators.

Baccharis is the ancient Greek name (the god Bacchus) of a plant with fragrant roots. One of the few eastern shrubs suitable for planting near the ocean.

Ceanothus americanus ● New Jersey Tea

- 3–4 ft.
- White flowers in May–June
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Average, dry to medium, well-drained soil; tolerates drought, dry soil, shallow-rocky soil
- Native to dry rocky slopes, banks

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies.

Cephalanthus occidentalis ● Buttonbush, Button Willow

- 5–12 ft. spreading, multibranched shrub or sometimes small tree
- Balls of long-lasting white or pale-pink flowers resembling pincushions in June–September, button-like balls of fruit; rounded masses of nutlets that persist through the winter
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Prefers wet soil, including flooding and standing fresh water
- Native to wet open areas, low woods, swamps, river bottomland and stream/pond margins

Ducks and other water-birds and shorebirds consume the seeds, and its nectar attracts bees and butterflies.

Pruning Buttonbush is usually not necessary, but may be done in early spring to shape. If plants become unmanageable, they may be cut back near to the ground in early spring to revitalize.

Clethra alnifolia ● Coastal White-alder, Pepperbush

- Narrow, 3–8 ft., deciduous shrub, which often spreads into mounded clumps
- Spike-like, upright clusters of fragrant white flowers in July–August. The shrub's leaves turn yellow to golden brown in fall
- Sun, part sun/shade
- Average, medium to wet soils; tolerates clay and salt-spray tolerant
- Native to Swampy woodlands, wet marshes, stream banks and seashores, often in sandy soils

Versatile, carefree shrub that is remarkably free of any disease, insect or physiological problems. Flowers attract butterflies and bees.

Coastal White-alder forms sizable patches. Promptly remove root suckers unless naturalized look is desired. Propagate by cuttings and prune if needed in late winter. Its dry fruiting capsules remain long after flowering and help identify this plant in winter.

Cornus amomum ● Silky Dogwood

- 6–12 ft., deciduous shrub
- Yellowish white flowers in May–June Blue berry-like drupes in August
- Sun, part sun/shade; tolerates close to full shade
- Average, medium to wet, well-drained soils
- Native to moist lowland areas, swamp borders, floodplains, shrub wetlands, and along streams and ponds

Birds are attracted to the fruit.

Shrub bark of Silky Dogwood was used by Native Americans for tobacco.

Corylus americana ● American Hazelnut

- 10–16 ft.
- Brown (male), Red (female); March–April; variable vibrant fall color
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Average, medium, well-drained; tolerant of clay
- Native to moist thickets, woodlands and wood margins, valleys, uplands and prairies

Squirrels and birds eat nuts.

Eubotrys racemosus ● Fetterbush, Swamp Dog-hobble

Attracts butterflies.

- 3–6 ft., evergreen, colonizing shrub with gracefully arching, green and red, stems from the base; leaves are pointed and very serrated
- Small, fragrant, white urn-shaped white flowers grow in 2–3 inch long racemes in March–May; followed by fruit capsule
- Part sun/shade
- Moist, acidic soils
- Native to alluvial and tidal swamps; wet flatwoods, bogs, seepage swamps, depression ponds, and other acidic wetlands

In full sun, Fetterbush has purplish foliage in the fall. Protect it from winter wind. It is used for naturalizing, as a border with taller plants and for shady bank stabilization.

Gaylussacia baccata ● Black Huckleberry

Benefits birds and wildlife who eat the seeds and use the branches.

- 1–3 ft., much-branched, stiff, colony-forming shrub; small, oval leaves turn shades of orange and crimson in the fall
- White, pink tubular flowers in panicles on the previous season growth appear in May–July; followed by purplish-black, edible berries
- Sun to shade
- Wet, dry sandy or clay, acidic soils
- Native to dry, acidic forests, woodlands, outcrops, and clearings; less typically in seasonally saturated or boggy forests, depressions, and flatwoods

Euonymus americanus ● Strawberry-bush, Heart's-a-bustin'

Versatile, carefree shrub that is remarkably free of any disease, insect, or physiological problems.

- 6–10 ft. narrow, deciduous green-stemmed shrub, which often spreads into mounded clumps
- Small white flowers in July–August develop into colorful, decorative seed pods
- Sun to full shade
- Moist to dry acidic soils
- Forests and thickets

The leaves of Strawberry-bush turn dull yellow to orange in autumn. Dry fruiting capsules remain long after flowering and help identify this plant in winter. Deer love it.

Hamamelis virginiana ● Witch Hazel

Birds eat the fruits (small brown capsules). Has brilliant fall color and flowering.

- 10–15 ft. (sometimes up to 30 ft.) multi-trunked shrub with large, crooked, spreading branches forming an irregular, open crown
- Yellow, fragrant flowers with straplike, crumpled petals appear in the fall, persisting for some time after leaf drop in September–December; lettuce-green, deciduous leaves maintain a rich consistency into fall when they turn brilliant gold
- Sun to full shade
- Moist, sandy, clay, acidic and calcareous soils
- Moist woods, thickets, bottomlands

Witch Hazel is the source of the astringent extract.

Hydrangea arborescens • *Wild Hydrangea*

Larval host of the Hydrangea sphinx moth (*Darapsa versicolor*). Can grow in areas of poor drainage, and is very effective in massed plantings.

- 3–8 ft. mound-shaped, slender-branched, deciduous shrub
- Small, white flowers bloom in May– June in 4-inch spires that droop with the arching branches; flowers open from base to tip so that the plant appears to bloom for a long time; leaves turn red to purple in fall and persist well into the winter
- Full sun, part shade; blooms best, and has better fall color, if it receives full sun at least part of the day
- Moist, sandy, loam, clay, acid soils
- Native to wooded stream banks, bogs

Wild hydrangea suckers freely, creeping over large areas. Fast-growing and short-lived, this hydrangea is often treated as an perennial and cut to the ground every winter.

Ilex glabra • Inkberry, Gallberry

Birds eat berries, and this plant is of special value to honey bees. Gallberry honey is a highly-rated honey. Pest free.

- 5–8 ft., mound-shaped, colony-forming shrub; lance-shaped, glossy, leathery leaves vary in color from dark- to light-green both in summer and fall
- Greenish-white flowers May–June; if pollinated, female flowers give way to pea-sized, black, berry-like drupes which mature in early fall and persist throughout winter
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Wet to moist, sandy, acid soils; flood tolerant Native to sandy woods and edges of
- swamps and bogs

You must have both a male and female plant to have berries. The male must be the same species as the female and bloom at the same time.

Ilex verticillata • Winterberry

Attracts birds and butterflies and other nectar consumming insects. Extremely showy in late fall and early winter when covered by bright red fruit.

- 3–12 ft., slow-growing deciduous shrub with upright, rounded habit
- Greenish-white flowers in May–June; red berries (female) late summer to winter
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Average, acidic, dry, medium to wet soils; tolerates clay
- Native to swamps, damp thickets, low woods and along ponds and streams

The leaves of Common winterberry are not shaped with sharp teeth like other hollies and are not evergreen. Like Illex glabra, Illex verticillata are either male or female--a trait typical of the holly family.

Itea virginica • Virginia Sweetspire

Attracts birds, butterflies and other nectar consumming insects. Provides a long period of fall color often into early winter.

- 3–4 ft. mound-shaped, slender-branched, deciduous shrub; leaves turn red to purple in fall and persist well into the winter
- White flowers in May–June
- Sun to part sun/shade; blooms best and has better fall color if grown in an area that receives full sun at least part of the day
- Average, medium to wet, soils
- Native to pine barrens, swamps, streambanks and other moist habitats

Virginia Sweetspire is a versatile shrub for sunny to shady areas and tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Can grow in swamps and other areas of poor drainage.

Kalmia latifolia ● Mountain Laurel

- 12–20 ft. thicket-forming evergreen shrub, sometimes a small tree with crooked trunk and spreading branches
- Bell-shaped, white to pink flowers with deep rose spots in large flat-topped clusters in May–July; glossy leaves change from light green to dark green to purple throughout year
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Cool, moist, rich acidic, humusy, well-drained soil; does not do well in clay
- Native to rocky or sandy woods, slopes

Stamens of its flowers have a springlike mechanism which spreads pollen when tripped by a bee. Birds and small mammals eat fruit.

Mountain Laurel, one of the most beautiful native flowering shrubs, needs afternoon shade to thrive. Prune lightly after bloom to promote a bushier habit. All parts of the plant are toxic if ingested.

Lyonia mariana ● Piedmont Staggerbush

- .5–6.5 ft.
- White to pink flowers in May–June, early fall
- Part sun/shade to shade
- Moist, medium to well drained, sandy
- soils
  Native to sandy pine-oak woods

The leaves of Piedmont Staggerbush have an aroma like that of European true laurel (Laurus nobilis), and can be used for similar purposes.

Flowers pollinated by native bees.

Lindera benzoin ● Northern Spicebush, Spicebush

- 6–12 ft. single- or few-stemmed, fast-growing, deciduous shrub
- Dense clusters of tiny, pale yellow flowers bloom in March–April ; glossy red fruit in September–October
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist, sandy, well-drained soils (better form, more berries with sun)
- Native to open woods, glades, fields and roadsides

Northern Spicebush is a fast-growing shrub for moist, shady places. Fruit and foliage are aromatic. Leaves turn a golden—yellow in fall. This species has separate male and female plants. Deer avoid it.

Larval host for the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*) and Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) butterflies. Fruits are a special favorite of wood thrushes.

Morella cerifera ● Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry

- 6–15 ft., multi-trunked, evergreen shrub that can reach 20 ft. in height
- Green flowers in March–April; pale blue berries occur on female plants in winter
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist to wet, sandy, slightly acidic soils (fast-growing; drought- and flood-tolerant once established)
- Native to moist forest; marshes; fresh to slightly brackish stream banks; swamps

Wax Myrtle leaves are aromatic, with an appealing, piquant fragrance when crushed. If you want berries you must have male plants close enough to the berry-producing female plants for pollination to occur.

Attracts birds and butterflies. Fallen leaves are larval host of the Red-Banded Hairstreak butterfly (*Calycopis cecrops*). Popular ornamental used for screens and hedges.

Persea palustris • Swamp Bay or Red Bay

Larval host plant for Palamedes swallowtail (*Papilio palamedes*) and Spicebush swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) butterflies.

- 15–25 ft. evergreen with a round-topped to cylindrical crown, reddish-brown bark, and lance-shaped leaves - dark green on the top and pale green and pubescent (hairy) on the underside
- Small, light yellow-green flowers occur in small, clusters in leaf axils in spring–early summer; oblong dark blue fruit mature in early fall
- Sun
- Seasonally wet, moderately well-drained to poorly-drained organic soils; moderate salt tolerance
- Native to moist woodlands, savannahs, and swamps

Rhododendron atlanticum • Dwarf Azalea

Attractive ornamental. Fruit attracts birds.

- 1–3 ft.
- White flowers in April–May
- Part shade
- Dry, well-drained, sandy soil
- Native to moist, flat pine woods, coastal savannas

<u>Special note about Rhododendrons:</u> These species contain poisonous substances and should not be ingested by humans or animals.

Rhododendron periclymenoides • Wild Azalea, Pinxter Azalea

Especially showy flowers. Nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds. Seeds attract birds.

- 3–6 feet shrub with picturesque, horizontal branching
- Funnel-shaped, pink or white flowers with protruding stamens occur in large fragrant clusters, appearing before or with the leaves in April–May
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Acidic, humusy, organically rich, medium moisture, well drained; tolerant of dry sites
- Native to moist to dry woods, swamp margins, open areas

The old species name, nudiflorum*, Latin for "naked-flowered," refers to the fact that the flowers often appear before its leaves are fully expanded.*

Rhododendron viscosum • Swamp Azalea or Honeysuckle

Beautifully flowered ornamental.

- 3–5 ft., loose, open, deciduous shrub growing to 12 ft. in width
- White flowers with a pleasantly sweet, spicy fragrance and a long, slender lavender-colored corolla tube, appear after the leaves in May–July; fall foliage is orange to maroon
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Wet, acidic, humusy, well-drained loam; flood tolerant
- Native to swampy lowland areas

The fragrant flowers of Swamp Azela with their sticky corolla have given this shrub the name Swamp honeysuckle, although it is unrelated to honeysuckles. Viscosum means sticky in Latin.

Rhus copallinum ● Winged or Shining Sumac

- 20–35 ft., deciduous shrub or small tree, with short, crooked trunks and open branching; glossy, dark-green, leaves turn reddish-purple in the fall
- Yellowish thickets of greenish flowers in July–August followed by drooping pyramidal red fruit clusters that persist in winter
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Dry soil that can be clay, loam or sand
- Native to maritime dune woodlands, sandhill woodlands, pocosins, old fields, fencerows, roadsides, and early-successional forests of the Coastal Plain

Beneficial to honey and native bees. Attracts birds and provides food for song birds, gamebirds and mammals.
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Rosa palustris ● Swamp Rose

- 3–6 ft.
- Pink flowers in June–July
- Sun
- Acidic, organically rich, boggy to wet soil; flood tolerant
- Native to swamps, marshes, ditches and stream banks

Swamp Rose os a good selection for wet soils, flowers are followed by pea-sized red hips and leaves turn shades of red in fall.

Attracts birds and is of special value to honey bees. Beautifully flowered ornamental.

Rosa carolina ● Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose

- 3–6 ft. freely suckering shrub
- Pink flowers from thorny stems—fragrant, 2 inch wide, 5-petaled—occur singly or in small clusters in May–June; fruit, a hip, turns from dark green to bright red as it ripens
- Sun
- Average, medium to wet, well-drained, acidic soils; drought tolerant
- Native to glades, open woods, prairies, along roads and railroads, along streams, swamps and low areas

Attracts birds. Special value to bumble-bees and other native bees, who nest beneath or within this rose, or harvest its parts to construct their nests.

Although one of the most shade-tolerant roses, Carolina Rose grows best in open sunny locations. Naturally disease resistant compared to other rose species.

Rubus occidentalis ● Black Raspberry

- 4–6 ft. deciduous shrub, between 6-12 ft. wide, with multiple, erect-arching stems in a loose, round habit
- White, flat-topped flower clusters in May–June are followed by dark blue drupes; dark-green foliage turns yellow to wine-red in fall
- Sun to full shade
- Dry to moist, acidic soils and sands
- Woods and thickets

Black Raspberry is flood, insect and disease tolerant. Commonly forms broad colonies.

Berries are of very high value for songbirds, and also attract Eastern Bluebird, Northern Flicker, Gray Catbird, and American Robin. Larval host for Spring Azure butterfly (*Celastrina ladon*).

Sambucus canadensis ● Common Elderberry

- 6–12 ft. loose and graceful, deciduous shrub with both woody and herbaceous branches
- White flowers in May–July in broad, flat, clusters up to 10 inches or more in diameter; berrylike fruit is dark purple when ripe in July– September
- Part sun/shade
- Tolerates a wide variety of wet to dry soils but prefers rich, moist, slightly acid soil
- Native to bogs, ditches, fields

Prune heavily in winter to maintain thick form. Individual plants are very short-lived, however root masses produce new shoots. The genus name comes from Greek sambuce*, an ancient musical instrument.*

Birds attracted to the purple-black fruit and spread the seeds. Provides a nesting structure for bees. Provides effective erosion control on moist sites.

Stewartia malacodendron ● Silky Camellia

- Up to 10 ft., open-branched, deciduous shrub; leaves are silky below and distinctly veined
- White to cream-colored camellia-like flowers, 2–3 inch across, in April–June with numerous dark-purple stamen filaments and bluish anthers
- Shade; prefers deep shade during heat of day, but thrives on early morning sun
- Acid, humus-rich, well-drained soils
- Native to wooded bluffs, ravine slopes and creek banks

Beautifully flowered ornamental.

Genus honors John Stuart (1713-92), the Earl of Bute, a patron of botany. Species Greek for soft tree, referring to the silky hairs on lower leaf surface.

Vaccinium pallidum ● Early Lowbush Blueberry

- 1.5–2 ft. shrub with green bark, light to dark brown twigs, alternate, elliptic leaves, dark green above, paler beneath
- Green-white to pink flowers in March–May; berries are dark blue to black and mature June–July
- Sun to shade
- Moist or dry, loam, sandy acidic soils
- Native to open woods

Blueberries prefer acidic soils with sandy or rocky material.

Sweet berries have a high wildlife value, as do flowers and leaves. This shrub is of special value to native bees.

Viburnum acerifolium ● Maple-leaved Viburnum, Dockmackie

- 5–12 ft. with multiple, erect-arching stems in a loose, round habit
- White, flat-topped flower clusters in May–June are followed by dark blue drupes; dark-green foliage turns yellow to wine-red in fall
- Sun to shade
- Average, medium to wet, well-drained soil
- Native to low woods, swamps and bogs

Flood, insect and disease tolerant. Berries attract Eastern Bluebird, Northern Flicker, Gray Catbird, and American Robin. Larval host for Spring Azure butterfly (*Celastrina ladon*).

Viburnum dentatum ● Arrow-wood

- 6–10 ft., deciduous shrub, sometimes taller, with multiple, erect-arching stems in a loose, round habit
- White, flat-topped flower clusters in May–July are followed by dark blue berries; lustrous, dark-green foliage turns yellow to wine-red in fall
- Sun to shade
- Dry to wet, acid soils and sands
- Native to swamps, wet woods, bogs, floodplain forests, streambanks, low, wet acid-sand habitats

Flood, insect and disease tolerant. Attracts Eastern bluebird, Northern flicker, Gray catbird, and American robin. Larval host for Spring Azure butterfly (*Celastrina ladon*).

Most soil-adaptable of the viburnums. *Native Americans used the straight stems of Arrow-wood for arrow shafts.*

Viburnum prunifolium ● Black Haw

- 12–15 ft., upright, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub, or small, single trunk tree
- Many white flower clusters in April–May followed by yellow berries turning blue-black. Attractive, dark-green foliage becomes reddish-purple in fall
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Average, dry to medium, well-drained soil; drought, clay tolerant
- Native to moist woods, thickets and on streambanks

Fruit is eaten by songbirds. This shrub is of special value to native bees and is durable and pest free.

The Latin prunifolium refers to the leaves' plum-color in fall. For best flowers and fruit, give black haw at least one-half day of sunlight.

Viburnum nudum ● Possumhaw Viburnum

- 5–15 ft.,up to 24 ft, sturdy, shapely deciduous shrub, rounded in outline
- Many white flower clusters in Apr–May followed by yellow berries turning blue-black; attractive, dark-green foliage becomes reddish-purple in fall
- Sun to part sun/shade; for best flowers and fruit, be sure this shrub gets 4–5 hrs of sun/day
- Average, medium to wet, well-drained soil
- Native to low woods, swamps and bogs

Fruit is eaten by songbirds.

Possumhaw is flood, cold, insect and disease tolerant, and transplants well.

When Planting Shrubs...

Large shrubs can be planted under canopy trees and understory trees, but should be planted at least five to seven feet away from trees or other large shrubs.

Small shrubs can be planted under canopy trees and understory trees, but should be planted at least three to five feet away from trees, large shrubs, or other small shrubs.

Trees


Jan Newton,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Trees provide shade and shelter for animals and humans, timber for construction, fuel for cooking and heating; and fruit and seeds for food. Because of their longevity and usefulness, trees have always been revered in various cultures. Trees are an important part of the ecosystem, providing essential habitats for pollinators, mammals, birds and butterflies; including larval host plant habitat. Leaves, flowers and fruits, nuts or acorns are seasonally available to provide nutrition. Trees provide critical shade, and in the undergrowth, leaf litter, fallen branches and/or decaying wood provide other habitats while enriching the soil with nutrients. Trees stabilize the soil, preventing rapid run-off of rain water. In ecosystems such as swamps, trees play a role in developing their habitat, since the roots of the trees reduce the speed of flow of tidal currents and trap water-borne sediment, creating suitable conditions for other ecosystem conditions to develop. The shade of trees has a role in climate control because the shade that they provide to homes in summer reduces the cost of air conditioning. In winter trees help screen the wind and cold. Trees also clean the air. All we need to do is plant and care for them. They will do the rest.

Prunus serotina ● Black Cherry


Dot Field/DCR-NH

- 40–75 ft., distinctly conical in youth; open-grown becomes oval-headed, 30–60 ft., with spreading, pendulous limbs and arching branches; crowded trees grow tall and slender; oblong leaves turn yellow in autumn
- Drooping white flowers May–June, followed by dark red to black fruit in August–October
- Sun to shade
- Moist or dry, well-drained soils
- Native to forests, woodlands, maritime dune scrub

Wildlife eat the fruit. Larval host to many moths and butterflies, including the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio glaucus*). Fruit is relished by birds. All other parts are are poisonous.

Black cherry is the largest, most important native cherry, known for the beauty and quality of its wood. Easy to grow. When crushed, leaves and bark have a cherry-like odor.

Acer rubrum ● Red Maple

- 40–100 ft., narrow or rounded, compact crown with 30-75 ft. spread; red, orange, yellow leaves in autumn
- Small red flowers in March–April, red-brown or yellow winged fruit (seeds) in April–June
- Moist to wet clay, loamy or sandy soils, prefers acid soil; can tolerate dry soils
- Native to rocky hillsides, wetlands, floodplains and upland forests

Red Maple has become a dominant understory tree. Leaves and bark are poisonous to cattle. Pilgrims made cinnamon and brown dyes as well as ink from the bark.

Host plant for several moths, including the Rosy maple moth (*Dryocampa rubicunda*); of value to native bees and inchworms; browsed by deer, squirrels; and, a wide variety of birds enjoy the seed and canopy.

Asimina triloba ● Pawpaw, Common Pawpaw

- 10–40 ft. tree or multistemed shrub
- Purple, six-petaled flowers singly in leaf axils in April–May before leaf emergence; large, cylindric, dark-green or yellow fruit follows; yellow fall foliage
- Sun to shade
- Rich, moist, slightly acid soils
- Native to ditches, ravines, depressions, flood plains, bottomland

Pawpaw is an aromatic tree with no serious disease or insect problems. First recorded by the DeSoto expedition in the lower Mississippi Valley in 1541. The name Pawpaw is from the Arawakan name of Papaya, an unrelated tropical American fruit. It takes two or more Pawpaws to cross-pollinate and form fruit.

Not eaten by deer, but relished by small mammals and birds. It is a larval host for Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly (*Eurytides marcellus*) and Pawpaw Sphinx Moth (*Dolba hyloeus*).

Amelanchier canadensis ● Canada Serviceberry, Juneberry and *Amelanchier arborea* ● Downy Serviceberry

Serviceberry is good for multi-season interest and smaller gardens. At least 40 bird species eat the fruit of Amelanchier species, including Cardinals, Cedar Waxwing, and Towhees. It is beneficial to native bees.

- 25–30 ft., its spread is 15-20 ft., with multiple, upright stems forming a dense shrub with a narrow crown and many small-diameter branches or, if properly pruned, a small tree
- White flowers in March–May followed by red to purple fruit in June–August; brilliant fall color display ranging from yellow and orange to red
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist, well-drained acidic soils
- Native to wood borders, upland woods; occasionally in alluvial forests, wetlands, and swamps

Betula nigra ● River Birch

- 40–70 ft., gracefully branched tree, can reach 90 feet with irregular, 40–60 ft. spreading crown; satiny silver bark peels to reveal a cinnamon brown trunk
- Red male catkins and light green female catkins in March–June, and nutlet in May–June; fall foliage is yellow
- Sun to part shade
- Sandy or clay, moist, acidic soils
- Native to flood plains, bottomland, ditches, ravines, depressions, swamps, stream and river banks to mid-slope

Nutlets attract songbirds, game birds, and it is a host plant for 400 species of butterflies, including the Morning Cloak Butterfly (*Nymphalis antiopa*).

River Birch may grow with multiple trunks, adding interest in the garden. It is fast growing and long-lived, and is useful for erosion control.

Carpinus caroliniana ● American Hornbeam, Ironwood

- 35–50 ft., with 20–35 ft. crown, uniformly oval or very irregular; graceful, drooping branches and slender pale gray trunk, smooth and sinewy with twisting, muscle-like bulges; shiny, bluish-green, deciduous leaves become scarlet-orange in the fall
- White and green fruit hangs from a papery bract in March–April
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist, well-drained soils
- Native to upland and floodplain forests, alluvial swamps, stream banks

Larval host to Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Striped Hairstreak (*Satyrium liparops*), and Red-spotted Purple (*Limenitis arthemis*). Birds and mammals feed on fruit.

The term "hornbeam" means "tough tree," referring to American Hornbeam's tough, very hard wood.

Carya tomentosa ● Mockernut Hickory

- 60–100 ft., with 35–50 ft. crown; dark bark is rough and thin with shallow furrows and narrow ridges forming a net-like pattern; does not peel like Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*); yellow autumn color.
- Part sun/shade to shade
- Moist, fertile, well-drained soils

Small, barely edible nuts that are enclosed in a large, thick shell are prized by small mammals, waterfowl and songbirds.

The wood of Mockernut Hickory is highly prized and used for furniture, flooring, tool handles, baseball bats, skis, and veneer. Hickory wood has a very high fuel value, both as firewood and as charcoal, and is the preferred wood for smoking hams.

Cercis canadensis ● Eastern Redbud

- 15–35 ft. deciduous tree with one to several picturesque, maroon-purple trunks and a wide, 15–35 foot, umbrella-like crown; smooth, heart-shaped, deciduous foliage is golden yellow in autumn
- Deep pink flowers in April–May in tight clusters along the stems and branches before new leaves appear, create a showy spring display
- Loose, moist, sandy fertile and well-drained soils; tolerates clay soil
- Native to shaded woods, streams, river banks, woodlands edge, open woodlands

Attracts native bees, and tolerates deer browsing.

A fast growing, attractive understory tree.

Chionanthus virginicus ● White Fringetree, Fringe Tree

- 15–30 ft., with short trunk, narrow, oblong crown; dark-green, glossy foliage; pale-gray trunk with bands of white
- Drooping clusters of delicate, fragrant, white blossoms from 6 inch stalks in May–June; dark-blue, grape-like clusters of fruits; male tree has showier flowers and female trees need males to form the fruit
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Loose, moist, sandy soils
- Native to forest, swamps, wetlands

Hosts 8 species of native caterpillars and attracts bees, native bees, bumblebees and butterflies. It tolerates pollution.

Fringetree is one of the last trees to bear new leaves in spring. It is a slow grower. The genus name Chionanthus, meaning snow and flower, describes the blossoms.

Cornus florida ● Flowering Dogwood

- 15–20 ft., single or multiple trunk with a 15–30 ft. spreading crown
- Long lasting, aromatic, white or pink flowers in March–May before leaves come out; followed by brilliant red fruit
- Sun to shade
- Rich, well-drained, acid soil
- Native to moist to dry upland forests, borders, clearings, old fields, and well-drained floodplains

Flowers attract pollinators and fruit attracts songbirds. Larval host to 115 native caterpillar species, including Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*) and Summer Azure (*Celastrina neglecta*).

More resistant to dogwood anthracnose fungus (Discula destructiva) if planted in open areas. If planted in full-sun, it will need to be watered during extended dry spells. Native Americans used the roots and the bark to make a red dye.

Diospyros virginiana ● Common Persimmon

- 15–100 feet, with a spreading, 25–35 foot, crown and pendulous branches; large, oval, mature leaves usually become yellow-green in fall
- Bell-shaped yellow flowers in April–June; large, sweet, orange fruit in autumn
- Part sun/shade
- Adaptable to varying pH; moist, rich, soils Native to old fields, swamp forests,
- depression ponds, dune woodlands and scrub, rocky woodlands, upland forests

Attracts wildlife and is larval host to the Luna Moth (Actias luna). This tree can be used for erosion control. Usually free of disease or insect problems.

The word Persimmon is of Algonquian origin. Diospyros *means "fruit of the god Zeus." Two trees are necessary for the production of fruit. Fruit is not edible until exposed to frost or consistent low temperatures.*

Juniperus virginiana ● Eastern Redcedar

- 30 - 40 ft. (can reach 90 ft) evergreen, aromatic tree with trunk often angled and buttressed at base; pyramidal when young, mature form is quite variable; fragrant, scale-like foliage can be coarse or fine-cut, and varies in color from gray-, blue-, to dark-green; all colors tend to brown in winter
- Pale blue fruits occur on female plants
- Sun to shade
- Moist, well-drained to dry soils
- Native to tidal shorelines, forests, old fields, rocky woodlands

Juicy berries consumed by wildlife, including the Cedar waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), named for this tree.

Resistant to extremes of drought, heat, and cold. The heartwood was once almost exclusively the source of wood for pencils.

Trees

America's National Tree: The Majestic Oak

Prized for their shade and beauty, oaks have been a landscaping favorite for centuries. The oak was selected in a nation-wide Arbor Day Foundation vote as America's National Tree, and a bill passed by Congress in 2004, and signed by President George Bush made it official. Most oaks fall into two taxonomic groups: the white oak group and the red oak group. Although all oaks will do well in rich, well-drained soil, swamp white oaks will tolerate moist soils, while scarlet oaks and white oaks will tolerate thin, dry soils. Oaks grow to be large trees with spreading limbs when grown in full sun. A mature White Oak can spread wider than it is tall. The value of oaks for supporting wildlife cannot be overstated. In addition to all they supply for mammals and birds, no other plant genus supports more species of moths and butterflies, than the mighty White Oak - 517 species! - which means it provides more types of bird food. Restoring oaks to suburbia would go a long way to improving wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

Native tree Genera (families) found in Southeast Virginia support hundreds of species of moth and butterfly in the Mid-Atlantic!

Common Name	Plant Genus	# of species
Oak	*Quercus*	534
Black cherry	*Prunus*	456
Willow	*Salix*	455
Birch	*Betula*	413
Crabapple	*Malus*	311
Maple	*Acer*	285
Elm	*Ulmus*	213
Pine	*Pinus*	203
Hickory	*Carya*	200
Hawthorn	*Crataegus*	159
Alder	*Alnus*	156
Basswood	*Tilia*	150
Ash	*Fraxinus*	150
Walnut	*Juglans*	130
Beech	*Fagus*	126
Chestnut	*Castanea*	125

The trees species in these families that are native to southeast Virginia are highlighted in this guide and listed in the guide's index. Plant these species and provide needed habitat!

Learn more about this study by Doug Tallamy, reknowned Entomologist and author at www.bringingnaturehome.net/what-to-plant.html

Quercus alba ● White Oak


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

- 72–100 ft. with 50–80 ft., rounded crown; trunk irregularly divided into spreading, often horizontal, stout branches; round-lobed leaves turn burgundy in fall, and dried leaves remain into winter
- Brown catkins appear just before or with the appearance of new leaves from March–April; acorns mature in autumn
- Sun
- Moist to dry soils
- Native to upland forests and woodlands, well-drained bottomlands, wet flatwoods, natural ponds and swamps

White Oak is slow-growing and lives up to 600 years. Colonists used it to build ships.

Quercus coccinea ● Scarlet Oak


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

- 80–115 ft., with a rounded, open crown of glossy foliage; spreads 40–50 ft.
- Yellow-green catkins in March–May; reddish-brown acorns in September–October; brilliant scarlet autumn color
- Sun
- Adaptable, poor, rocky, acidic soil
- Native to dry to occasionally moist upland forests and woodlands; most characteristic of dry, acidic, nutrient-poor soils

Scarlet Oak grows rapidly and makes a handsome shade and street tree. It is a long lived tree. Acorns provide food for birds such as bluejays, and redheaded woodpeckers. Benefits native bees.

Quercus falcata • Southern Red Oak, Spanish Oak


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

- 60–80 ft., straight-trunked and, in time, develops long, spreading branches, giving the top an even, well–formed appearance; spreads 40–50 ft.; smooth gray bark becomes dark and furrowed, eventually black
- Yellow flowers appear in April–May; papery leaves turn reddish-brown in fall; acorns appear biennially
- Part shade
- Variable, dry, sandy, loamy or clay acid-based soils

Southern Red Oak grows relatively quickly, for an oak, and it is long-lived. *It is often called Spanish Oak, possibly because it commonly occurs in areas of the early Spanish colonies, yet it is unlike any oaks native to Spain.*

Quercus marilandica • Blackjack Oak


Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

- 30–50 ft. small to medium-sized oak, with short, nearly black trunk that divides into many dense, contorted limbs, bark dark, furrowed; spreads 20–40 ft.; bristle-lobed leaves that are shiny on top & rusty-yellow hairy beneath
- White, red, green inconspicuous flowers in March–May; red-brown autumn color
- Sun; does not tolerate shade
- Acidic, dry to medium, well-drained soils; grows in poor soils
- Native to dry upland forests, woodlands, areas with alternating wet and droughty clays, deep sands

Native Americans used Blackjack Oak bark in medicine.

Quercus phellos • Willow Oak


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

- 60–80 ft., straight-trunked; spreads to 25–50 ft.; cone-shaped crown which becomes round at maturity; long, fine-textured, narrow leaves resemble the foliage of willows and turn yellow or russet in fall
- Acorns in August–November
- Part shade
- Variable, dry, sandy, loamy or clay acid-based soils
- Native to forests, swamps and ponds, moist upland forests, old fields

Willow Oak tolerates floodplains (although it prefers well-drained soil), grows quickly and is easily transplanted when young. Popular shade tree and is handsome in fall.

Quercus virginiana • Live Oak


Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

- 40–80 ft. high; 60-100 ft. wide; squat, tapering trunk (larger in diameter than any other oak); huge, irregular limbs form a broad, rounded canopy; dark-green, waxy, unlobed leaves fall just as new leaves emerge in spring, making tree appear evergreen
- Sun to part shade
- Dry to moist soils; does best in neutral or slightly acidic clay loams; poor drainage okay; saline tolerant and tolerant of compaction
- Native to sandy, coastal plains; moist hammocks

Massive, picturesque tree. Larval host to Elfin Butterfly (Microtia elva).

Liriodendron tulipifera ● Tuliptree, Tulip Poplar

- 70–150 ft., straight trunk with narrow crown that broadens as it ages, 30–50 ft.; distinctive, waxy, star-shaped foliage that turns bright gold in fall; cone-shaped seedheads remain after leaves have fallen
- Large showy, yellow-orange, flowers resembling tulips or lilies in April–June; flowers are up 50 ft. or higher. Sun, part
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Rich, moist, well-drained loam or sandy soils, acidic
- Native to low, rich woods; stream banks, bottomland and upland forests

Pioneers hollowed out a single log of the Tuliptree to make a long, lightweight canoe. Member of the magnolia family.

Insect and disease free. Favorite nesting tree, flowers attract hummingbirds and larval host to the Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*). One of the most beautiful hardwood forest trees.

Magnolia virginiana ● Sweetbay Magnolia

- 12–30 ft. (occasionally grows to 50 ft.) evergreen tree, spreading 10–35 ft., with multiple, slender, upright trunks bearing horizontal branches; aromatic, spicy foliage
- Solitary, velvety-white, fragrant flowers in May–July that close at night; followed by dark red fruits exposing bright-red seeds in Setember–October
- Part shade
- Moist, rich, well-drained, acidic soils
- Native to swamps, bogs, pocosins, wet flatwoods, nutrient-poor soils

Sweetbay Magnolia was introduced into European gardens as early as 1688. Called "Beavertree" by colonists who caught beavers in traps baited with the fleshy roots.

Attractive, aromatic, showy ornamental. Seeds are a good source of food for birds in fall. It is the larval host of the Sweetbay Silkmoth (*Callosamia securifera*).

Nyssa sylvatica ● Blackgum, Black Tupelo

- 40–60 ft. variable-shaped, deciduous tree with horizontally spreading branches; dense, conical or sometimes flat-topped, 20–30 ft., crown; smooth, waxy, dark-green summer foliage changes to yellow, orange, scarlet and purple in fall
- Greenish-white flowers in April followed by small, purplish-blue, berry-like fruit in September–October
- Sun to full shade
- Adaptable to various, well drained, acid, even gravelly, soils
- Native to forests, woodlands, swamps, floodplain forests, ponds

Blackgum is one of the first plants to color in fall.

Nectar used by bees to make highly-prized tupelo honey. Handsome ornamental and shade tree. Juicy fruit is consumed by many birds and mammals. Hosts 25 species of native caterpillars.

Oxydendrum arboreum ● Sourwood, Sorrel Tree

- 30–70 ft. with conical or rounded 10–25 ft.crown of spreading branches; leaves turn brilliant, deep red in autumn
- White, Lily-of-the-Valley-like flower clusters in July; pale yellow seeds persist in the fall
- Sun to Part sun/shade
- Well drained, acid soil
- Native to well-drained to dry acidic woodlands, cliffs, clearings and ravines

Open-grown Sourwood is pyramidal and branched to the ground. The name of sourwood refers to the taste of the leaves, but the honey made from its flowers is prized. It is sensitive to root disturbance so it is not a good tree for urban sites.

Beneficial to honey bees. Generally disease-free.

Pinus taeda ● Loblolly Pine

- 60–110 ft.; loses its lower branches with age, leaving an open, rounded crown; dark green needles are 6-10 in. long; bark is gray and scaly
- Part sun/shade
- Adaptable, but prefers moist, sandy soils
- Native to sandy or gravelly savannas & hilly woodlands

Loblolly Pine is native in 15 southeastern states. Among the fastest-growing southern pines, Loblolly will respond well to extra moisture and richer soils. A pioneer species along river bottoms.

Provides cover and nesting sites and seeds for small mammals and birds. Attracts butterflies; larval host to Elfin Butterfly (*Microtia elva*).

Pinus virginiana ● Virginia Pine

- 50–100 ft. evergreen; outstretched limbs spring irregularly from the reddish-brown trunk; cones are sharp to the touch due to prickly-like appendages
- Sun
- Moist, well-drained, poor soils
- Native to areas of poor, light soil in mountains and old field

Virginia Pine is hardier than most pines and suitable for planting in poor dry sites. It dislikes shallow, chalky soils and is not tolerant of over-topping by other trees.

Seeds are an important wildlife food. Larval host to the Eastern Pine Elfin (*Callophrys niphon*).

Sassafras albidum ● Sassafras

- 20–40 ft. tree with horizontal branching in cloud-like tiers; mahogany-brown bark deeply ridged and furrowed; leaves are bright-green, and mitten-shaped, oval, or three-lobed
- Bunches of yellow-green flower balls in March-May scattered profusely over female tree, more sparsely on male, followed by dark-blue fruits on scarlet stalks on female in late summer
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Moist, well-drained, rich, sandy, acidic soils
- Native to dry to moist forests, woodlands

Although Sassafras grows most quickly in fertile soil, it is an appropriate tree to introduce into disturbed sites.

Flowers attract native bees, pollinators. Fruit attracts songbirds. Hosts 36 species of native caterpillars, including Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio Troilus*) and Promethea Silkmoth (*Callosamia promethean*).

Taxodium distichum ● Baldcypress

- 50–70 ft. pyramidal conifer, with small, sage-green, deciduous needles and a thin, dark to silvery-brown bark that shreds lengthwise
- Flower is purple in April, follwed by brown cone in October–December
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Adaptable, moist to dry soils, acidic soils
- Native to swamps, streambanks

Although Baldcypress is usually found in swamps, this is an adaptation to low oxygen, not water need, so it does very well in dry, compacted urban soils. "Bald" refers to its deciduous nature, uncommon among other conifers. Knees develop mostly in poorly drained situations.

Brilliant russet fall color. Larval host for Baldcypress Sphinx (*Isoparce cupressi*).

The Right Plants in the Right Place

Street side environments experience dry, harsh conditions and are exposed to pollutants, dust, spray, salt, and compacted soil. Soil pH can also be affected through leaching from concrete curbs and sidewalks. The best street trees also happen to be marsh species adapted to an environment with saturated soil and low oxygen.

Perennials (Forbs)

Achillea millefolium – Common Yarrow
Eupatorium perfoliatum – Common Boneset
Hibiscus moscheutos – Eastern Rose-mallow, Swamp Rose-mallow
Oenonthera fruticosa – Narrowleaf Sundrops, Southern Sundrops
Opuntia humifusa – Eastern Prickly Pear
Yucca filamentosa – Common Yucca

Groundcovers

Chamaecrista fasciulata – Common Partridge Pea
Rhexia mariana – Maryland or Pale Meadow Beauty
Salvia lyriata – Lyre-leaf Sage
Viola sororia – Confederate or Common Blue Violet

Ferns

Onoclea sensibilis – Sensitive Fern
Thelypteris palustris – Marsh Fern

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

Eragrostis spectabilis – Purple Love Grass, Tumblegrass
Panicum virgatum – Switchgrass
Schizachyrium scoparium – Little Bluestem

Shrubs

Aronia arbutiflolia – Red Chokeberry
Callicarpa americana – Beautyberry
Cephalanthus occidentalis – Buttonbush
Clethra alnifolia – Sweet Pepper Bush
Itea virginica – Virginia Sweetspire
Lindera benzoin – Spicebush
Rosa carolina – Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose
Sambucus canadensis – Common Elderberry
Vaccinium fuscatum – Hairy Highbush Blueberry, Black Highbush Blueberry
Viburnum dentatum – Arrowwood, Southern Arrowwood Viburnum

Trees

Acer rubrum – Red Maple
Amelanchier arborea – Downy Serviceberry
Amelanchier canadensis – Canada Serviceberry
Betula nigra – River Birch
Celtis occidentalis – Common Hackberry
Cercis canadensis – Redbud
Chionanthus virginicus – Fringetree
Juniperus virginiana – Eastern Redcedar
Quercus alba – White Oak
Quercus phellos – Willow Oak
Taxodium distichum – Bald Cypress

Landscaping in Small Places

Sue Dingwell/VNPS

Native plant gardens can also be grown in small spaces such as an apartment or condo balcony, a narrow alley, a patio, or a deck. As with any other situation, small-space gardening requires that you match the amount and type of space with the needs of you and the plants, Things to consider include: sun, shade, moisture, wind, pets, views, and access for maintenance. In considering the space for the plant, don't forget the roots. On apartment balconies a diverse mix of potted forbs, vines, grasses, and ferns can provide pollinator habitat. Mixing spring, summer, and fall-blooming plants in a planter or group of planters can provide beauty and color throughout the growing season.

Natives for full sun spaces–patios, decks, planters, containers, baskets and vertical gardens:

Perennials (Forbs)

Asclespias incarnata – Swamp Milweed
Asclepias tuberosa – Butterfly-weed
Hibiscus moscheutos – Swamp rose mallow
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium – Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint
Salvia lyrata – Lyre-leaf Sage
Sedum ternatum – Wild Stonecrop
Sisyrinchium angustifolium – Blue-eyed Grass

Vines

Lonicera sempervirens – Coral Honeysuckle
Passiflora lutea – Yellow Passionflower

Shrubs

Itea Virginica – Sweetspire
Clethra alnifolia – Pepperbush

Natives for full shade spaces–alleys, patios, containers, and balconies:

Perennials (Forbs)

Aquilegia canadensis – Canadian Wild Columbine
Asarum canadense – Common Wild Ginger
Arisaema triphyllum – Common Jack-in-the-pulpit
Claytonia virginica – Spring Beauty, Virginia Spring Beauty
Heuchera americana – American Alumroot
Podophyllum peltatum – Mayapple
Polygonatum biflorum – Solomon's-seal
Viola cucullata – Marsh Blue Violet
Viola palmata – Wood Violet
Viola pedata – Bird's-foot violet
Viola sagittata – Arrow-leaved Violet
Viola sororia – Common Blue Violet, Confererate Violet

Ferns

Adiantum pedatum – Northern Maidenhair
Asplenium platyneuron – Ebony Spleenwort
Athyrium asplenoides – Southern Lady Fern
Dryopteris marginalis – Wood Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides – Christmas Fern

Shrubs

Hydrangea arboescens - Wild Hydrangea

Itea virginica, Sweetspire, makes a great container plant.

Sue Dingwell/VNPS

Dry shade gardening conditions exist in much of Hampton Roads. Some plants suited to grow in these conditions are listed here. Choose your plants for season of bloom, flowers or fruit, fall color, attracting pollinators, etc. so you have interest throughout the year. A dry, shady habitat such as a pine, or broadleaf oak and maple woods will generally have shallow soils and dense tree roots which can make establishing new plants challenging. Compost with chopped up leaves, pine needles, or other material will help dry shade gardens get through dry spells.

Perennials (Forbs)

Anemone quinquefolia – Wood Anemone
Aquilegia canadensis – Wild or Eastern Red Columbine
Asarum canadense – Wild Ginger
Chrysogonum virginianum – Green and gold
Conoclinium coelestinum – Mistflower
Erogrostis spectablis – Purple love grass
Fragaria virginiana – Virginia Strawberry
Maianthemum racemosum – Eastern Solomon's plume, False Solomon's-seal
Mitchella repens – Partridgeberry
Podophyllum peltatum – Mayapple
Polygonatum biflorum – Solomon's Seal
Polystichum acrostichoides – Christmas fern
Solidago caesia – Wreath/Bluestem goldenrod
Viola sororia – Common Blue Violet

Ferns

Dryopteris intermedia – Evergreen Wood Fern
Dryopteris marginalis – Marginal Wood Fern

Vines

Gelsemium sempervirens – Carolina jessamine
Parthenocissus quinquefolia – Virginia creeper

Shrubs

Clethra alnifolia – Sweet pepperbush
Euonymus americanus – Strawberry-bush, Heart's-a-bustin'
Hamamelis virginiana – Witch Hazel
Rubus occidentalis – Black Raspberry
Sambucus canadensis – Common Elderberry
Stewartia malacodendron – Silky camelia
Vaccinium pallidum – Early Lowbush Blueberry
Viburnum dentatum – Arrow-wood
Viburnum prunifolium – Black haw

Trees

Amelanchier arborea – Downy Serviceberry
Amelanchier canadensis – Canada Serviceberry, Juneberry
Asimina triloba – Pawpaw, Common Pawpaw
Carpinus caroliniana – American Hornbeam, Ironwood
Cercis canadensis – Redbud
Magnolia virginiana – Sweetbay Magnolia
Oxydendrum arboreum Sourwood, Sorrel Tree

If you have soils that are periodically or frequently flooded or just slow to drain, there are natives that prefer to grow in those conditions. The native plant species listed here are easy to grow in moist, shady habitats. It is easier to work with the conditions on your site than trying to adjust the site to fit the plant needs.

Perennials (Forbs)

Lobelia cardinalis – Cardinal flower
Conoclinium coelestinum – Mistflower
Impatiens capensis – Jewelweed (annual)
Vernonia noveboracensis – New York Ironweed

Ferns

Osmunda spectabilis – Royal fern
Thelypteris palustris – Marsh Fern

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

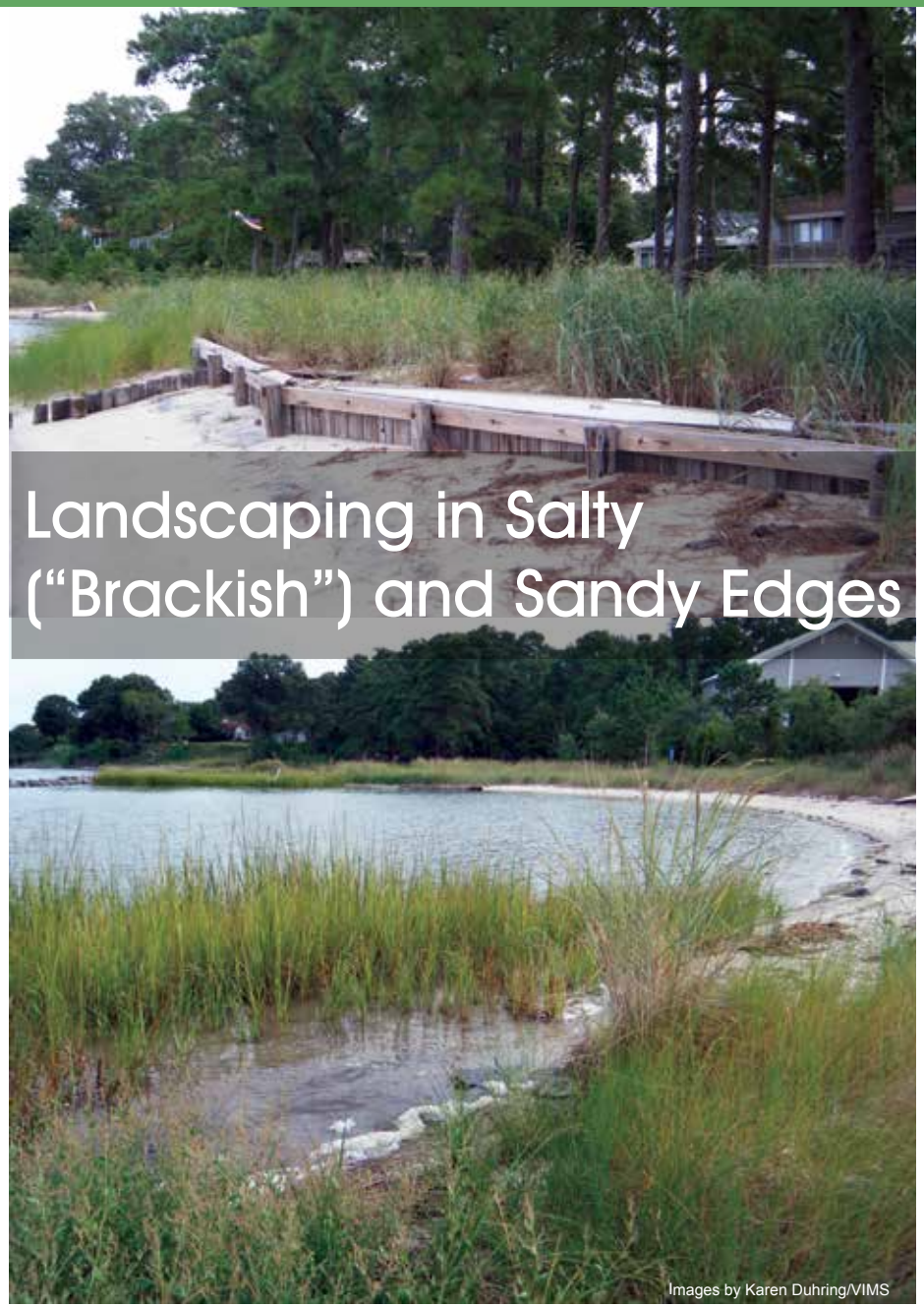
Carex stricta – Tussock Sedge
Juncus effusus – Soft rush

Shrubs

Aronia arbutifolia – Red chokeberry
Cephalanthus occidentalis – Buttonbush, Button Willow
Clethra alnifolia – Sweet pepperbush
Gaylussacia baccata – Black huckleberry
Kalmia latifolia – Mountain Laurel
Ilex verticillata – Winterberry
Ilex vomitoria – Yaupon Holly
Physocarpus opulifolius – Common ninebark
Rhododendron atlanticum – Dwarf Azalea
Rhododendron periclymenoides – Wild Azalea, Pinxter Azalea
Rhododendron viscosum – Swamp Azalea or Honeysuckle

Trees

Cercis canadensis – Redbud
Diospyros virginiana – Persimmon
Magnolia virginiana – Sweetbay Magnolia



Landscaping in Salty ("Brackish") and Sandy Edges

Images by Karen Duhring/VIMS

Tidal wetlands are the natural shorelines that give our local waterways their characteristic beauty. Influenced by the tides, they may be flooded daily or only a few times a month. Tidal wetlands may be covered with plants or have a stone, mud or sand bottom and often support important intertidal organisms, such as oysters, mussels, crabs, and juvenile fish. Our tidal wetlands also provide valuable services such as flood control, shoreline erosion control and the protection of water quality through removal of harmful nutrients and sediment. Tidal wetlands should never be mowed or sprayed with herbicide.

The tidal shoreline is comprised of zones based on land elevation relative to the tides. These tidal zones affect which plants can be grown along the shoreline and the required salt tolerance of these plants. The low marsh zone extends from the average low tide line up to the daily high tide line, and is typically dominated by *Spartina alterniflora* (Smooth Cordgrass) in the eastern part of our area *(see plant description on next page)*. In tidal freshwater areas of the western coastal plain, the low marsh zone is typically dominated by *Spartina cynosuroides* (Big Cordgrass), *Pontedaria cordata* (Pickerelweed), and *Peltandra virginica* (Arrow Arum). The high marsh zone extends from the high tide line to areas that may experience occasional high tides. This zone consists mainly of *Spartina patens* (Saltmeadow Hay - *see description on next page*), *Distichlis spicata* (Saltgrass), and *Iva frutescens* (Marsh Elder). Also present may be the highly invasive non-native, *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed).

The highest zone that may rarely experience extreme high tides and storm surge flooding represents the Transition Zone or Upland Buffer. These plants must still be salt-tolerant, but are rarely inundated by salt water. These plants can include *Baccharis halimifolia* (Groundseltree), *Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp Milkweed), *Hibiscus moscheutos* (Marsh Hibiscus), and *Impatiens capensis* (Jewelweed). The Transition Zone is the most likely area where additional native plants can be introduced to reduce mowed lawn area or restore previously cleared areas.

Native plants also grow along sandy beach shorelines, especially grasses that can tolerate hot, dry conditions and being covered by wind-blown sand. The dominant beach grass in the southern coastal plain is *Uniola paniculata* (Sea Oats) while A*mmophila breviligulata* (American beach grass) is dominant in the northern coastal plain. Other native grasses that can be planted in sandy shoreline areas include *Spartina patens* (Saltmeadow Hay), *Panicum amarum* (Bitter Panic Grass), and *Panicum virgatum* (Switch Grass).

Perennials (Forbs)

Asclepias tuberosa – Butterfly Weed
Cakile edentula – Sea Rocket
Hibiscus moscheutos – Swamp or Eastern Rose-mallow
Kosteletzkya pentacarpos – Seashore or Salt Marsh Mallow
Liatris pilosa – Grass-leaf or Gayfeather Blazing Star
Solidago sempervirens - Seaside Goldenrod
Schoenoplectus americanus - Olney Threesquare
Opuntia humifusa – Eastern Prickly-pear
Yucca filamentosa – Common Yucca, Adam's Needle

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

Ammophila breviligulata – American Beachgrass
Bolboschoenus robustus – Saltmarsh Bulrush
Panicum virgatum – Switchgrass
Schizachyrium scoparium – Little Bluestem
Setaria parviflora – Knotroot foxtail grass
Spartina alterniflora – Saltmarsh Cordgrass
Spartina patens – Saltmeadow Cordgrass

Vines

Campsis radicans – Trumpet Creeper
Lonicera sempervirens – Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle
Parthenocissus quinquefolia - Virginia creeper

Shrubs

Baccharis halimifolia – High-tide Bush, Groundsel Tree
Ilex glabra – Inkberry, Gallberry
Morella cerifera – Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry
Rosa carolina – Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose

Trees

Amelanchier arborea – Downy Serviceberry
Juniperus virginiana – Eastern Redcedar
Pinus taeda – Loblolly Pine
Prunus serotine – Black Cherry
Quercus virginiana – Live Oak
Taxodium distichum – Baldcypress

Spartina Alterniflora • Saltmarsh or Smooth Cordgrass

Silvery undersides of its leaves are attractive in the wind and make a handsome to a coastal prairie garden, especially when combined with fall-blooming perennials.

- 2–8 feet
- Leaves turn brilliant mauve, red, and purple in September–November and provide attractive early fall color
- Sun
- Dry to moist; tolerates range of soil chemistries
- Native to slopes, borders of woods

Great plant for wildlife gardens in coastal areas. Because of its tenaciousness, Saltmash Cordgrass is valued for its ability to inhibit erosion and it offers an excellent buffer to wave action. Salt crystals can be seen on the leaves during the growing season.

Spartina Patens • Saltmeadow Hay or Cordgrass

Attracts birds.

- 1–3 feet
- Yellow spikes in June–September
- Sun
- Clay, Loam, Sand, Brackish to Salty soils
- Tidal marshes, brackish marshes, salt meadows; also a characteristic component of salt scrub, interdune swales and ponds, maritime swamps, upper beaches and overwash flats, dune grasslands, and openings in dune scrub and woodlands

Saltmeadow Hay is used for beach stabilization. If grown in freshwater it will grow higher. The stems have a tendency to bend in the wind tides. The genus name comes from the Greek spartine "a cord" and patens means "spreading."

A rain garden is a landscape feature for managing stormwater or runoff. Think of a rain garden as a puddle with plants. It is a shallow depression (only 6-8" deep) that collects stormwater for a short period of time (less than 4 days so no mosquito breeding). Pollutants are filtered out of the water by the plants, soil and soil microorganisms. The clean water then infiltrates downward to recharge the groundwater aquifer, evaporates or evapo-transpires through the plants back up into the atmosphere, or is absorbed and used by the plants. A rain garden can be placed at any point along the runoff pathway in the landscape and in sun or shade. When considering plants for a rain garden, remember that there are three planting zones–low (wettest), middle and high (driest upper edge area). Select plants based on the zone and on the size of the garden. Trees and larger shrubs may not be appropriate for smaller gardens.

Ferns

Athyrium asplenioides – Lady Fern
Onoclea sensibilis –Sensitive Fern
Osmunda spectabilis – Royal Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides – Christmas Fern
Woodwardia spp. – Virginia Chain & Netted Chain Ferns

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

Andropogon glomeratus – Bushy Bluestem
Juncus effusus – Common Rush
Panicum virgatum – Switchgrass
Schizachyrium scoparium – Little Bluestem

Other Perennials

Asclepias spp. – Common & Swamp Milkweeds
Asclepias tuberosa – Butterfly Weed
Baptisia spp. – Blue & Yellow Wild Indigos
Chelone glabra – White Turtlehead
Coreopsis spp. – Longstalk, Golden & Threadleaf Coreopsis
Eupatorium perfoliatum – Common Boneset
Eutrochium spp. – Coastal Plain, Hollow, & Sweet Joe Pye Weeds
Fragaria virginiana – Virginia Strawberry
Helianthus spp. – Narrow-leaved, Thin-leaved, Woodland Sunflowers
Heuchera americana – Alumroot
Hibiscus moscheutos – Eastern Rose Mallow
Iris versicolor – Northern Blue Flag
Liatris spicata – Dense Blazing Star
Maianthemum racemosum – False Solomon's Seal
Monarda spp. – Scarlet Beebalm & Wild Bergamot
Oenothera fruticosa – Narrow-leaf Sundrops
Peltandra virginica – Arrow Arum
Penstemon spp. – Smooth & Foxglove Beardtongues
Phlox spp. – Wild Blue, Moss, & Fall Phlox
Polygonatum biflorum – Solomon's Seal
Pontederia cordata – Pickerelweed
Rudbeckia spp. – Orange, Black-Eyed Susan, Cut-Leaf, & Three-Lobed Coneflowers
Sagittaria latifolia – Broad-Leaved Arrowhead
Saururus cernuus – Lizard's Tail
Sisyrinchium angustifolium – Narrowleaf Blue-Eyed Grass
Solidago spp. – Goldenrods
Symphyotrichum spp. – New England & New York Asters

Shrubs

Aronia arbutifolia – Red Chokeberry
Baccharis halimifolia – Groundsel bush
Cephalanthus occidentalis – Buttonbush
Clethra alnifolia – Sweet pepperbush
Hamamelis virginiana – Witch Hazel
Hydrangea arborescens – Wild hydrangea
Ilex glabra – Inkberry holly
Ilex verticillata – Winterberry holly
Itea Virginica – Virginia sweetspire
Morella cerifera – Wax myrtle
Rhododendron spp. – Coastal, Pinxter, & Swamp Azaleas
Rosa carolina – Carolina rose
Rosa palustris – Swamp rose
Stewartia malacodendron – Silky camelia
Vaccinium pallidum – Blueridge blueberry
Viburnum spp. – Mapleleaf, Arrowood, Powwumhaw, & Blackhaw Viburnums

Trees

Amelanchier spp. – Downy, & Shadblow serviceberrys
Asimina triloba – Pawpaw
Betula nigra – River birch
Carpinus caroliniana – American hornbeam
Cercis canadensis – Redbud
Chionanthus virginicus – White fringetree
Ilex opaca – American holly
Magnolia virginiana – Sweetbay magnolia


Laurie Fox/VA Tech AREC


Laurie Fox/VA Tech AREC

Places to See Native Plants

Want a closer look at the natives featured in this guide? Visit demonstration gardens, parks, wildlife preserves and even nurseries and garden centers for inspiration and to see how natives could look in your garden. These public sites feature Virginia native plants with label markers, so you know which plant you are viewing. Bring along a copy of this guide!

Peninsula

Gloucester ---

Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Teaching Marsh (by appointment only by calling 804-684-7846)

Captain Sinclair Recreation Area - https://mppaa.virginiainteractive.org/Item/Detail/98

Hampton ---

Bluebird Gap Farm, 60 Pine Chapel Rd.

Grandview Nature Preserve, State Park Drive - Hampton 757-850-5134

Sandy Bottom Park,1255 Big Bethel Rd, Hampton

James City County ---

York River State Park, 9801 York River Park Rd,

Newport News ---

Denbeigh Park, Denbigh Blvd, Newport News

Virginia Living Museum, 524 J Clyde Morris Blvd.

Poquoson ---

Poquoson Museum gardens, 968 Poquoson Ave.

Williamsburg ---

College Landing Park, 2100 S. Henry St., Williamsburg

Colonial Williamsburg gardens, www.history.org/history/CWLand/

New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr, Williamsburg

Williamsburg Botanical Garden, 5537 Centerville Rd.

York County ---

Virginia Cooperative Extension Learning Garden, 100 County Dr.

York River State Park, 9801 York River Park Rd, Williamsburg,


Laurie Fox/VA Tech AREC

Native plant pollinator garden at Carollton library.

South of the James River

Carrollton ---

Blackwater Regional Library, Carrollton Branch, 14362 New Towne Haven Ln.

Suffolk ---

Lake Meade Park, North Main St.

Sleepy Hole Park, 4700 Sleepy Hole Rd.

Surry ---

Captain John Smith Wildlife Habitat at the Surry Historical Society, 281 Bank St.

South Side

Chesapeake ---

Chesapeake Arboretum, 624 Oak Grove Rd.

Norfolk ---

Fred Heutte Center, 1000 Botetourt Gardens

The Hermitage Museum and Gardens, 7637 North Shore Rd.

The Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Garden Rd.

Virginia Zoological Park, 3500 Granby St.

Portsmouth ---

Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve, 4510 Twin Pines Rd.

Paradise Creek Park, 1141 Victory Blvd.

Virginia Cooperative Extension display gardens, 105 Utah St.

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Virginia Beach ---

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge/False Cape State Park, 4500/4001 Sandpiper Rd

Brock Environmental Center, 3663 Marlin Bay Dr.

Francis Land Historic Site & Gardens, 3131 Virginia Beach Blvd.

Virginia Tech Hampton Roads AREC, 1444 Diamond Springs Rd.

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, 717 General Booth Blvd.

The above list is not comprehensive, and there are many other places - such as parks wildlife and nature preserves and nature trails - where you can find natives.

They may not be labeled, so bring your guide to help you with identification of the species we have highlighted.

If you have the opportunity, let the owners and managers know that you are are a Southeast Virginia "native plant finder," thank them for planting and maintaining natives, and encourage them to continue!

Virginia Natural Area Preserves **-** *http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/natural-area-preserves/ (Description of Virginia's NAPs and accessibility.)*

Virginia State Parks - *http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/*


Jan Newton,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Many public and private schools are incorporating outdoor classrooms on school grounds to offer students a rich, hands-on experience. Areas like pollinator gardens, rain gardens, managed meadows, nature trails, and green roofs utilize native Virginia plants. Nearly all of Virginia Beach's 92 school facilities have native plantings, for example, and the number is growing each year. Native plants are a critical part of wildlife habitats, stormwater management, passive solar heating & cooling, and sustainable landscapes. These outdoor classrooms give students the opportunity to engage in authentic, problem-based learning efforts connected to the environment. Students work together to help plan, construct, maintain and develop the curriculum for these outdoor classrooms, and in turn see that their everyday actions can make a difference in the health of the environment.

Schools can be an agent of change by demonstrating sustainable landscaping techniques on their properties and educating their students and surrounding communities about the importance of native plants.

Visit *https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat/for Schoolyard Habitat Resources*.


Jan Newton,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

Forbs

Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

Ferns

The plants in **bold** *are featured in this guide.*

Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

The plants in **bold** *are featured in this guide.*

Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

Scientific Name — Common Name(s)

Shrubs *(continued)*

Shrubs *(continued)*

Trees

Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name(s)
Trees *(continued)*	
Diospyros virginiana	**Persimmon** *(pg 47)*
Fagus grandifolia	American Beech
Ilex opaca	American Holly
Juglans cinerea	Walnut
Juniperus virginiana	**Eastern Red Cedar** *(pg 47)*
Liriodendron tulipifera	**Tulip Poplar** *(pg 50)*
Magnolia virginiana	**Sweetbay Magnolia** *(pg 50)*
Nyssa sylvatica	**Black Tupelo** *(pg 50)*
Ostrya virginiana	American Hop Hornbeam
Oxydendrum arboreum	**Sourwood** *(pg 50)*
Pinus taeda	**Loblolly Pine** *(pg 51)*
Pinus Virginiana	**Virginia Pine** *(pg 51)*
Platanus occidentalis	American Sycamore
Prunus americana	Wild Plum
Prunus serotina	**Black Cherry** *(pg 44)*
Quercus alba	**White Oak** *(pg 48)*
Quercus coccinea	**Scarlet Oak** *(pg 48)*
Quercus falcata	**Southern Red Oak** *(pg 49)*
Quercus marilandica	**Blackjack Oak** *(pg 49)*
Quercus nigra	Water Oak
Quercus phellos	**Willow Oak** *(pg 49)*
Quercus virginiana	**Southern Live Oak** *(pg 49)*
Salix nigra	Black Willow
Sassafras albidum	**Sassafras** *(pg 51)*
Taxodium distichum	**Bald Cypress** *(pg 51)*


Jan Newton,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Invasive, non-native plants do not provide the same ecosystem services as natives and have a harmful effect on our environment, not only in the suburban community but also in our forests, parks, and other natural areas.

The non-native species listed are of particular concern in Southeast Virginia, and are currently ranked on the *Virginia Invasive Plant Species List* as exhibiting high (***), medium (**) or low (*) levels of invasiveness based on their threat to natural communities and native species.

(Left) Aggresive, invasive non-natives can quickly spread, cover, and kill native vegetation, such as this invasion of Asian Wisteria, Japanese Honeysuckle and Multi-flora Rose.

Akebia quinata, Chocolate Vine or Five-leaf Akebia **

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Gelsemium sempervirens, Carolina or Yellow Jessamine
Campsis radicans, Trumpet Creeper
Lonicera sempervirens, Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle
Bignonia capreolata, Crossvine

Ailanthus altissima, Tree of Heaven ***

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Cercis Canadensis, Eastern Redbud
Diospyros virginiana, Common Persimmon
Rhus copallinum, Winged or Shining Sumac

Albizia julibrissin, Mimosa, Silk Tree **

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Serviceberry, Amelanchier arborea and Amelanchier Canadensis
Cercis canadensis, Eastern Redbud
Chionanthus virginicus, White Fringetree
Cornus amomum, Silky Dogwood
Lindera benzoin, Northern Spicebush
Betula nigra, River Birch

Invasives of Particular Concern in Southeast Virginia

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, Porcelain-Berry **

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Bignonia capreolata, Crossvine
Gelsemium sempervirens, Carolina or Yellow Jessamine;
Lonicera sempervirens, Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle;

Eleagnus umbellate*, Autumn Olive **

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Baccharis halimifolia, Groundsel
Cephalanthus occidentalis, Buttonbush
Clethra alnifolia, Sweet Pepperbush
Ilex vomitoria, Yaupon Holly; *Ilex glabra*, Inkberry Holly; *Ilex vomitoria*, Yaupon Holly
Itea virginica, Virginia Sweetspire
Sambucus Canadensis, Elderberry
Viburnum acerifolium, Viburnum nudiflorum and Viburnum prunifolium

Hedera helix*, English Ivy *

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Asarum canadense, Wild Ginger
Bignonia capreolata, Cross-vine
Galax urceolata, Galax
Gelsemium sempervirens, Yellow Jessamine
Mitchella repens, Partridge-Berry
Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Virginia-creeper
Packera aurea, Golden Ragwort

Ligustrum sinense*, Chinese Privet *

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Aronia arbutifolia, Red Chokeberry
Ilex glabra, Gallberry, Inkbery
Lindera benzoin, Northern Spicebush
Morella cerifera, Southern Bayberry, Wax Myrtle
Viburnum prunifolium, Black Haw

Lonicera japonica*, Japanese honeysuckle **

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Bignonia capreolata, Cross-vine
Campsis radicans, Trumpet-creeper
Gelsemium sempervirens, Yellow Jessamine
Lonicera sempervirens, Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle
Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Virginia-creeper
Passiflora incarnata, Purple Passionflower, Maypop

Miscanthus sinensis*, Miscanthus, Chinese Silvergrass *

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Panicum virgatum, Switchgrass

Microstegium vimineum*, Japanese Stiltgrass **

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Distichlis spicata, Saltgrass
Sisyrinchium angustifolium, Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass

Pyrus calleryana*, Bradford or Callery Pear *

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Amelanchier spp., serviceberries
Asimina triloba, Pawpaw, Common Pawpaw
Crataegus spp., hawthorns
Cercis canadensis, Redbud;
Cornus florida, Dogwood
Diospyros virginiana, Common Persimmon

Rosa multi:flora*, Multiflora Rose **

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Rosa Carolina, Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose
Rosa palustris, Swamp Rose

Wisteria floribunda*, Japanese Wisteria *** and ***Wisteria sinensis*, Chinese Wisteria *

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Bignonia capreolata, Cross-vine
Campsis radicans, Trumpet-creeper
Gelsemium sempervirens, Yellow Jessamine
Lonicera sempervirens, Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle
Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Virginia-creeper
Passiflora incarnata, Purple Passionflower, Maypop
Wisteria frutescens, American Wisteria

Learn More About Invasive Plants and How You Can Help

Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage:
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspinfo

USDA National Invasive Species Information Center:
http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health:
http://www.invasive.org/species/weeds.cfm

***Mistaken Identity–Invasive Plants and Their Native Look-Alikes* (pub):**
ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/DE/publications/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf

***Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas* (publ):**
https://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/

Additional Resources

About Native Plants

Online:

Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora
http://vaplantatlas.org/

Field Guide to Virginia Salt and Brackish Marsh Plants, William & Mary Virginia Institute of Marine Science
www.ccrm.vims.edu/wetlands/wetland_plants/8x11brochureannotated2rh.pdf

Flora of Virginia Project
http://www.floraofvirginia.org

Flora of North America
www.fna.org/

Virginia Native Plant Society
www.vnps.org/

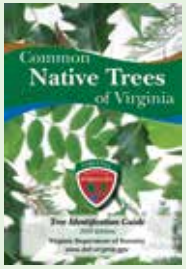
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center of the University of Texas at Austin
www.wildflower.org/

Native Plant Center: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Native Plants for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
http://nativeplantcenter.net/

Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage
www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml

Native Gardening with Wildflowers, U. S. Forest Service
www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native Plant_Materials/Native_Gardening/index.shtml

USDA Plants Database
http://plants.usda.gov/

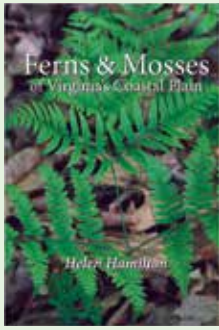


Print:

The American Woodland Garden, Rick Darke, 2002

Common Native Trees of Virginia and Common Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of Virginia, Virginia Department of Forestry
www.dof.virginia.gov

Ferns and Mosses of Virginia's Coastal Plain, Helen Hamilton, 2016



Flora of Virginia, Alan S. Weakley, J. Christopher Ludwig & John E. Townsend, 2012

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, Michael A. Dirr, 2009

Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses, William Cullina, 2008

Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines: A Guide to Using, Growing, and Propagating North American Woody Plants, William Cullina, New England Wild Flower Society, Houghton Mifflin, 2002

Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, US Fish and Wildlife Service (also available online), 2003

Teaming with Microbes, Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis, 2010

The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada, William Cullina, 2000

Wildflowers and Grasses of Virginia's Coastal Plain, Helen Hamilton and Gustavus Hall, 2013

About Landscaping with Natives

Online:

Audubon Guide to a Healthy Yard and Beyond
www.audubon.org/bird/pesticide.html

Backyard Habitat, National Wildlife Federation
www.nwf.org/In-Your-Backyard.aspx

Better Backyard–A Citizen's Resource Guide to Beneficial Landscaping and Habitat Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay
Chesapeake Bay Program, (61-page downloadable booklet)
www.chesapeakebay.net/content/publications/cbp_12259.pdf

Conservation Landscaping Guidelines-The Eight Essential Elements,
Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council (33-pg downloadable booklet)
www.chesapeakelandscape.org

Habitat at Home (basic overview), Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/habitat-at-home.pdf

Additional Resources

Habitat Gardening for Wildlife (34 pg guide), Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/habitat-gardening.pdf

Hometown Habitat (film), by Catherine Zimmerman in partership with Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Council
http://themeadowproject.com/hometown-habitat/

Living Shoreline Design
http://ccrm.vims.edu/livingshorelines/index.html (go to "Plants and Vendors")

Audubon Plants for Birds Campaign
www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds

Pollinator Partnership
www.pollinator.org/

Pollinators, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov/pollinators/Index.html

U.S.D.A. Forest Service: **Pollinators**
www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators

Wild Ones Handbook Online-Landscaping with Native Plants
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones

WINGS: Essays on Invertebrate Conservation, Xerces Society
www.xerces.org/wings-magazine/

Planning to hire a landscaper?

CBLP CHESAPEAKE BAY Landscape Professional

Find out more about this new certification program at *cblpro.org.*

Print:

Armitage's Native Plants for North American Gardens, 2006, Allan M. Armitage

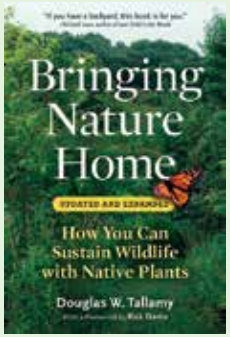
Attracting Birds, Butterflies & Other Winged Wonders to Your Backyard, Kris Wetherbee, 2004

Attracting Butterflies & Hummingbirds to Your Backyard, Sally Roth, 2001

Bee Basics: An introduction to Our Native Bees, Beatriz Moissett and Stephen Buchmann, A USDA Forest Service and Pollinator Partnership Publication, 2011

Virginia Native Plant Marketing Partnership

Learn more about how partners in Virginia are collaborating to market and increase the supply and use of Virginia native plants - *www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/NativePlants.aspx*



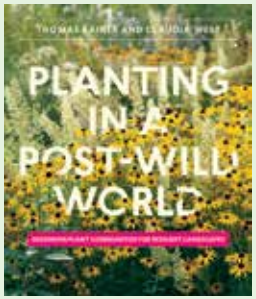
Birdscaping Your Garden: A Practical Guide to Backyard Birds and the Plants That Attract Them, 1994, George Adams

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, Douglas W. Tallamy, 2009 (updated and expanded)
http://bringingnaturehome.net/nativegardening/gardening-for-life

Chesapeake Gardening & Landscaping: The Essential Green Guide, Barbara W. Ellis, University of North Carolina Press, 2015

Kaufman Focus Guides, Butterflies of North America, Jim P. Brock and Kenn Kaufman, 2003

Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology, Eric Grissell, 2001

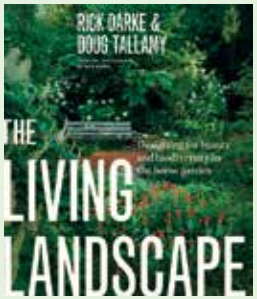


National Wildlife Federation: Attracting Birds, Butterflies & Other Backyard Wildlife, 2004, David Mizejewski

Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes, Thomas Rainer & Claudia West

Pollinator Conservation Handbook, The Xerces Society, 2003

Pollinators of Native Plants, Heather Holm, Pollination Press LLC, 2014



The Forgotten Pollinators, Stephen L. Buchmann and Gary Paul Nabhan, 1997

The Xerces Society Guide to Attracting Native Pollinators, Eric Mader, et al., 2011

The Life Cycles of Butterflies: From Egg to Maturity, a Visual Guide of 23 Common Garden Butterflies, 2007, Judy Burris

The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden, Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy, 2014

Plant HR Natives

October 2016