

# *Native Plants for Southeast Virginia* *including Hampton Roads Region*



# Plant Southeast Virginia Natives!



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

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

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

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

Butterfly Society of Virginia	Master Gardeners	Virginia Natural Heritage Program/VA
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Master Naturalists	Dept of Conservation and Recreation
Eco Images	Meg French Design	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Elizabeth River Project	Norfolk Botanical Garden	Virginia Living Museum
Hampton Roads Planning District	Sassafras Farm	Virginia State Beekeepers Association
Commission	South Hampton Roads Chapter, VNPS	Virginia Tech Hampton Roads AREC
Hermitage Museum and Gardens	Southern Branch Nursery	Wetlands Watch
John Clayton Chapter, VNPS	York County	Wild Works of Whimsy
Keep Norfolk Beautiful	Virginia Coastal Zone Management	
Lynnhaven River Now	Program/VA Dept of Environmental Quality	

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

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# Why Virginia Natives Are the Best Choice



Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

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

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

**Planting Southeast Virginia native plants is essential for a healthy watershed.**

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

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

**Spraying pesticides for insects or diseases is generally not necessary for native plants.**

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



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

# Table of Contents

What Area Does This Guide Cover?.....	4
Growing Conditions in Southeast Virginia .....	5
Featured Southeast Virginia Native Plants:	
Perennials (forbs) .....	6
Small non-woody (herbaceous) flowering plants with showy flowers, generally pollinated by insects. Typically, these plants are labeled as “perennials” at your garden center.	
Groundcovers .....	20
Low-growing or trailing plants used to cover the ground, providing protection of the topsoil from erosion and drought.	
Ferns .....	24
Reproduce using spores rather than flowers.	
Vines .....	26
Woody or non-woody plants that do not support themselves.	
Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes .....	30
Plants with upright straplike leaves and small non-showy flowers.	
Shrubs .....	34
Small woody plants, usually with multiple stems.	
Trees .....	44
Large woody plants, usually with a single stem/trunk.	
The Right Plants in the Right Place .....	52
Places to See Native Plants In the Ground.....	60
Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants .....	62
Plants are organized by botanical category in Latin-name order. Species featured in the guide are highlighted in bold.	
Invasives of Particular Concern in Southeast Virginia .....	66
Additional Resources .....	68



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

# How to Use This Guide

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

Scientific name  
 ↙  
***Aquilegia canadensis*** ● Wild or Eastern Red Columbine

common name(s) per  
 ↙ Flora of Virginia

key  
 ↙



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

height of plant at maturity  
 ←

flower/berry color, bloom time  
 ←

light requirement  
 ←

soil/moisture requirements  
 ←

natural habitat  
 ←

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

environmental, aesthetic, and economic benefits  
 ↖

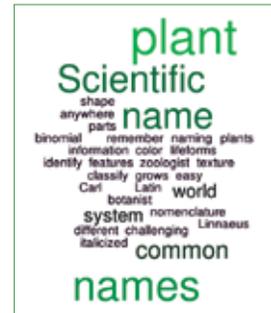
interesting fact(s) about plant  
 ↗

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

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

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

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



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

## Key to Terms & Symbols

### Light requirement:



Full sun: 6 or more hrs sun



Part sun/shade: 2 to 6 hrs sun



Full shade: 2 hrs or less sun

### Soil moisture:



Dry: no signs of moisture



Moist: looks & feels damp



Wet: saturated

### Wildlife supported by plant:



Food source for birds (*berries, nectar or insects resident on plant*)



Nectar source for pollinators - butterflies, moths, bees or other insects



Larval host for butterflies or moths (*larva are newly hatched forms of insects before they undergo metamorphosis*)

# What Area Does This Guide Cover?

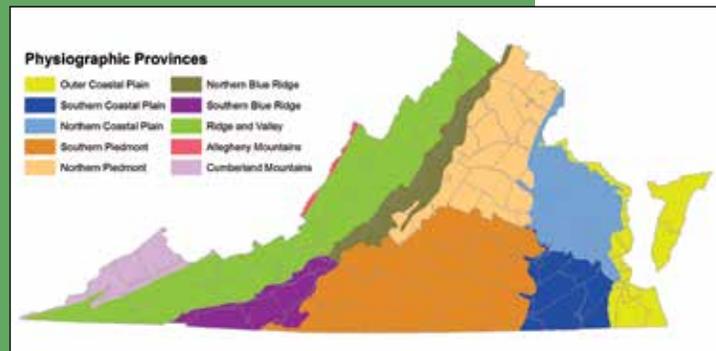


## Coastal Plain Physiographic Province

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

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

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



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

# Growing Conditions in Southeast Virginia

## Plant Growing Requirements

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

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

## Soil Type

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

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

For more soil information and maps visit:

USDA Soil Survey: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

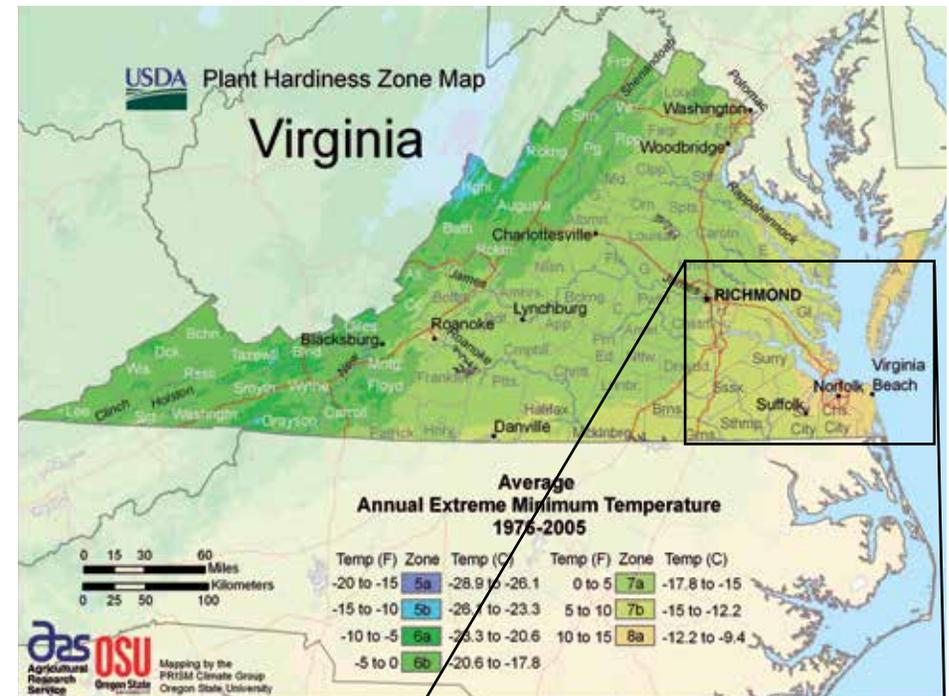
## Hardiness Zone

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

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

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

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



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



# Perennials (Forbs)



Trista Imrich/Wild Works of Whimsy

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

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



Gary Fleming/DCR



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

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

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

***Achillea millefolium* • Common Yarrow**

Seig Kopinitz/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Attracts pollinators, butterflies, hawk moths.

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

Margaret Chatham/VNPS



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

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

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

*Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads*

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

Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

***Asclepias incarnata* • Swamp Milkweed**

Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Asclepias syriaca* • Common Milkweed



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Baptisia tinctoria* • Yellow Wild Indigo



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Asclepias tuberosa* • Butterfly Weed



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Caltha palustris* • Marsh Marigold



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Attracts birds and bees.

**Chelone glabra** • White Turtlehead

Trista Imrich/Wild Works of Whimsy



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

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

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

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

Jan Newton, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Attractive spring perennial that is spectacular in large patches.

**Chrysopsis mariana** • Maryland Golden Aster

Jan Newton, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Fruiting heads of this perennial are attractive.

**Clitoria Mariana** • Maryland Butterfly Pea

Ken Lawless



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

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

Attracts birds.

# Perennials (Forbs)

## Conoclinium coelestinum • Mistflower



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

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

Attracts butterflies.

## Eupatorium hyssopifolium • Hyssopleaf Thoroughwort



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

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

Adds interest throughout the winter.

## Coreopsis verticillata • Whorled or Threadleaf Coreopsis



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

*This plant spreads by rhizomes.*

Attracts birds and butterflies. Drought tolerant.

## Equisetum hyemale • Tall Scouring Rush



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

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

Highly resistant to deer.

### *Eutrochium dubium* • Three-nerved Joe Pye-Weed

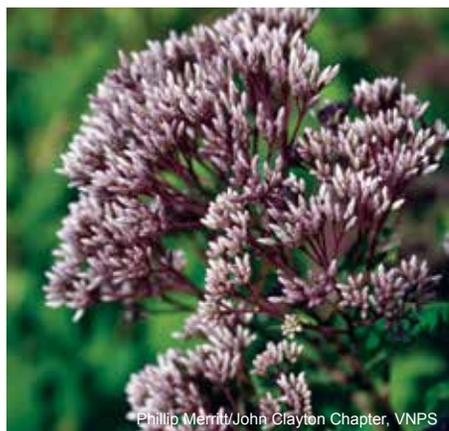


- 2–5 ft.
- Tiny purple flowers in dome-shaped clusters, 4–7 in across in July–October
- Sun to part/sun shade
- Moist, usually sandy acidic soil
- Native to bogs, swamps (all types), floodplain forests, wet flatwoods, wet clearings, and ditches; usually in acidic, nutrient-poor soils

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

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

### *Eutrochium purpureum* • Sweet or Purple Joe-Pye Weed



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

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

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

### *Eutrochium fistulosum* • Hollow Joe-Pye Weed



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

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

### *Eupatorium perfoliatum* • Boneset



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

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

Attracts birds, butterflies, and native bees.

# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Helenium autumnale* • Common or Autumn Sneezeweed



Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

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



Dot Field/DCR-NH



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

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

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

## *Helianthus angustifolius* • Narrow-leaved Sunflower



Ken Lawless



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

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

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

## *Iris virginica* • Virginia Blue Flag



Karen Duhring/VIMS



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

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

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

## *Kosteletzyka pentacarpus* ● Seashore or Salt Marsh Mallow



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

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

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



## *Liatris pilosa* ● Grass-leaf or Gayfeather Blazing Star



Denise Greene/Sassafras Farm

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

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

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



## *Lobelia cardinalis* ● Cardinal Flower



Alli Baird

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

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

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



## *Lobelia siphilitica* ● Great Blue Lobelia



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

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

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



# Perennials (Forbs)

## Lupinus perennis • Sundial Lupine



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## Monarda punctata • Horsemint, Spotted Beebalm



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Nectar source for butterflies and other pollinators.

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



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

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



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

**Opuntia humifusa** • Eastern Prickly-pear

Dot Field/DCR-NH



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

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

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

**Phlox paniculata** • Fall or Garden Phlox

Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

A showy clump-former.

**Parthenium integrifolium** • Wild Quinine

Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

Long blooming.

**Podophyllum peltatum** • Mayapple

Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Polygonatum biflorum* • Solomon's Seal



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Rudbeckia hirta* • Black-eyed Susan



Dot Field/DCR-NH



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

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

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

## *Pontederia cordata* • Pickerelweed



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

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



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

***Rudbeckia triloba* • Three-Lobed Sunflower, Brown-Eyed Susan**

Jan Newton/John Clayton VNPS



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

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

Seeds attract birds.

***Scutellaria integrifolia* • Hyssop Scullcap**

Seig Kopinritz/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

***Sanguinaria canadensis* • Bloodroot**

Philip Merriam/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

***Symphiotrichium grandiflorum* • Large-flowered Aster**

Denise Greene/JSassafras Farm



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

Attracts butterflies and is deer resistant.

# Perennials (Forbs)

## *Symphiotrichum lateriflorum* • Calico or Starved Aster



Denise Greene/ Sassafra Farm



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

Very showy flower. Attracts butterflies and moths.

## *Thalictrum thalictroides* • Rue Anemone



Denise Greene/Sassafra Farm



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

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

## *Solidago*



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

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

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

<b><i>Solidago caesia</i></b>	Blue-stemmed Goldenrod, Wreath Goldenrod
<b><i>Solidago nemoralis</i></b>	Gray, Dwarf, Old Field Goldenrod
<b><i>Solidago odora</i></b>	Sweet Goldenrod
<b><i>Solidago rugosa</i></b>	Roughstemmed or Wrinkleleaf Goldenrod

### Species that prefer full sun:

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

## *Vernonia noveboracensis* • New York Ironweed



Denise Greene/Sassafras Farm



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

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

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

## *Zephyranthes atamasca* • Atamasco Lily



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Very showy flower.

## Insect–Plant Coevolution:



### The Story of the Yucca and the Yucca Moth



Trista Imrich/Wild Works of Whimsy



www.bobklips.com

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

Flowers attracts hummingbirds.

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

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

# Groundcovers



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

## *Chamaecrista fasciculata* • Common Partridge Pea



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

Important nectar source for butterflies, and native bees.

*Although an annual it very readily re-seeds itself.*

## Anemone virginiana • Thimbleweed, Tall Anemone



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## Fragaria virginiana • Wild Strawberry



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

*Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads*

## Asarum canadense • Common Wild Ginger



Louise Menges/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## Mitchella repens • Partridge-Berry



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

# Groundcovers

## *Rhexia mariana* • Maryland or Pale Meadow Beauty



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Silene caroliniana* • Wild Pink, Northern Wild Pink



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

## *Salvia lyrata* • Lyre-leaf Sage



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* • Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass



Denise Greene/Sassafras Farm



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

Benefits native bees and pollinators.

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

## Viola • Violets



Confederate Violet - Jan Newton/VNPS



Primrose-leaved Violet - Phillip Merritt/VNPS



Bird's Foot Violet - Jan Newton/VNPS



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

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

BLOOM TIME: March–June

HEIGHT: 3-12 Inches

### **Viola affinis** • Sand Violet, Lecompte's Violet

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

### **Viola cuculata** • Marsh Blue Violet

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

### **Viola pedata** • Bird's Foot Violet

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

### **Viola primulifolia** • Primrose-leaved Violet

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

### **Viola sororia** • Common Blue Violet, Confederate Violet

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

# Ferns



Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

## *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum* ● Cinnamon Fern



Ken Lawless



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

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

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

## *Asplenium platyneuron* • Ebony Spleenwort



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Dennstaedtia punctilobula* • Hay Scented Fern



Jan Newton, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Athyrium asplenioides* • Southern Lady Fern



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Hosts three species of native caterpillars.

## *Osmunda spectabilis* • Royal Fern



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

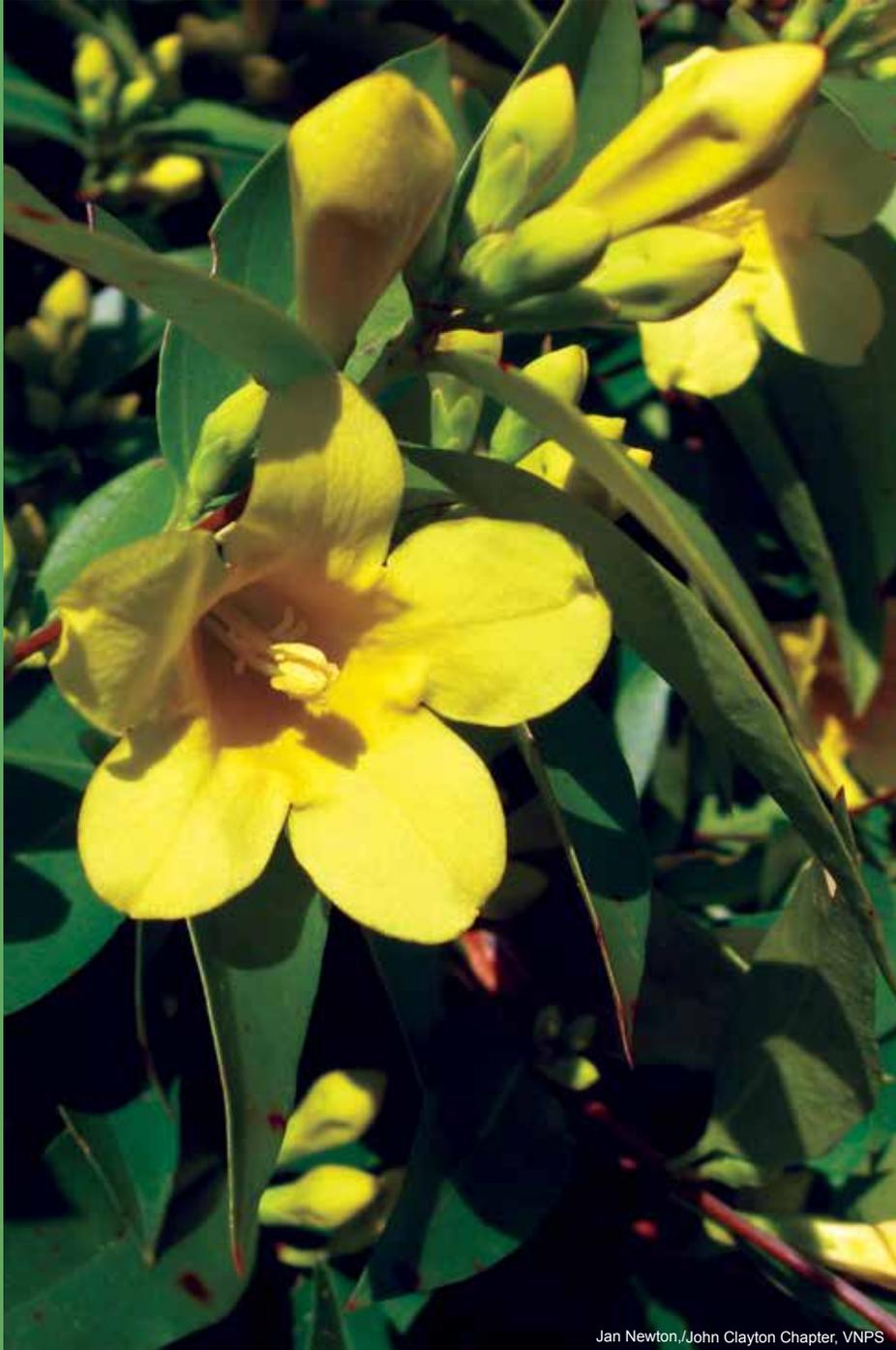


- 2–5 ft.; forms a symmetric clump 18 in. wide
- Grows slowly from rhizome stem
- Part sun/shade, shade
- Wet, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils, tolerates year-round, standing but not moving, shallow water
- Native to freshwater wetlands, bogs, fens, floodplain forests and along streambanks

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

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

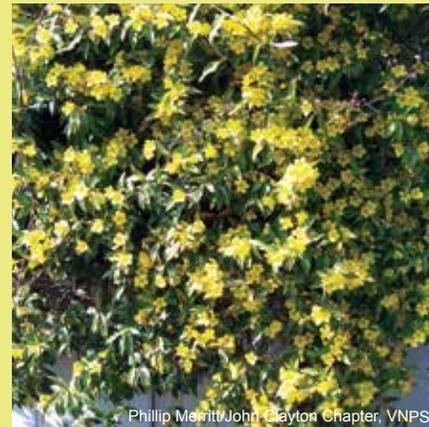
# Vines



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

## ***Gelsemium sempervirens*** ● Yellow or Carolina Jessamine



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Bignonia capreolata* • Crossvine



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Flowers are a nectar source for hummingbirds and butterflies.

## *Clematis virginiana* • Virgin's Bower



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Campsis radicans* • Trumpet Creeper



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

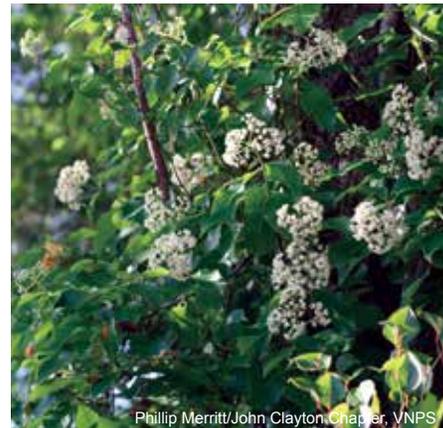


- Up to 35 ft.
- Red, orange, yellow showy, 3–5 inch, flower in June–September
- Sun to part shade; best in sun
- Well-drained, sandy, loam or clay soils; high drought tolerance
- Native to moist woods or along fence rows in old fields

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

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

## *Decumaria barbara* • Climbing Hydrangea



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## ***Lonicera sempervirens* • Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle**



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## ***Passiflora incarnata* • Maypop, Purple Passionvine**



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## ***Parthenocissus quinquefolia* • Virginia Creeper**



Dot Field/DCR



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

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

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

## ***Wisteria frutescens* • American Wisteria**



Sue Dingwell/VNPS



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

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

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

# Planting to Attract Pollinators & Birds

## Bring Life to Your Garden

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

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

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

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



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



Seig Kopinitz/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

# Grasses, Sedges and Rushes



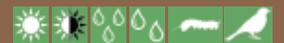
Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPSS

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

## *Andropogon glomeratus* • Bushy Bluestem



Dot Field/DCR-NH



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

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

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

## Andropogon virginicus • Broomsedge, Broomstraw



Dot Field, DCR/NH

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



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

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

## Andropogon ternarius • Splitbeard Bluestem



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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



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

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

## Carex comosa • Bottlebrush or Bristly Sedge



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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



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

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

## Carex crinita • Long-fringed Sedge



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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



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

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

# Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

## Carex lupulina • Hop Sedge



Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

*Hog Sedge is useful in rain gardens.*

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

## Danthonia spicata • Poverty Oatgrass



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## Carex stricta • Tussock or Upright Sedge



Irvine Wilson, DCR/NH



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

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

## Eragrostis spectabilis • Purple Love Grass, Tumblegrass



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Birds and other wildlife eat seeds.

### Juncus effusus ● Common Rush, Soft Rush



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

### Schizachyrium scoparium ● Little Bluestem



Trista Imrich/Lynhaven River Now



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

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

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

### Panicum virgatum ● Switchgrass



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

### Scirpus cyperinus ● Woolgrass



Karen Duhring/VIMS



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

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

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

# Shrubs



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

## *Callicarpa americana* • American Beauty-berry



Dot Field/DCR-NH

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

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

*Genus name comes from Greek meaning beautiful fruit.*

### ***Alnus serrulata* • Smooth or Hazel Alder**



Irvine Wilson/DCR-NH



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

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

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

### ***Baccharis halimifolia* • High-tide Bush, Groundsel Tree**



Dot Field/DCR-NH



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

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

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

*Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads*

### ***Aronia arbutifolia* • Red Chokeberry**



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

### ***Ceanothus americanus* • New Jersey Tea**



Denise Greene/Cassafas Farm



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

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies.

## *Cephalanthus occidentalis* • Buttonbush, Button Willow



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Cornus amomum* • Silky Dogwood



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Birds are attracted to the fruit.

## *Clethra alnifolia* • Coastal White-alder, Pepperbush



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Corylus americana* • American Hazelnut



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

Squirrels and birds eat nuts.

***Eubotrys racemosus* • Fetterbush, Swamp Dog-hobble**

Jan Newton, /John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

Attracts butterflies.

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

***Gaylussacia baccata* • Black Huckleberry**

Phillip Merritt, /John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

Jan Newton, /John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

***Hamamelis virginiana* • Witch Hazel**

Jan Newton, /John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

*Witch Hazel is the source of the astringent extract.*

## Hydrangea arborescens • Wild Hydrangea



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

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

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

## Ilex verticillata • Winterberry



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

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

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

## Ilex glabra • Inkberry, Gallberry



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

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

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

## Itea virginica • Virginia Sweetspire



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

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

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

## ***Kalmia latifolia* • Mountain Laurel**



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## ***Lyonia mariana* • Piedmont Staggerbush**



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

Flowers pollinated by native bees.

## ***Lindera benzoin* • Northern Spicebush, Spicebush**



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## ***Morella cerifera* • Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry**



Irvine Wilson/DCR-NH



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

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

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

## *Persea palustris* ● Swamp Bay or Red Bay



Dot Field/DCR-NH



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

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

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



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Rhododendron atlanticum* ● Dwarf Azalea



Irvine Wilson/DCR-NH



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

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

Attractive ornamental. Fruit attracts birds.

## *Rhododendron viscosum* ● Swamp Azalea or Honeysuckle



Irvine Wilson/DCR-NH



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

Beautifully flowered ornamental.

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

***Rhus copallinum* • Winged or Shining Sumac**

Jan Newton./John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

Beneficial to honey and native bees. Attracts birds and provides food for song birds, gamebirds and mammals.

***Rosa palustris* • Swamp Rose**

Jan Newton./John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

***Rosa carolina* • Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose**

Gaylan Meyer/VNPS



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

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

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

***Rubus occidentalis* • Black Raspberry**

Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Sambucus canadensis* • Common Elderberry



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Vaccinium pallidum* • Early Lowbush Blueberry



Deana Crumling



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

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

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

## *Stewartia malacodendron* • Silky Camellia



Gary Fleming/DCR-NH



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

Beautifully flowered ornamental.

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

## *Viburnum acerifolium* • Maple-leaved Viburnum, Dockmackie



Sally & Andy Wasowski/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



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

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

## *Viburnum dentatum* ● Arrow-wood



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Viburnum prunifolium* ● Black Haw



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Viburnum nudum* ● Possumhaw Viburnum



Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

Fruit is eaten by songbirds.

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

## When Planting Shrubs...

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

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

# Trees



Jan Newton, /John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

## *Prunus serotina* ● Black Cherry



Dot Field/DCR-NH



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

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

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

**Acer rubrum • Red Maple**

Dot Field/DCR-NH



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

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

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

**Asimina triloba • Pawpaw, Common Pawpaw**

Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

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

Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



Jan Newton /John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

## Betula nigra • River Birch



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## Carya tomentosa • Mockernut Hickory



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## Carpinus caroliniana • American Hornbeam, Ironwood



Julie Makin/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



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

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

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

## Cercis canadensis • Eastern Redbud



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

Attracts native bees, and tolerates deer browsing.

*A fast growing, attractive understory tree.*

### *Chionanthus virginicus* • White Fringetree, Fringe Tree



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

### *Diospyros virginiana* • Common Persimmon



Dot Field/DCR-NH



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

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

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

*Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads*

### *Cornus florida* • Flowering Dogwood



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

### *Juniperus virginiana* • Eastern Redcedar



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

# Trees

## America's National Tree: The Majestic Oak

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

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

Common Name	Plant Genus	# of species		
Oak	<i>Quercus</i>	534	<i>The trees species in these families that are native to southeast Virginia are highlighted in this guide and listed in the guide's index. Plant these species and provide needed habitat!</i>	
Black cherry	<i>Prunus</i>	456		
Willow	<i>Salix</i>	455		
Birch	<i>Betula</i>	413		
Crabapple	<i>Malus</i>	311		
Maple	<i>Acer</i>	285		
Elm	<i>Ulmus</i>	213		
Pine	<i>Pinus</i>	203		
Hickory	<i>Carya</i>	200		
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus</i>	159		Learn more about this study by Doug Tallamy, reknowned Entomologist and author at <a href="http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/what-to-plant.html">www.bringingnaturehome.net/what-to-plant.html</a>
Alder	<i>Alnus</i>	156		
Basswood	<i>Tilia</i>	150		
Ash	<i>Fraxinus</i>	150		
Walnut	<i>Juglans</i>	130		
Beech	<i>Fagus</i>	126		
Chestnut	<i>Castanea</i>	125		

### *Quercus alba* • White Oak



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

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

Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

### *Quercus coccinea* • Scarlet Oak



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

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

Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

## *Quercus falcata* • Southern Red Oak, Spanish Oak



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

## *Quercus marilandica* • Blackjack Oak



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

*Native Americans used Blackjack Oak bark in medicine.*

## *Quercus phellos* • Willow Oak



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

## *Quercus virginiana* • Live Oak



Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

## *Liriodendron tulipifera* • Tuliptree, Tulip Poplar



Jan Newton./John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Nyssa sylvatica* • Blackgum, Black Tupelo



Gary Fleming/DCR



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

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

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

## *Magnolia virginiana* • Sweetbay Magnolia



Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS



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

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

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

## *Oxydendrum arboreum* • Sourwood, Sorrel Tree



Dale Fletcher/Virginia Living Museum



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

Beneficial to honey bees. Generally disease-free.

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

## *Pinus taeda* • Loblolly Pine



Karen Duhring/VIMS

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



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

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

## *Pinus virginiana* • Virginia Pine



Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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



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

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

## *Sassafras albidum* • Sassafras



Ruth Myers

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

*Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads*



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

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

## *Taxodium distichum* • Baldcypress



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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



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

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

# The Right Plants in the Right Place



## Landscaping in Streetside 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 also happen to be marsh species adapted to an environment with saturated soil and low oxygen.

### Perennials (Forbs)

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

### Groundcovers

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

### Ferns

*Onoclea sensibilis* – Sensitive Fern  
*Thelypteris palustris* – Marsh Fern

### Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

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

### Shrubs

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

### Trees

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

# The Right Plants in the Right Place



## Landscaping in Small Places

Sue Dingwell/VNPS

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

### **Natives for full sun spaces—patios, decks, planters, containers, baskets and vertical gardens:**

#### **Perennials (Forbs)**

*Asclepias incarnata* – Swamp Milweed  
*Asclepias tuberosa* – Butterfly-weed  
*Hibiscus moscheutos* – Swamp rose mallow  
*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* – Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint  
*Salvia lyrata* – Lyre-leaf Sage

*Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads*

*Sedum ternatum* – Wild Stonecrop  
*Sisyrinchium angustifolium* – Blue-eyed Grass

#### **Vines**

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

#### **Shrubs**

*Itea virginica* – Sweetspire  
*Clethra alnifolia* – Pepperbush

### **Natives for full shade spaces—alleys, patios, containers, and balconies:**

#### **Perennials (Forbs)**

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

#### **Ferns**

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

#### **Shrubs**

*Hydrangea arboescens* - Wild Hydrangea

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



Sue Dingwell/VNPS

# The Right Plants in the Right Place



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

## Perennials (Forbs)

*Anemone quinquefolia* – Wood Anemone  
*Aquilegia canadensis* – Wild or Eastern Red Columbine  
*Asarum canadense* – Wild Ginger  
*Chrysogonum virginianum* – Green and gold  
*Conoclinium coelestinum* – Mistflower  
*Eragrostis spectabilis* – Purple love grass

*Fragaria virginiana* – Virginia Strawberry  
*Maianthemum racemosum* – Eastern Solomon's plume, False Solomon's-seal  
*Mitchella repens* – Partridgeberry  
*Podophyllum peltatum* – Mayapple  
*Polygonatum biflorum* – Solomon's Seal  
*Polystichum acrostichoides* – Christmas fern  
*Solidago caesia* – Wreath/Bluestem goldenrod  
*Viola sororia* – Common Blue Violet

## Ferns

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

## Vines

*Gelsemium sempervirens* – Carolina jessamine  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* – Virginia creeper

## Shrubs

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

## Trees

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



# The Right Plants in the Right Place



## Landscaping in Wet Shade

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

### Perennials (Forbs)

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

### Ferns

*Osmunda spectabilis* – Royal fern  
*Thelypteris palustris* – Marsh Fern

### Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

*Carex stricta* – Tussock Sedge  
*Juncus effusus* – Soft rush

### Shrubs

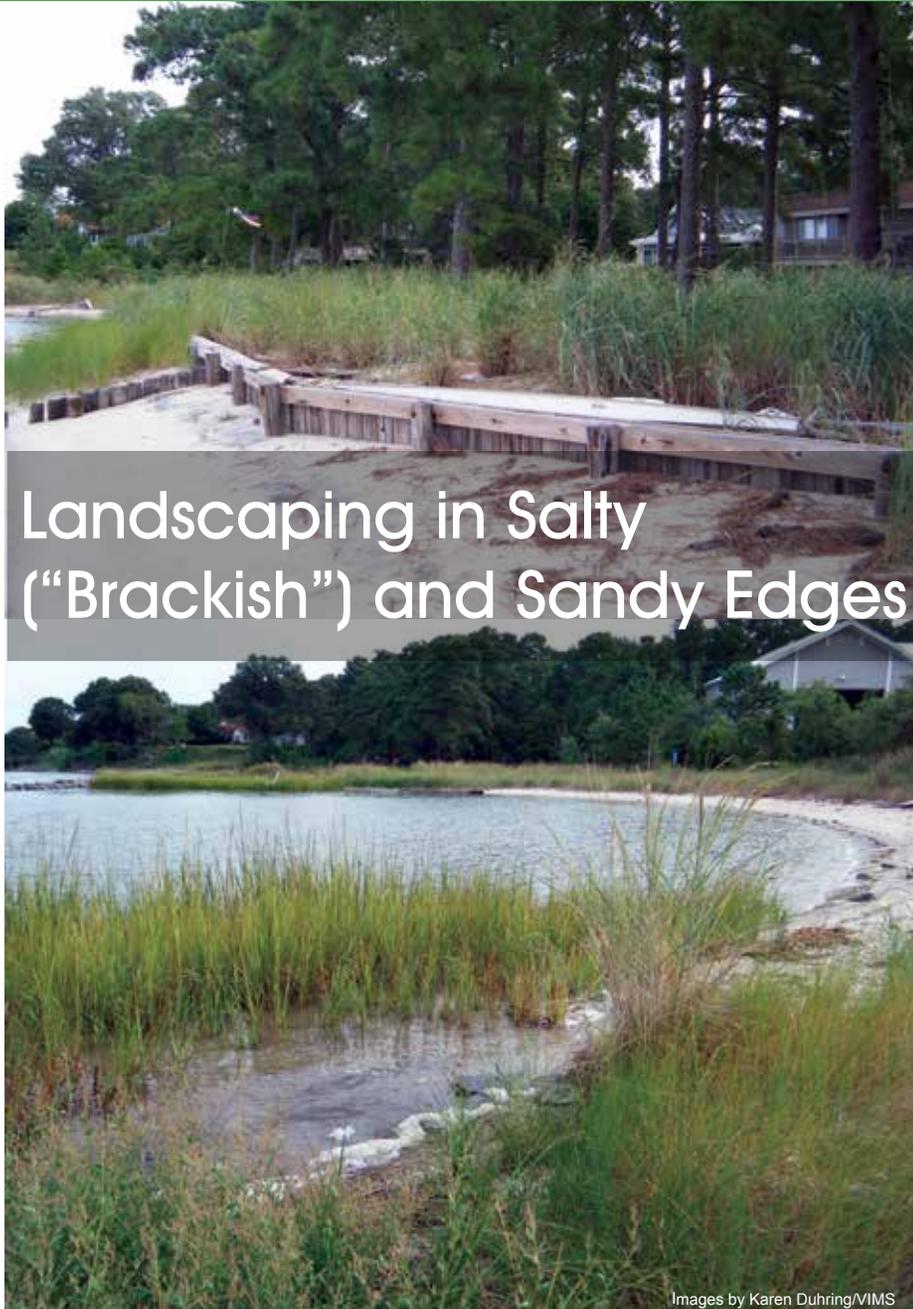
*Aronia arbutifolia* – Red chokeberry  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis* – Buttonbush, Button Willow  
*Clethra alnifolia* – Sweet pepperbush  
*Gaylussacia baccata* – Black huckleberry  
*Kalmia latifolia* – Mountain Laurel  
*Ilex verticillata* – Winterberry  
*Ilex vomitoria* – Yaupon Holly  
*Physocarpus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

### Trees

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



# The Right Plants in the Right Place



## Landscaping in Salty (“Brackish”) and Sandy Edges

Images by Karen Duhring/VIMS

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

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

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

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

# The Right Plants in the Right Place

## Perennials (Forbs)

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

## Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

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

## Vines

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

## Shrubs

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

## Trees

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

Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads

## *Spartina Alterniflora* ● Saltmarsh or Smooth Cordgrass



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

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

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

## *Spartina Patens* ● Saltmeadow Hay or Cordgrass



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

Attracts birds.

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

# The Right Plants in the Right Place



## Landscaping with Raingardens

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

### Ferns

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

### Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

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

### Other Perennials

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

# The Right Plants in the Right Place

## Shrubs

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



Laurie Fox/VA Tech AREC

## Trees

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



Laurie Fox/VA Tech AREC

# Places to See Native Plants

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

## Peninsula

### Gloucester ---

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

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

### Hampton ---

*Bluebird Gap Farm, 60 Pine Chapel Rd.*

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

*Sandy Bottom Park, 1255 Big Bethel Rd, Hampton*

### James City County ---

*York River State Park, 9801 York River Park Rd,*

### Newport News ---

*Denbeigh Park, Denbigh Blvd, Newport News*

*Virginia Living Museum, 524 J Clyde Morris Blvd.*

### Poquoson ---

*Poquoson Museum gardens, 968 Poquoson Ave.*

### Williamsburg ---

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

*Colonial Williamsburg gardens, [www.history.org/history/CWland/](http://www.history.org/history/CWland/)*

*New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr, Williamsburg*

*Williamsburg Botanical Garden, 5537 Centerville Rd.*

### York County ---

*Virginia Cooperative Extension Learning Garden, 100 County Dr.*

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

## South of the James River

### Carrollton ---

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

### Suffolk ---

*Lake Meade Park, North Main St.*

*Sleepy Hole Park, 4700 Sleepy Hole Rd.*

### Surry ---

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

## South Side

### Chesapeake ---

*Chesapeake Arboretum, 624 Oak Grove Rd.*

### Norfolk ---

*Fred Heutte Center, 1000 Botetourt Gardens*

*The Hermitage Museum and Gardens, 7637 North Shore Rd.*

*The Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Garden Rd.*

*Virginia Zoological Park, 3500 Granby St.*

### Portsmouth ---

*Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve, 4510 Twin Pines Rd.*

*Paradise Creek Park, 1141 Victory Blvd.*

*Virginia Cooperative Extension display gardens, 105 Utah St.*



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Native plant pollinator garden at Carrollton library.



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# Kids and Native Plants

## Virginia Beach ---

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

*Brock Environmental Center, 3663 Marlin Bay Dr.*

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

*Virginia Tech Hampton Roads AREC, 1444 Diamond Springs Rd.*

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

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

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

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

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

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



Jan Newton, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

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

Visit [https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat/for\\_Schoolyard\\_Habitat\\_Resources](https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat/for_Schoolyard_Habitat_Resources).



Jan Newton, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

# Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

## Scientific Name

### Forbs

*Achillea millefolium*  
*Anemone quinquefolia*  
*Anemone virginiana*  
*Aquilegia canadensis*  
*Arisaema triphyllum*  
*Asarum canadense*  
*Asclepias incarnata*  
*Asclepias syriaca*  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
*Baptisia tinctoria*  
*Boltonia asteroides*  
*Borrchia frutescens*  
*Cakile edentula*  
*Caltha palustris*  
*Chamaecrista fasciculata*  
*Chelone glabra*  
*Chrysogonum virginianum*  
*Chrysopsis mariana*  
*Claytonia virginica*  
*Clitoria mariana*  
*Conoclinium coelestinum*  
*Coreopsis lanceolata*  
*Coreopsis tinctoria*  
*Coreopsis verticillata*  
*Equisetum hyemale*  
*Erigeron pulchellus*  
*Eupatorium hyssopifolium*  
*Eupatorium perfoliatum*

## Common Name(s)

**Common Yarrow** (pg 7)  
Wood Anemone  
**Thimbleweed** (pg 21)  
**Wild Columbine** (pg 7)  
**Jack-in-the-Pulpit** (pg 7)  
**Wild Ginger** (pg 21)  
**Swamp Milkweed** (pg 7)  
**Common Milkweed** (pg 8)  
**Butterfly Weed** (pg 8)  
**Yellow Wild Indigo** (pg 8)  
Aster like Boltonia  
Sea Oxeye  
American Searocket  
**Marsh Marigold** (pg 8)  
**Partridge Pea** (pg 20)  
**White Turtlehead** (pg 9)  
Green and Gold  
**Maryland Golden Aster** (pg 9)  
**Virginia Spring Beauty** (pg 9)  
**Maryland Butterfly Pea** (pg 9)  
**Blue Mistflower** (pg 10)  
Longstalk Coreopsis  
Golden Tickseed  
**Threadleaf Coreopsis** (pg 10)  
**Horsetail** (pg 10)  
Lynnhaven Carpet Flower  
**Hyssopleaf Thoroughwort** (pg 10)  
**Common Boneset** (pg 11)

## Scientific Name

*Euthamia graminifolia*  
*Eutrochium dubium*  
*Eutrochium fistulosum*  
*Eutrochium purpureum*  
*Fragaria virginiana*  
*Galax urceolata*  
*Helenium autumnale*  
*Helianthus angustifolius*  
*Heuchera americana*  
*Hexastylis virginica*  
*Hibiscus moscheutos*  
*Hudsonia tomentosa*  
*Impatiens capensis*  
*Iris virginica*  
*Juncus tenuis*  
*Kosteletzkya pentacarpos*  
*Liatris pilosa*  
*Lilium superbum*  
*Limonium carolinianum*  
*Lobelia cardinalis*  
*Lobelia siphilitica*  
*Lupinus perennis*  
*Maianthemum racemosum*  
*Mitchella repens*  
*Monarda punctata*  
*Oenothera fruticosa*  
*Opuntia humifusa*  
*Packera aurea*

## Common Name(s)

Grass-Leaved Goldenrod  
**Coastal Plain Joe Pye Weed** (pg 11)  
**Hollow Joe Pye Weed** (pg 11)  
**Sweet Joe Pye Weed** (pg 11)  
**Virginia Strawberry** (pg 21)  
Galax  
**Common Sneezeweed** (pg 12)  
**Narrow-leaved Sunflower** (pg 12)  
Alumroot  
Virginia Heartleaf  
**Eastern Rose Mallow** (pg 12)  
Woolly Beach Heather  
Jewelweed  
**Virginia Blue Flag** (pg 12)  
Poverty Rush  
**Seashore Mallow** (pg 13)  
**Glass-leaf Blazing Star** (pg 13)  
Turk's Cap Lily  
Carolina Sea Lavender  
**Cardinal Flower** (pg 13)  
**Great Blue Lobelia** (pg 13)  
**Sundial Lupine** (pg 14)  
**False Solomon's Seal** (pg 14)  
**Partridgeberry** (pg 21)  
**Horsemint** (pg 14)  
**Narrow-leaf Sundrops** (pg 14)  
**Eastern Prickly Pear** (pg 15)  
Golden Ragwort

# Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

## Scientific Name

## Common Name(s)

***Parthenium integrifolium***  
*Peltandra virginica*  
*Penstemon laevigatus*  
***Phlox paniculata***  
***Podophyllum peltatum***  
***Polygonatum biflorum***  
***Pontederia cordata***  
*Pycnanthemum incanum*  
*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*  
***Rhexia mariana***  
*Rhexia nashii*  
*Rhexia virginica*  
***Rudbeckia hirta***  
***Rudbeckia laciniata***  
***Rudbeckia triloba***  
*Ruellia caroliniensis*  
*Sagittaria latifolia*  
***Salvia lyrata***  
***Sanguinaria canadensis***  
*Saururus cernuus*  
***Scutellaria integrifolia***  
*Sedum ternatum*  
*Senna marilandica*  
***Silene caroliniana***  
***Sisyrinchium angustifolium***  
***Sisyrinchium grandiflorum***  
***Solidago altissima***  
***Solidago caesia***

**Wild Quinine** (pg 15)  
 Arrow Arum  
 Smooth Beard Tongue  
**Fall Phlox** (pg 15)  
**Mayapple** (pg 15)  
**Solomon's Seal** (pg 16)  
**Pickernelweed** (pg 16)  
 Hoary Mountain Mint  
 Narrow-leaf Mountain Mint  
**Maryland Meadow Beauty** (pg 22)  
 Hairy Meadow Beauty  
 Virginia Meadow Beauty  
**Black-Eyed Susan** (pg 16)  
**Cut-Leaf Coneflower** (pg 16)  
**Three-Lobed Coneflower** (pg 17)  
 Carolina Wild Petunia  
 Broad-Leaved Arrowhead  
**Lyre-leaf Sage** (pg 22)  
**Bloodroot** (pg 17)  
 Lizard's Tail  
**Hyssop Scullcap** (pg 17)  
 Woodland Stonecrop  
 Southern Wild Senna  
**Wild Pink** (pg 22)  
**Narrowleaf Blue-Eyed Grass** (pg 22)  
**Large-flowered Aster** (pg 17)  
**Canada Goldenrod** (pg 18)  
**Blue-stemmed Goldenrod** (pg 18)

## Scientific Name

## Common Name(s)

***Solidago juncea***  
***Solidago nemoralis***  
***Solidago odora***  
***Solidago pinetorum***  
***Solidago puberula***  
***Solidago rugosa***  
***Solidago sempervirens***  
***Symphotrichum lateriflorum***  
*Symphotrichum novi-belgii*  
***Thalictrum thalictroides***  
***Vernonia noveboracensis***  
***Viola affinis***  
***Viola cucullata***  
***Viola pedata***  
***Viola primulifolia***  
***Viola sororia***  
***Yucca filamentosa***  
***Zephyranthes atamasca***

**Early Goldenrod** (pg 18)  
**Gray Goldenrod** (pg 18)  
**Sweet Goldenrod** (pg 18)  
**Pineywoods Goldenrod** (pg 18)  
**Downy Goldenrod** (pg 18)  
**Rough-stemmed Goldenrod** (pg 18)  
**Seaside Goldenrod** (pg 18)  
**Calico Aster** (pg 18)  
 New York American Aster  
**Rue Anemone** (pg 18)  
**New York Ironweed** (pg 19)  
**Sand Violet, Lecompte's Violet** (pg 23)  
**Marsh Blue Violet** (pg 23)  
**Bird's Foot Violet** (pg 23)  
**Primrose-leaved Violet** (pg 23)  
**Common Blue Violet** (pg 23)  
**Adam's Needle Yucca** (pg 19)  
**Atamasco Lily** (pg 18)

## Ferns

*Adiantum pedatum*  
***Asplenium platyneuron***  
***Athyrium asplenioides***  
***Dennstaedtia punctilobula***  
*Dryopteris intermedia*  
*Dryopteris marginalis*  
*Onoclea sensibilis*  
***Osmunda spectabilis***

Northern Maidenhair  
**Ebony Spleenwort** (pg 25)  
**Lady Fern** (pg 23)  
**Hay-Scented Fern** (pg 23)  
 Evergreen Wood Fern  
 Marginal Wood Fern  
 Sensitive Fern  
**Royal Fern** (pg 23)

# Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

## Scientific Name

## Common Name(s)

### Ferns (continued)

<b><i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i></b>	<b>Cinnamon Fern (pg 24)</b>
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	Netted Chain Fern
<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	Virginia Chain Fern

### Vines

<b><i>Bignonia capreolata</i></b>	<b>Crossvine (pg 27)</b>
<b><i>Campsis radicans</i></b>	<b>Trumpet Vine (pg 27)</b>
<i>Clematis viorna</i>	Vasevine
<b><i>Clematis virginiana</i></b>	<b>Virgin's Bower (pg 27)</b>
<b><i>Decumaria barbara</i></b>	<b>Climbing Hydrangea (pg 27)</b>
<b><i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i></b>	<b>Carolina Jessamine (pg 26)</b>
<b><i>Lonicera sempervirens</i></b>	<b>Coral Honeysuckle (pg 28)</b>
<b><i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i></b>	<b>Virginia Creeper (pg 28)</b>
<b><i>Passiflora incarnata</i></b>	<b>Passionflower (pg 28)</b>
<i>Passiflora lutea</i>	Yellow Passion Vine
<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Riverbank Grape
<b><i>Wisteria frutescens</i></b>	<b>American Wisteria (pg 28)</b>

### Grasses/Sedges/Rushes

<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	Dunegrass
<b><i>Andropogon glomeratus</i></b>	<b>Bushy Bluestem (pg 31)</b>
<b><i>Andropogon ternarius</i></b>	<b>Splitbeard Bluestem (pg 31)</b>
<b><i>Andropogon virginicus</i></b>	<b>Broomsedge (pg 31)</b>
<i>Bolboschoenus robustus</i>	Saltmarsh Bulrush
<b><i>Carex comosa</i></b>	<b>Bottlebrush Sedge (pg 31)</b>

## Scientific Name

## Common Name(s)

### Grasses (continued)

<i>Carex crinita</i>	<b>Long-fringed Sedge (pg 31)</b>
<i>Carex lupulina</i>	<b>Hop Sedge (pg 32)</b>
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania Sedge
<b><i>Carex stricta</i></b>	<b>Tussock Sedge (pg 32)</b>
<b><i>Danthonia spicata</i></b>	<b>Poverty Oatgrass (pg 32)</b>
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Saltgrass
<b><i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i></b>	<b>Purple Love Grass (pg 32)</b>
<b><i>Juncus effusus</i></b>	<b>Common Rush (pg 33)</b>
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Pink Muhly Grass
<i>Panicum amarum</i>	Bitter Panic Grass
<b><i>Panicum virgatum</i></b>	<b>Switchgrass (pg 33)</b>
<b><i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i></b>	<b>Little Bluestem (pg 33)</b>
<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	Olney threesquare
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	Soft-stem Bulrush
<b><i>Scirpus cyperinus</i></b>	<b>Woolgrass (pg 33)</b>
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass
<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	Smooth Cordgrass
<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>	Big Cordgrass
<i>Spartina patens</i>	Salt Marsh Hay
<i>Uniola paniculata</i>	Sea Oats

### Shrubs

<b><i>Alnus serrulata</i></b>	<b>Smooth Alder (pg 35)</b>
<b><i>Aronia arbutifolia</i></b>	<b>Red Chokeberry (pg 35)</b>
<b><i>Baccharis halimifolia</i></b>	<b>High-tide Bush (pg 35)</b>
<b><i>Callicarpa americana</i></b>	<b>Beautyberry (pg 34)</b>
<b><i>Ceanothus americanus</i></b>	<b>New Jersey Tea (pg 35)</b>

# Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

## Scientific Name

### Shrubs (continued)

*Cephalanthus occidentalis*  
*Clethra alnifolia*  
*Cornus amomum*  
*Corylus americana*  
*Eubotrys racemosus*  
*Euonymus americanus*  
*Gaultheria procumbens*  
*Gaylussacia baccata*  
*Hamamelis virginiana*  
*Hydrangea arborescens*  
*Ilex glabra*  
*Ilex verticillata*  
*Ilex vomitoria*  
*Itea virginica*  
*Iva frutescens*  
*Kalmia latifolia*  
*Lindera benzoin*  
*Lyonia mariana*  
*Morella cerifera*  
*Persea palustris*  
*Physocarpus opulifolius*  
*Rhododendron atlanticum*  
*Rhododendron periclymenoides*  
*Rhododendron viscosum*  
*Rhus coppallinum*  
*Rosa carolina*  
*Rosa palustris*  
*Rubus occidentalis*

## Common Name(s)

Buttonbush (pg 36)  
Sweet Pepperbush (pg 36)  
Silky Dogwood (pg 36)  
American Hazelnut  
Fetterbush (pg 37)  
American Strawberry Bush (pg 37)  
Wintergreen  
Black Huckleberry (pg 37)  
Witch Hazel (pg 37)  
Wild Hydrangea (pg 38)  
Inkberry Holly (pg 38)  
Winterberry Holly (pg 38)  
Yaupon Holly  
Virginia Sweetspire (pg 38)  
Marsh Elder  
Mountain Laurel (pg 39)  
Northern Spicebush (pg 39)  
Staggerbush (pg 39)  
Southern Bayberry, Wax Myrtle (pg 39)  
Red or Swamp Bay (pg 40)  
Common ninebark  
Coastal Azalea (pg 40)  
Pinxterbloom Azalea (pg 40)  
Swamp Azalea (pg 40)  
Winged Sumac (pg 41)  
Carolina Rose (pg 41)  
Swamp Rose (pg 41)  
Black Raspberries (pg 41)

### Shrubs (continued)

*Sambucus canadensis*  
*Stewartia malacodendron*  
*Vaccinium formosum*  
*Vaccinium fuscatum*  
*Vaccinium pallidum*  
*Vaccinium passidum*  
*Vaccinium stamineum*  
*Viburnum acerifolium*  
*Viburnum dentatum*  
*Viburnum nudum*  
*Viburnum prunifolium*

### Trees

*Acer rubrum*  
*Amelanchier arborea*  
*Amelanchier canadensis*  
*Asimina triloba*  
*Betula nigra*  
*Carpinus caroliniana*  
*Carya ovata*  
*Carya tomentosa*  
*Castanea pumila*  
*Celtis occidentalis*  
*Cercis canadensis*  
*Chionanthus virginicus*  
*Cornus amomum*  
*Cornus florida*

Elderberry (pg 42)  
Silky Camelia (pg 42)  
Southern Highbush Blueberry  
Hairly Highbush Blueberry  
Blue Ridge Blueberry (pg 42)  
Early Lowbush Blueberry  
Deerberry  
Mapleleaf Viburnum (pg 42)  
Arrowood Viburnum (pg 43)  
Possumhaw Viburnum (pg 43)  
Blackhaw Viburnum (pg 43)

Red Maple (pg 45)  
Downy Serviceberry (pg 45)  
Shadblow Serviceberry (pg 45)  
Pawpaw (pg 45)  
River Birch (pg 46)  
American Hornbeam (pg 46)  
Shagbark Hickory  
Mockernut Hickory (pg 46)  
Allegheny Chinkapin  
Common Hackberry  
Redbud (pg 46)  
White Fringetree (pg 47)  
Silky Dogwood  
Flowering Dogwood (pg 47)

# Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

## Scientific Name

### Trees (continued)

***Diospyros virginiana***

*Fagus grandifolia*

*Ilex opaca*

*Juglans cinerea*

***Juniperus virginiana***

***Liriodendron tulipifera***

***Magnolia virginiana***

***Nyssa sylvatica***

*Ostrya virginiana*

***Oxydendrum arboreum***

***Pinus taeda***

***Pinus Virginiana***

*Platanus occidentalis*

*Prunus americana*

***Prunus serotina***

***Quercus alba***

***Quercus coccinea***

***Quercus falcata***

***Quercus marilandica***

*Quercus nigra*

***Quercus phellos***

***Quercus virginiana***

*Salix nigra*

***Sassafras albidum***

***Taxodium distichum***

## Common Name(s)

**Persimmon (pg 47)**

American Beech

American Holly

Walnut

**Eastern Red Cedar (pg 47)**

**Tulip Poplar (pg 50)**

**Sweetbay Magnolia (pg 50)**

**Black Tupelo (pg 50)**

American Hop Hornbeam

**Sourwood (pg 50)**

**Loblolly Pine (pg 51)**

**Virginia Pine (pg 51)**

American Sycamore

Wild Plum

**Black Cherry (pg 44)**

**White Oak (pg 48)**

**Scarlet Oak (pg 48)**

**Southern Red Oak (pg 49)**

**Blackjack Oak (pg 49)**

Water Oak

**Willow Oak (pg 49)**

**Southern Live Oak (pg 49)**

Black Willow

**Sassafras (pg 51)**

**Bald Cypress (pg 51)**



Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

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

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

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

**SEVA Native** *Gelsemium sempervirens*, Carolina or Yellow Jessamine

**Alternatives:** *Campsis radicans*, Trumpet Creeper

*Lonicera sempervirens*, Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle

*Bignonia capreolata*, Crossvine

### **Ailanthus altissima, Tree of Heaven \*\*\***

**SEVA Native** *Cercis Canadensis*, Eastern Redbud

**Alternatives:** *Diospyros virginiana*, Common Persimmon

*Rhus copallinum*, Winged or Shining Sumac

### **Albizia julibrissin, Mimosa, Silk Tree \*\***

**SEVA Native** *Serviceberry*, Amelanchier arborea and Amelanchier Canadensis

**Alternatives:** *Cercis canadensis*, Eastern Redbud

*Chionanthus virginicus*, White Fringetree

*Cornus amomum*, Silky Dogwood

*Lindera benzoin*, Northern Spicebush

*Betula nigra*, River Birch

# Invasives of Particular Concern in Southeast Virginia

## ***Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, Porcelain-Berry \*\*\***

**SEVA Native** *Bignonia capreolata*, Crossvine

**Alternatives:** *Gelsemium sempervirens*, Carolina or Yellow Jessamine;  
*Lonicera sempervirens*, Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle;

## ***Eleagnus umbellata*, Autumn Olive \*\*\***

**SEVA Native** *Baccharis halimifolia*, Groundsel

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

## ***Hedera helix*, English Ivy \*\***

**SEVA Native** *Asarum canadense*, Wild Ginger

**Alternatives:** *Bignonia capreolata*, Cross-vine  
*Galax urceolata*, Galax  
*Gelsemium sempervirens*, Yellow Jessamine  
*Mitchella repens*, Partridge-Berry  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, Virginia-creeper  
*Packera aurea*, Golden Ragwort

## ***Ligustrum sinense*, Chinese Privet \*\***

**SEVA Native** *Aronia arbutifolia*, Red Chokeberry

**Alternatives:** *Ilex glabra*, Gallberry, Inkberry  
*Lindera benzoin*, Northern Spicebush  
*Morella cerifera*, Southern Bayberry, Wax Myrtle  
*Viburnum prunifolium*, Black Haw

## ***Lonicera japonica*, Japanese honeysuckle \*\*\***

**SEVA Native** *Bignonia capreolata*, Cross-vine

**Alternatives:** *Campsis radicans*, Trumpet-creeper  
*Gelsemium sempervirens*, Yellow Jessamine  
*Lonicera sempervirens*, Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, Virginia-creeper  
*Passiflora incarnata*, Purple Passionflower, Maypop

## ***Miscanthus sinensis*, Miscanthus, Chinese Silvergrass \*\***

**SEVA Native** *Panicum virgatum*, Switchgrass

**Alternatives:**

## ***Microstegium vimineum*, Japanese Stiltgrass \*\*\***

**SEVA Native** *Distichlis spicata*, Saltgrass

**Alternatives:** *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*, Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass

## ***Pyrus calleryana*, Bradford or Callery Pear \*\***

**SEVA Native** *Amelanchier spp.*, serviceberries

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

## ***Rosa multi:flora*, Multiflora Rose \*\*\***

**SEVA Native** *Rosa Carolina*, Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose

**Alternatives:** *Rosa palustris*, Swamp Rose

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

**SEVA Native** *Bignonia capreolata*, Cross-vine

**Alternatives:** *Campsis radicans*, Trumpet-creeper  
*Gelsemium sempervirens*, Yellow Jessamine  
*Lonicera sempervirens*, Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, Virginia-creeper  
*Passiflora incarnata*, Purple Passionflower, Maypop  
*Wisteria frutescens*, American Wisteria

## Learn More About Invasive Plants and How You Can Help

### **Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage:**

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspinfo>

### **USDA National Invasive Species Information Center:**

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>

### **Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health:**

<http://www.invasive.org/species/weeds.cfm>

### **Mistaken Identity–Invasive Plants and Their Native Look-Alikes (pub):**

[ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/DE/publications/Mistaken\\_Identity\\_Final.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/DE/publications/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf)

### **Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas (publ):**

<https://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/>

# Additional Resources

## About Native Plants

### Online:

#### Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora

<http://vaplantatlas.org/>

#### Field Guide to Virginia Salt and Brackish Marsh Plants, William & Mary Virginia Institute of Marine Science

[www.ccrm.vims.edu/wetlands/wetland\\_plants/8x11brochureannotated2rh.pdf](http://www.ccrm.vims.edu/wetlands/wetland_plants/8x11brochureannotated2rh.pdf)

#### Flora of Virginia Project

<http://www.floraofvirginia.org>

#### Flora of North America

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

#### 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

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

#### USDA Plants Database

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

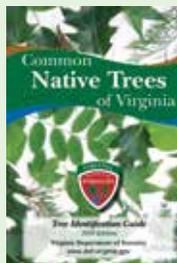
### Print:

*The American Woodland Garden*, Rick Darke, 2002

#### *Common Native Trees of Virginia and Common Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of Virginia*,

Virginia Department of Forestry

[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)



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

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

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

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

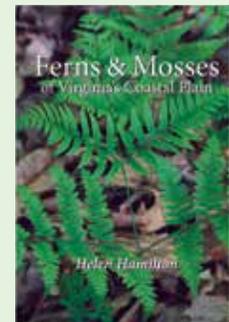
*Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines: A Guide to Using, Growing, and Propagating North American Woody Plants*, William Cullina, New England Wild Flower Society, Houghton Mifflin, 2002

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

*Teaming with Microbes*, Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis, 2010

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

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



## About Landscaping with Natives

### Online:

#### Audubon Guide to a Healthy Yard and Beyond

[www.audubon.org/bird/pesticide.html](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)

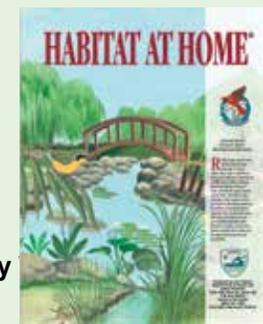
#### Better Backyard—A Citizen's Resource Guide to Beneficial Landscaping and Habitat Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay

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-pg 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>



# Additional Resources

**Habitat Gardening for Wildlife** (34 pg guide), Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/habitat-gardening.pdf>

**Hometown Habitat (film)**, by Catherine Zimmerman in partnership with Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Council

<http://themedowproject.com/hometown-habitat/>

**Living Shoreline Design**

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

**Audubon Plants for Birds Campaign**

[www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds](http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds)

**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)

**U.S.D.A. Forest Service: Pollinators**

[www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators](http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators)

**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/)

## Planning to hire a landscaper?



Find out more about this new certification program at [cblpro.org](http://cblpro.org).

Print:

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

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

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

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

**Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads**

## Virginia Native Plant Marketing Partnership

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

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

**Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants**, Douglas W. Tallamy, 2009 (updated and expanded)

<http://bringingnaturehome.net/nativegardening/gardening-for-life>

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

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

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

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

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

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

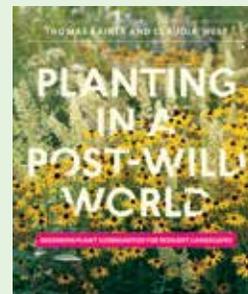
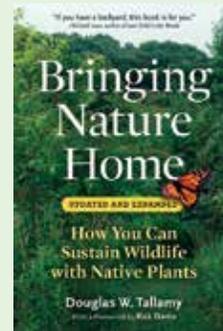
**Pollinators of Native Plants**, Heather Holm, Pollination Press LLC, 2014

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

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

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

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





Plant  
HR Natives

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