



Shoreline Planting List

River Star Homes

Serviceberry

Amelanchier Canadensis

Serviceberry is native to Maine and down through the Carolinas, naturally occurring in wet sites, bogs, and swamps. Serviceberry can grow to be 6' to 20' tall and can be pruned to look like a shrub or tree. Has a dark green leaf color in summer and gold color in the fall. This shrub blooms in late March with white flowers then fruits. The fruit looks red and changes to a black color. Has a low salt tolerance.



American Hazelnut

Corylus Americana

Native shrubs growing 1-3 meters tall, main stems straight, with spreading, ascending branches. Leaves are deciduous, alternate, broadly oval with a heart-shaped or rounded base. Male and female flowers are separate, but both types present on each plant. Male flowers are numerous in clusters of two or three near branch tips, appearing in the fall, but opening the following spring. Female flowers are in a scaly bud, tiny and inconspicuous with only bright red stigma and styles protruding from the gray-brown buds. Fruit is a light brown, acorn-like nut.



Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

A small tree with a short trunk and irregular, pyramidal crown native to the eastern United States. Fruit matures in one season. Provides food for birds and mammals. Nesting and winter cover for a variety of birds. Good for ornamental landscaping. Has a moderate salt tolerance.



River Birch

Betula nigra heritage

A North American native, 'Heritage' river birch can grow 50 to 80 feet tall but is often seen at 40 to 50 feet. It will grow about 30 inches or more each year in USDA hardiness zone 7, faster in the south. It has a narrow, pyramidal to oval crown with many fine branches when young, spreading wider and becoming more oval with age with several branches eventually becoming dominant. It has scaly, beige or creamy white bark, which remains an attractive pinkish-white for a longer period of time than the species. The leaves are generally shaped like a triangle.



Elderberry

Sambucus Canadensis

It is a deciduous suckering shrub growing to 3 m or more tall. The leaves are arranged in opposite pairs. In summer, it bears large (20–30 cm diameter) corymbs of white flowers above the foliage. The fruit is a dark purple to black 3–5 mm diameter, produced in drooping clusters in the fall. The berries and flowers are edible, but other parts of the plant are poisonous.



Button bush

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Common buttonbush is a multi-stemmed shrub which grows 6-12 ft. or occasionally taller. Glossy, dark-green leaves lack significant fall color. Flowers small, borne in distinctive, dense, spherical clusters (heads) with a fringe of pistils protruded beyond the white corollas. Long-lasting, unusual blossoms are white or pale-pink, one-inch globes. Subsequent rounded masses of nut lets persist through the winter. Buttonbush is a handsome ornamental suited to wet soils and is also a honey plant. Ducks and other water birds and shorebirds consume the seeds.



Swamp Rose

Rosa palustris

Swamp rose is a native, perennial shrub that grows up to seven feet tall. The leaves are alternate; the leaflets are pointed at the tip, toothed, hairy, up to 1½ inches long. The flowers are pink, solitary or few in a cluster. This species flowers once a year, in midseason. The fruit is red, fleshy, and up to ¾ inch in diameter.



Sweet pepperbush

Clethra alnifolia

Sweet pepperbush is a large deciduous shrub that grows to 2.5 m tall. The bark is smooth, reddish-orange or gray in color. Twigs are reddish-orange covered with dense white hairs. Leaves are alternate are medium to dark green, and turn golden yellow in the fall. Flowers are composed of 5 white fused petals. The fruiting stalk has many miniature oval 3-seeded capsules that are winter-persistent and are good identification features. Sweet pepperbush produces leaves in late spring, flowers in July and August, and sets fruit in September and October. The yellow fall foliage persists for two to four weeks.



Golden St. John's wort

Hypericum frondosum

Golden St. John's wort is a small semi woody shrub with rich bluish-green foliage and bright golden-yellow flowers. The shrub grows in a rounded mound, 2-4 ft (0.6-1.2 m) tall with about the same width. The flowers are 1-2 in (2.5-5.1 cm) across and borne in loose, spreading clusters of up to 6 flowers. Golden St. John's wort stays in bloom most of the summer. The fruits are dry, reddish brown capsules about a half inch long.



Smooth Hydrangea

Hydrangea arboescens

Smooth Hydrangea native to Southern New England across through the Midwest and down through the southern states.

It is a low growing deciduous shrub that can grow to be 3' to 5' tall. Smooth Hydrangea has a dark green leaf color that turns pale yellow and fall off in the fall. It flowers in June and throughout the summer months with large clusters of dull white to pinkish flowers.



Swamp Azalea

Rhododendron viscosum

Swamp Azalea is a loose, open, deciduous shrub growing to 12 ft. in width, but averaging only about 5 ft. tall. The leaves, clustered at the end of branches, deciduous, lustrous, green on both sides, with short stems. The sweet-scented flowers are white, with a lavender tube slightly enlarged at the base. Fall foliage is orange to maroon. This typical wetland shrub is sometimes called the Clammy Azalea because of its very sticky corolla. The species name means sticky in Latin. after the leaves.



Red Chokecherry

Aronia arbutifolia

Red chokeberry is a deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub that is native to both wet and dry thickets in Eastern North America. It typically grows in a vase-shaped form to 6-10' tall and to 3-6' wide. Clusters (corymbs) of white to light pink, 5-petaled flowers appear in spring. Flowers are followed by abundant glossy red fruits which appear in dense clusters along the branches. Fruits ripen in late summer and persist on the shrub throughout fall and well into winter. Foliage turns bright red in autumn and compares favorably with burning bush for excellence of fall color.



Raspberry Fruiting

Rubus occidentalis

Rubus occidentalis is a deciduous shrub growing to 3 m (9ft 10in). It is in flower in June. The flowers have both male and female organs and are pollinated by Insects. Fruit can be eaten raw or cooked. It is of variable quality, with the finest forms having a rich acid flavor.



Blueberry "Woodard"

Vaccinium ashei

'Woodard' are the shortest and most spreading of the rabbit eye varieties. This is an early season plant and doesn't grow as tall so they may be hand picked more quickly. The berries are light blue and are large and very tart until fully ripe. *Vaccinium ashei* is a Southeastern U.S. species, well adapted to hot, humid summers with mild winters. They tolerate conditions that other blueberries will not. They generally grow 6 to 8 feet tall, and the blueberries ripen in late spring or early summer. Suitable for hedging or shrub borders, with attractive tiny pink or white flowers, and often nice fall colors.



Beautyberry

Callicarpa Americana

American beauty-berry most often grows 3-5 ft. tall. It has long, arching branches and yellow-green fall foliage, but its most striking feature is the clusters of glossy, iridescent-purple fruit (sometimes white) which hug the branches at leaf axils in the fall and winter. Bark light brown on the older wood, reddish brown on younger wood. Bark smooth, with elongate, raised corky areas. Leaves are in pairs or in threes and the flowers are small and pink. Fruit is berrylike and distinctly colored, rose pink or lavender pink. The seeds and berries are important foods for many species of birds.



New England Aster

Aster nove angelica

New England American-aster is large and showy, growing to 6 or more ft. in height. The perennial's hairy, clasping leaves are arranged densely on its stout stems. Showy, bright, rose-purple flowers with orange-yellow centers bloom in profusion at the tips of the leafy branches. The flower color is variable, ranging from lavender to blue to white. A pink variety of this species is sometimes grown commercially.



Swamp Sunflower

Helianthus angustifolia

A profusion of golden yellow flowers appears for two to three weeks starting in early autumn. Daisy-like flower heads are 3 inches across with 15 to 20 yellow ray florets radiating from a flat-topped purple or dark brown cone. The entire plant looks like a giant flame, drawing the attention of many species of butterflies, bees, and other nectar feeders.



Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia fulgida

This cheerful, widespread wildflower is considered an annual to a short-lived perennial across its range. Bright-yellow, daisy-like flowers with dark centers are its claim-to-fame. They occur singly atop 1-2 ft. stems. Coarse, rough-stemmed plant with daisy-like flower heads made up of showy golden-yellow ray flowers, with disk flowers forming a brown central cone.



Cutleaf coneflower

Rudbeckia laciniata

A sunflower-like perennial, green-head cone-flower's branched, leafy stalk grows 3-12 ft. tall. Each flowers is cone-shaped, with greenish-yellow centers and back-tilted golden rays. The center cones elongate and become brownish as the seeds ripen.



Giant coneflower

Rudbeckia maxima

Giant brown-eyed Susan has clumps of silvery-blue foliage that give rise to stately flower stalks. The flowers have intense yellow ray flowers that dangle from tall brown centers. It should be cut back to the base after blooming to keep tidy and be planted in mass for best effect in landscapes.



Swamp milkweed

Asclepias incarnate

The large, bright, terminal blossoms of this showy, 2-4 ft. perennial are made up of small, rose-purple flowers. Deep pink flowers cluster at the top of a tall, branching stem. Elongated, tan-brown seed pods persist into winter. The juice of this wetland milkweed is less milky than that of other species. The genus was named in honor of Aesculapius, Greek god of medicine, undoubtedly because some species have long been used to treat a variety of ailments.



Summer Phlox

Phlox paniculata

Summer phlox is a showy clump-former, reaching a height of 3-4 ft. The pink, lavender, or rarely white flowers are borne in a 4-8 in. wide, terminal cluster. If found in the wilds beyond its natural range, this species has probably escaped from cultivation.



New York Ironweed

Vernonia noveboracensis

New York ironweed is a tall, clump-forming perennial, growing 5-8 ft. in height. Small flower heads occur in large, loosely branched, flat-topped, terminal clusters. Flowers are all of the disk type and deep reddish-purple in color. This often roughish plant is common in wet open bottomland fields. It typically has more flowers per head than Tall Ironweed.



Boneset

Eupatorium perfoliatum

Tiny, white flowers are arranged in fuzzy clusters. Hairy plant with dense flat-topped clusters of many dull-white flowers. As suggested by the Latin species name, the stem appears to be growing through the leaf. To early herb doctors, this indicated the plant would be useful in setting bones, so its leaves were wrapped with bandages around splints. The dried leaves have also been used to make a tonic, boneset tea, thought to be effective in treating colds, coughs, and constipation.



Seaside Goldenrod

Solidago sempervirens

This perennial produces a tight clump of narrow, evergreen basal leaves topped by leafy, erect or arching, 2-8 ft. stalks. The terminal or upper auxiliary flowering heads are dense, the lowest branches somewhat recurved. Flowers are deep-yellow and the leaves are somewhat succulent. Succulent-leaved salt-marsh Goldenrod with arching branches that bear one-sided clusters of large, bright yellow flower heads.



Blue vervain

Verbena hastate

Simpler's-joy or blue verbena is a 2-5 ft., stout-stemmed perennial with numerous, pencil-like flower spikes branched upwards like the arms of a candelabra. Each flower spike has a ring of blue-purple flowers; the flowers at the bottom of the spike bloom first, and the ring of flowers appears to advance upward to the tips of the spike. Stiff, pencil-like spikes of numerous small, tubular, blue-violet flowers are at the top of a square, grooved stem and its branches. An attractive perennial, it has flowers on showy candelabra-like spikes. Bumblebees are among the important pollinators.



Meadow blazingstar

Liatris pycnostachya

Liatris pycnostachya is a tall, hardy, native perennial herbaceous species that has spectacular magenta inflorescences. The simple non-branched stems are up to 1.5 meters tall. The species narrow, dark green leaves have a light colored mid-rib and are alternately arranged. The flower heads have 5 to 7 individual rose-purple flowers. The flowers are cross pollinated by bumble bees and other native pollinators.



Mistflower

Eupatorium coelestinum

Mistflower grows to 3 feet high, but often lower, with leaves opposite, somewhat triangular in shape, and bluntly toothed. At the top of the plant the branches, with their short-stemmed clusters of flowers, form an almost flat top. Disk flowers are bright blue or violet, about 1/4 inch long. Blue Mistflower attracts bees and butterflies.



Partridge berry

Mitchella repens

A trailing, evergreen herb with white, fragrant, tubular flowers. Partridgeberry is a creeping, perennial herb, no taller than 2 in. high. All parts are dainty, including its pairs of small, rounded, evergreen leaves and scarlet berries. A most attractive woodland creeper with highly ornamental foliage, it can be used as a groundcover under acid-loving shrubs.



Saltgrass

Distichlis spicata

Saltgrass is a native perennial from 15" to 35" in height. It forms dense mats with rhizomes and sometimes stolons. It is a dioecious species with male and female reproductive parts on separate plants. It is widespread and in the eastern United States is most commonly found along estuaries and the troughs of back dune areas along shorelines.



Saltmeadow hay

Spartina patens

It is a hay-like grass found in the upper areas of brackish coastal salt marshes. It is a slender and wiry plant that grows in thick mats 30-60 cm high, green in spring and summer, and turns light brown in late fall and winter. The stems are wispy and hollow, and the leaves roll inward and appear round. Flowers are a deep purple from June to October and turn brown in the winter months.



Black needle rush

Juncus roemerianus

This rush is a perennial plant forming tufts of rough, rigid stems and leaves. It is gray-green in color. The true stems are tipped with inflorescence. This plant is variable in appearance. Its size and shape depend on environmental conditions in its salt marsh habitat. In areas with low soil salinity the plant can exceed two meters in height, whereas in high-salinity areas the rush is dwarfed, sometimes measuring less than 30 centimeters (12 in.) tall. The dwarf plants have an adaptation to high soil salinity. Larger plants lack this adaptation, and do not survive when experimentally transplanted to high-salinity environments.



Saltmarsh Bulrush

Scirpus robustus

Salt-marsh bulrush is native sedge which may first be noticed growing along the edges of brackish and saline coastal marshes. *Scirpus robustus* blooms from spring to fall and occurs almost always under natural conditions in wetlands. They have very large conspicuous, cone-shaped spikelets, and long thin leaves and bracts. Its many seeds are an important food to ducks, geese and other water birds. Salt-marsh bulrush is a sharply triangular, hard, and has up to 24" tall leaf blades.



Purple Love Grass

Eragrostis spectabilis

Purple love grass is native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height is between 1 and 3 feet. The leaf blade is long, densely hairy and tapers to a fine point. The seed head is open and bright purple until maturity; tuft of hair in the seed head.

