

# *Native Plants for Northern Virginia*





# Plant Northern Virginia Natives!



This guide showcases the attractive variety of plants native to Northern Virginia. Native plant species have evolved within specific regions 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 Northern Virginia native plants featured here were selected because they are attractive, relatively easy to find, easy to maintain, and offer many benefits to wildlife and the environment.

This guide is published by the Plant NoVA Natives Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to promote the use of these plants in the urban and suburban landscapes of Northern Virginia for their many social, cultural, and economic benefits, and to increase the availability of Northern Virginia native plants in retail nurseries throughout the region. The following partners provided invaluable assistance in developing this guide (see campaign website for a list of all campaign partners):

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# Why Northern Virginia Natives Are the Best Choice



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program

Loss of native vegetation and fragmentation of the natural landscape in Northern Virginia have had a significant impact on the ecological integrity of the region. As a result, wildlife habitat, water quality, air quality, and the historical natural character of the landscape have suffered.

Property owners and land managers can make a profound difference in the ecological sustainability of our region by choosing to plant species that are native to Northern Virginia rather than species that are not native to this area.

Whether you are a residential gardener, professional landscaper, or a grounds manager there are many Northern Virginia native plants from which to choose!

Most of the plants featured in this guide are nursery propagated and can be found for sale at some local retail establishments. With increasing demand for natives as more and more gardeners discover their benefits, retailers are offering an ever-widening selection.

**Northern Virginia native plants are beautiful.** They have appealing foliage, flowers, and berries that can make your landscape unique, attractive, and welcoming, not only for people, but also for local wildlife.

**Northern Virginia native plants are easy to maintain and save time and money.** Naturally adapted to our local soils and climate, the native plants in this guide require less fertilizer, water, and pesticides, and help reduce the load of chemicals introduced into our environment.

**Northern Virginia native plants support wildlife.** Birds and butterflies depend on native plants for food, shelter, and reproduction. Your garden can provide habitat and become a sanctuary for these animals. If your neighbors also plant natives, your community will help create the green corridors, or natural pathways, and the food that birds, butterflies, and other wildlife need to sustain themselves as they move across the landscape.

**Northern Virginia native plants are beautiful, resilient, and attract the pollinators so critical to our local ecosystems!**

**Learn more about the Plant NoVA Natives Campaign:**  
[www.plantnovanatives.org](http://www.plantnovanatives.org)

Cover Photos (center): *Lonicera sempervirens* – Coral Honeysuckle, Dot Field/Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage; (inset images top to bottom) *Kalmia latifolia* – Mountain Laurel, Margaret Chatham/Virginia Native Plant Society; *Fragaria virginiana* – Wild Strawberry, Sue Dingwell/Virginia Native Plant Society; *Euonymus americanus* – Strawberry-bush, Laura Beaty/VNPS; *Claytonia virginica* – Spring Beauty, Judy Gallagher; *Mertensia virginica* – Virginia Bluebell, Laura Beaty/Virginia Native Plant Society.

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

Latin name per  
Flora of Virginia ↙  
**Asclepias tuberosa** • Butterfly Weed



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program

As its common name suggests, Butterfly Weed attracts butterflies, and is a larval host and nectar source for the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Tolerates drought.

↖ environmental, aesthetic, and economic benefits  
↗ interesting fact(s) about genus and/or species

common name(s) per  
Flora of Virginia ↙

- height of plant at maturity ↙
- 1–2 feet
  - Yellow-orange to bright orange in May–Sept
  - Full sun to part shade ← light requirement
  - Moist or dry, well-drained sand, loam, clay, or limestone (tolerates drought)
  - Naturally found in dry/rocky open woods, glades, fields and roadsides ↗
- soil/moisture requirements ↗
- natural habitat ↗

*Easily grown from seed, but 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. Butterfly Weed does not transplant well due to its deep taproot and is probably best left undisturbed once established. Although it is sometimes called Orange Milkweed, this species has no milky sap.*

A selection of the many beautiful, resilient, and beneficial plants native to Northern Virginia 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 may be found on page 39. Plants were included only if currently documented in our area by the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora, hence the guide may not include plants commonly sold in the trade as "native."

Plants are listed alphabetically by scientific name and grouped in the following categories:

**Forbs** are small non-woody (herbaceous) flowering plants with showy flowers, generally pollinated by insects. Typically, these plants are labeled as "perennials" at your garden center, so the guide refers to them as "Perennials (Forbs)."

**Grasses**, sedges, and rushes have upright straplike leaves and small non-showy flowers.

**Ferns** reproduce using spores rather than flowers.

**Vines** can be woody or non-woody and do not support themselves.

**Shrubs** are small woody plants.

**Trees** are large woody plants.

The comprehensive index includes some plants that are actually reseeding annuals. Some perennials are short-lived and also depend upon reseeding.

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

Northern Virginia jurisdictions of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun and Prince William range from USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 6b to 8b. All plants in this guide are suitable for this range of climatic conditions.

**Note:** Light and moisture requirements, and habitat values, provided for the species highlighted in this guide are based on partner research and experience with the plants.



# Northern Virginia Physiographic Regions & Natural Communities



## The Northern Virginia Region

Elevations in Northern Virginia vary from nearly sea level along the Potomac River to almost 2,000 feet in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western Loudoun County. The abrupt change in elevation from the rolling hills of the Piedmont to the flat Coastal Plain is marked by falls or rapids in streams and rivers. This geographic feature is called the Fall Line.

## Plant Distributions

Native plant species evolved within specific regions and dispersed throughout their ranges without known human involvement. Over time they have adapted to the unique soils, climate, ecological relationships and interactions with other

plants and animals in their region. They are distributed across the landscape based on a number of conditions – temperature, rainfall, soil fertility, soil moisture, drainage, and amount of light, among others.

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

## Northern Virginia Natural Plant Communities

Two among the common natural plant communities of the NOVA region are Basic Mesic Forests and Acidic Oak-Hickory Forests. These may provide a blueprint for selecting plants likely to do well in your yard depending on your soil and moisture conditions.

### Basic Mesic Forest



*Adiantum pedatum*, Laura Beaty/VNPS; *Fagus grandifolia*, Gary Fleming/DCRNH; *Tiarella cordifolia*, Gary Fleming/DCRNH; *Asarum canadense*, Judy Gallagher

These communities grow in fertile and moderately moist soils. Dominant trees include American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), while ground layer forbs include Common Black Cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*), Common Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), Common Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*), Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), Heart-leaved Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) and Northern Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*).

### Acidic Oak-Hickory Forest



*Quercus alba*, Jim McGlone; *Coreopsis verticillata*; *Penstemon digitalis*, Laura Beaty; *Parathelypteris noveboracensis*, Helen Hamilton

Soil conditions in these communities are less fertile and drier. Dominant trees include White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*). Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana* var. *virginiana*), and Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). Maple-leaved Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), and forbs such as Whorled Coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*), Partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*), Tall White Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), New York Fern (*Parathelypteris noveboracensis*) and Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*) are often found here.



# How to Get Started in Using Northern Virginia Natives



Acidic Oak-Hickory Forest by Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program

## Taking Inspiration from Nature

Prior to settlement by Europeans, Northern Virginia was dominated by forests and occasional, more open meadows, all with a rich array of plant communities adapted to diverse geological, moisture, and soil conditions. As visible in our state and regional natural areas, parks, and forests, these natural plant communities consist of layers of vegetation that sustain soil health, offer food and shelter to wildlife, moderate temperatures, and provide tranquility to visitors.

- The **tree canopy** is the foundational component of native forest communities with majestic trees soaring up to 100 feet. Oak and hickory species are often dominant.
- **Understory trees and shrubs** fill in under these trees and can include smaller trees such as Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), and shrubs such as Maple-leaved Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) and Wild Azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*).
- **Ground layers of forbs, ferns, and grasses** provide dense coverage to protect the soil in multiple layers, and vary considerably depending on local conditions. Grasses and forbs also make up the dense communities of meadows and open woodlands.

Taking your inspiration from nature, you can recreate a bit of these diverse communities within your own yard, layering trees (canopy trees if you have room), shrubs, and mixes of forbs (perennials), ferns, and grasses. Or you can

create a native plant meadow with a mix of forbs and grasses. Selections of plants with similar soil, moisture, and light requirements will reproduce the self-sustaining benefits found in nature for a beautiful, easy-to-care-for landscape.

## Tips for Getting Started

Incorporating natives into your garden can be achieved gradually as you work to maintain and improve your yard for yourself and local wildlife. Here are some ideas:

- Plant lots of woodies - canopy trees if possible, understory trees, and a lively shrub layer. These provide structure to your landscape and habitat for wildlife. Different birds nest at different heights.
- Fill in around these trees and shrubs with native perennials and grasses as a living mulch for the ground layer.
- Such commonly used ornamentals as Asiatic azaleas, hollies, and cherry trees have native counterparts; consider using them instead.
- Mass plants. Plant densely to attract birds and butterflies, and to reduce runoff along any streams near your property.
- Install a swale or a rain garden to slow stormwater runoff and allow the water to be absorbed by your ground.
- In a hot sunny location, create a mini meadow dominated by native grasses, adding accent and color with flowering perennials.
- If located near a park or natural area, consider how to connect your property and expand that natural area.
- Let nature work for you, take advantage of common plants such as the Common Violet that are already on your property.
- Find sellers of native plants on [www.plantnovanatives.org](http://www.plantnovanatives.org).

## Mobile App Northern Virginia Native Plant Search

A mobile-adapted plant search function can be found on the Plant Northern Virginia Natives campaign website for those times when you are shopping for plants and don't have this guide with you.

You can search by plant name, by wildlife value, and by sun, moisture, and soil requirements. Deer resistance information is included when available, as well as gardening tips, pH, and physiographic region of origin.

[www.plantnovanatives.org](http://www.plantnovanatives.org)



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Aquilegia canadensis* • Wild or Eastern Red Columbine



Margaret Chatham/VNPS



- 1–3 feet
- Nodding, red and yellow bell-like flower with upward spurred petals in April–May, occasionally June
- Sun to part shade
- Sandy, well-drained soils, medium loam, sandy loam rocky outcrops
- Naturally found in dry rocky woodlands to moist, well-drained forests

*Short-lived plant, but readily self-sows. Backward-pointed tubes, or spurs, of the flower contain nectar that attracts long-tongued insects and hummingbirds especially adapted for reaching the sweet secretion.*

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

## *Aruncus dioicus* • Goatsbeard (Eastern Goat's-beard)



Margaret Chatham/VNPS



- 3–6 feet
- Large, feathery clusters of small, white flowers in May–June
- Part sun to shade—subject to sun scald when not moist enough
- Moist to wet soils; tolerates seasonal flooding
- Naturally found in rich woods, ravines, wooded roadsides, clearings

*Needs space; good for large-scale displays massed in a drift down a slope. Aruncus, from the Greek arynchos (goat's beard), refers to the showy, finger-like flower clusters, which form feathery masses of all male or all female flowers. Male plants have showier flowers.*

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to Dusky Azure (*Celastrina nigra*) butterfly.

## *Arisaema triphyllum* • Common Jack-in-the-pulpit



Margaret Chatham/VNPS



- 1–3 feet
- 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
- Naturally found in humus-rich woods, bottomland forests

*Grows most vigorously in moist, shady, seasonally wet locations.*

Excellent woods-garden plant. Very easy to cultivate in variety of conditions.

## *Asarum canadense* • Common Wild Ginger



Judy Gallagher



- 4–8 inches
- Reddish to greenish brown flower at ground level beneath leaves in April–May
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist, rich soils
- Naturally found in woodlands

*Can create a dense, Semi-evergreen, ground cover on the woodland floor. Seed dispersed by ants.*

Larval host of the Pipeline Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*) butterfly.



## Asclepias incarnata • Swamp Milkweed



Ginny Yacovissi/VNPS



- 2–5 feet
- Pink, purple flowers in May–August
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to wet, rich soils
- Naturally found in wet freshwater areas such as meadow, field, riparian area, swamp, marsh

*Good plant for wetland gardens. The genus was named in honor of Aesculapius, Greek god of medicine, because some species have long been used to treat a variety of ailments.*

Swamp Milkweed's showy flower clusters attract butterflies and hummingbirds. It is an important food source for the Monarch caterpillar (*Danaus plexippus*).

## Baptisia australis • Blue Wild Indigo



Laura Beaty/VNPS



- Up to 5 feet
- Blue-purple and pea-like in April–May
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, usually sandy acidic soil
- Naturally found in dry to moist open woods, streambanks, floodplains

*Like other members of the pea family, microorganisms that inhabit nodules on the plant's root system produce nitrogen compounds necessary for the plant's survival.*

Special value to bumble bees and other native bees.

## Asclepias tuberosa • Butterfly Weed



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 1–2 feet
- Yellow-orange to bright orange in May–September
- Full sun to part sun
- Moist or dry, well-drained sandy soils
- Naturally found in dry/rocky open woods, glades, fields and roadsides

*Easily grown from seed, but 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. Although it is sometimes called Orange Milkweed, this species has no milky sap.*

As its common name suggests, Butterfly Weed attracts butterflies, and is a larval host and nectar source for the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Tolerates drought.

## Baptisia tinctoria • Yellow Wild Indigo



Ken Lawless



- 1–3 feet
- Yellow pea-like; May–July
- Full sun
- Dry, loam, sandy, acidic soils
- Naturally found in dry open woods and clearings

*The genus name, 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.



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Chelone glabra* • White Turtlehead



- 2–4 feet
- White, pink in August–October
- Full sun to full shade
- Light, rich, wet to moist soils
- Naturally found in brushy marshes, stream banks, wet ditches, low meadows, woodlands

*The distinctive shape of this flower is reflected in the genus name, derived from the Greek chelone (tortoise). The related Chelone obliqua (often sold as C. lyonii) has pink inflorescences.*

Nectar source for butterflies and humminbirds.

## *Claytonia virginica* • Spring Beauty, Virginia Spring Beauty



- 4–8 inches
- Pink or whitish flowers, striped with dark pink, in loose clusters in March–May
- Part to full shade
- Rich, moist soils; prefers high humus
- Naturally found in rich woods, thickets

*Plant disappears from above ground shortly after the seed capsules have ripened, but does not leave a large gap in the garden. It grows from an underground tuber like a small potato; this has a sweet, chestnut-like flavor. Native Americans and colonists used them for food.*

This most attractive spring perennial is spectacular in large patches. It spreads by seed.

## *Coreopsis verticillata* • Whorled or Threadleaf Coreopsis



- 6 inches–3.5 feet
- Yellow in May–August
- Full sun to part sun
- Dry, well-drained primarily acidic soils
- Naturally found in dry, open woods

*This very popular garden plant since the 19th century has delicate, dark-green leaves divided into thread-like segments and showy, long-blooming flower heads with yellow centers. Provide a sunny, well-drained site and you'll be rewarded with hardy, long-lived, long-blooming plants that are also drought-tolerant. This plant spreads by rhizomes.*

Attracts butterflies. Birds eat seeds. Drought tolerant.

## *Dicentra eximia* • Wild Bleeding Heart



- 1–2 feet
- Deep pink, drooping heart-shaped flowers in April–June, some flowers through the summer
- Part shade to full shade
- Rich, moist soils
- Naturally found in rocky woods and cliffs, rich woods

*Naturalizes by reseeding when happy. Dislikes wet soils in winter and dry soils in summer.*

Attracts birds and bees.



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Eurybia divaricata* • White Wood Aster



Sue Dingwell/VNPS

Attracts butterflies. Lovely in masses.



- 6 inches–3.5 feet
- August–October
- Full or dappled shade
- Moist, loam, sandy, acidic soils; good drainage essential
- Naturally found in moist to dry woods

*The delicate, airy clouds of white wood aster are a must-have for every fall garden. This lovely aster is among the first to bloom in late summer. Small, white, daisy-like flowers with yellow centers that fade to red are borne atop dark green to black stems. A vigorous grower it is a favorite for attracting wildlife.*

## *Eutrochium fistulosum* • Hollow Joe-pye-weed



Sally & Andy Wasowski/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Attracts birds and numerous pollinators. Special value to native bees.



- 2–8 feet
- Tiny, pale pinkish-lavender florets in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to wet well-drained, humus-rich, sandy & clay soils
- Naturally found in alluvial woods and meadows, bogs, marshes, stream banks

*Joe Pye weed has outstanding ornamental attributes. It is a substantial plant that needs space, but when planted in groups or massed can provide spectacular flowering and architectural height.*

## *Fragaria virginiana* • Wild Strawberry



Sue Dingwell/VNPS

Attracts butterflies, larval host to Gray Hairstreak. Special value to native bees.



- Up to 1 foot
- Loose cluster of small, white, five-petaled flowers followed by tasty, wild strawberries in April–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Dry soils
- Naturally found in woodlands, clearings, meadows

*Cultivated strawberries are hybrids developed from this native species and the South American one. Not to be confused with *Duchesnea indica* - yellow-flowered groundcover. Supports Conservation Biological Control, meaning a plant that attracts predatory or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.*

## *Geranium maculatum* • Wild Geranium, Spotted Geranium



Judy Gallagher

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



- 8–28 inches
- Lavender flowers are in loose clusters of 2–5 in April–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Moderate, highly acidic to calcium-rich soils
- Naturally found in upland and floodplain forests

*Unlike most other spring bloomers, Wild Geranium retains its attractive foliage all season long. Genus name comes from the Greek word *geranos* meaning crane in reference to the fruit that purportedly resembles the head and beak of a crane. Needs moisture if sited in full sun.*



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Helianthus angustifolius* • Narrow-leaved Sunflower



- 3–6 feet
- Yellow in September–October
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to wet soils
- Naturally found in bogs, ditches, clearings

*Narrowest-leaved sunflower.*

Attracts birds and native bees.

## *Helianthus tuberosus* • Jerusalem Artichoke



- 3–6 feet
- Yellow flowers, August–October
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to drying soil
- Naturally found in roadsides, woodland edges, thickets

*Can be an aggressive spreader.*

Good for native bees, and also provides cover and seeds for other animals.

## *Heuchera americana* • American Alumroot



- Leaves up to 6 inches; flowering stems 1–2 feet
- Leafless, hairy, sticky flower stalk rises 18–36 inches and surrounds its upper third with loosely grouped, minute, greenish, cup-shaped flowers in April–June
- Part shade to full shade
- Dry to moist soils
- Naturally found in rocky woodlands and outcrops of various geologic formations; tolerant of a range of rock types and chemistries

*This species has interesting foliage. It is a good rock garden plant and a good groundcover in shady gardens. It also grows well in pots. Deer resistant.*

Attracts small bees.

## *Hibiscus moscheutos* • Swamp or Eastern Rose-mallow



- 3–6 feet
- Creamy-white flowers in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Wet or moist soils
- Naturally found in swampy forests, meadows, freshwater marsh edges

*Clumps of hibiscus start to grow late in the season and flower over a long period in late summer.*

Strikingly showy species. Nectar source for hummingbirds.



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Iris cristata* • Dwarf Crested Iris



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 4–16 inches
- Blue-violet or less often white flower in April–May
- Part shade to full shade
- Dry to moist, rocky, acidic and basic soils
- Naturally found in woodlands, sometimes in mountain hollows and ravines

*Colonizes by rhizomes. You can separate plants as desired.*

Lovely woodland cover that attracts bees and hummingbirds.

## *Lilium superbum* • Turk's-cap Lily



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



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

*The recurved sepals and petals, 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.*

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

## *Liatris*



A genus in the Aster family that belies the notion that straight native plants can't compete with cultivars or non-natives for showiness or beauty. All of these plants produce a large spike of lilac flowers that are a stunning garden accent or can be cut and grouped as a centerpiece. Not only are they beautiful, but they are important nectar plants for hummingbirds and butterflies, and are especially good for native bees.

Though generally thought of as a midwestern prairie plant, the species below are native to Northern Virginia.

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b><i>Liatris pilosa</i></b>    | Grass-leaf Blazing Star, Grass-leaf Gayfeather |
| <b><i>Liatris scariosa</i></b>  | Large Blazing Star, Eastern Blazing Star       |
| <b><i>Liatris spicata</i></b>   | Dense Blazing Star, Gayfeather, Blazing Star   |
| <b><i>Liatris squarrosa</i></b> | Scaly Blazing Star, Plains Blazing Star        |



Sue Dingwell/VNPS



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Lobelia cardinalis* • Cardinal Flower



Alli Baird



- 1–4 feet
- Red in July–October
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to wet, humus-rich, sandy & clay soils
- Naturally found in low areas, woodlands edge, stream banks, roadsides, meadows

*Short-lived perennial that self sows. The common name of this flower alludes to the bright red robes worn by Roman Catholic cardinals.*

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

## *Maianthemum racemosum* • Eastern Solomon's-plume, False Solomon's-seal



Fritz Flohr Reynolds



- 1–3 feet
- 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
- Naturally found in deciduous woods, shaded banks and ditches

*A typical woodland plant in much of NoVA and 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 the fall.

## *Lobelia siphilitica* • Great Blue Lobelia



Laura Beaty/VNPS



- 1.5 - 4 feet
- Lavender-blue, tubular flowers crowded together on the upper stem from July–October
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to wet clay, loam or sandy soils
- Naturally found in 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.

## *Mertensia virginica* • Virginia Bluebell, Virginia Cowslip



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 8–28 inches
- Lavender-blue, bell-shaped in March–May
- Well-drained moist soils
- Part shade to full shade
- Naturally found in floodplains, slope forests

*This species is ephemeral, which means that its foliage dies back in summer. Interplant with other perennials. Reseeds freely. When it grows in masses, this species makes a spectacular show.*

Pollinated by long-tongued bees, but supports many other early pollinators.



## Mitchella repens • Partridge-berry



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 1–4 inches, creeping
- Pinkish-white, tiny trumpet in May–July; red berry in July–December
- Part shade to full shade
- Dry or moist, humus-rich, sandy or loamy, acidic soils
- Naturally found in woods; stream banks; sandy slopes

*All parts of this plant are dainty. Native American women drank a tea made from the leaves as an aid in childbirth.*

Berries are consumed by a variety of birds and mammals. Use as groundcover under acid-loving shrubs.

## Oenothera fruticosa • Narrow-leaf Sundrops, Southern Sundrops



Irvine Wilson/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 1–3 feet
- Golden-yellow in May–September
- Full sun
- Moist, well-drained soils
- Naturally found in woods, roadsides, meadows

*This plant spreads rapidly under favorable conditions, but does not usually become aggressive.*

Attracts birds and hummingbirds.

## Monarda didyma • Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea



Rachelle Bartolomei/VNPS



- 2–4 feet
- Scarlet-red, tube-shaped, tightly clustered flowers in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to periodically wet, acid soils
- Naturally found in creek banks, meadows, floodplains, woods

*Linnaeus named the genus Monarda in honor of a 16th century Spanish physician and botanist, Nicolas Bautista Monardes (1493-1588). Monardes never traveled to the Americas but was able to study medicinal plants of the New World brought back by Spanish explorers.*

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies. Special value to bumble bees and other native bees.

## Opuntia humifusa • Eastern Prickly-pear



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 1-2.5 feet, evergreen with 1–3 levels of flattened pads, each up to 10 ins long, 7 ins 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 inches across followed by a pear-like fruit in late spring to mid-summer
- Full sun
- Dry, sandy soil
- Naturally found in rock outcrops

*The blooming period of this plant 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.



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Packera aurea* • Golden Ragwort, Heartleaf Ragwort



Sue Dingwell/VNPS



- 1–3 feet
- Golden-yellow, daisy-like in March–May
- Full sun to full shade
- Dry or moist, loam, sandy, rich acidic soils
- Naturally found in floodplain forests

*Fragrant, evergreen groundcover, energetic spreader. Toxic to humans—do not consume.*

Attracts butterflies and bees.

## *Peltandra virginica* • Arrow Arum, Tuckahoe



John Hayden/VNPS



- 2–3 feet
- Yellow spadix surrounded by a greenish-white spathe occurring atop a statuesque stalk; large green berries follow; April–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Mud
- Naturally found in common in and along shallow waterways

*The genus name derives from the Greek pelte (small shield) and aner (stamen), referring to the shieldlike contour of stamens. The common name, Arrow Arum, derives from the pronounced leaf shape, while the name Tuckahoe is derived from the Algonquin name for the plant.*

The berries of arrow arum attract wood ducks and king rails.

## *Penstemon digitalis* • Beardtongue, Tall or White Foxglove



Laura Beaty/VNPS



- 1.5–4 feet
- Showy white tubular flowers in May–June
- Full sun to light shade
- Medium, loamy soils
- Naturally found in wood margins, fields and other open, disturbed habitats

*Relatively long bloom period on a well-behaved plant with handsome shiny leaves. Reseeds. Tolerates deer and drought.*

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

## *Phlox divaricata* • Wild Blue Phlox, Woodland Phlox



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 5–18 inches
- Fragrant, lavender or pink flowers in April–May
- Filtered sunlight to light shade
- Rich, sandy or rocky, well-drained soils
- Naturally found in floodplain forests to open woods

*Often fragrant. Not rabbit or deer resistant. Divaricata refers to its sprawling habit.*

Attracts hummingbirds, long-tongued bees and butterflies.



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Podophyllum peltatum* • Mayapple



Margaret Chatham/VNPS



- 8 inches–1.5 feet
- 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
- Naturally found in deciduous woods, shaded banks and various moist disturbed habitats

*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.

## *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* • Narrow-leaf Mountain-mint



Rochelle Bartolomei/VNPS



- 1–4 feet
- Whitish to lavender, with purple spots in June–September
- Sun to light shade
- Wet to dry soils
- Naturally found in meadows, fields, roadsides, riverside outcrops

*Silvery foliage and long blooming period. Rub leaves on skin to repel mosquitoes. Supports Conservation Biological Control, meaning it is a plant that attracts predatory or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.*

Attracts bees, birds, butterflies. Special value to bumble bees and other native bees, honey bees.

## *Rudbeckia*



Mary Free/VCE



*Rudbeckia* species, including Black-eyed Susan, Brown-eyed Susan, Green-headed Coneflower, and Orange Coneflower, are easy to grow and low maintenance plants that are tolerant of most soils. They occur in fields, meadows, and roadsides. Some are shorter lived, but all re-seed and establish clumps.

- 1.5–4 feet
- Yellow rays around a dry, woody “cone” in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to dry, clay, loam, sandy soils

Shown: *Rudbeckia fulgida*, Orange Coneflower. The seedheads of *Rudbeckia* spp. are a favorite food source for goldfinches and chickadees.

## *Ruellia caroliniensis* • Carolina or Common Wild-petunia



James McGlone/VDOF



- 0.5–3 feet
- Light purple flowers, May–August
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist soils
- Naturally found in roadsides, thickets, open woodlands

*It is moderately tolerant of salt and likes higher pH, and makes a good plant for the area between sidewalks and streets.*

This plant has high value for pollinators.



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Sedum ternatum* • Wild Stonecrop, Woodland Stonecrop



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 2–8 inches
- White with five, pointed petals in April–June
- Part shade
- Well-drained, base-rich soils
- Naturally found in upland forests, shaded ledges and rock outcrops

*Rock-loving, prostrate, spreading ground cover. Cuttings readily root and may be taken from sterile shoots at any time during the growing season. Easy to propagate.*

Bees, wasps, and flies visit flowers.

## *Silene caroliniana* • Wild Pink, Sticky Catchfly



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



- 1.5–8 inches
- Rose-pink, tubular flowers in April–June
- Part shade
- Tolerant of a range of soil and rock chemistries
- Naturally found in forests, woodlands, barrens and outcrops

*A single wild pink plant can produce 50–100 showy, rose-pink, tubular flowers. It is commonly mistaken for phlox.*

Hummingbirds and butterflies nectar on this beauty. Stunning, showy plant.

## *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* • Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed-grass



Margaret Chatham/VNPS



- 8–20 inches
- Delicate, blue or deep blue-violet flowers with yellow centers in April–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to dry, poor to average soils
- Naturally found in upland forests, meadows, fields, woods

*Member of the Iris family. Deciduous. Avoid heavy mulch. Reseeds and can form thick stands over time.*

Songbirds eat the seed. Drought tolerant.

## *Tiarella cordifolia* • Foamflower



Gary Fleming, DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 6–12 in.
- Tiny, white flowers with very long stamens appear in airy racemes in April–June; leaves turn a nice reddish bronze in fall
- Part shade to full shade
- Organically rich, moisture-retentive soils
- Naturally found in cool, moist, deciduous woods; stream banks

*Foamflower is a sturdy groundcover. It spreads by underground rhizomes or by expanding clumps, depending on the cultivar. Genus name comes from the Greek “tiara” meaning a small crown in reference to the form of the fruit.*

Handsome, often variegated, foliage and extended spring bloom make this a winner for the shady border





A genus of 90 to 110 species commonly known as goldenrod. **Goldenrods** are mostly yellow late-summer and fall-blooming flowers with a variety of shapes. They provide late season food for bees and butterflies and may attract predatory or parasitoid insects that target pest insects. Goldenrod, with its brilliant fall flowers, is often mistakenly believed to cause hayfever; the real offender is ragweed, which blooms at the same time with inconspicuous flowers and wind-blown pollen.

Goldenrods average one to four feet in height, but some species can reach eight feet. They grow in a broad range of light and moisture conditions on a variety of soils. The following species will add splashes of yellow and gold to home gardens and other cultivated landscapes.

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

- Solidago caesia*** Blue-stemmed or Weath Goldenrod
- Solidago flexicaulis*** Zig-zag Goldenrod
- Solidago nemoralis*** Gray, Dwarf, Old Field Goldenrod
- Solidago odora*** Sweet Goldenrod

**Species that prefer full sun:**

- Euthamia graminifolia*** Flat-top Goldenrod
- Solidago altissima*** Tall Goldenrod, Late Goldenrod
- Solidago juncea*** Early Goldenrod
- Solidago rugosa*** Rough-stemmed or Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod



A genus of about 90 species of herbaceous annual and perennial plants in the composite family (*Asteraceae*) that were formerly treated within the genus *Aster*. The majority are native to North America. They attract a high number of native bees, bumblebees, and honeybees, as well as butterflies and skippers. Smooth Blue Aster is a larval host for the Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) butterfly.

- Symphyotrichum cordifolium*** Heart-leaved Aster, Blue Wood Aster
- Symphyotrichum laeve (Aster laevis)*** Smooth Blue Aster, Smooth Aster
- Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*** Calico Aster
- Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*** New England Aster
- Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*** New York Aster

Shown: *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, New England Aster.



*Viola sororia*.

A genus of over 500 species worldwide, with 30 species native to our region and commonly known as violets. Violets are small plants that come in a variety of flower colors, leaf shapes and forms. They provide nectar for bees and are host plants for several fritillary butterflies. Ants spread their seeds.

Two common and vigorous species (*V. sororia* and *V. bicolor*) may be used in low maintenance settings such as meadows and naturalized lawns. The easy-care, attractive species listed here can be used as fillers among taller plants and will add color to spring and early summer gardens.

- Viola cucullata*** Marsh Blue Violet --- flowers April–June, moist conditions, marsh, riverbank
- Viola labradorica*** Dog Violet (*V. conspersa*) --- stemmed, flowers late Mar–May
- Viola pedata*** Bird's-foot Violet --- flowers March–June, deeply cut leaves, dry forests and clearings
- Viola pubescens*** Yellow Violet --- yellow flowers March–May, well drained rich soils
- Viola sagittata*** Arrow-leaved Violet --- flowers April, narrow shaped leaved
- Viola striata*** Striped Violet, Cream Violet --- moist woodlands, blooms later and longer than most



# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Vernonia noveboracensis* • New York Ironweed



Margaret Chatham/VNPS

- 3–6 feet
- 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
- Naturally found in floodplain forests, riverbanks, meadows, roadsides

*As a tall, narrow plant, it is suited for the back of the border or tight spaces.*

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



## *Zizia aurea* • Golden-alexanders, Common Golden-Alexanders



Nancy Vehrs/VNPS

- 1–2 feet
- Flat-topped clusters of tiny, yellow flowers in April–May
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to wet soils
- Naturally found in floodplain forests, marshes, clearings

*Supports Conservation Biological Control, meaning it is a plant that attracts predatory or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.*

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*). Special value to native bees.



## *Insect–Plant Coevolution: A NOVA Native Example* The Story of the Yucca and the Yucca Moth



Virginia Witmer/Virginia CZM



Virginia Witmer/Virginia CZM



www.bobklips.com

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 the 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.



## *Adiantum pedatum* • Northern Maidenhair Fern



Laura Beatty/VNPS



- 8–20 inches
- Burgundy red fiddleheads appear in early spring; reproduces by spores; June–August
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist/well-drained soil; nutrient-rich soils; not drought tolerant
- Naturally found in mountains

*This fern is quite easy to grow if it is provided with the right conditions. Some sources suggest adding calcium. Forms colonies by means of creeping rhizomes.*

Provides shelter for toads and lizards.

## *Matteuccia struthiopteris* • Ostrich Fern



Jan & Gaylan Meyer/VNPS



- 1–3 feet
- July–October; reproduces by spores
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist soils
- Naturally found in rich alluvial forests, swamps, bottomland woods & thickets

*Deciduous. Beaded fertile plumes persist through winter. Spreads through underground runners, so give it room.*

## *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum* • Cinnamon Fern



Ken Lawless



- 3–4 feet
- Thick, spore-bearing spikes that turn from green to chocolate brown appear April–June
- Full sun to full shade
- Muddy, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils
- Naturally found in boggy areas, shaded ledges

*Deciduous. Bristly root crown, called osmunda fiber, is used as a potting medium for orchids.*

Dramatic landscape accent. The fuzz that covers the young fiddleheads is a favorite nesting material for birds.

## *Polystichum acrostichoides* • Christmas Fern



Irvine Wilson/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- Fronds 1–3 feet, taller when fertile; reproduces by spores
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist, well-drained, humus-rich, acidic soils; does not tolerate standing water
- Naturally found in rocky woods, stream banks, swamps, thickets

*An evergreen, Christmas Fern got its name because it stays green right through the holiday season.*

Good evergreen border or adaptable accent plant.



# Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

A wider **range** of native *Carex* species is becoming available in the nursery trade. They make splendid, sturdy groundcovers once established, offering wildlife value in both sunny and shady locations. Sedges serve as good, easy care alternatives to *Liriope*. Sedges, like grasses, offer contrasts in texture to ferns and other perennials in mixed borders. Many sedges host larva for skipper butterflies and other pollinators.

## *Carex pensylvanica* • Pennsylvania Sedge



DCR Natural Heritage Program

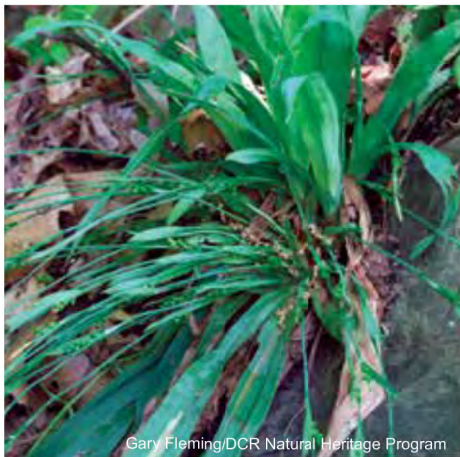


- 6–12 inches
- April–June
- Full sun to full shade
- Dry to moist soils
- Naturally found in rocky woods

*Plant enriches soil and makes a nice groundcover. Spreads by rhizomes. Many other sedges also make handsome, easy-care groundcovers.*

Attracts birds.

## *Carex platyphylla* • Broad-leaved or Broadleaf Silver Sedge



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 8-12"
- Inconspicuous spikes in early spring
- Part shade to shade
- Wide range of average to dry soils, good drainage
- Naturally found in mesic to dry woods

*A nice groundcover.*

Hosts over 35 species of native caterpillars, mainly skipper butterflies.

## *Carex plantaginea* • Plantain-leaved Sedge



Margaret Chatham/VNPS



- 8-10"
- Subtle purple-brown flowering spikes in early spring
- Part-shade to shade
- Average to moist soils
- Natural habitat: rich cove and well-drained floodplain forests

*Divide established clumps.*

## *Elymus hystrix* • Bottlebrush Grass



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 2 – 4 feet
- May – August
- Sun to part sun or light shade
- Moist to dry; tolerates heavy clay and alkaline soils
- Naturally found in mesic to (primarily) dry forests, woodlands and barrens

Does well in a woodland garden with other species that grow in filtered light. *Together, the groups of spikelets resemble a bottlebrush, hence the common name. The species name, from the Greek hystrix (hedgehog), aptly describes the bristly spikelets. This grass is sometimes known as Hystrix patula.*

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to Northern Pearly-eye (*Enodia anthedon*) butterfly.



# Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

## *Eragrostis spectabilis* • Purple Love Grass



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



- 8–18 inches
- Purplish red panicles appear in August–October
- Full sun
- Dry to moist sandy soils
- Naturally found in woodlands, fields

*Drought tolerant. Best in masses, where it creates a lovely purple haze in seed.*

Larval host to Zabulon Skipper (*Poanes zabulon*). Seed consumed by birds and other wildlife.

## *Schizachyrium scoparium* • Little Bluestem



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program

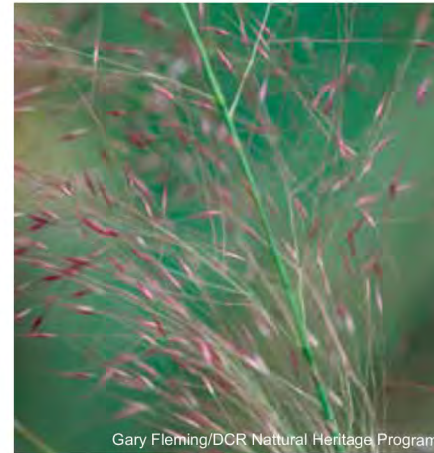


- 1.5–4 feet very dense mounds
- White seedhead in August–October
- Full sun to light shade
- Dry, well-drained, sandy, clay, or loam soils
- Naturally found in woodland edges, hillsides, slopes, open areas

*Wonderful planted en masse. This grass 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.*

In winter the seeds, fuzzy white at maturity, are of particular value to small birds.

## *Muhlenbergia capillaris* • Hair-awn Muhly, Long-awn Hairgrass



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 2 – 3 feet
- August – October
- Sun to part sun
- Average to dry soil; needs very good drainage, especially in winter
- Naturally found in dry rocky, open woodlands, clearings, outcrops, roadsides

*The spikelets of this grass are purple. In fall the plant takes on a stunning feathery, deep pink to lavender hue. Germinates well and grows easily. Collect seed in November when they start to lose the pink color. Use a comb so as to not damage the appearance of plants.*

Hair-awn Muhly functions well in meadow gardens and as a general garden plant.

## *Sorghastrum nutans* • Indian Grass



Margaret Chatham/VNPS



- 1.5–8.5 feet
- Leaves turn brilliant mauve, red, and purple in September–November and provide attractive early fall color
- Full sun
- Dry to moist; tolerates range of soil chemistries
- Naturally found in prairies, slopes, borders of woods

Birds eat seeds through the winter.



## *Clematis virginiana* • Virgin's Bower



R.W. Smith/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Most plant parts are toxic to humans.



- 12–15 feet
- Clusters of creamy white flowers turning into showy sprays of silky seeds that glisten with backlighting in July–September
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to dry, rich soils
- Naturally found in woods, thickets, stream banks

*Lacking tendrils, this 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.*

## *Passiflora incarnata* • Maypop, Purple Passionvine



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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



- 6–30 ft.
- Lavender 3 inch flowers in May–September
- Sun (best) to part shade
- Moist, rich clay and sandy non-saline soils
- Naturally found in 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 seed and by root suckers that can be contained by removing suckers or mowing.*

## *Lonicera sempervirens* • Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program

Frequently visited by hummingbirds and butterflies. Fruits attract Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Hermit Thrush, and American Robin.



- 3–20 feet
- Red outer, sometimes yellow inner, tubular flowers with heaviest bloom in March–June followed by bright-red berries
- Full sun (best) to part shade
- Adaptable to many soil conditions; tolerates poor drainage for short periods
- Naturally found in a wide range of natural habitats

*This beautiful semi-evergreen vine is great for arbors. The species name refers to its evergreen habit. Deer resistant.*

## *Wisteria frutescens* • American Wisteria



Sue Dingwell/VNPS

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to several skipper species.



- 25–30 feet, deciduous
- Lilac or bluish purple in May–June
- Full 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
- Naturally found in woods, river banks, upland thickets

*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. This species also is less aggressive than the similar Asian wisteria species.*



## *Amorpha fruticosa* • False Indigo Bush



Bob Yonovici/VNPS



- 6–13 feet
- Brilliant purple flowers on 3–6 inch spikes in April–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Tolerates wet soils
- Naturally found in stream banks, bogs, pond areas

*Deciduous. Contains some indigo pigment that can be used to make blue dye.*

Larval host and nectar source for many butterflies and native bees. Can form dense thickets and provide cover for wildlife. Deer resistant.

## *Cephalanthus occidentalis* • Buttonbush, Button Willow



Ken Lawless



- 6–12 feet spreading, multibranched shrub or sometimes small tree
- Balls of long-lasting white or pale-pink flowers resembling pincushions in June–September, and button-like balls of fruit; rounded masses of nutlets that persist through the winter
- Full sun to part shade
- Wet, sandy and clay soils; poor drainage or standing water ok
- Naturally found in shorelines, swamps

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

## *Aronia arbutifolia* • Red Chokeberry



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 6–10 feet
- Many clusters of small, white flowers in early May followed by bright red berries that persist into December
- Tolerates dry to wet
- Full sun
- Naturally found in wet and dry thickets

*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*

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

## *Euonymus americanus* • Strawberry-bush, Heart's-a-bustin'



Laura Beaty/VNPS



- 6–10 feet narrow, deciduous green-stemmed shrub, which often spreads into mounded clumps
- Small white flowers in July–August develop into colorful, decorative seed pods
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to dry acidic soils
- Naturally found in forests and thickets

*Leaves turn dull yellow to orange in fall. Its dry fruiting capsules remain long after flowering and help identify this plant in winter. Deer love it.*

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



## Hamamelis virginiana • Witch Hazel



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Birds eat the fruits (small brown capsules). The species has brilliant fall color and flowering.



- 10–15 (sometimes up to 30) feet 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
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist, sandy, clay, acidic and calcareous soils
- Naturally found in moist woods, thickets, bottomlands

*The source of the astringent extract.*

## Ilex verticillata • Common Winterberry



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program

Birds are readily attracted to them. Winterberry tolerates poor drainage and is quite winter hardy.



- 3–10 feet globular, upright, medium-sized deciduous shrub, male and female separate
- Inconspicuous flowers in April–July; dense clusters of bright-red berries that remain throughout winter
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist, acidic soils
- Naturally found in swamps, bogs, thickets, low woods, along ponds and streams

*Leaves are not shaped with sharp teeth like other hollies and are not evergreen. Berries are quite showy and will persist throughout the winter and often into early spring, providing considerable impact and interest to the winter landscape.*

## Hydrangea arborescens • Wild Hydrangea



Yolima Carr

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
- Naturally found in wooded stream banks, bogs

*Wild hydrangea suckers freely, creeping over large areas. Fast-growing and short-lived, it can be cut to the ground every winter.*

## Itea virginica • Virginia Sweetspire



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Flowers and fall foliage make this an attractive ornamental. Can grow in areas of poor drainage.



- 3–8 feet 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
- Naturally found in wooded stream banks, bogs

*Very effective in massed plantings and also good as a container plant.*



## *Kalmia latifolia* • Mountain Laurel



Margaret Chatham/VNPS



- 5–15 feet broadleaf thicket-forming evergreen shrub, sometimes a small tree with short, crooked trunk; stout, spreading branches
- Bell-shaped, white to pink flowers with deep rose spots in large flat-topped clusters in May–June; glossy leaves change from light green to dark green to purple throughout year
- Part shade
- Cool, moist, rocky or sandy, acidic soils
- Naturally found in woods, slopes

*Mountain Laurel is one of the most beautiful native flowering shrubs. Needs afternoon shade, good drainage, and the right setting to thrive. Poisonous plant parts.*

The stamens of the flowers have an odd, springlike mechanism which spreads pollen when tripped by a bee.

## *Physocarpus opulifolius* • Ninebark



Irv Wilson/DOR Natural Heritage Program



- 5–10 feet deciduous shrub with recurved branches. Bark is brown to orangish, peeling into thin strips or broader sheets on larger trunks
- Clusters of small white flowers May–June
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to wet, mineral-rich (including calcium) soils
- Naturally found in rocky open woodlands, cliffs, outcrops, rocky river shores, stream banks

*The ability to grow quickly in harsh conditions makes this shrub especially suitable for erosion control on banks. Disease resistant and drought tolerant.*

Value to songbirds, waterfowl, small mammals, and beneficial insects. Special value to native bees and honey bees.

## *Lindera benzoin* • Northern Spicebush, Spicebush



Ken Lawless



- 6–12 feet 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
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist, sandy, well-drained soils (better form, more berries with sun)

*Fruit and foliage are aromatic. Leaves turn a golden—yellow in fall. This species has separate male and female plants; both are needed for berry production. Deer avoid it.*

A larval host for the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*) and Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) butterflies. The fruits are a special favorite of wood thrushes.

## *Rhododendron periclymenoides* • Wild Azalea, Pinxter Azalea



Margaret Chatham/VNPS



- 6–10 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
- Part shade
- Well-drained, soils
- Naturally found in woods, bogs, riparian

*This species is relatively tolerant of dry sites, and needs good drainage. The old species name, nudiflorum, Latin for “naked-flowered,” refers to the fact that the flowers often appear before its leaves are fully expanded.*

Especially showy flowers. Nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.



## Rosa carolina • Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose



Gaylan Meyer/VNPS



- 1–3 feet 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
- Full sun to part shade
- Dry to wet, acidic soils; drought tolerant
- Naturally found in sandy, open woods; thickets, roadsides, disturbed areas

*Hips develop lovely red color. Although one of the most shade-tolerant roses, this species grows best in open sunny locations.*

Attracts birds. Special value to bumblebees and other native bees: a plant that native bees nest beneath, within, or harvest parts from to construct their nests.

## Vaccinium pallidum • Early Lowbush Blueberry



Deana Crumbling



- 1.5–2 feet 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
- Partial sun to full shade
- Moist or dry, loam, sandy acidic soils
- Naturally found in open woods

*Blueberries prefer acidic soils with sandy or rocky material.*

Sweet berries have a high wildlife value, as do flowers and leaves.

## Sambucus canadensis • Common Elderberry



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



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

*The genus name comes from Greek sambuce, an ancient musical instrument.*

Birds are attracted to the purple-black fruit and spread the seeds.

## Viburnum acerifolium • Maple-leaved Viburnum, Dockmackie



Sally & Andy Wasowski/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



- 4–6 feet deciduous shrub 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
- Full sun to full shade
- Dry to moist, acidic soils and sands
- Naturally found in woods and thickets

*Most soil-adaptable of the viburnums. Flood, insect, shade and disease tolerant.*

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



## ***Amelanchier canadensis* • Canada Serviceberry, Juneberry**



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 15–30 feet, 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
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained acidic soils
- Naturally found in wood borders, moist, upland woods

*Good fall color commends serviceberry for multiseason interest and smaller gardens.*

At least 40 bird species (e.g., Cardinals, Cedar Waxwing, and Towhees) eat the fruit of *Amelanchier* species.

## ***Betula nigra* • River Birch**



Sally & Andy Wasowski/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



- Up to 50 feet gracefully branched tree, can reach 90 feet with irregular, spreading crown; produces a cone-like fruit; satiny silver bark peels to reveal a cinnamon brown trunk beneath; fall foliage is yellow
- Full sun to part shade
- Sandy or clay, moist, acidic soils; well suited to periodically wet areas
- Naturally found in flood plains, bottomland, ditches, ravines, depressions, swamps, stream and river banks to mid-slope

*This is the southernmost New World birch and the only birch that occurs at low altitudes in the southeastern US.*

Fast growing and long-lived. Its ability to thrive on moist sites makes it useful for erosion control.

## ***Asimina triloba* • Pawpaw, Common Pawpaw**



Judy Gallagher



- 10–40 feet tree or multistemmed shrub
- Purple, six-petaled flowers are borne singly in leaf axils in April–May before leaf emergence; large, cylindrical, dark-green or yellow fruit follows; yellow fall foliage
- Full sun to full shade
- Rich, moist, slightly acid soils
- Naturally found in ditches, ravines, depressions, flood plains, bottomland

*A good understory tree. First recorded by the DeSoto expedition in the lower Mississippi Valley in 1541. The name Common Pawpaw is from the Arawakan name of Papaya, an unrelated tropical American fruit.*

A larval host for Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly (*Eurytides marcellus*) and Pawpaw Sphinx Moth (*Dolba hyloeus*). Aromatic tree with no serious disease or insect problems.

## ***Carpinus caroliniana* • American Hornbeam, Ironwood**



Julie Makin/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



- 35–50 feet, with a wide-spreading crown, uniformly oval or very irregular; graceful, drooping branches and slender pale gray trunk, smooth and sinewy with twisting, muscle-like bulges; shiny deciduous leaves become scarlet-orange in the fall
- Fruit, appearing March–April—hangs from a papery bract
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist, well-drained soils
- Naturally found in upland and floodplain forests, alluvial swamps, stream banks

*The term “hornbeam” means “tough tree,” referring to the tree’s tough, very hard wood.*

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



## *Diospyros virginiana* • Common Persimmon



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program

Valued for fruit. Attracts wildlife and is larval host to the Luna Moth (*Actias luna*).



- 15 up to 100 feet, with a spreading 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
- Full sun to shade
- Adaptable; moist, rich, sandy, loam or clay, acidic or calcareous soils
- Naturally found in dry woods, old fields and clearings

*The word Persimmon is of Algonquian origin. Diospyros means “fruit of the god Zeus.” With age, bark becomes thick, dark gray to almost black, and breaks into scaly, squarish blocks. This species has separate male and female plants.*

## *Juniperus virginiana* • Eastern Redcedar



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program

Berry-like fruits consumed by wildlife, including the Cedar Waxwing. Resistant to extremes of drought, heat, and cold.



- 30–40 feet (can reach 90 feet) 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 to blue to dark green; soft, silvery bark covers the single trunk
- Pale blue fruits occur on female plants
- Full sun to part shade
- All soils (adaptable)
- Naturally found in any open spaces

*This tree was prized by the colonists for building furniture, rail fences, and log cabins.*

## *Ilex opaca* • American Holly, Christmas Holly



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program

In late winter, many kinds of songbirds eat the bitter berries of this slow-growing but long-lived tree.



- 25 to 60 feet evergreen has stout, stiff branches that form a pyramidal shape and bear dark-green, leathery, spine-tipped leaves; new growth pushes off the old leaves in spring
- Bright red berries occur on female plants
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist, well-drained, sandy, acidic soils
- Naturally found primarily as an understory woodland tree

*A popular Christmas decoration, the wood also is especially suited for carvings and inlays in cabinetwork, and can be dyed. Shorter, multitrunked form may grow in lower-light situations.*

## *Magnolia virginiana* • Sweetbay Magnolia



Dot Field/DCR Natural Heritage Program

Attractive, aromatic, showy ornamental. Seeds are a good source of food for birds in fall.



- 12–30 feet (occasionally growing to 50 feet) evergreen tree with pale gray bark and multiple, slender, upright trunks bearing horizontal branches; aromatic, spicy foliage
- Solitary, velvety-white, fragrant flowers in May–June followed by dark red aggregate fruits exposing bright-red seeds
- Part shade
- Moist, rich, sandy, loamy, acidic soils
- Naturally found in open woodlands, swamps

*Introduced into European gardens as early as 1688. Called “Beavertree” by colonists who caught beavers in traps baited with the fleshy roots.*



## *Nyssa sylvatica* • Blackgum, Black Tupelo



Gary Fleming/DCR Natural Heritage Program



- 30–60 feet variable-shaped, deciduous tree with horizontally spreading branches; smooth, waxy, dark-green summer foliage changes to fluorescent yellow, orange, scarlet and purple in fall
- Berry-like fruit are small and blue
- Full sun to full shade
- Adaptable to various, even gravelly, soils
- Naturally found in a wide range of habitats

*This species is one of the first plants to color in fall. It tolerates drier sites and also poor drainage.*

Handsome ornamental and shade tree. Juicy fruit is consumed by many birds and mammals.

## *Quercus alba* • White Oak



James McCrone/VDOF



- 50–80 feet with widespreading branches and a wide rounded crown, the 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 up to 3/4 inch long, sometimes to 1 1/4 inches, with a shallow cup
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to dry soils
- Naturally found in woodlands and old fields

*Very rot resistant. Good yard tree with few disease or pest problems.*

One of the most important species of Oaks. Acorns are a food source for many animals, and the tree supports hundreds of species of caterpillars.

*Native Plants for Northern Virginia*

## *Pinus echinata* • Shortleaf Pine



Nancy Vehrs/VNPS



- 50–100 feet large tree; short spreading branches form a pyramid that loosens with age to form a broad, open crown; bright green, 5 inch needles grow in clusters of 2-3; trunks of larger trees have broad, flat, reddish-brown plates
- Yellow cones in March–April
- Sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained to dry soils
- Naturally found in forests, old fields, rocky woodlands

*The most widely distributed of the southern yellow pines. Native in 21 southeastern states.*

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

## *Taxodium distichum* • Baldcypress



Nancy Vehrs/VNPS



- 50–70 feet conifer, with small deciduous needles and a thin, dark to silvery-brown bark that shreds lengthwise; cones are 1- inch-diameter globes
- Full sun to light shade
- Wet to dry soils
- Naturally found in 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. A centerpiece tree with a color and texture that set it apart from other landscape trees. “Bald” refers to its deciduous nature, uncommon among other conifers.*

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



# The Right Plants in the Right Place



## Landscaping in Small Places

Native plant gardens can also be grown in small spaces such as a townhouse yard or apartment. As with any other situation, small-space gardening requires that you acknowledge the amount of space you and the plant need. 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.

### Perennials (Forbs)

*Aquilegia canadensis* • Wild Columbine  
*Actaea racemosa (Cimicifuga racemosa)* • Black Cohosh  
*Asarum canadense* • Wild Ginger  
*Asclepias tuberosa* • Butterfly Weed  
*Chrysogonum virginicum* • Green and Gold

### Perennials (Forbs)

*Coreopsis verticillata* • Threadleaf Tickseed  
*Dicentra eximia* • Wild Bleeding Heart  
*Eurybia (Aster) divaricata* • White Wood Aster  
*Geranium maculatum* • Wild Geranium  
*Heuchera americana* • American Alumroot  
*Lobelia cardinalis* • Cardinal Flower  
*Lobelia siphilitica* • Great Blue Lobelia  
*Maianthemum racemosum* • Solomon's Plume  
*Penstemon digitalis* • Beardtongue Penstemon  
*Phlox divaricata* • Wild Blue Phlox  
*Phlox stolonifera* • Creeping Phlox  
*Polygonatum biflorum* • Solomon's Seal  
*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* • Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint  
*Salvia lyrata* • Lyre-leaf Sage  
*Sedum ternatum* • Wild Stonecrop  
*Sisyrinchium angustifolium* • Blue-eyed Grass  
*Tiarella cordifolia* • Foamflower

### Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

*Elymus hystrix* • Bottlebrush Grass  
*Carex pennsylvanica* • Pennsylvania Sedge  
*Carex stricta* • Tussock or Upright Sedge  
*Schizachyrium scoparium* • Little Bluestem

### Ferns

*Adiantum pedatum* • Maidenhair Fern  
*Asplenium platyneuron* • Ebony Spleenwort  
*Athyrium asplenoides* • Southern Lady Fern  
*Dryopteris marginalis* • Evergreen Shield or Wood Fern  
*Polystichum acrostichoides* • Christmas Fern

### Vines

*Lonicera sempervirens* • Coral Honeysuckle  
*Passiflora lutea* • Yellow Passionflower



*Wisteria frutescens*, American Wisteria, embellishes a patio or porch railing.



*Itea virginica*, Sweetspire, makes a great container plant.



# The Right Plants in the Right Place



## Landscaping in Dry Shade

Finding plants that will thrive in dry shade can be challenging. Spring ephemerals (plants that flower and set seed before the tree canopy fills in and then go dormant) are good choices. The lists below contain many attractive species that can be grown in dry, shady areas.

### Perennials (Forbs)

*Antennaria plantaginifolia* • Plantain-leaved Pussytoes  
*Chrysogonum virginianum* • Green and Gold  
*Conoclinium coelestinum* • Mistflower, Ageratum  
*Dicentra eximia* • Bleeding Heart  
*Erigeron pulchellus* • Robin's Plantain  
*Eurybia divaricata* • White Wood Aster  
*Goodyera pubescens* • Downy Rattlesnake-plantain  
*Helianthus divaricatus* • Woodland Sunflower, Spreading Sunflower  
*Heuchera americana* • American Alumroot  
*Mitchella repens* • Partridgeberry  
*Packera aurea* • Golden or Heartleaf Ragwort  
*Polygonatum biflorum* • Solomon's Seal  
*Pycnanthemum incanum* • Hoary Mountain Mint  
*Tiarella cordifolia* • Heart-leaved foamflower

### Ferns

*Dryopteris carthusiana* • Spinulose Woodfern  
*Dryopteris marginalis* • Marginal Woodfern, Evergreen Shieldfern

### Vines

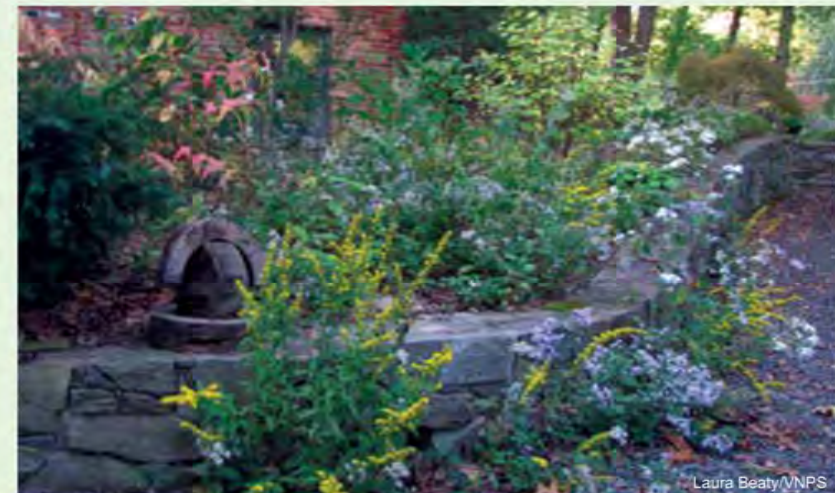
*Clematis virginiana* • Virgin's Bower  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* • Virginia Creeper  
*Wisteria frutescens* • American Wisteria

### Shrubs

*Cornus racemosa* • Gray Dogwood  
*Ceanothus americanus* • New Jersey Tea, Redroot  
*Gaultheria procumbens* • Wintergreen, Teaberry  
*Hamamelis virginiana* • Witch Hazel  
*Hydrangea arborescens* • Wild Hydrangea, Smooth Hydrangea  
*Hypericum prolificum* • Shrubby St. John's Wort  
*Lindera benzoin* • Spicebush  
*Staphylea trifolia* • Bladdernut  
*Vaccinium corymbosum* • Highbush Blueberry  
*Vaccinium pallidum* • Early Lowbush Blueberry  
*Viburnum acerifolium* • Maple-leaved Viburnum

### Trees

*Amelanchier arborea* • Downy Serviceberry  
*Carpinus caroliniana* • American Hornbeam, Ironwood  
*Cercis canadensis* • Eastern Redbud  
*Chionanthus virginicus* • Fringe Tree, Old Man's Beard  
*Quercus montana* • Chestnut Oak, Rock Chestnut Oak





# The Right Plants in the Right Place

## Landscaping in Street Side Places



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 happen to also be marsh species adapted to an environment with saturated soil and low oxygen. Consider the following species for street side environments.

### Perennials (Forbs)

*Hibiscus moscheutos* • Swamp Rose-mallow, Eastern Rose-mallow, Crimson-eyed Rose-mallow  
*Oenothera fruticosa* • Narrowleaf Evening Primrose, Southern Sundrops  
*Opuntia humifusa* • Eastern Prickly-pear

### Grasses/Ferns

*Panicum virgatum* • Switchgrass  
*Schizachyrium scoparium* • Little Bluestem  
*Thelypteris palustris* • Marsh Fern

### Shrubs

*Aronia arbutifolia* (*Photinia pyrifolia*) • Red Chokeberry  
*Aronia melanocarpa* (*Photinia melanocarpa*) • Black Chokeberry  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis* • Buttonbush  
*Gaylussacia baccata* • Black Huckleberry  
*Lindera benzoin* • Spicebush  
*Rosa carolina* • Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose  
*Sambucus canadensis* • Common Elderberry, American Elder  
*Vaccinium corymbosum* • Highbush Blueberry, Northern Highbush Blueberry  
*Viburnum dentatum* • Arrowwood, Southern Arrowwood Viburnum

### Small Trees

*Amelanchier arborea* • Downy Serviceberry  
*Amelanchier canadensis* • Canada Serviceberry  
*Rhus typhina* (*R. hirta*) • Staghorn Sumac

### Tall Trees

*Celtis occidentalis* • Common Hackberry  
*Juniperus virginiana* • Eastern Redcedar  
*Nyssa sylvatica* • Sour Gum, Black Gum  
*Pinus rigida* • Pitch Pine  
*Quercus alba* • White Oak  
*Quercus bicolor* • Swamp White Oak  
*Quercus palustris* • Pin Oak  
*Quercus rubra* • Northern Red Oak  
*Quercus stellata* • Post Oak  
*Quercus velutina* • Black Oak  
*Taxodium distichum* • Bald Cypress



*Yucca filamentosa*, Common Yucca, often can be seen street side.



# The Right Plants in the Right Place



## Landscaping in Wet Places

Sue Dingwell/VNPS

Not all plants will survive in wet and saturated soils. When soils are saturated they are oxygen poor, which affects both the microbial community and soil chemistry, as well as depriving plants of oxygen needed to process energy. The plants that grow in wet areas in the wild are adapted to these conditions and should grow well in your wet site. The following list of plants are species that will tolerate periodically wet or saturated soils.

### Perennials (Forbs)

*Arisaema triphyllum* • Jack-in-the-pulpit  
*Asclepias incarnata* • Swamp Milkweed  
*Caltha palustris* • Marsh Marigold, Cowslip  
*Chelone glabra* • White Turtlehead  
*Eupatorium perfoliatum* • Common Boneset  
*Helianthus angustifolius* • Narrow-leaved or Swamp Sunflower  
*Hibiscus moscheutos* • Swamp Rose-mallow  
*Lobelia cardinalis* • Cardinal Flower  
*Monarda didyma* • Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea  
*Packera aurea* • Golden Ragwort  
*Phlox maculata* • Meadow phlox, Wild Sweet William  
*Rudbeckia laciniata* • Cut-leaf or Green-headed Coneflower  
*Symphotrichum (Aster) novae-angliae, novi-belgii* • New England and New York Aster  
*Thalictrum pubescens* • Common Tall Meadow Rue  
*Verbena hastata* • Common or Swamp Verbena

Native Plants for Northern Virginia

### Perennials (Forbs)

*Vernonia noveboracensis* • New York Ironweed  
*Veronicastrum virginicum* • Culver's-root

### Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

*Andropogon virginicus* • Broomsedge, Sedge Grass  
*Carex stricta* • Tussock or Upright Sedge  
*Dichanthelium clandestinum* • Deer-tongue Grass  
*Panicum virgatum* • Switchgrass  
*Saccharum giganteum* • Giant or Sugarcane Plumegrass

### Ferns

*Dryopteris carthusiana, intermedia* • Spinulose and Intermediate Wood Fern  
*Onoclea sensibilis* • Sensitive Fern  
*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum* • Cinnamon Fern  
*Osmunda spectabilis* • Royal Fern  
*Pteridium aquilinum* • Bracken Fern  
*Thelypteris palustris* • Marsh Fern

### Shrubs

*Alnus serrulata* • Smooth or Hazel Alder  
*Aronia melanocarpa* • Black Chokeberry  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis* • Buttonbush  
*Clethra alnifolia* • Sweet Pepperbush, Summersweet  
*Cornus amomum* • Silky Dogwood  
*Hypericum densiflorum* • Bushy St. John's-wort  
*Ilex verticillata* • Winterberry Holly  
*Itea virginica* • Virginia Sweetspire  
*Morella (Myrica) spp.* • Southern and Northern Wax Myrtle or Bayberry  
*Physocarpus opulifolius* • Ninebark  
*Sambucus canadensis* • Common Elderberry  
*Rhododendron periclymenoides & viscosum* • Wild Azalea and Swamp Azalea  
*Rosa palustris* • Swamp Rose  
*Viburnum dentatum, nudum & prunifolium* • Arrowwood, Possum-haw, and Blackhaw  
Viburnums

### Trees

*Betula nigra* • River Birch  
*Carpinus caroliniana* • American Hornbeam, Ironwood  
*Liquidambar styraciflua* • Sweetgum  
*Magnolia virginiana* • Sweetbay or Swamp Magnolia  
*Salix nigra* • Black Willow  
*Taxodium distichum* • Baldcypress



# Planting to Attract Pollinators & Birds

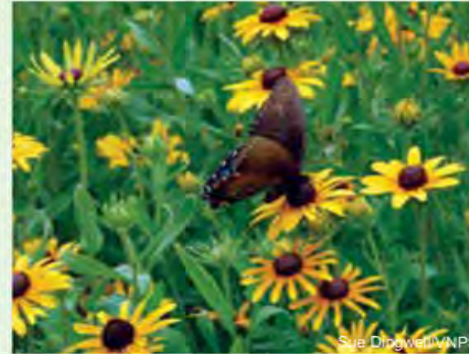
## Help Bring Life to Your Garden

Native plants attract a variety of birds, butterflies, 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 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.

While this entreaty to share our space may seem novel to some, it is actually an expression of Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic. In his essay of that name, Leopold asserts that "a land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it." Given Tallamy's findings, it is clear that using native plants in your landscape is one aspect of the land ethic. But notice that Leopold promotes humans to membership in the land, which means that part of the wildlife you are landscaping for is you.

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



Sue Dingwell/VNPS



Laura Beaty/VNPS



Laura Beaty/VNPS



Sue Dingwell/VNPS

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.

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 should no longer be considered the default landscape. 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.

When landscaping for wildlife, use a wide array of native plants and don't forget that you are part of the wildlife using the landscape.



# Bloom Time: Year Round Beauty and Interest

Common Name	Scientific Name	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>		■	■	■							
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>		■	■	■							
Spring Beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>		■	■								
Golden Ragwort	<i>Packera aurea</i>		■	■	■							
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>			■	■	■						
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>			■	■	■						
Coral Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>			■	■	■						
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>			■	■	■						
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>			■	■							
Pinxter Azalea	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>			■	■	■						
False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>				■	■	■					
Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>				■	■	■					
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>				■	■	■					
Wild Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra eximia</i>				■	■	■					
Golden Alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>				■	■						
Mapleleaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>				■	■	■					
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>				■	■	■					
Purple Passionflower	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>				■	■	■	■	■			
Virginia Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>					■	■	■				
Wild Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>					■	■	■				
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>					■	■	■				
Butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>					■	■	■	■			
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>					■	■	■				
Ox-eye Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>					■	■	■	■			
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>					■	■	■				
Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>						■	■	■	■		
Orange Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>						■	■	■	■		
New York Ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>						■	■	■	■		
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>							■	■	■	■	
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>							■	■	■	■	
Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>							■	■	■	■	
Hollow Joe-pye-weed	<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>							■	■	■	■	
Early Goldenrod	<i>Solidago juncea</i>							■	■	■	■	
Wingstem	<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>								■	■	■	
Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>								■	■	■	■
New England Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>								■	■	■	■
Bluestem Goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>									■	■	■
Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>										■	■

■ Perennial ■ Shrub ■ Tree ■ Vine



# Additional Resources

## About Native Plants

### Online:

#### Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora

<http://vaplantatlas.org/>

#### Flora of North America

[www.fna.org/](http://www.fna.org/)

#### Flora of Virginia Project

[www.floraofvirginia.org](http://www.floraofvirginia.org)

#### Virginia Native Plant Society

[www.vnps.org/](http://www.vnps.org/)

#### Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center of the University of Texas at Austin

[www.wildflower.org/](http://www.wildflower.org/)

#### Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia “Tried and True Plants”

<http://mgnv.org/plants/>

#### 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](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml)

#### Native Gardening with Wildflowers, U. S. Forest Service

[https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native\\_Plant\\_Materials/Native\\_Gardening/index.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native_Plant_Materials/Native_Gardening/index.shtml)

#### USDA Plants Database

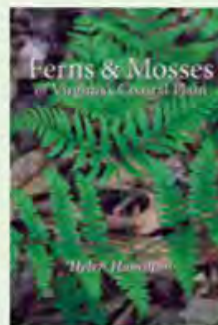
<http://plants.usda.gov/>

### Print:

*The American Woodland Garden*, Rick Darke, 2002

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

*Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area*, Cristol Fleming, Marion Lobstein and Barbara Tufty, 1995



*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

*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](http://www.audubon.org/bird/pesticide.html)

#### Backyard Habitat, National Wildlife Federation

[www.nwf.org/In-Your-Backyard.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/In-Your-Backyard.aspx)

#### Better Backyard—A Citizen's Resource Guide to Beneficial Landscaping and Habitat Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, Chesapeake Bay Program, (61-page downloadable booklet)

[www.chesapeakebay.net/content/publications/cbp\\_12259.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/content/publications/cbp_12259.pdf)

#### Conservation Landscaping Guidelines-The Eight Essential Elements,

Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council (33-page downloadable booklet) [www.chesapeakelandscape.org](http://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>

#### 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>





## Living Shoreline Design

<http://ccrm.vims.edu/livingshorelines/index.html> (go to "Plants and Vendors")

## Pollinator Partnership

[www.pollinator.org/](http://www.pollinator.org/)

## Pollinators, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

[www.fws.gov/pollinators/Index.html](http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/Index.html)

## Wild Ones Handbook Online-Landscaping with Native Plants, U. S.

Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones](http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones)

## WINGS: Essays on Invertebrate Conservation, Xerces Society

[www.xerces.org/wings-magazine/](http://www.xerces.org/wings-magazine/)

## Print:

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

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

**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>



**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

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

**Pollinator Conservation Handbook**, The Xerces Society, 2003

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

## Is Your Property Frequented by Deer?

It sounds odd to most people, but suburban landscapes can support more deer than wilderness areas. That is because deer are browsers that prefer edge habitat and rely on broadleaved plants, twigs, buds and nuts. Suburban yards produce a tremendous amount of edge habitat and desirable forage. With no predators and high fertility rates, the result is deer browse far above what our backyard plants—and the remaining plants in our natural areas—can sustain.

Until we can work to reduce deer numbers to the point where their browse will not be excessive, the best bet is to employ a mix of strategies to reduce deer impacts in your yard so that you can play host to native plants and the other wildlife they support.

To discourage browsing, you can first select plants that deer find less palatable, which include shiny and aromatic plants. Less preferred forest plants include ericaceous shrubs (Mountain Laurel, rhododendrons, blueberry bushes), American Holly, spring ephemeral wildflowers (bluebells, Spring Beauties), White Wood Aster, Jumpseed (*Persicaria virginiana*) and Christmas and other ferns.

Sun-loving plants include, among others, native grasses (Virginia Wild Rye, Purpletop, Indian Grass, Purple Lovegrass), eupatoriums (Joe-Pye Weed, Common Boneset, Purple Mistflower), tickseed sunflowers (*Bidens* spp.) and False Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) and Prickly-pear Cactus. For the most part, deer also avoid eating asters and goldenrods, plants in the mint family (Hoary Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum muticum*, and Narrow-leaf Mountain Mint, *P. tenuifolium*) and blackberries.

Newly planted trees and shrubs may require enclosures to prevent browse on tender young shoots, or the planting of larger specimen trees. Fencing around your yard may be ineffective if it is less than eight feet. Repellents are another approach. Many people try variations of human hair, sweaty t-shirts, dog or coyote urine, home recipes usually made of peppers, or commercial sprays to minimize deer browse. Commercial sprays (based on putrescent egg solids), if reapplied regularly (usually monthly), are effective.

Remember that it is usually most effective to combine multiple deterrents with a diverse plant palette to increase success. For more information, consult:

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/>

[http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/\\_docs/articles/FS655-](http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/articles/FS655-ResistanceDeer.pdf)

[ResistanceDeer.pdf](http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/articles/FS655-ResistanceDeer.pdf)

<http://blandy.virginia.edu/arboretum/deer-resistant-plants>



# Northern Virginia Native Plant Demonstration Gardens

## How Will NoVA Natives Look in My Garden?

Visiting a demonstration garden is a good way to get inspiration and guidance on how to incorporate new plants into your landscape.

There are many different types of demonstration gardens in our area. You will find gardens focused on pollinators, rainwater, urban settings, and more. A computer search will show you many options. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) keeps a comprehensive listing on their website; search for "Local Northern Virginia Audubon at Home Demonstration Sites." You will find there regional, city and county parks hosting demonstration areas. You can also visit the many schoolyard gardens used for teaching the value of native plant ecosystem services.

In Vienna, **Meadowlark Botanical Gardens** has extensive woodland and meadow plantings with helpful signage. Fairfax County's **Green Spring Gardens** also has a native plant trail and hosts the local chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society's propagation beds. Arlington's Potomac Overlook Regional Park shady native garden, maintained by Master Naturalists, and the Bon Air Park Sunny and Shade gardens, maintained by Master Gardeners, both offer year-round interest. **The Nature Conservancy Headquarters** near Ballston offers a native plant garden in a more urban setting. Prince William claims the Prince William Conservation Alliance's wildlife garden at **Merrimac Farm's Wildlife Management Area**, while the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy promotes many **Monarch Waystations** throughout that county and maintains a valuable website. And of course our **State Arboretum**, Blandy, in Clark County, has woodland, meadow, and wetland plantings as well as extensive native tree offerings, and much more.

Happy visiting!

For more information about Northern Virginia's growing number of demonstration gardens, visit the Plant NoVA Natives website at [www.plantnovanatives.org](http://www.plantnovanatives.org).

## Kids and Native Plants



Donnie Biggs, Fairfax Co. Public Schools



Belle View Elementary School, Alexandria

Many public and private schools are building wildlife habitats on school grounds to offer students a rich, hands-on experience with native Virginia plants and animals. Fairfax County Public Schools, for example, have over 80 schools with wildlife habitat, and the number is growing each year. These outdoor classrooms give students the opportunity to engage in authentic, problem-based learning efforts. Students work together to help plan, construct, and maintain the wildlife habitat, and 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 providing wildlife habitat.



Centreville Elementary School













































































































































# Index of Northern Virginia Native Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Sun	Moisture	Wildlife	Page
<b>Perennials (Forbs)</b>						
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow	1–3 ft				
<i>Actaea racemosa</i>	Common Black Cohosh, Bugbane	4–6 ft				
<i>Ageratina altissima</i>	White Snakeroot	1–5 ft				
<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	Plantain-leaved Pussytoes	0.5–1 ft				
<b><i>Aquilegia canadensis</i></b>	<b>Wild or Eastern Red Columbine</b>	1–3 ft				6
<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	Spikenard, American Spikenard	1.5–6.5 ft				
<b><i>Arisaema triphyllum</i></b>	<b>Common Jack-in-the-pulpit</b>	1–3 ft				6
<b><i>Aruncus dioicus</i></b>	<b>Goatsbeard (Eastern Goat's-beard)</b>	3–8 ft				6
<b><i>Asarum canadense</i></b>	<b>Common Wild Ginger</b>	4–8 in				6
<b><i>Asclepias incarnata</i></b>	<b>Swamp Milkweed</b>	4–6 ft				7
<b><i>Asclepias tuberosa</i></b>	<b>Butterfly Weed</b>	1–3 ft				7
<b><i>Baptisia australis</i></b>	<b>Blue Wild Indigo</b>	up to 5 ft				7
<b><i>Baptisia tinctoria</i></b>	<b>Yellow Wild-indigo</b>	1–3 ft				7
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold, Cowslip	1–2 ft				
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh, Common Blue Cohosh	1–2.5 ft				
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Common Partridge Pea	0.5–3 ft				
<b><i>Chelone glabra</i></b>	<b>White Turtlehead</b>	2–4 ft				8
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	Green and Gold	2–6 in				
<i>Chrysopsis mariana</i>	Maryland Golden-aster	0.5–2.5 ft				
<b><i>Claytonia virginica</i></b>	<b>Virginia Spring Beauty</b>	4–12 in				8
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Mistflower, Ageratum	1–3.5 ft				
<b><i>Coreopsis verticillata</i></b>	<b>Whorled or Threadleaf Coreopsis</b>	.5–3.5 ft				8
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's Breeches	0.5–1 ft				
<b><i>Dicentra eximia</i></b>	<b>Wild Bleeding Heart</b>	1–6 ft				8
<i>Erigeron pulchellus</i>	Robin's Plantain	0.5–1.5 ft				
<i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i>	Hyssop-leaved Thoroughwort	1–4.5 ft				
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset, Common Boneset	1–5 ft				












































































































































# Index of Northern Virginia Native Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Sun	Moisture	Wildlife	Page
<b>Perennials (Forbs)</b>						
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	<b>White Wood Aster</b>	6 in–3.5 ft	 	 	 	9
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	Flat-top Goldenrod	3–6 ft			  	
<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	<b>Hollow Joe-pye-weed</b>	2–8 ft	 	 	  	9
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	<b>Wild Strawberry</b>	up to 1 ft	 	 	  	9
<i>Gentiana clausa</i>	Bottle or Closed Gentian	1–3.5 ft		 		
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	<b>Wild or Spotted Geranium</b>	.5–2.5 ft	 	 	 	9
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Common Sneezeweed	1.5–6 ft	  			
<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	<b>Narrow-leaved Sunflower</b>	3–6 ft	 	 		10
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	Woodland or Spreading Sunflower	1.5–6.5 ft		 	  	
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	<b>Jerusalem Artichoke</b>	3–6 ft	 	 	 	10
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Oxeye, Smooth Oxeye, Oxeye Sunflower	1–5 ft	 		 	
<i>Hepatica nobilis v. obtusa</i>	Round-lobed Hepatica	0.5–2 ft	 	 		
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	<b>American Alumroot</b>	1–5 ft	 	 		10
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	<b>Swamp or Eastern Rose-mallow</b>	3–8 ft	 	 	 	10
<i>Houstonia caerulea</i>	Common Bluets, Azure Bluets, Quaker Ladies	0.5–1 ft	 		  	
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. Johns-wort	1.5–8 ft	 	 		
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Orange or Spotted Jewelweed	1.5–5 ft	 	 	 	
<i>Iris cristata</i>	<b>Dwarf Crested Iris</b>	.5–1.5 ft	 	 	 	11
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Virginia or Southern Blueflag	1–2 ft	 			
<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	Twinleaf	0.5–1 ft	 			
<i>Liatis pilosa v. pilosa</i>	<b>Grass-leaf Blazing Star or Gayfeather</b>	1-3.5 ft				11
<i>Liatis scariosa</i>	<b>Large Blazing Star, Eastern Blazing Star</b>	1-3.5 ft		 		11
<i>Liatis spicata</i>	<b>Dense Blazing Star, Gayfeather, Blazing Star</b>	3-6 ft			 	11
<i>Liatis squarrosa</i>	<b>Scaly Blazing Star, Plains Blazing Star</b>	1-3 ft				11
<i>Lilium canadense</i>	Canada Lily	1.5–6.5 ft	 	 		
<i>Lilium superbum</i>	<b>Turk's-cap Lily</b>	4–8 ft	 		 	11
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	<b>Cardinal Flower</b>	1–6 ft	  	 	 	12





























































































































































# Index of Northern Virginia Native Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Sun	Moisture	Wildlife	Page
<b>Perennials (Forbs)</b>						
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	<b>Great Blue Lobelia</b>	1–5 ft	 	 	 	12
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Canada Mayflower, False Lily-of-the-valley	0.5 ft	 		 	
<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	<b>Eastern Solomon's-plume, False Solomon's-seal</b>	1–4.5 ft	 			12
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	<b>Virginia Bluebell, Virginia Cowslip</b>	.5–2.5 ft	 		 	12
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Square-stemmed or Allegheny Monkeyflower	1–3 ft	 		 	
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	<b>Partridge-berry</b>	1–4 in	 	 		13
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	<b>Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea</b>	2–4 ft	 	 	 	13
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	1.5–5 ft	 	 	  	
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted Beebalm		  	  	  	
<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	<b>Narrow-leaf Evening Primrose or Sundrops</b>	1–3 ft			 	13
<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	<b>Eastern Prickly-pear</b>	1–2.5 ft			  	13
<i>Osmorhiza claytonii</i> (or <i>O. longistylis</i> )	Sweet Cicely	1–3 ft	 			
<i>Oxalis violacea</i>	Violet Wood-sorrel	0.5 ft	 	 	 	
<i>Packera aurea</i>	<b>Golden or Heartleaf Ragwort</b>	1–4 ft	  	 		14
<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	<b>Arrow Arum, Tuckahoe</b>	2–3 ft	 			14
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	<b>Beardtongue, Tall or White Foxglove</b>	1.5 - 5 ft	 	 	 	14
<i>Persicaria virginiana</i>	Virginia Knotweed, Jumpseed	1.5–2 ft	 			
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	<b>Wild Blue or Woodland Phlox</b>	.5–2 in	 	 	  	14
<i>Phlox maculata</i>	Meadow Phlox, Wild Sweet William	1–3 ft	  	 		
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Fall or Garden Phlox	1.5–6.5 ft	 		  	
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Moss Phlox, Moss Pink	0.5 ft				
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Northern or Fall Obedient-plant	1.5–5 ft	 	 	 	
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	<b>Mayapple</b>	.5–1.5 ft	 	 		15
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Spreading Jacob's Ladder, Greek Valerian	0.5–1.5 ft	 		 	
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's seal	0.5–6.5 ft	 	 		
<i>Pycnanthemum incanum</i>	Hoary Mountain-mint	3 ft			 	



# Index of Northern Virginia Native Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Sun	Moisture	Wildlife	Page
<b>Perennials (Forbs)</b>						
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	Clustered Mountain-mint	2–3 ft	 	  	 	
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Narrow-leaf or Slender Mountain-mint	1–4 ft	 	  	 	15
<i>Rhexia virginica</i>	Virginia Meadow Beauty, Deergrass	1–3.5 ft			 	
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Orange Coneflower	1–4 ft	 	 	 	15
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Blackeyed Susan	2–3 ft	 	 	  	15
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cut-leaf, Common or Green-headed Coneflower	1.5–10 ft	 	  	 	15
<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	Carolina or Common Wild-petunia	2–3 ft	  	 	 	15
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyre-leaf Sage	1–2 ft	 	 		
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	0.5 ft	 			
<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	Lizard's-tail, Water-dragon	1.5–4.5 ft	 			
<i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>	Rough or Hyssop Skullcap, Helmet Flower	1–2.5 ft	 	  		
<i>Sedum ternatum</i>	Wild or Woodland Stonecrop	2–8 in	 	 		16
<i>Senna marilandica</i> ( <i>Cassia m.</i> )	Maryland or Southern Wild Senna	3–6.5 ft	 	 	 	
<i>Silene caroliniana</i>	Wild or Northern Wild Pink	1.5–8 in		 	 	16
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed-grass	8–20 in	 	 		16
<i>Solidago altissima</i>	Tall Goldenrod, Late Goldenrod	3.5–6.5 ft	 	 	  	17
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Blue-stemmed or Wreath Goldenrod	1–3.5 ft	  	 	  	17
<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	Zig-zag Goldenrod	0.5–3 ft	 	 	  	17
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	Early Goldenrod	3–6 ft	 	 	  	17
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Gray, Dwarf, Old Field Goldenrod	0.5–3 ft	 		  	17
<i>Solidago odora</i>	Sweet Goldenrod		  	 	 	17
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Rough-stemmed or Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod	1–6.5 ft		 	  	17
<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>	Nodding Ladies' Tresses	0.5–2 ft	 	 		
<i>Stellaria pubera</i>	Star, Giant or Great Chickweed, Common Starwort	0.5–1.5 ft	 			
<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i>	Heart-leaved aster, Blue Wood Aster	3–6 ft	 	 	  	17
<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth Blue Aster, Smooth Aster	3–6 ft	 		  	17



# Index of Northern Virginia Native Plants










































































































































Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Sun	Moisture	Wildlife	Page
<b>Perennials (Forbs)</b>						
<i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum</i>	<b>Calico Aster</b>					17
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	<b>New England Aster</b>	3–6 ft				17
<i>Symphotrichum novi-belgii</i>	<b>New York Aster</b>	1–4.5 ft				17
<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	Early Meadow Rue	1–2.5 ft				
<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i> ( <i>T. polygamum</i> )	Common Tall Meadow Rue, King of the Meadow	1.5–9 ft				
<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	Rue Anemone (Windflower)	0.5–1 ft				
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	<b>Heart-leaved Foamflower, False Miterwort</b>	0.5–1 ft				16
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Virginia Spiderwort	1–3 ft				
<i>Uvularia perfoliata</i>	Perfoliate or Mealy Bellwort	0.5–2 ft				
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue, Common or Swamp Verbena	1.5–5 ft				
<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	Wingstem, Yellow Ironweed	3.5–8 ft				
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	<b>New York Ironweed</b>	3–6 ft				18
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's-root	3–6.5 ft				
<i>Viola cucullata</i>	<b>Marsh Blue Violet</b>	0.5 ft				17
<i>Viola labradorica (conspersa)</i>	<b>Dog Violet</b>	1 ft				17
<i>Viola pedata</i>	<b>Bird's-foot Violet</b>	1 ft				17
<i>Viola sagittata</i>	<b>Arrow-leaved Violet</b>	1 ft				17
<i>Viola striata</i>	<b>Striped Violet, Cream Violet</b>	1 ft				17
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	<b>Common Yucca, Adam's Needle</b>	1–6.5 ft				18
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	<b>Golden-alexanders</b>	1–3 ft				18

## Ferns

<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	<b>Northern Maidenhair Fern</b>	.5–2 ft				19
<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i>	Ebony Spleenwort	0.5–1.5 ft				
<i>Athyrium asplenoides</i>	Southern Lady Fern	1–3 ft				
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Spinulose Wood Fern	1–2.5 ft				
<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>	Evergreen or Intermediate Wood Fern	1–3 ft				
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal Wood Fern, Evergreen Shield Fern	1–3 ft				



# Index of Northern Virginia Native Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Sun	Moisture	Wildlife	Page
<b>Ferns</b>						
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	<b>Ostrich Fern</b>	1–3 ft	  	 		19
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern, Bead Fern	1–3.5 ft	  	 		
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern	1–4 ft	 			
<i>Osmunda spectabilis</i>	Royal Fern	1.5–6 ft	  	 		
<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>	<b>Cinnamon Fern</b>	3–4 ft	  	 		19
<i>Parathelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York Fern	1.5–3 ft	 	  		
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	<b>Christmas Fern</b>	1–3 ft	 	 		19
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken Fern	1.5–4 ft	 	  		
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern	2–3 ft	 	 		
<b>Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes</b>						
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	Broomsedge, Broomstraw, Sedge Grass	1–3 ft		  	 	
<i>Carex laxiculmis</i>	Creeping Sedge	.5–1 ft	 	 		
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	<b>Pennsylvania Sedge</b>	.5–1 ft	  	 		20
<i>Carex plantaginea</i>	<b>Seersucker or Plaintain-leaved Sedge</b>	.5–1 ft	 		 	20
<i>Carex platyphylla</i>	<b>Broadleaf Sedge</b>	.5–1 ft	 	 		20
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock Sedge, Upright Sedge	1–3.5 ft		 	  	
<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	Poverty Oat Grass		  		 	
<i>Dichanthelium clandestinum</i>	Deer-tongue Grass	2–5 ft	 	 	  	
<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	<b>Bottlebrush Grass</b>	2–4 ft	 	 	 	20
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	1–5.5 ft	 	 	 	
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	<b>Purple Love Grass</b>	.5–1.5 ft		 	  	21
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Common Rush, Soft Rush	1–4 ft	 	 		
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	<b>Muhly Grass</b>	1–3.8 ft	 	 		21
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	3–5 ft	 	  	  	
<i>Saccharum giganteum</i> ( <i>Erianthus giganteus</i> )	Giant Plumegrass, Sugarcane Plumegrass	3.5–10 ft	 	 		
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	<b>Little Bluestem</b>	1.5–4 ft	 		 	21



# Index of Northern Virginia Native Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Sun	Moisture	Wildlife	Page
<b>Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes</b>						
<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	Woolgrass Bulrush	4–5 ft				
<b><i>Sorghastrum nutans</i></b>	<b>Indian Grass</b>	1.5–8.5 ft				21
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	Purpletop, Tall Redtop	2–6.5 ft				
<i>Zizania aquatica</i>	Southern Wild Rice	6–10 ft				

## Vines






































































































































































<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Cross-vine	20–35 ft				
<b><i>Clematis virginiana</i></b>	<b>Virgin's Bower</b>	12–15 ft				22
<i>Clitoria mariana</i>	Butterfly Pea, Maryland Butterfly Pea	6 ft				
<b><i>Lonicera sempervirens</i></b>	<b>Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle</b>	3–20 ft				22
<b><i>Passiflora incarnata</i></b>	<b>Purple Passionflower, Maypop</b>	12–36 ft				22
<i>Passiflora lutea</i>	Yellow Passionflower	12–36 ft				
<b><i>Wisteria frutescens</i></b>	<b>American Wisteria</b>	25–30 ft				22

## Shrubs

<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Smooth or Hazel Alder	12–20 ft				
<b><i>Amorpha fruticosa</i></b>	<b>False Indigo</b>	6–13 ft				23
<b><i>Aronia arbutifolia</i></b>	<b>Red Chokeberry</b>	6–12 ft				23
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> ( <i>Photinia melanocarpa</i> )	Black Chokeberry	3–6 ft				
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	High Tide Bush, Groundsel Tree, Mullet Bush	6–12 ft				
<i>Castanea pumila</i>	Allegheny Chinquapin	10–20 ft				
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea, Redroot	3 ft				
<b><i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i></b>	<b>Buttonbush</b>	6–12 ft				23
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	6–12 ft				
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	Cockspur Hawthorn	20–35 ft				
<i>Eubotrys racemosa</i>	Fetterbush, Swamp Doghobble	4–6 ft				
<b><i>Euonymus americanus</i></b> ( <i>Leveochoe racemosa</i> )	<b>Strawberry-bush, Heart's-a-bustin'</b>	6–10 ft				23
<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	Black Huckleberry	1.5–3 ft				







































































































































































# Index of Northern Virginia Native Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Sun	Moisture	Wildlife	Page
<b>Shrubs</b>						
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel	10–15 ft	  			24
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Wild Hydrangea, Smooth Hydrangea	3–6 ft	 	 		24
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. John's Wort	1–3 ft	 	 		
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Deciduous Holly, Possum-haw	12–36 ft	 		 	
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry, Winterberry Holly	3–10 ft	 	 	  	24
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	3–8 ft	  	  	 	24
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel	5–15 ft	  	  		25
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	6–16 ft	  		  	25
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark	3–10 ft	  	 	 	25
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Great Rhododendron	15–20 ft	 	 	 	
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Wild Azalea, Pinxter Azalea	6–12 ft	 	 	  	25
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp Azalea	6.5–10 ft	 	 	  	
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant sumac	2–6 ft	 		 	
<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	Winged, Shining or Flameleaf Sumac	3–20 ft	 		 	
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac	2–20 ft		 	  	
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose	1–6.5 ft	 	 	 	26
<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose	3–8 ft	  	 	 	
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Common Elderberry	6–12 ft	 	  	  	26
<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	Bladdernut	3–15 ft	  	  		
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush or Northern Highbush Blueberry	6–12 ft	  	  	 	
<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	Early Lowbush or Blue Ridge Blueberry	1.5–2 ft	 	 	 	26
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-leaved Viburnum, Dockmackie	4–6 ft	  	  	  	26
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood, Southern Arrowwood Viburnum	10–15 ft	  	  	 	
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Possum-haw Viburnum, Southern Wild Raisin	6.5–20 ft	  	 		
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw Viburnum, Nannyberry	12–24 ft	  	  	  	











# Index of Northern Virginia Native Plants

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<b>Trees</b>						
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	40–100 ft	  	  	 	
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Serviceberry, Juneberry, Shadbush	15–25 ft	  	 	 	
<b><i>Amelanchier canadensis</i></b>	<b>Canada Serviceberry, Juneberry</b>	15–30 ft	 		 	27
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil's Walking-stick, Hercules club	20–30 ft	 	 	 	
<b><i>Asimina triloba</i></b>	<b>Pawpaw, Common Pawpaw</b>	10–40 ft	  		 	27
<b><i>Betula nigra</i></b>	<b>River Birch</b>	30–50 ft	 	 	 	27
<b><i>Carpinus caroliniana</i></b>	<b>American Hornbeam, Ironwood</b>	35–50 ft	  	  	 	27
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory	60–100 ft		 	 	
<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut Hickory	60–100 ft	 	  	 	
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut Hickory	60–100 ft		 		
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry	40–100 ft	  	  	 	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud	20–35 ft	  	  	 	
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe Tree, Old Man's Beard	10–35 ft	  	 		
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	20–50 ft	 	 	 	
<b><i>Diospyros virginiana</i></b>	<b>Common or American Persimmon</b>	15–100 ft	  	 	 	28
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	50–100 ft	  			
<b><i>Ilex opaca</i></b>	<b>American Holly</b>	25–60 ft	  	 	 	28
<b><i>Juniperus virginiana</i></b>	<b>Eastern Redcedar</b>	30–40 ft	 	 	 	28
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	60–100 ft	 	 	 	
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip-tree, Tulip-poplar, Yellow Poplar	70–100 ft			 	
<b><i>Magnolia virginiana</i></b>	<b>Sweetbay Magnolia, Swamp Magnolia</b>	12–30 ft	 	 	 	28
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry	6–15 ft	 	  		
<b><i>Nyssa sylvatica</i></b>	<b>Sour Gum, Black Gum, Tupelo</b>	30–60 ft	  	  	 	29
<b><i>Pinus echinata</i></b>	<b>Shortleaf Pine</b>	50–130 ft	 	 	 	29
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch Pine	50–75 ft				
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly Pine	70–90 ft		  	 	
<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	Virginia Pine, Scrub Pine	50–80 ft		 		



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<i>Prunus americana</i>	American Wild Plum	20–35 ft	 	 	 	
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	Chickasaw Plum	12–36 ft	 		 	
<i>Quercus alba</i>	<b>White Oak</b>	40–100 ft	 	 	 	29
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	60–100 ft	 	  	 	
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak	40–75 ft		 	 	
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern Red Oak, Spanish Oak	70–80 ft		 	 	
<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	Blackjack Oak	35–50 ft	 		 	
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	Swamp Chestnut Oak, Basket Oak	50–80 ft		 	 	
<i>Quercus montana</i> ( <i>Quercus prinus</i> )	Chestnut Oak, Rock Chestnut Oak	40–80 ft		 	 	
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Chinquapin, Chinkapin or Yellow Oak	35–50 ft		 	 	
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	50–80 ft		 		
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow Oak	80–100 ft	 	 		
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak	90 ft	 	 		
<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post Oak	40–50 ft	 			
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak	75–100 ft	 	 		
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	35–50 ft	 	 	  	
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	35–50 ft	 	 	  	
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	<b>Baldcypress</b>	up to 100 ft	 	 	 	29

## Planning to hire a landscaper?



The Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) Certification is a new, voluntary credential system for professionals who design, install, and maintain sustainable landscapes.

Find out more about this new certification program, and view a business directory of certified professionals at <https://cblpro.org/>.



# Invasives of Particular Concern in Northern Virginia

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.

**Please do not plant these non-native, invasive species and consider removing them from the landscape.** Volunteers and natural resource management staff spend many hours and resources to mitigate the spread and the consequences of these and other invasive species. Although there are many non-native plant species that invade our natural areas, the plants listed below are particularly problematic because they are still available in the trade and are sold and planted throughout the region. Consider planting one of the natives listed here as an alternative to these plants.

## ***Acer platanoides* • Norway Maple**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Acer rubrum*, Red Maple; *Quercus* spp., Oaks; *Tilia americana*, Basswood

## ***Akebia quinata* • Chocolate Vine or Five-leaf Akebia**

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

## ***Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* • Porcelain-Berry**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** See alternatives listed above for *Akebia*

## ***Berberis thunbergii* • Japanese Barberry**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Ilex glabra*, Inkberry Holly; *Ilex verticillata*, Winterberry Holly; *Viburnum dentatum*, Arrowwood Viburnum; *Itea virginica*, Virginia Sweetspire

## ***Phyllostachys aurea* • Golden Bamboo, Fishpole Bamboo, Walking Stick Bamboo**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Juniperus virginiana*, Eastern Redcedar

## ***Humulus lupulus* 'Aureus' • Golden Hops Vine**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** See alternatives listed above for *Akebia*

## ***Liriope muscari* • Liriope**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Carex pensylvanica* and *flaccosperma*, Pennsylvania and Blue Wood Sedge; *Elymus virginicus*, Virginia Wildrye and *Elymus hystrix*, Bottlebrush Grass

## ***Miscanthus sinensis* • Miscanthus**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Schizachyrium scoparium*, Little Bluestem



*English Ivy will outcompete almost any herbaceous species and create large monoculture mats in the yard and forest. It is an aggressive climbing vine and can reach the canopy and cause premature tree death. Invasive insects, such as the Gypsy Moth, are able to hide from predators under the leaves, and dampness encourages mosquitos to breed in it. Avoid all species of Hedera including Hedera helix varieties and Hedera hibernica - Atlantic Ivy.*

## ***Pyrus calleryana* • Bradford Pear**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Amelanchier* spp., serviceberries; *Crataegus* spp., hawthorns; *Cercis canadensis*, Redbud; *Cornus florida*, Dogwood

## ***Hedera helix* • English Ivy**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, Virginia Creeper; *Packera aurea*, Golden Ragwort; Ferns; Creeping Phloxes; *Asarum canadense*, Wild Ginger

## ***Euonymus alatus* • Burning Bush**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Vaccinium* spp., Blueberries; *Viburnum* spp.; *Itea virginica*, Virginia Sweetspire

## ***Euonymus fortunei* • Wintercreeper**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** see English Ivy above.

## ***Lonicera japonica* • Japanese (Hall's) Honeysuckle**

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Lonicera sempervirens*, Trumpet Honeysuckle; *Gelsemium sempervirens*, Yellow Jessamine; *Bignonia capreolata*, Crossvine

## ***Wisteria floribunda* and *Wisteria sinensis***

**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Wisteria frutescens*, American Wisteria

## Learn More About Invasive Plants

**Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage:**  
[www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/invspfactsheets.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspfactsheets.shtml)

**USDA National Invasive Species Information Center:**  
[www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml)

**Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health:**  
[www.invasive.org/species/weeds.cfm](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](http://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/DE/publications/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf)





[www.plantnovanatives.org](http://www.plantnovanatives.org)

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