Native Plants for Southeast Virginia

including Hampton Roads Region

Plant Southeast Virginia Natives!

Plant HR Natives

Swamp Milkweed *(Asclepias incarnata)* and
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail *(Pterourus 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 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.

Thanks to the collaborative effort of the following authors and reviewers of this guide:

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Virginia Coastal Zone MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Second Edition 2025

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.

Why Virginia Natives Are the Best Choice

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, including the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus*) - shown, 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

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

How to Use This Guide

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

Scientific name

common name(s) per Flora of Virginia

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

key

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

Stunning flower. Attracts hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and sphinx moths.

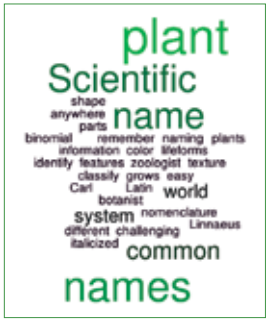
↖ environmental, aesthetic, and economic benefits

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

↗ interesting fact(s) about plant

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

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



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

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

Key to Terms & Symbols

Light requirement:

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

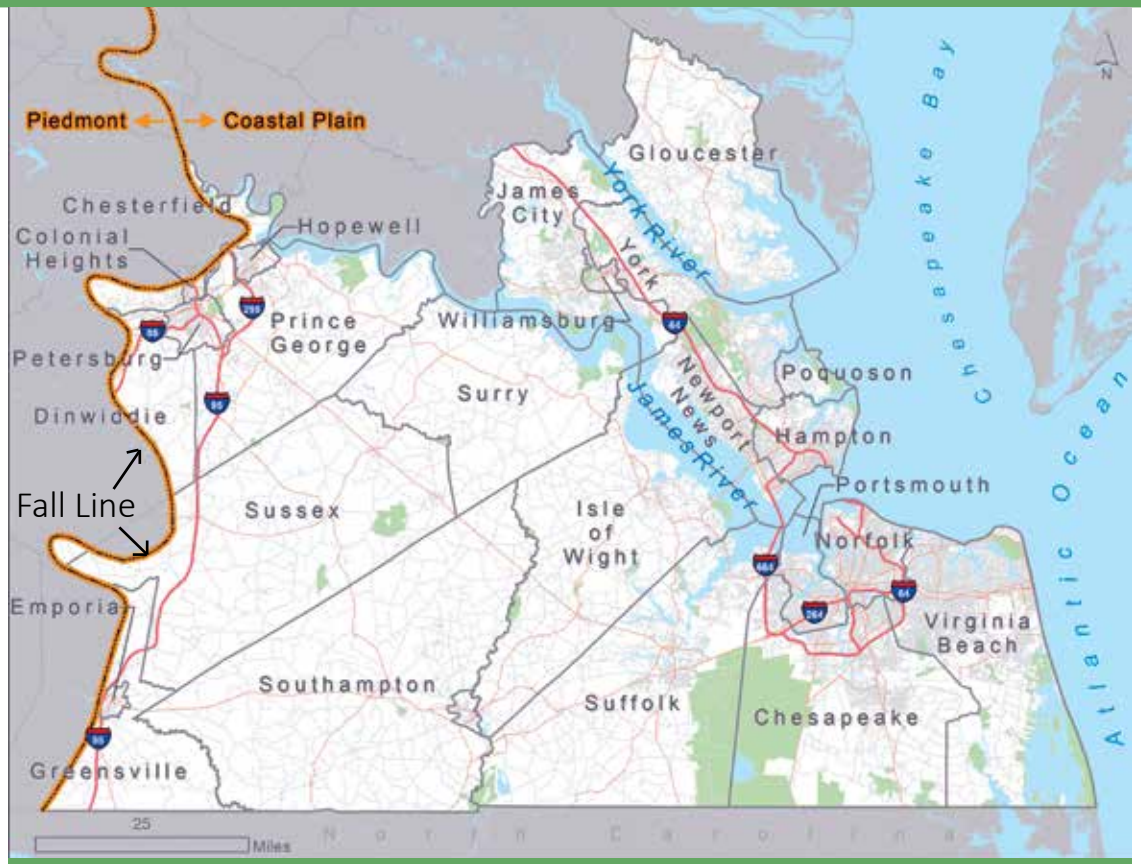
Soil moisture:

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

Wildlife supported by plant:

- Food source for birds *(berries, nectar or insects resident on plant)*
- Nectar source for pollinators - butterflies, moths, bees or other insects
- Larval host for butterflies or moths *(larvae are the newly hatched caterpillar forms that undergo metamorphosis to become butterflies and moths)*

What Area Does This Guide Cover?



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

Coastal Plain Physiographic Province

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

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

For a detailed description of these natural communities, go to www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/natural-communities/nctoc or download the publication 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, March 2021)

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 relaced during development.

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

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

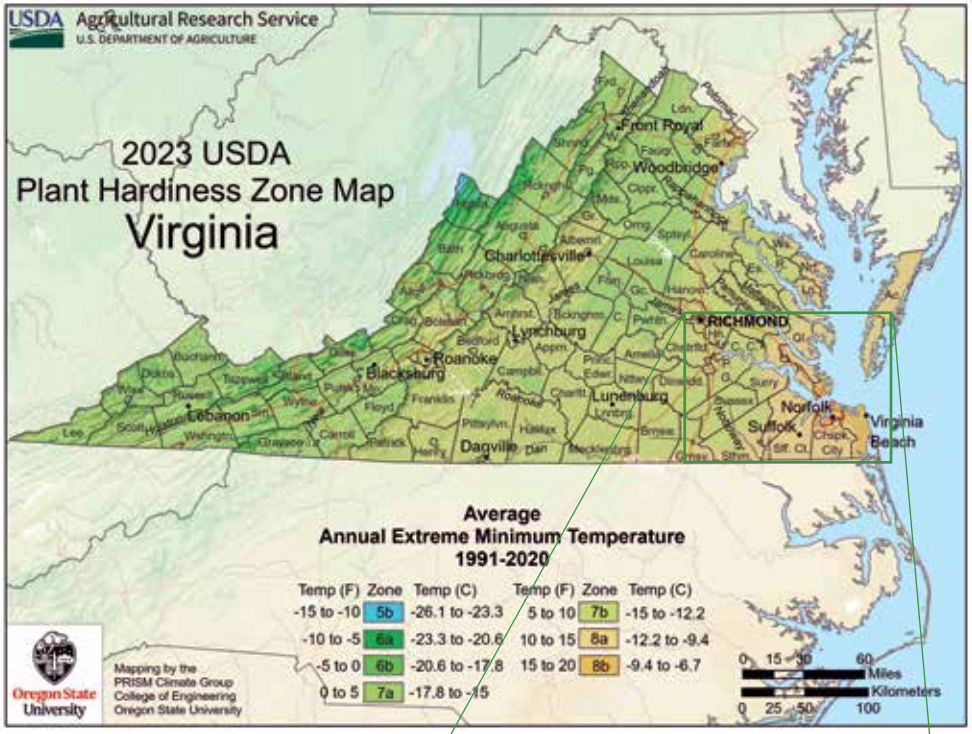
For more soil information and maps visit the interactive USDA Soil Survey: http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm

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. For more temperature information and maps visit the interactive USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map: https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/

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, or 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 survival needs. 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 complementary or contrasting colors, or surrounded by groundcovers in a landscape. Perennial plants are usually better competitors than annual plants because they develop larger root systems that 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

- 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 butterflies, small bees and sphinx moths.

Aquilegia canadensis • Wild or Eastern Red Columbine

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

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

Stunning flower. Attracts hummingbirds, small bees, butterflies, and sphinx moths.

Arisaema triphyllum • Common Jack-in-the-pulpit

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

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

Excellent woods-garden plant. Very easy to cultivate. Bees and flies are attracted to the nectar. Ants disperse the seeds and birds and mammals eat the berries.

Asclepias incarnata • Swamp Milkweed

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

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

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

Perennials (Forbs)

Asclepias syriaca ● Common Milkweed

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

Larval host to Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*). The nectar attracts many other pollinators.

Common Milkweed is fragrant. Because of its long taproot, it is difficult to transplant. A vigorous grower, this plant spreads aggressively.

Asclepias tuberosa ● Butterfly Weed

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

Attracts butterfliesbutterflies like the Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus*) above and is a larval host and nectar source for the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

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

Baptisia tinctoria ● Yellow Wild Indigo

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

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

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.*

Chelone glabra ● White Turtlehead

- 3–4 ft.
- White, pink (often lavendar-tinged) tubular flowers in July–September
- Sun to shade
- Rich, wet to moist soils
- Native to brushy marshes, stream banks, wet ditches, low meadows, woodlands

Solitary bees pollinate the female flowers. Other insects use the nectar.

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.*

Chrysopsis mariana • Maryland Golden Aster

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

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

Attracts butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

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 pale purple flowers are 1/4 inch long and form an almost flat top. Mistflower spreads easily and is a colonizing groundcover.

Attracts late-season butterflies and other insects.

Coreopsis verticillata • Whorled or Threadleaf Coreopsis

- 1–3 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 underground stems and can become a groundcover. Tolerates heat, humidity and drought. Plants in the genus Coreopsis are sometimes called "tickseed" because the seeds resemble ticks and grab onto clothes.

Attracts birds and 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

Adds interest throughout the winter.

Larval host for the Clymene Moth (*Haploa clymene*).

Perennials (Forbs)

Equisetum hyemale ● Tall Scouring Rush

- 1–3 ft.; can reach 6 ft.
- Reproduces by spores
- Full sun 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 an aggressively spreading, reed-like perennial with narrow dark bands with tiny leaves. Instead of fruits it has tiny cones.

Provides habitat for wildlife, attracts small mammals, and is deer resistant.

Eupatorium perfoliatum ● Boneset

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

The tiny, white fragrant flowers of Boneset are arranged in fuzzy clusters on 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. Larval host for the Clymene moth (*Haploa clymene*).

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.

Attracts small and large butterflies, especially Swallowtails and Monarchs, and bumble and small bees. The seeds are food for songbirds and the fluff provides nesting material.

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

Has hollow stems without spots.

An important source of nectar for numerous pollinators. Attracts birds that eat the seed. Is of special value to native bees.

Eutrochium purpureum • Sweet or Purple Joe-Pye Weed

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

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

An important source of nectar for pollinators. The flowers attract butterflies, skippers, moths, and bees. The seed provides food for the birds. Somewhat deer resistant.

Helenium autumnale • Common or Autumn Sneezeweed

- 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, and seeds are poisonous to humans, and toxic if eaten in large quantities.

Attracts butterflies and bees.

Helianthus angustifolius • Narrow-leaved Sunflower

- 3–8 ft.
- 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, ponds and rain gardens.

Attracts birds, native bees and supports late summer pollinators.

Hibiscus moscheutos • Swamp or Eastern Rose-mallow

- 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

Swamp Rose-mallow starts growing late in the spring and flowers over a long period in the summer. It is easily grown from seed, which are ready to collect when the pods turn dark brown.

The large showy flowers are a nectar source for hummingbirds and a variety of insects.

Perennials (Forbs)

Iris virginica ● Virginia Blue Flag

- 2–4 ft.
- White and blue flowers with 3 petal-like sepals in May
- Sun
- Moist to wet, rich acid soils
- Native to marshes; wet pinelands; swamps; wet meadows

Blue Flag iris has showy purple flowers. It spreads by underground stems and is an ideal plant for water gardens, ponds and rain gardens.

Attracts butterflies and birds. Depends on hummingbirds, which feed on the nectar, for pollination.

Kosteletzykya pentacarpos ● Seashore or Salt Marsh Mallow

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

The flowers of the Seashore Mallow close at night. This perennial takes 5 years to fully mature and lives for 5 years. It is easily propagated from seed. Great color in late summer through fall.

The two inch flower attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Liatris pilosa ● Grass-leaf or Gayfeather Blazing Star

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

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

Important nectar plant for native bees, hummingbirds and butterflies. It hosts four species of native caterpillars.

Lobelia cardinalis ● Cardinal Flower

- 1–4 ft.
- Red flowers in July–October
- Sun to part shade
- Consistently moist to wet, humus-rich, sandy & clay soils
- Native to low areas, woodlands edge, stream banks, roadsides, meadows

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

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

Lobelia siphilitica ● Great Blue Lobelia

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

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

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

Lupinus perennis ● Sundial Lupine

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

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

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

Maianthemum racemosum ● Eastern Solomon's-plume

- 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 slowly by underground stems.Multiple arching stems, 1–3 feet long, grow from a single parent plant, making it a good option for a taller groundcover.

Birds eat and distribute the berries, which last through the late summer and into fall. Bees are the most common pollinators.

Monarda fistulosa ● Wild Bergamot

- 1.5–4' ft.
- Aromatic, rhizomatous perennial bearing large pom pom-like clusters of tubular pink to purple flowers in June-September
- Sun to part sun
- Sandy, loam or clay; best in moderately acidic to strongly basic soils
- Native to open woods, forest edges, meadows, clearings, old fields, roadsides

Wild Bergamot can spread vigorously and should be given ample room. Powdery mildew can be a problem, but can be minimized by spacing plants for optimum air circulation, planting in sites with good drainage, and avoiding watering plants late in the day or using overhead irrigation.

Wild Bergamot has high wildlife value, attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, sphinx moths, predatory wasps, bumble bees, and specialist bees. Deer and rabbit resistant.

Perennials (Forbs)

Monarda punctata ● Horsemint, Spotted Beebalm

- 1–3 ft.
- Whorls of fragrant, yellow with purple spots flowers supported by large purple modified leaves called bracts, occurring from April through August
- Sun
- Dry, sandy soils
- Native to maritime forests, dune woodlands and grasslands, sandy upland forests, fields, and roadsides

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

A larval host for several moth species, including Snout moths (Pyralidae family). Attracts bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and many other pollinators.

Oenothera fruticosa ● Narrow-leaf or Southern Sundrops

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

Narrow-leaf Sundrops spread rapidly under favorable conditions, but does not usually become aggressive. Tolerant of salty soils and brackish water flooding.

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

Opuntia humifusa ● Eastern Prickly-pear

- 1–3 ft., evergreen with large flattened pads with sharp spines
- One or more buds can form on top of a pad, each producing 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 native bees. The fruits are eaten by Box Turtles and bats.

Parthenium integrifolium ● Wild Quinine

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

Long blooming.

Attracts numerous pollinating insects.

Penstemon laevigatus • Eastern Smooth Beard-tongue

- 1–3 ft.
- Showy purple tubular flowers in May–July followed by dry fruit capsules
- Full sun to part shade
- Rich, moist soils
- Native to rich woods and fields, meadows, and clearings

Purplish-white blooms are tubular and asymmetrical with a hairy lower lip, hence the name beardtongue. Moderately resistant to damage from deer.

Butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to the flower nectar. Especially beneficial to native bees. Larval host for the Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*).

Phlox paniculata • Fall or Garden Phlox

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

Fall Phlox needs at least 6 hours of sun in order to prevent powdery mildew. A showy clump-former.

Attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.

Podophyllum peltatum • Mayapple

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

Mayapple spreads by underground stems forming colonies. 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.

Polygonatum biflorum • Solomon's Seal

- 2–3 ft.
- Whitish-green, bell-shaped, flowers under 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. Spreads by underground stems and forms a colony. Excellent woodland plant.

Attracts numerous pollinating insects. Birds eat the berries (but they are poisonous to humans). Some animals eat the roots.

Perennials (Forbs)

Pontederia cordata ● Pickerelweed

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

Pickerelweed produces one spike covered with small flowers that bloom in succession from the bottom to the top during the summer. Good for water gardens and the edges of fresh water streams, ponds and lakes.

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

Pycnanthemum muticum ● Clustered Mountain Mint

- 3–4 ft tall, 2–3 ft. wide
- Clusters of small white flowers June - September
- Part to full sun
- Fertile, moist, well-drained soils
- Native to damp or wet meadows and clearings

Pycnanthemum, means densely flowered. Like other members of the mint family, these species have clusters of flowers that bloom progressively over a long period of time. They spread generously by rhizomes, and offer a wonderful mass of blooms in summer. Mountain mints have no serious insect or disease problems, and are an adaptable, hardy, and interesting plant in the border, meadow, herb garden, or naturalized areas.

Larval host to Wavy-lined Emerald (*Synchlora aerata*). Mountain mints in bloom are covered with a spectacular variety of butterflies, bees, wasps, and moths.

Rudbeckia hirta ● Black-eyed Susan

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

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

Birds, especially goldfinches and chickadees, enjoy the ripe seeds. Nectar source for bees and butterflies.

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

- 4–8 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
- Seeds prolifically and spreads rampantly by underground stems

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

Birds, especially goldfinches and chickadees, enjoy the ripe seeds. Nectar source for bees and butterflies.

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

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

Propagates very easily from seed sown in fall or spring. Large plants with numerous overlapping basal leaves, all from a single woody crown, may be divided in late winter or early spring spring. Has smaller more numerous flowers than other Rudbeckia species.

Seeds attract songbirds and small mammals.

Sanguinaria canadensis ● Bloodroot

- 6–14 in.
- Clear white, many-petaled flower with orange center in March–April; single, large, round leaf and flower each on a separate stem; at first leaf completely enwraps flower bud opening in full sun, and closing at night
- Part sun to 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 highly poisonous.

Pollinated by specialized bees.

Scutellaria integrifolia ● Hyssop Skullcap

- 1–2 ft.
- Bluish-lavendar showy 2-lipped flowers (arched upper lip and flaring lower lip) in May–July; flowers grow in clusters with separate flowers attached by short stalks at equal distances along a central stem
- Sun
- Wet to moist soils
- Native to moist 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.

Flowers attract small moths and bees.

Symphytrichium lateriflorum ● Calico or Starved Aster

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

Blooms late summer into fall. Tolerant of most soils. Good medium height aster that doesn't need staking.

Attracts butterflies, moths, and other insects. Larval host for the Pearl Crescent butterfly (*Phyciodes tharos*).

Perennials (Forbs)

Symphyotrichum novi-belgii ● New York Aster

- 3–4 ft.
- Blue-violet to rose flowers in July-October
- Part sun to shade
- Well-drained, moist sand or loam
- Native to freshwater and tidal marshes
- Spreads by underground stems forming a colony.

Abundant in coastal low areas. Can grow in semi-shade but prefers sunny location. Fall blooming substitute for chrysanthemums.

Especially beneficial to native bees. Larval host to the Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) butterfly. Also attracts butterflies and songbirds.

Thalictrum thalictroides ● Rue Anemone

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

Attracts several bee species, moths, and mammals. Stem-nesting bees use the dead stems.

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

Solidago

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

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

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

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

Species that prefer full sun:

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

Tradescantia virginiana • Virginia spiderwort

- 1.5–3 ft. upright clump
- Lavender-purple flowers in April-July
- Part sun to full shade
- Grows in a wide range of soil types, pHs and moisture ranges
- Goes semi-dormant in the summer, and foliage may need to be cut back when it does
- Native to meadows, thickets, edges of woods and understory to trees and large shrubs

Use in perennial borders, shade gardens, meadows and natural areas as a single plant or in a group. Can spread easily by seed. Was recognized as the Virginia Native Plant Society's 2008 Wildflower of the Year.

Attracts bees, flies, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Vernonia noveboracensis • New York Ironweed

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

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

Larval hostplant for the American Lady butterfly (*Vanessa virginiensisuses*). Flowers are attractive to butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Supports a specialized bee. Songbirds eat the seeds.

Insect–Plant Coevolution:
The Story of the Yucca and the Yucca Moth

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

Flowers attract hummingbirds.

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

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

Groundcovers


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

Chamaecrista fasciculata ● Common Partridge Pea


Jan Newton/John Clayoton Chapter, VNPS

- 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
- Dry to moist soils with good drainage
- Native to dry woodlands, dunes, old fields, clearings, and roadsides

Important nectar source for butterflies, and native bees. Larval host for the cloudless sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*) and the sleepy orange (*Abaeis nicippe*). Bees with long tongues pollinate the flowers. Quail species use it for food.

Common Partridge Pea is an annual in the legume or pea family. It readily reseeds 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 to moist acidic soils, tolerates lime soils
- Native to woodlands, forest edges, prairies, meadows, fields

Thimbleweed white flowers and fluffy seed heads are attractive in gardens. After frost, the plant matures to a cottony tuft. Seeds are dispersed by the wind and as it tumbles. All parts are poisonous when fresh.

Attracts bees and butterflies and is a wildlife food source.

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. It has beautiful heart-shaped velvety green leaves and grows into a dense groundcover.

Larval host plant for Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly (*Battus philenor*) caterpillar. Flies and beetles are pollinators. The seed is dispersed by ants.

Chrysogonum virginianum ● Green and Gold


DCR Natural Heritage Program

- 1–2 in., 1 ft. mounds
- Daisy-shaped, bright yellow flowers in spring, blooms sporadically through summer
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Average to moist, rich soils
- Native to moderate to dry woodlands

Green and Gold is a low, semi-evergreen perennial with a long bloom period. It blooms best in part shade; if in full sun the ground needs to be continuously moist. Its clumping form slowly expands and can be easily divided for more groundcover.

Nectar source for bees and butterflies. Songbirds eat the seeds.

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 to moist 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 other pollinators including a specialized bee. Larval host for the Gray Hairstreak Butterfly (*Strymon melinus*). Songbirds eat the fruit.

Groundcovers

Heuchera americana ● American Alumroot

Flowers support pollinating insects especially the rare Summer Cellophane Bee (*Colletes aestivalis*) which secretes a film to line it's nest.

- Foliage 1–1.5 ft., flowering stalks to 3 ft.
- Petite greenish-white or pinkish flowers in April-June on tall stalks above semi-evergreen or evergreen rosette of leaves
- Part sun/shade to full shade
- Sandy, loamy; tolerant of a range of soil chemistries; adapted to low-nutrient soils
- Native to moderate to dry, often rocky forests, woodlands, and outcrops of various geological formations

Attractive scallop-edged foliage varies from solid green to marbled shades of purple, bronze or silver-white. Flowers look like small bells hanging on a tall stalk. Do not cut or remove the stalks. Divide plants every 3-4 years.

Mitchella repens ● Partridge-Berry

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

- 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 full 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.

Sedum ternatum ● Woodland Stonecrop

Nectar and pollen source for bees and butterflies.

- 3–6 in. tall, 12 in wide
- White flowers with sharply pointed petals, May - July
  Evergreen foliage
- Part to full shade
- Well drained, average to dry soils
  Native to upland forests, shaded
- ledges and outcrops near river banks.

Woodland stonecrop performs well in a wide range of growing conditions and will tolerate more moisture and shade than other Sedums. This low maintenance plant is best used as a dense groundcover, especially in rocky areas.

Salvia lyrata ● Lyre-leaf Sage

American Goldfinches eat the seeds.

- 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

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

Silene caroliniana ● Wild Pink, Northern Wild Pink

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

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

Nectar and pollen support bees, butterflies, bumblebees, bee flies and syrphid flies. Food source for birds.

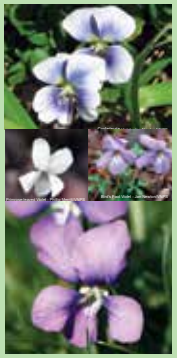
Sisyrinchium angustifolium ● Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass

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

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.

Nectar and pollen support bees, butterflies, bumblebees, bee flies and syrphid flies. Food source for birds.

Viola ● Violets



Viiolets are considered one of the first signs of spring. They thrive in shady parts of the yard and can 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 larval host for 27 species of native caterpillars, including the Greater, Lesser and Variegated 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; *heart-shaped toothed leaves.*
- Moist soil
- Native to moist meadows; low woods; shady stream banks

Viola cuculata ● Marsh Blue Violet

- Blue, violet flower with a deeper blue center
- Moist, wet, clay, loam, sand soils
- Native to saturated, springy habitats where water flows rather than where the ground is simply wet.

Viola pedata ● Bird's Foot Violet

- Blue, purple with orange anthers; 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; *leaves are elongated shape*
- 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

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. Ferns continue to play a role in mythology, medicine, and art.

Osmundastrum cinnamomeum • Cinnamon Fern


Ken Lawless

Hosts multiple species of native caterpillars including those of the dart and cutworm moths.

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

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

Athyrium asplenioides ● Southern Lady Fern

- 2–3 ft.; slow-growing clumps; small colonies of plants are often produced from underground stems
- 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.

Attracts frogs. Provides wildlife cover and birds use it for constructing nests.

Dennstaedtia punctilobula ● Hay Scented Fern

- 1–3 ft.
- Forms colonies from the underground stems, 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.

Onoclea sensibilis ● Sensitive Fern

- 1–3.5 ft.
- Can form large colonies from underground stems. Fertile fronds shorter than sterile fronds, strongly upright with interesting beadlike structures produced in mid to late summer or early fall
- Part sun/shade to full shade
- Moist or wet sandy, loam or clay soils
- Native to Floodplain forests, marshes, wet meadows, swamps, various moist to wet disturbed habitats.

Sterile fronds die back with the first frost (hence sensibilis, or sensitive), leaving only the erect, "beaded," mature fertile fronds which persist through winter.

Provides shelter and nesting sites for small reptiles and amphibians. Deer and rabbit resistant. Gamebirds may use fertile fronds as winter food source.

Osmunda spectabilis ● Royal Fern

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

One of the most widespread of all living species; it is found on every continent except Australia.

Hosts six species of native caterpillars. Attracts small mammals and songbirds. Shelters frogs, skinks and salamanders.

Ferns

Polystichum acrostichoides ● Christmas Fern

Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds, small reptiles and amphibians. Provides food for turtles. Deer and rabbit resistant.

- 1–2 ft.
- Clump forming, evergreen. Fertile fronds taller, more rigid and upright than sterile fronds, bearing spores on narrowed upper portion.
- Part sun/shade, full shade
- Sandy, loamy; adaptable; can be grown in shaded rock gardens
- Native to moist, but well-draining to dry forests. Common throughout Virginia.

Stout, prominent fiddleheads in spring have silvery-white fur-like scales. Distinctive lobe at base of pinnae (leaflets) resembles the "toe" of a Christmas stocking.

Woodwardia areolata ● Netted Chain Fern

Provides wildlife cover and supports small mammals, songbirds, and insects.

- 1.5–2 ft.
- Perennial, decidious, low-growing, well mannered spreader. Fronds emerge from the spreading rhizomes. Sori are located on the underside of fertile fronds in chain-like rows.
- Prefers organically rich, consistently moist to wet, acidic soils
- Native to swamps, marshes, edges of streams or ponds, moist woods, and bogs.

Bronzy fiddleheads appear in early spring. Glossy green sterile fronds emerge pinkish in spring and unroll to 1-2' long. Fertile fronds emerge in summer. Fertile fronds have netted veins and the spores are arranged in chain-like rows. Deer and rabbit resistant.

Choose the Right Fern for Your Location

Fern	Height	Evergreen	Clumping	Spreading	Shade	Moist	Dry
Northern Maidenhair	1-3 ft			X	pt/full	X	
Ebony Spleenwort	6-18 in	X	X		pt/full		X
Southern Lady	2-3 ft		X		pt/full		X
Hay Scented	1-3 ft			X	pt/full		X
Evergreen Wood	6-12 in	X	X		pt/full	X	
Marginal Wood	1-3 ft	X	X		pt/full	X	
Sensitive	1-3 ft			X	pt/full	X	
Royal	2-5 ft		X		pt/full	X	
Cinnamon	2-6 ft			X	sun/pt	X	
Christmas	1-2 ft	X	X		pt/full	X	
Marsh	1-3 ft			X	sun/pt	X	
Netted Chain	1-2 ft			X	pt/full	X	

Planting to Bring Life to Your Landscape

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, including 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, moths 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 over 500 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 and support wildlife by planting native plants.

EVERY SPACE, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, MATTERS

There are so many places around our homes, neighborhoods, and towns where we can make simple changes to improve habitat quality for wildlife and for the many other benefits we receive receive from planting native plants in our landscapes.

Plant them in existing landscape beds, create a new “natives only” area and incorporate them over time as your landscape changes to meet your changing needs. Research and select the plants that will attract and support the wildlife you are most interested in having in your landscape.

Thank you for planting Virginia natives! For more information visit PlantVirginiaNatives.org


Jan Newton./John Clayton Chapter, VNPS


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS


Seig Kobinitz./John Clayton Chapter, VNPS


Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

Flowers attract hummingbirds and a wide variety of butterflies and other pollinators. Once established, it can provide shelter and nesting sites for birds.

- 12–36 ft.
- Yellow tubular flowers (1–1.5 in.) 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 has fragrant showy flowers and glossy evergreen leaves. All parts of the plant are toxic. Highly deer resistant.

Bignonia capreolata ● Crossvine

- 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 it to cling to stone, brick, pergolas, and fences without support. In fall the green leaves become purple until spring.

Provides an early nectar source for butterflies, hummingbirds, and other insects. Deer and beavers are known to eat the foliage.

Campsis radicans ● Trumpet Creeper

- 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 deciduous, 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. Larval host of Plebeian sphinx moth (*Paratraea plebeja*). Deer and rabbits eat the foliage.

Clematis virginiana ● Virgin's Bower

- 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

Virgin's Bower is a deciduous vine that climbs by twisting it's stems around structures or other plants. It can grow 20 feet in one year! Prune at any time. All parts of the plant are poisonous. It can cause skin irritation and other problems if ingested or the smoke from burning it is inhaled.

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and moths.

Decumaria barbara ● Climbing Hydrangea

- 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 groundcover for pergolas or arbors. It only blooms on new wood and only when climbing. It is well-suited to moist situations. It is deer resistant.

Attracts numerous pollinators including bees and butterflies. Larval host to several skipper species.

Vines

Lonicera sempervirens 'John Clayton' ● Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle

- 3–20 ft.
- Red outer, sometimes yellow inner, tubular flowers with heaviest bloom in March–July followed by bright-red berries
- Full sun (best for blooming) to part sun/shade
- Adaptable to many soil conditions; tolerates poor drainage for short periods
- Native to 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, bees and butterflies. Larval host to 33 spring caterpillars including Spring Azure Butterflies, Snowberry Clearwing moths. Fruits attract Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Hermit Thrush, and American Robin.

Parthenocissus quinquefolia ● Virginia Creeper

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

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

Berries eaten by songbirds, but are toxic to humans. Foliage provides cover for birds. Hosts 32 species of native caterpillars, including Sphinx moth (*Darapsa myron*).

Passiflora incarnata ● Maypop, Purple Passionvine

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

The fruit of Maypop is a large greenish-yellow berry with edible pulp. This vine is excellent for use on arbors, fences, walls and columns. The name Maypop comes from the hollow, yellow fruits that pop loudly when crushed. Maypop spreads easily by root suckers and seed. Dies to the ground in winter.

Flowers attract bumble and native bees. Hosts 5 species of caterpillars including Gulf Fritillary (*Dione incarnata*) and Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*).

Wisteria frutescens ● American Wisteria

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

American Wisteria's large drooping clusters of fragrant flowers appear on new wood and after the plant has leafed out. Less aggressive than the similar Asian wisteria species.

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to several skipper species, mainly the silver-spotted skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*). It is deer resistant.

Planting for Butterflies


Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

A Butterfly garden can be set up in containers on a deck or patio or planted in any size yard.

Adult butterflies have a few basic needs: food, water, shelter, basking spots, and a place to gather salts and minerals. If you have space, you can also provide larval host plants for the caterpillars. See the native trees of Southeast Virginia that are critical for moths and caterpillars listed below.

Adult butterflies need to eat every day. Butterflies are attracted to pink, red, purple, and yellow flowers. Select several species of plants with staggered bloom times, so nectar is always available. Butterflies prefer warm, sunny spots that are protected from the wind.

Build a butterfly puddle to provide water and salts. Sink a shallow, pot saucer in the ground, fill it with sand and pebbles, then add water to just below the surface of the sand. Surround the puddle with larger, flat rocks for basking.

The rocks will absorb heat and provide a spot for butterflies to warm their wings for flight.

A small tree or some low shrubs at the edge of your planting will provide a place for butterflies to spend the night or shelter during storms.

Some of the most common butterflies that visit gardens in Southeast Virginia and their larval host plants. Where only genus is listed, multiple species within the genus support butterflies.

- American Lady, *Vanessa virginiensis*
  - Forbs: Rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*), Pussytoes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*), New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)
- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, *Pterourus glaucus* - State Insect of Virginia; Black Swallowtail, *Papilio polyxenes*
  - Trees: Betula, Fraxinus, Liriodendron, Magnolia Prunus and Salix
  - Shrubs: Hazel Alder (*Alnus serrulata*), Dwarf Hawthorn (*Crataegus uniflora*), Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
  - Forbs: Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*), Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Gray Hairstreak, *Strymon melinus*
  - Forbs: Eastern Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus mosheutos*), and Seashore Mallow (*Kosteletzkya pentacarpos*)
- Monarch, *Danaus plexippus*
  - Forbs: Milkweeds (*Asclepias incarnata, A. syriaca, A. tuberosa*)
- Palamedes Swallowtail, *Pterourus palamedes*
  - Trees: Red Bay (*Persea borbona*), Swamp Bay (*Persea palustris*)
- Silver-spotted Skipper, *Epargyreus clarus*
  - Forbs: American Wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*); Southern Wild Senna (*Senna marilandica*), Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)
- Sleepy Orange, *Eurema nicippe*
  - Forbes: Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), Southern Wild Senna (*Senna marilandica*)
- Spicebush Swallowtail, *Pterourus Troilus*
  - Trees: Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Swamp or Red Bay (*Persea palustris*)
  - Shrubs: Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Variegated Fritillary, *Euptoieta claudia*
  - Forbs: Violets (*Viola ssp.*)
  - Vines: Maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*)
- Zebra Swallowtail, *Eurytides marcellus*
  - Trees: Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)

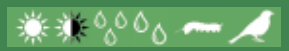
Grasses, Sedges and Rushes


Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

Grasses, sedges, and rushes are herbaceous plants; that is, they are non-woody plants. Their leaves and stems are generally narrow, but there is a wide variety in their height and spread. Few people realize that historic records and grass species distribution show that prairie grasslands once occupied a significant portion of the Piedmont region. The Richmond area is located on the Fall Line where native soil encompasses both the bedrock of the Piedmont and the sandy sediment of the Coastal Plain. This soil diversity and flat landscape support grasslands as well as forests. When planning a landscape, it is important to take a cue from the vegetation that would naturally occur in an area, which is the best way to support pollinators and wildlife. Take the time to understand the conditions of a site, including light, moisture, drainage, and soil chemistry. Then make plant selections that that imitate what would naturally occur in given site conditions. Humans, grazing animals, small mammals, birds, butterflies, and pollinators find benefits in grasses, from aesthetic to life-sustaining. Grasses, sedges, and rushes are valuable for horticultural, conservation and ecological purposes.

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. Larval host for several caterpillers including the Common Wood-Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*), 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 ternarius ● Splitbeard Bluestem


Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

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

Songbirds eat the seeds. Larval host for the Wood Nymph butterfly (*Cercyonis pegala*). Birds use for nests. It also benefits native bees.

Andropogon virginicus ● Broomsedge, Broomstraw


Dot Field, DCR/NH

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

The attractive clump-forming, perennial grass turns a tawny brown in fall. Broomsedge's seeds are striking in fall and winter when the fine hairs catch the sunlight. Helps control erosion on disturbed lands.

Provides cover, nesting material and seed food for birds. Beneficial to native bees and butterflies. Larval host of Zabulon Skipper (*Lon zabulon*).

Carex comosa ● Bottlebrush or Bristly Sedge


Phillip Merritt/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

Bottlebrush Sedge is a good rain garden plant. It is salt tolerant. Dies to ground in winter. Is deer resistant. Very decorative and offers contrast and stands out in the landscape.

Attracts pollinators, small mammals, and songbirds. Larval host for the Appalachian Brown butterfly (*Satyrodes appalachia*).

Carex crinita ● Long-fringed Sedge


Jan Newton/John Clayton Chapter VNPS

- 2–3 ft.
- Whitish-green in June–August, evergreen
- 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. Spreads by underground stems. and stabilizes soil so other vegetation can grow.

Provides food and habitat for ducks, sparrows and other wetland birds. Larval host for insects including leafhoppers, grasshoppers, katydids, and the Appalachian Brown butterfly (*Lethe appalachia*).

Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

Carex laxiculmis • Creeping Sedge

- 1ft. mounds
- Small, pale yellow flowers April - June;
- evergreen, blue-green foliage
- Part to full shade
- Average to wet soils
  Native to well-drained floodplain forests

Though evergreen, this sedge benefits from being cut back in winter to encourage denser growth.

Larval host to various native caterpillars including the Sachem Skipper butterfly (*Atalopedes campestris*).

Carex lupulina • Hop Sedge

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

Hop Sedge is useful in rain gardens. Looking like a medieval weapon, the interesting spikes of Hop Sedge make an ornamental and attractive statement in the garden

Seeds are a food source for wetland birds. Provides shelter for small animals from weather and predators. Leaves are eaten by various insects which are food for other animals. Larval host for various Satyr butterfly.

Carex stricta • Tussock or Upright Sedge

- 1–3 ft., 3 ft. wide
- April–June
- Sun
- Moist to wet 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 Black Dash Skipper (*Euphyes conspicua*). Provides food and shelter for numerous invertebrates, songbirds, and waterfowl, such as mallards, wrens, soras.

Chasmanthium latifolium • River or Northern Sea Oats

- 2–4 ft., 1–2 ft. wide
- Large, oat-shaped seedhead May–November
- Part sun to part shade
- Adaptable; moist to average clay, sandy or loam soils; poor drainage is okay
- Native to moist to dry forests along shaded slopes, sandy or rocky stream banks, and low thickets

An ornamental clump-forming, upright grass, Sea Oats provide four seasons of interest. Seeds and leaf blades turn copper or gold-yellow Color persists through winter. Grows well in dappled shade, and as part of freshwater shoreline stabilization plan. Spreads aggressively by seed.

Larval host for Northern Pearly-Eye (*Lethe anthedon*) caterpillars and several Skipper butterflies. Small mammals and birds eat the seeds. Highly resistant to deer.

Danthonia spicata • Poverty Oatgrass

- 4–24 in.
- Straw in May–July
- Sun to part sun/shade to full 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 Larval host various native caterpillars, including the Indian Skipper butterflies (*Hesperia sassacus*).

Eragrostis spectabilis • Purple Love Grass, Tumblegrass

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

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

Songbirds, waterfowl and small mammals eat the seeds.

Juncus effusus • Common Rush, Soft Rush

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

Has soft, round grass-like stems that grow in clumps. Strictly a wet soil plant. Good for shoreline stabilization. Low to moderate salt tolerance so better for fresh water locations.

Songbirds including goldfinches and waterfowl eat the seeds. Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals. Muskrats eat the stems.

Panicum virgatum • Switchgrass

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

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

Attracts birds and butterflies. Larval host for the Delaware Skipper (*Anatrytone logan*).

Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

Schizachyrium scoparium ● Little Bluestem

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

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

Fuzzy white seeds feed birds in winter. Provides nesting material. Of value to native bees. Larla host to the Common Woodnymph (*Cercyonia pegala*), and Delaware, Crossline, and Swarthy Skippers.

Scirpus cyperinus ● Woolgrass

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

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

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

Spartina Alterniflora ● Saltmarsh or Smooth Cordgrass

- 2–6 ft.
- 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 and especially tidal marshes

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

Provides food and shelter for songbirds, shore birds, waterfowl, and other coastal wildlife. The underground stems are an important food source for snow geese.

Spartina patens ● Saltmeadow Hay or Cordgrass

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

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

Provides important shelter and nesting areas, especially for shorebirds, waterfowl and other coastal wildlife.

Providing Habitat for Songbirds

Gardening to attract songbirds requires a larger space than gardening for butterflies and hummingbirds.

Songbirds need shelter, nesting sites, water, and year-round food sources.

Songbirds seek shelter in trees, shrubs, dense thickets, and tangles of vines overnight and during inclement weather. In winter, they look for evergreen refuges. Nest boxes, left up over the winter, can also be used for roosting. Species-specific plans for nest boxes can be found online. Installing predator guards will increase the survival rate for baby birds during the nesting season.

A birdbath provides a source of drinking water and a place for a wet bath for birds. Keep your birdbath clean, full, and clear of algae and mosquito larvae. Dust baths are also important for maintaining feathers and managing mites and other parasites. Build a dust bath by providing an area with loose, fine-grained, dry soil (not clay) near a shrub or other hiding spot. This area will need to be kept weed-free.

During the spring and summer, songbirds eat mostly bugs. Baby birds are raised on caterpillars. Plant as many larval host plants as you can to provide the large number of caterpillars required. In the winter, when the supply of bugs is low, songbirds rely on seeds and berries. Plant berry-producing trees and shrubs and leave the seed heads of grasses and perennial forbs up over the winter.

Supplementing nature's offerings with a well-tended, clean bird feeder can attract birds so that you can enjoy their antics. Black oil sunflower seed is the simplest, most cost-effective treat. Sunflower hull waste is allelopathic and can cause problems if you try to plant something under a feeder. It is best to provide a flat, clear space under a tube feeder. Ground feeding birds will find and eat any seeds that fall from above, and the waste can be tidied up each spring. For guidelines visit: *www.allaboutbirds.org/news/browse/topic/feeding-birds/*

Goldfinch on Black-eyed Susan, Seig Kopinitz, John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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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 groundcover and the taller tree canopy. They provide significant habitat for resident and migratory bird populations, especially along the edges of waterways and 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*), which provides food for resident mammals and birds and fuel for migrating species.

Callicarpa americana • American Beauty-berry


Dot Field/DCR-NH

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

Berries are important food source for many species of birds and mammals. Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds. Larval host for the rustic sphinx (*Manduca rustica*).

Genus name comes from Greek meaning beautiful fruit. Valuable in landscapes in wet, wooded and shady areas.

Alnus serrulata • Smooth or Hazel Alder

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

Harvester butterfly (*Feniseca tarquinius*), only carnivourous butterfly in North America, lays eggs near aphids on the Alder, which are eaten by the caterpillars. The butterfly eats the aphid honeydew.

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

Aronia arbutifolia • Red Chokeberry

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

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

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

Baccharis halimifolia • High-tide Bush, Groundsel Tree

- 6–12 ft. deciduous shrub; gray-green oval leaves; numerous branches from short trunks covered densely with branchlets
- White to green flowers in August–September in small clusters of silvery white hairs which act like parachutes to spread the seeds via wind
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Wet to dry, sandy, loam soils; tolerates salt water inundation
- Native to salt marshes, shores, wet places

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

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

Ceanothus americanus • New Jersey Tea

- 3–4 ft.
- Fragrant white flowers May-July
- 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

Fixes nitrogen from the air into the soil. Used to make a tea that was very popular during the Revolutionary War.

Nectar for bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, moths and predatory wasps. Of special value to mining and some rare native bees. Larval host for Spring Azure and Summer Azure butterflies. Songbirds, turkeys and quail eat the seeds.

Cephalanthus occidentalis • Buttonbush, Button Willow

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

Pruning Buttonbush is usually not necessary, but may be done in early spring to shape. Needs consistent moisture so is best planted at the edge of the water or in a low frequently wet spot. Long lasting flowers.

Songbirds, ducks and other water-birds and shorebirds consume the seeds, and its nectar attracts bees, butterflies, moths and other insects. Larval host for the Cecropia moth (*Hyalophora cecropia*).

Clethra alnifolia • Pepperbush, Coastal White-alder

- Narrow, 3–6 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 in fall
- Sun to 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

Forms large thickets. Remove root suckers unless a naturalized look is desired. Easily propagated from cuttings. Good in rain gardens, moist wooded areas and along stream and pond banks.

Flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies, native bees, and other pollinators. Fruits are eaten by birds and small mammals. A favorite nectar plant for the Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*).

Cornus amomum • Silky Dogwood

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

Aggressively spreads by underground stems to form dense thickets. Named for the silky hairs on the stems and undersides of the leaves. Deer resistant. Shrub bark of Silky Dogwood was used by Native Americans for tobacco.

Supports several specialized bees. Larval host for the Spring and Summer Azure butterflies (Celastrina spp.). Fruits are eaten by songbirds, quail, turkey, and several mammals.

Corylus americana • American Hazelnut, American Filbert

- 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, and along stream and pond edges.

In the Birch family. Fast growing and can sucker to form a thicket. Nuts form on plants 3 or more years old. Male and female flowers are on the same plant but wind pollinated, so plant several plants if you want more nuts. Orange, purplish red or yellow fall color.

Beetles, hoppers, and caterpillars eat the leaves. Larval host for a silk moth (Saturniidae family). Nuts are eaten by quail, turkey, squirrels, rabbits, fox and numerous other mammals.

Eubotrys racemosus ● Fetterbush, Swamp Dog-hobble

- 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 to wet, acidic soils
- Native to alluvial and tidal swamps; wet flatwoods, bogs, seepage swamps, depression ponds, and other acidic wetlands

Early-season nectar source for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Birds eat the seeds. Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and some small mammals.

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.

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

- 6–10 ft. narrow, deciduous green-stemmed shrub, which often spreads into loose open 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

A food source for songbirds, rabbit, and deer. Sometimes called "deer candy".

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.

Gaylussacia baccata ● Black Huckleberry

- 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

Larval host for Huckleberry Sphinx moth (*Paonias astylus*) and Henry's Elfin butterfly (*Callophrys henrici*). Bees pollinate flowers. Birds and wildlife eat seeds.

Hamamelis virginiana ● Witch Hazel

- 10–15 ft. (sometimes up to 30 ft.) multi-trunked deciduous shrub with large, crooked, spreading branches forming an irregular, open crown
- Yellow, fragrant flowers with straplike, crumpled petals appear in the late fall to early winter, delete leaf information and use - bright gold fall color
- Sun to full shade
- Moist, sandy, clay, acidic and calcareous soils
- Moist woods, thickets, bottomlands

Birds eat the fruits. Larval host for several moth caterpillars. Flowers are pollinated by Owlet moths (Noctuidae family). Fruit capsules are eaten by small mammals, turkeys and other birds.

Best used in the landscape as a backdrop for showy spring and summer plants and for fall color and fragrant flowers in the winter.

Shrubs

Hydrangea arborescens ● Wild Hydrangea

- 3–6 ft., loose widely branched deciduous shrub
- Small, white flowers bloom in May– June in 4-inch heads 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 leaves turn yellow in fall
- Part shade; blooms best, and has better fall color, if it receives full sun at least part of the day
- Moist to wet, sandy, loam, clay, acid soils
- Native to wooded stream banks, bogs

Flowers in late spring through early fall. Use as a specimen or planted in a mass. Good for rain, pollinator, woodland and shade gardens.

Flowers attract butterflies and other pollinators and seeds are eaten by songbirds. Larval host for the Hydrangea Sphinx moth (*Darapsa versicolor*).

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

Need both male and female plants that bloom at the same time to produce the berries. Extremely showy in late fall and winter when leaves fall off and stems are covered in bright red berries. Good in rain gardens, wooded areas and along pond and stream banks.

Supports a specialized bee (*Colletes banksi*). Larval host for Henry's Elfin butterfly (*Callophrys Henrici*). Fruits eaten by birds (cedar waxwings) and small mammals.

Ilex glabra ● Inkberry, Gallberry

- 4–6 ft., mound-shaped, evergreen 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

Need both male and female plants to produce the berries. Good substitute for boxwood. Tolerates shearing well if using for a hedge or screen.

Larval host for Holly Azure (*Celastrina idella*) and Henry's Elfin (*Callophrys henrici*). Special value to honey bees and honey is highly rated. Birds and small mammals eat the berries.

Itea virginica ● Virginia Sweetspire

- 3–4 ft. thicket forming deciduous shrub with arching branches; 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

Sweetspire is best used in masses in rain gardens, along pond and stream banks and at the edge of wooded areas. Long-lasting reddish-purple fall color.

Flowers attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Seeds are eaten by songbirds. Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds.

Kalmia latifolia • Mountain Laurel

- 5–20 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

Flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Stamens of its flowers have a springlike mechanism which spreads pollen when tripped by a bee. Birds and small mammals eat the fruit.

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

Lyonia mariana • Piedmont Staggerbush

- .5–6.5 ft. evergreen thicket-forming shrub
- White to pink flowers in May–June, red, fall color
- Part sun/shade to full shade
- Moist, medium to well drained, sandy soils
- Native to sandy pine-oak woods

Flowers attract pollinators. Supports the specialized Colletes bees. Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals, expecially in the winter.

The leaves of Piedmont Staggerbush have an aroma like that of European true laurel (Laurus nobilis), and can be used for similar purposes. Good for shaded natural areas where it can spread freely.

Lindera benzoin • Northern Spicebush, Spicebush

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

Larval host for Spicebush Swallowtail (*Pterourus troilus*) and Palamedes Swallowtail (*Pterourus palamedes*). Fruits eaten by wood thrushes and other songbirds, especially during fall migration.

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

- 6–15 ft., shrub or small tree
  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

Provides nectar for pollinators. Larval host for Red-Banded Hairstreak (*Calycopis cecrops*) butterfly and Wax Myrtle Wave moth (*Cyclophora myrtaria*). Supports birds, especially the Yellow-rumped warbler.

Leaves have strong but pleasant smell when crushed. Plant both male and female plants to get berries. Use as a screen, hedge or understory plant. Deer resistant.

Persea palustris ● Swamp Bay

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

Good in rain gardens and along stream and pond edges.

Larval host for Palamedes swallowtail (*Pterourus palamedes*) and Spicebush swallowtail (*Pterourus troilus*). Provides food, shelter and nesting for birds including turkey, bluebirds, mockingbirds and robins.

Rhododendron periclymenoides ● Wild Azalea, Pinxter Azalea

- 3–6 ft. shrub with picturesque, horizontal branching
- Showy and fragrant funnel, pink or white flowers with protruding stamens occur in large clusters, appearing before or with the leaves in April–May
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Acidic, organically rich, medium moisture, well drained
- Native to moist to dry woods, swamp margins, open areas

Good in shaded areas, woodland gardens, at the edges of ponds and streams, and in rain gardens, planted in masses or as a specimen plant.

Nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds. Seeds attract birds.

Rhododendron atlanticum ● Dwarf Azalea

- 1–3 ft. thicket forming deciduous shrub
- Fragrant white flowers in April–May
- Part shade
- Dry to moist, well-drained, sandy soil
- Native to moist, flat pine woods, coastal savannas

Good in shaded areas, woodland gardens, and at the edges of ponds and streams. All parts of the plant are poisonous. Deer resistant.

Provides nectar for hummingbirds, butterflies, bumble and long-tongued bees. Supports a specialized azalea miner bee (*Andrena cornelli*). Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals.

Rhododendron viscosum ● Swamp Azalea or Honeysuckle

- 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 shade
- Wet, acidic, well-drained loam; flood tolerant
- Native to swampy lowland areas

Good in shaded areas, woodland gardens, at the edges of ponds and streams, and in rain gardens, planted in masses or as a specimen plant. Not related to honeysuckles, but sometimes called swamp honeysuckle.

Provides nectar for hummingbirds, butterflies, bumble and long-tongued bees. Supports a specialized azalea miner bee (*Andrena cornelli*). Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals.

Rhus copallinum • Winged or Shining Sumac

- 20–35 ft., thicket forming,deciduous shrub or small tree, with short, crooked trunks and open branching; glossy, dark-green, leaves turn reddish-purple in the fall
- Greenish flowers in July–August followed by drooping pyramidal red fruit clusters that persist in winter
- Sun to part 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

Spreads by underground stems, so needs room to grow. Good on pond and stream banks.

Larval host for the Luna moth (*Actias luna*) and Red-banded Hairstreak butterfly (*Calycopis cecrops*). Beneficial to native and honey bees. Habitat for songbirds, gamebirds and mammals.

Rosa palustris • Swamp Rose

- 3–6 ft.
- Pink flowers in June–July, followed by red hips and red leaves in the fall
- Sun to part shade
- Acidic, organically rich, boggy to wet soil; flood tolerant
- Native to swamps, marshes, ditches and stream banks

Good in rain gardens, natural areas, banks of ponds and streams.

Larval host for caterpillars of over 100 butterfly and moth species. Special value to honey bees. Birds and small mammals eat the hips.

Rosa carolina • Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose

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

Flowers attract a wide variety of bees, hoverflies or syrphid flies, and beetles. Larval host for caterpillars of several species. Rose hips are eaten by songbirds, quail, and turkeys.

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

Rubus occidentalis • Black Raspberry

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

Black Raspberry is flood, insect and disease tolerant. Commonly forms large thickets. Good on stream and pond banks and at the edge of woods.

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

Sambucus canadensis ● Common Elderberry

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

People consume the flowers and fruit in several forms, including jellies and tea. Prune low in winter to maintain a dense plant. The genus name comes from Greek sambuce*, an ancient musical instrument.*

Providse pollen and nectar for numerous pollinators. Is a nesting structure for bees and birds. Birds and mammals eat the berries.

Stewartia malacodendron ● Silky Camellia

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

Bees and butterflies pollinate it. Birds and small mammals eat the fruit and disperse the seeds.

Named in honor of John Stuart, a 16th-century Scottish botanist. Use as specimen, hedge, understory in woodland garden.

Vaccinium pallidum ● Early Lowbush Blueberry

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

Blueberries prefer acidic soils with sandy or rocky material.

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

Viburnum acerifolium ● Maple-leaved Viburnum, Dockmackie

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

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

Can be used as a specimen, hedge or planted in masses. Good in rain gardens, as an understory plant in woodland gardens and along the edges of streams or ponds.

Viburnum dentatum ● Arrow-wood

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

Attracts Eastern bluebird, Northern flicker, Gray catbird, and American robin. Larval host for Spring Azure butterfly (*Celastrina ladon*) and Hummingbird Clearwing moth (*Hemaris thysbe*).

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

Viburnum prunifolium ● Black Haw

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

Flowers attract a bees and flies. Berries are a favorite food for bird species like cardinals, cedar waxwings, grosbeaks, and American robins, and small mammals.

Can be used as a specimen, hedge or planted in masses. Good in rain gardens, as an understory plant in woodland gardens and along the edges of streams or ponds.

Viburnum nudum ● Possumhaw Viburnum

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

Nectar for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Larval host for Spring Azure butterfly (*Celastrina ladon*) and Hummingbird Clearwing moth (*Hemaris thysbe*). Berries are eaten by songbirds.

Can be used as a specimen, hedge or planted in masses. Good in rain gardens, as an understory plant in woodland gardens and along the edges of streams or ponds.

Considerations for Choosing a Shrub

- Horizontal and vertical space for mature size
- Amount of sun or shade needed
- Wildlife you want to attract or support
- Seasonal interest features (blooms, berries, fall color)
- Deer resistance (Nothing is deer proof!)
- Clumping or spreading/thicket forming growth habit
- Wet, average or dry soil preference
- Pruning or other maintenance needed
- Male and female plants needed (i.e. holly, wax myrtle)
- Single plant or mass planting (usually groups of 3, 5 or 7)

Trees


Jan Newton,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

The value of trees can't be overstated. There are many reasons to plant trees in your yard and community. Healthy, mature trees add to a property's attractiveness and value. Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air -conditioning needs and can save energy used for heating. According to the Center for Urban Forest Research, if you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years, the savings will be nearly 12%. Research at Texas A&M University showed that visual exposure to settings with trees produced significant recovery from stress within 5 minutes. Planting trees improves water quality and quantity. Trees reduce runoff and erosion, and they help recharge groundwater supply. One acre of forest also absorbs 6 tons of carbon dioxide and puts out 4 tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people, states the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Calculate the value and benefits of your trees. *www.treebenefits.com/calculator/index.cfm*.

Prunus serotina ● Black Cherry


Dot Field/DCR-NH

Larval host for the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus*) and Red-spotted Purple (*Limenitis arthemis*) caterpillars and other moths and butterflies. Fruits are eaten by songbirds, turkeys, quail, small mammals, and white-tailed deer.

- 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

Known for the beauty and quality of the wood. Seeds readily. Crushed leaves have a bitter cherry smell. Leaves, twigs, and seeds are poisonous. Good along ponds and streams, as an understory tree in wooded areas or a medium specimen tree in the landscape.

Acer rubrum ● Red Maple

- 40–100 ft., 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 seeds in April–June
- Moist to wet clay, loamy or sandy soils, prefers acid soil
- Native to rocky hillsides, wetlands, floodplains and upland forests

Red maples are good understory trees and along stream and pond edges. Also good in a rain garden if it is large enough. Can be used as a specimen or planted in groves.

Larval host for moths including the Rosy Maple Moth (*Dryocampa rubicunda*) and the Imperial Moth (*Eacles imperialis*). Nectar supports bees and other pollinators. Birds eat the seeds and squirrels eat the buds and fruit.

Asimina triloba ● Pawpaw, Common Pawpaw

- 15–15 ft. tree or multistemed shrub
- Reddish-brown, six-petaled flowers singly in leaf axils in April–May before leaf emergence; large, cylindric, pale 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 the largest native fruit tree. Two genetically different trees are necessary for cross-pollination to produce fruit. A great small tree to use as a specimen in full sun or in groves as understory trees.

Larval host for the Zebra Swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*) and Pawpaw Sphinx Moth (*Dolba hyloeus*). Flowers are pollinated by flies and beetles. Fruits are eaten by songbirds, turkeys, large and small mammals.

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

- 25–30 ft., its spread is 15-20 ft., with multiple, upright stems forming a dense shrub with a narrow crown
- 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 wetlands, and swamps

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. Larval host for the Small-eyed Sphinx *(Paonias myops)* and the Blinded Sphinx *(Paonias excaecatus).*

Trees

Betula nigra ● River Birch

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

River Birch can grow with a single or multiple trunks. Use as a specimen or plant in groves. Fast growing and long-lived. Good for erosion control.

Nutlets attract songbirds, game birds, and it is a larval hostplant for 400 species of moths and butterflies, including the Mourning Cloak Butterfly (*Nymphalis antiopa*) and the Luna moth (*Actias luna*).

Carya tomentosa ● Mockernut Hickory

- 60–100 ft., with 35–50 ft. crown; dark bark is rough and thin with shallow furrows and narrow ridges forming a net-like pattern; yellow fall color
- Part sun/shade to full shade
- Moist, fertile, well-drained soils
- Native to well-drained, upland hillsides and forests, often found alongside oaks

The wood of Mockernut Hickory is highly prized and used for furniture, flooring, tool handles, baseball bats, skis, and veneer. Can be used as a large shade tree or in wooded areas where the nuts are not a litter problem.

Larval host for Hickory Horned Devil caterpillar of the Regal moth (*Citheronia regalis*). Nuts are eaten by small mammals, waterfowl and songbirds. Provides nesting cavities for woodpeckers.

Carpinus caroliniana ● American Hornbeam, Ironwood

- 35–50 ft.wide deciduous, slow growing small tree with rounded crown; pale gray bark with smooth sinewy muscle-like bulges; scarlet-orange leaves in fall
- White and green fruit hangs from a papery bract in March–April
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist to wet, well-drained soils
- Native to upland and floodplain forests, alluvial swamps, stream banks

Hornbeam and Ironwood refer to the very hard wood. Great specimen tree in full sun or as an understory tree. Good in a rain garden if it is large enough or on stream or pond banks.

Larval host to Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus*), Striped Hairstreak (*Satyrium liparops*), Red-spotted Purple (*Limenitis arthemis*), Spotted Apatelodes moth (*Apatelodes torrefacta*) and American Dagger moth (*Acronicta americana*).

Celtis occidentalis ● Common or American Hackberry

- 40-60 ft. (rarely to 100 ft), light grey trunk develops a corky appearance as it ages; almost oval shaped to rounded crown with droopy branches; tiny green flowers develop into small, reddish brown fruits
- Sun, Part shade to full shade
- Adaptable to most soil acidities and moistures, but prefers moist, silty soil
- Native to floodplain forests, dry upland forest, alluvial sites and streambanks

Hackberry handles urban conditions like air pollution and disturbed poor soils. Drought tolerant and moderately salt tolerant. A good specimen shade tree.

Host for Hackberry Emperor (*Asterocampa celtis*), Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*) and other butterfly caterpillars. Late-ripening fruit provides winter food for migrating birds like Cedar Waxwings.

Cercis canadensis ● Eastern Redbud

- 15–35 ft. deciduous tree with 15–35 ft. spreading crown; smooth heart-shaped leaves turn yellow in fall
- Deep pink flowers in April–May in tight clusters along the stems and branches before new leaves appear, creates 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

A fast growing, multi-season, ornamental small tree for shaded areas including rain gardens.

Nectar supports numerous insects. Host to many moth caterpillars incuding Unicorn Caterpillar (*Coelodasis unicornis*), and White-marked Tussock (*Orgyia leucostigma*). Host to Henry's Elfin butterfly (*Callophrys henrici*). Leafcutter bees use the leaves. Songbirds and small mammals eat the seeds.

Cornus florida ● Flowering Dogwood

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

A moderately fast growing, multi-season ornamental small tree that can be used as a specimen, at the edges of streams, ponds and woods or as an understory tree.

Flowers support specialized and mining bees, and songbirds eat the fruit.Larval host to 115 native caterpillar species, including Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*) and Summer Azure (*Celastrina neglecta*).

Chionanthus virginicus ● White Fringetree, Fringe Tree

- 15-30 ft. tall deciduous tree or large multi-stemmed shrub with 10-20 ft. wide rounded crown
- Drooping clusters of fringe-like, fragrant, white blossoms from May–June; dark-blue fruits; male tree has showier flowers and female trees need males to form the fruit
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Dry to wet loose, moist, sandy soils
- Native to forest, swamps, wetlands

A slow growing, multi-season ornamental small tree that can be used as a specimen, in a rain garden or at the edges of streams, ponds and woods.

Nectar supports bumble and native bees. Larval host to numerous butterfly and moth caterpillars, including the Fringetree Sallow (*Sympistis chionanthi*) and Frank's Sphinx (*Sphinx franckii*) moths. Fruit are eaten by songbirds and small mammals.

Diospyros virginiana ● Common Persimmon

- 15–100 ft., 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

Use along the edges of woods and as an understory tree where fruit will not be a litter problem. Fruit is not edible until exposed to frost or consistent low temperatures.

Larval host to the spectacular Hickory Horned Devil caterpillar of the Regal moth (*Citheronia regalis*) and the Luna moth (*Actias luna*). Birds and mammals eat the fruit.

Trees

Fagus grandifolia ● American Beech

- 50–80 ft. (less frequently to 120 ft.) deciduous tree with a dense, upright-oval to rounded-spreading crown, smooth gray bark
- Male flowers in drooping clusters and small female yellow-greenish flowers bloom April–May, followed by edible beech nuts in September–October, golden fall color
  Prefers deep, moist, but well-drained soils
- Native to upland forests, floodplains terraces, and bluffs.

Harvester butterfly (*Feniseca tarquinius*) caterpillars eat Beech tree aphids. Nuts are eaten by many mammals and birds including grouse, turkeys, ducks, woodpeckers, white-breasted nuthatches, blue jays.

Lives 300 to 400 years. Use as a large shade tree or in wooded areas. Native Americans used this tree for building materials, medicine, and food.

Juniperus virginiana ● Eastern Redcedar

- 30-40 ft. (rarely 80 ft.) evergreen tree; generally pyramidal shape; fragrant scale-like foliage can be gray-blue to dark green
- Pale blue fruits occur on female plants
- Sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained to dry soils
- Native to tidal shorelines, forests, old fields, rocky woodlands

Host to Juniper Hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus*) and Imperial Moth (*Eacles imperialis*) caterpillars. Small mammals and songbirds eat the fruit. Cedar Waxwings are named for this tree.

Extremely drought tolerant once established. Good for large privacy screen or hedge, on upper banks of streams and ponds, as a background plant for showy ornamental plants.

Liriodendron tulipifera ● Tuliptree, Tulip Poplar

- 70–150 ft. deciduous tree with, 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 in April–June
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Rich, moist to wet, well-drained loam or sandy soils, acidic
- Native to low, rich woods; stream banks, bottomland and upland forests

Larval host for Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus*), Promethea Silkmoth (*Callosamia promethea*) and Tuliptree Silkmoth (*Callosamia angulifera*).

Good as a specimen or in groves if room, as a shade tree, at the edges of woods.

Magnolia virginiana ● Sweetbay Magnolia

- 12–30 ft. (rarely to 50 ft.) evergreen tree, spreading 10–35 ft., with a single or multiple, slender, upright trunks bearing aromatic, foliage
- Single not 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 to wet, rich, well-drained, acidic soils
- Native to swamps, bogs, pocosins, wet flatwoods, nutrient-poor soils

Larval host for Sweetbay Silkmoth (*Callosamia securifera*) caterpillars. Seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals. A favorite tree of the sap suckers.

Good small specimen tree or planted in groves, under utility lines, along pond and stream edges, in rain gardens and as an understory tree.

Nyssa sylvatica ● Blackgum, Black Tupelo


Gary Fleming/DCR-NH

- 40–60 ft., variable-shaped, deciduous tree with dense spreading branches 20-30 ft.; smooth, waxy dark green leaves turn orange, red 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

Good medium shade tree, along edges of streams, ponds, rain gardens and woods, as an understory tree.

Host for 25 moth and butterfly caterpillars. Nectar supports bees, and honey is highly prized. Fruit is eaten by songbirds during fall migration. Tree hollows are a refuge for reptiles, tree frogs, bats and other wildlife.

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 to moist, acid soil
- Native to well-drained to dry acidic woodlands, cliffs, clearings and ravines

Good medium tree with multi-season interest. Use as a specimen or in groves, on stream and pond banks, and at edges of woods.

Nectar supports bees, butterflies, and other insects. Sourwood honey is highly prized. Fall webworms make tents in branchs and birds eat the caterpillars.

Pinus taeda ● Loblolly Pine


Karen Duhring/VIMS

- 60–110 ft. evergreen tree; 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 and hilly woodlands

Moderately fast growing evergreen. Use as a specimen or more commonly in groves, at the top of the banks of streams and ponds, as a large screen or sound barrier or wind break.

Provides cover and nesting sites and seeds for small mammals and birds. Larval host to Imperial Moth (*Eacles imperialis*) and Pine Devil moth (*Citheronia sepulcralis*) caterpillars.

Pinus virginiana ● Virginia Pine


Helen Hamilton/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

- 50–100 ft. evergreen tree, irregularly spaced limbs; 1.5-3 inch needles in bundles of two; reddish-brown bark, cones persist on the tree for years
- Sun
- Moist, well-drained, poor soils
- Native to areas of poor, light soil in mountains and old fields

A very hardy pine tolerant of poor soils. Use in full sun as a large screen, hedge or wind break, at the top of the banks of streams or ponds, and at the edges of woods.

Larval host for Southern Pine Sphinx (*Lapara coniferarum*) and Eastern Pine Elfin (*Callophrys niphon*) caterpillars. Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals who also eat the seeds.

Trees

Quercus alba ● White Oak

- 72–100 ft. deciduous tree 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

A keystone species that has very high wildlife value for food and habitat. Larval host for over 500 caterpillar species.

White Oak is slow-growing and can live up to 600 years. Colonists used it to build ships. Use as a specimen or in groves, as a shade tree.

Quercus coccinea ● Scarlet Oak

- 80–115 ft. deciduous tree, 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

A keystone species that has very high wildlife value for food and habitat for bees, small mammals and birds, including blue jays and woodpeckers. Larval host for over 500 caterpillar species.

Scarlet Oak grows moderately fast for an oak. Use individually or in a grove, as a shade or street tree (not under utility lines).

Quercus falcata ● Southern Red Oak, Spanish Oak

- 60–80 ft. deciduous tree; straight-trunked; 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

A keystone species that has very high wildlife value for food and habitat. The acorns are essential food for many wildlife species. Host for over 500 caterpillar species.

Southern Red Oak grows moderately fast for an oak. Use individually or in a grove, as a shade or street tree (not under utility lines).

Quercus marilandica ● Blackjack Oak

- 30–50 ft. deciduous tree small to medium-sized, 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 small 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

A keystone species that has very high wildlife value for food and habitat. The acorns are essential food for many wildlife species. Larval host for numerous caterpillar species.

A smaller oak that fits well into smaller landscapes. Use for a shade or street tree (not under utility lines).

Quercus phellos • Willow Oak

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

A keystone species that has very high wildlife value for food and habitat. The acorns are essential food for many wildlife species. Larval host for over 500 caterpillar species.

Willow Oak grows moderately fast for an oak and tolerates moister soils. Use individually or in a grove, as a shade or street tree (not under utility lines).

Quercus virginiana • Live Oak

- 40-60 ft. (rarely 80 ft.) tall evergreen tree with 60-100 ft. wide rounded crown; slow and low growing, often with many root suckers; dark green waxy leaves
- Sun to part shade
- Dry to moist neutral to acidic soils; tolerates poor drainage, compaction and salt
- Native to sandy, coastal plains; moist hammocks

Larval host for caterpillars including Horace's Duskywing Butterfly (*Erynnis horatius*) and Polyphemus moth (*Antheraea polyphemus*). Habitat for over 100 plants and animals. Acorns eaten by mammals, birds, and insects.

Good for stabilizing dunes, along windy shorelines and where brackish water flooding occurs. Use as a specimen or in groves. Can be uses as a shade or street tree (if there's enough room for the wide crown)

Sassafras albidum • Sassafras

- 20-40 ft. deciduous tree with 30-40 ft. crown; can form a colony; dark furrowed bark; leaves are bright green with oval, mitten and three lobed shapes, yellow to red fall color
- Bunches of yellow-green flower balls in March-May on both male and female trees, dark-blue fruits on scarlet stalks on female in late summer
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Dry to moist, well-drained, rich, sandy, acidic soils
- Native to forests, woodlands

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

Good as an individual tree and when allowed to form a colony. Use as a small shade tree, understory tree, and along edges of streams, ponds, and woods.

Taxodium distichum • Baldcypress

- 50–70 ft., pyramidal, deciduous conifer with small, sage-green, needles that turn reddish in fall and a thin, dark to silvery-brown bark that shreds lengthwise; cypress knees form mainly in wet situations
- Flower is purple in April, followed by green cones that turn brown in October
- Sun to part sun/shade
- Prefers wet soil but tolerates dryer soil once established
- Native to swamps, streambanks

Larval host for Baldcypress Sphinx (*Isoparce cupressi*) caterpillar. Wood and other ducks, turkey, and wading birds eat the seeds. Provides shelter and nesting sites.

Use along edges of streams and ponds, in rain gardens (if large enough) and as a street tree because it tolerates compacted, low oxygen soils.

Tree Selection, Planting and Maintenance

Trees are an investment. How well your investment grows depends on selecting the right tree, planting it correctly and maintaining it properly over time.

Selecting the right tree is very important. A tree is a long-term part of your landscape's design and functionality. Match the tree species to the site conditions and functions.

Consider the following:

- Amount of above ground space for the crown (height and width) and the below ground space for the roots (18-24 inches deep and about 2/3 the width of the mature crown)
- Amount of sun and shade
- Evergreen or deciduous
- Seasonal interest (like blooms or fall color)
- Required maintenance (like picking up cones or raking leaves in fall)
- Function: pollinator/wildlife support, shade, stormwater management, energy conservation, fruit/nut production, privacy screening, soil erosion reduction, increasing biodiversity, creating a design feature, noise reduction, beauty

Purchase a good quality plant. Make sure the trunk is straight, branches are evenly spaced, foliage looks healthy, and there are no wounds, insects or diseases. Pull the tree out of the container and make sure the flare (where the trunk becomes roots) is at the top of the soil and not buried, the roots are whitish/light brown and firm not dark brown/black and rotten, and they are not root bound (very densely packed and tangled) or circling excessively.

Purchase a smaller size tree. Research has shown that smaller trees (1.5 inch diameter or less) establish faster, grow better, and need less after-planting care than larger trees.

Keep the tree watered until it is planted. Roots in containers dry out fast, so check on it daily.Never add fertilizer unless you have a soil test that indicates it is needed.

Trees monitor their environments and internal chemical balances to determine how and where to expend energy. For newly planted trees, three critical elements are carbon (C), nitrogen (N), and phosphorous (P).

The C/N ratio: Tree C, in the form of sugars, comes from photosynthesis and is a measure of canopy size. N comes from the soil and is a measure of root system size. When C/N is low, the tree perceives the canopy to be small relative to the roots and directs energy to canopy growth and vice versa. Adding N to soil of newly planted trees can lower C/N and cause the tree to grow canopy when it needs to grow roots.

High soil P interferes with iron uptake and chlorophyll creation resulting in chlorosis and lower energy production. High soil P also reduces mycorrhizae

Trees are best planted in the fall and winter when they are dormant, but they can be planted in the spring if they are adequately watered during the spring and summer. Be sure to call 811 to locate any underground utilities before you start digging.

- Remove any debris, mulch or grass from the surface of the planting site.
- Dig a hole 3 times wider than and the same depth as the root ball. Put the soil in a pot or bucket to make it easier to refill the hole.
- Score the sides of the hole to roughen it up. Deepen (1-2 inches) the outer edge to the bottom of the hole to leave a center pedestal to sit the root ball on.
- If the roots have started to circle, slice off the outer 1-1.5 inches of the sides and bottom of the root ball.
- NOTHING goes in the hole but the tree, water and removed soil. DO NOT fertilize newly planted trees and shrubs.
- Set the tree on the pedestal and refill the hole 1/2 way with the UNAMENDED soil from the hole.
- Add some water around the root ball.
- Finish filling the hole and gently but firmly tamp down the soil around the root ball.
- Create a donut ring around the planting hole and add more water.
- Cover the donut ring and hole with 2-3 inches of mulch (do not pile against the trunk). Prune any broken branches.
- Water once a week (2-5 gallons) if there is no rain.care and planting.

formation, reducing the availability of water and nutrients to the tree when it is most needed.

Removing a large tree is costly. Proper maintenance keeps a tree healthy and extends its life and the benefits it provides.

Anyone can do the following tree maintenance practices: corrective pruning when young to develop a strong crown, watering during long dry periods, soil testing every 3 years to add fertilizer if needed, mulching to protect the trunk and root zone, and examining the tree 3-4 times a year and after storms to catch any problems as soon as possible.

Sometimes you might need professional help for your tree. Local Extension agents and city/community foresters are good resources for information and diagnosing problems. Professional arborists have specific knowledge, training and equipment to work on large trees. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists have advanced training and are certified in different categories of tree care. They are up to date on the latest tree care techniques, and they can provide tree risk assessments that can help you decide if a tree needs to be removed.

To find or verify the credentials of a Certified Arborist go to www.TreesAreGood.org.

Learn more about Selecting, Planting and Protecting Native Trees on PlantVirginiaNatives.org!

Keystone Species

According to noted University of Delaware entomology researcher and author, Dr. Doug Tallamy, native trees are keystone plants. Keystone plants are native plant superstars, extremely critical to the environment and essential for providing the highest level of resources for the species that support the food web we depend on to survive. Native trees especially support caterpillars, which are a food source for numerous wildlife species including songbirds, and bees, which pollinate our ornamental plants, but most importantly our food crops. Without keystone plants, like the keystone in an archway, everything falls apart.

Learn more about keystone plants. https://homegrownnationalpark.org/resources

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

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

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

* As research continues, the confirmed number of supported species increases!

The Right Plants in the Right Place

Street side environments experience dry, harsh conditions and are exposed to pollutants, dust, spray, salt, and compacted soil. Soil pH can also be affected through leaching from concrete curbs and sidewalks.

Perennials (Forbs)

Achillea millefolium – Common Yarrow
Baptisia tinctoria - Yellow Wild Indigo
Eupatorium perfoliatum – Common Boneset
Hibiscus moscheutos – Eastern Rose-mallow, Swamp Rose-mallow
Monarda punctata - Horsemint, Spotted Beebalm
Opuntia humifusa – Eastern Prickly Pear
Phlox paniculata - Fall or Garden Phlox
Rudbeckia triloba - Three-lobed Coneflower, Brown-eyed Susan
Solidago rugosa - Rough-stemmed or Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod
Symphiotrichium grandiflorum - Large-flowered Aster
Yucca filamentosa – Common Yucca

Groundcovers

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

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

Carex vulpinoidea – Fox Sedge
Panicum virgatum – Switchgrass
Schizachyrium scoparium – Little Bluestem

Shrubs

Aronia arbutiflolia – Red Chokeberry
Callicarpa americana – Beautyberry
Clethra alnifolia – Sweet Pepper Bush
Ilex verticillata -Winterberry
Itea virginica – Virginia Sweetspire
Morella cerifera - Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry
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

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
Magnolia virginiana - Sweetbay Magnolia
Nyssa sylvatica - Blackgum, Black Tupelo
Quercus alba – White Oak
Quercus phellos – Willow Oak
Taxodium distichum – Bald Cypress

Landscaping in Small Places

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)

Achillea millefolium - Common Yarrow
Asclespias incarnata – Swamp Milweed
Asclepias tuberosa – Butterfly-weed
Ceanothus americanus - New Jersey Tea
Gaylussacia baccata - Black Huckleberry
Helenium autumnale - Common or Autumn Sneezeweed
Phlox paniculata - Fall or Garden Phlox
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium – Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint
Rhododendron atlanticum - Dwarf Azalea
Salvia lyrata – Lyre-leaf Sage
Sisyrinchium angustifolium – Blue-eyed Grass

Vines

Lonicera sempervirens – Coral Honeysuckle
Passiflora lutea – Yellow Passionflower

Shrubs

Itea Virginica – Sweetspire
Clethra alnifolia – Pepperbush
Vaccinium pallidum - Early Lowbush Blueberry

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

Perennials (Forbs)

Anemone virginiana - Thimbleweed, Tall Anemone
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
Mitchella repens - Partridge-Berry
Podophyllum peltatum – Mayapple
Polygonatum biflorum – Solomon's-seal
Sedum ternatum – Wild Stonecrop
Silene caroliniana - Wild Pink, Northern Wild Pink
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
Zephyranthes atamasca - Atamasco Lily

Ferns

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

Shrubs

Ceanothus americanus - New Jersey Tea
Gaylussacia baccata - Black Huckleberry
Hydrangea arboescens - Wild Hydrangea
Rhododendron atlanticum - Dwarf Azalea

Sweetspire, makes a great container plant.

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. Adding compost and mulch made from 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
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


Lucile Kossodo/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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 nudum - Possumhaw Viburnum
Viburnum prunifolium – Black haw


Jan Newton,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

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)

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

Ferns

Dennstaedtia puctilobula - Hay Scented Fern
Osmunda spectabilis – Royal fern
Osmundastrum cinnamomeum - Cinnamon Fern
Thelypteris palustris – Marsh Fern

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

Carex stricta – Tussock Sedge
Juncus effusus – Soft Rush

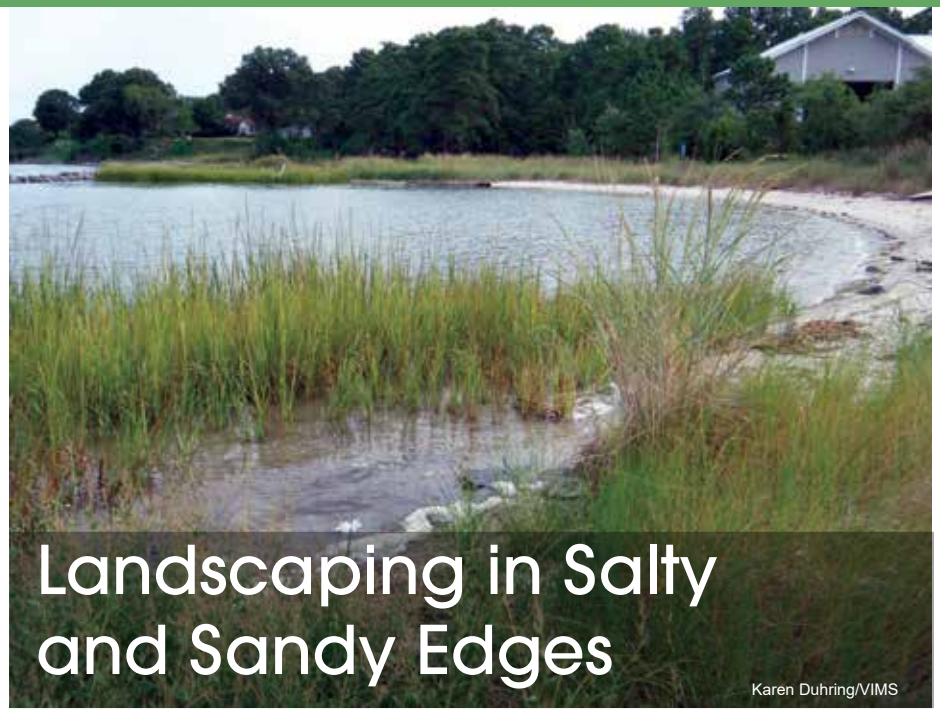
Shrubs

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

Acer rubrum - Red Maple
Cercis canadensis – Redbud
Diospyros virginiana – Persimmon
Magnolia virginiana – Sweetbay Magnolia
Nyssa sylvatica - Blackgum, Black Tupelo

The Right Plants in the Right Place



Landscaping in Salty and Sandy Edges

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 shoreline erosion control, flood mitigation, and water quality protection 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), *Distichlis spicata* (Saltgrass), and *Iva frutescens* (Marsh Elder). Also present may be the highly invasive non-native, *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed).

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

Native plants also grow along sandy beach shorelines, especially grasses that can tolerate hot, dry conditions and being covered by wind-blown sand. The dominant beach grass in the southern coastal plain is *Uniola paniculata* (Sea Oats) while *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).

Learn More

Field Guide to Salt & Brackish Marsh
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
This basic field guide illustrates the most common plants in Virginia's tidal salt marshes, where the salinity range is between 10-25 ppt. The plants are color-coded by tidal inundation zone.
www.vims.edu/ccrm/outreach/teaching_marsh/native_plants/salt_marsh/

Living Shorelines
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
https://ccrm.vims.edu/livingshorelines/ls_high_salt_marsh.html

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

Kids and Native Plants


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://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat/*.


Jan Newton,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

The Rights Plants in the Right Place

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

Ferns

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

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

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
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 virginica - Virginica Blue Flag
Liatris spicata – Dense Blazing Star
Maianthemum racemosum – False Solomon's Seal
Monarda spp. – Scarlet Beebalm & Wild Bergamot
Oenothera fruticosa – Narrow-leaf Sundrops
Peltandra virginica – Arrow Arum
Penstemon spp. – Smooth & Foxglove Beardtongues
Phlox spp. – Wild Blue, Moss, & Fall Phlox
Polygonatum biflorum – Solomon's Seal
Pontederia cordata – Pickerelweed
Rudbeckia spp. – Orange, Black-Eyed Susan, Cut-Leaf, & Three-Lobed Coneflowers
Sagittaria latifolia – Broad-Leaved Arrowhead
Saururus cernuus – Lizard's Tail
Sisyrinchium angustifolium – Narrowleaf Blue-Eyed Grass
Solidago spp. – Goldenrods
Symphyotrichum spp. – New England & New York Asters

Shrubs

Aronia arbutifolia – Red Chokeberry
Baccharis halimifolia – Groundsel bush
Cephalanthus occidentalis – Buttonbush
Clethra alnifolia – Sweet pepperbush
Hamamelis virginiana – Witch Hazel
Hydrangea arborescens – Wild hydrangea
Ilex glabra – Inkberry holly

Ilex verticillata – Winterberry holly
Itea Virginica – Virginia sweetspire
Morella cerifera – Wax myrtle
Rhododendron spp. – Coastal, Pinxter, & Swamp Azaleas
Rosa carolina – Carolina rose
Rosa palustris – Swamp rose
Stewartia malacodendron – Silky camelia
Vaccinium pallidum – Blueridge blueberry
Viburnum spp. – Mapleleaf, Arrowood, Powwumhaw, & Blackhaw Viburnums

Trees

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

Southeastern Virginia plants that attract hummingbirds include the following:

Trees:

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Shrubs:

New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Pinxter Azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)

Vines:

Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*), Vasevine (*Clematis viorna*), Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Forbs:

Milkweeds (*Asclepias incarnada, A. syriaca, A. tuberosa*), White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), American Alumroot (*Heuchera americana*), Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), Grass-leaf Blazing Star (*Liatris pilosa*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Smooth Beardtongue (*Penstemon laevigatus*), Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), Lyre Leaf Sage (*Salvia lyrata*), Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*), Goldenrods (*Solidago ssp.*), New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboraceensis*)

Ruy-throated Hummingbird, Seig Kopinitz,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

A hummingbird garden can be set up in containers on a deck or patio or planted in a small to medium yard. Hummingbirds have a few basic needs: Food, water, shelter, and nesting sites.

Hummingbirds need protein in their diet, which comes from small insects and spiders. Baby hummingbirds are raised on insects. The most important thing to provide are native plants that attract insects and a pesticide-free garden.

In addition to insects, adult hummingbirds need some nectar every day. Hummingbirds are drawn to brightly colored, tubular shaped flowers. Choose several species of plants with staggered bloom times so something will always be in bloom.

Nectar from native plants includes traces of proteins, salts, acids, and essential oils in addition to plant sugars. This is better for the birds than sugar water. If you choose to provide sugar water, you can lure them closer to enjoy watching them. Do not buy the red stuff. Make your own from ¼ cup cane sugar dissolved in 1 cup of water. Do not use other sweeteners such as brown sugar, agave, honey, molasses, or artificial sweeteners. Do not add dyes. Clean and refill hummingbird feeders every 3-4 days.

Hummingbirds need water for bathing. A shallow basin is best, with only ¼ inch of water.

Hummingbirds need some shade, a place to hide from predators, and a place to build a nest. A small tree in your garden will fill all these needs. For our region, the Redbud (Cercis canadensis) is the best choice. This tree is also a source of nectar for hummingbirds.

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,* 6625 Main Street - *https://mppaa.virginiainteractive.org/Item/Detail/98*

Hampton ---

- *Bluebird Gap Farm*, 60 Pine Chapel Rd.
- *Grandview Nature Preserve*, State Park Drive - 757-850-5134
- *Sandy Bottom Park*,1255 Big Bethel Rd.

James City County ---

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

Newport News ---

- *Denbeigh Park*, Denbigh Blvd
- *Virginia Living Museum*, 524 J Clyde Morris Blvd.

Poquoson ---

- *Poquoson Museum gardens and marsh trail,* 968 Poquoson Ave

Williamsburg ---

- *Bassett Trace nature trail,* 136 E Francis St.
- *College Landing Park*, 2100 S. Henry St.
- *Colonial Williamsburg gardens*, www.history.org/history/CWLand/
- *New Quarter Park*, 1000 Lakeshead Dr.
- *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 and pollinator garden*, Carrollton Branch, 14362 New Towne Haven Ln.

Suffolk ---

- *Lake Meade Park*, North Main St.
- *Sleepy Hole Park*, 4700 SleepyHole Rd.

Native plant pollinator garden at Carollton library.

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 Nature Park*, 1141 Victory Blvd.
- *Virginia Cooperative Extension* display gardens,105 Utah St.

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 Demonstraton Gardens*, 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. If you have the opportunity, thank the owners and managers for planting and maintaining natives, and encourage them to continue!

Start Planning Your Native Garden

Sketch Your Ideas!

Sketch ideas for a basic native garden bed, perhaps 10’ x 5’, using the *Planning Grid* provided in the landscaping with natives section on *PlantVirginiaNatives.org*. Also available is a *Native Plant Garden Planning Worksheet* and *Native Plant Wish List*. The website offers more information and provides links to additional resources that can help you take a deeper dive as you consider design choices.

To use the *Planning Grid*:

1. **Circle the icons as shorthand reminders of the basic conditions where you will plant (sun, moisture, primary soil type) and the blooming seasons desired.**

   Your goal is to select plants that naturally thrive in these conditions and offer blooms or other value across the seasons. Don’t forget plants that offer winter fruits, shelter, or beauty!

2. **Consult the plant profiles in this guide to select a combination of plants that match the site conditions and meet your specified requirements.**

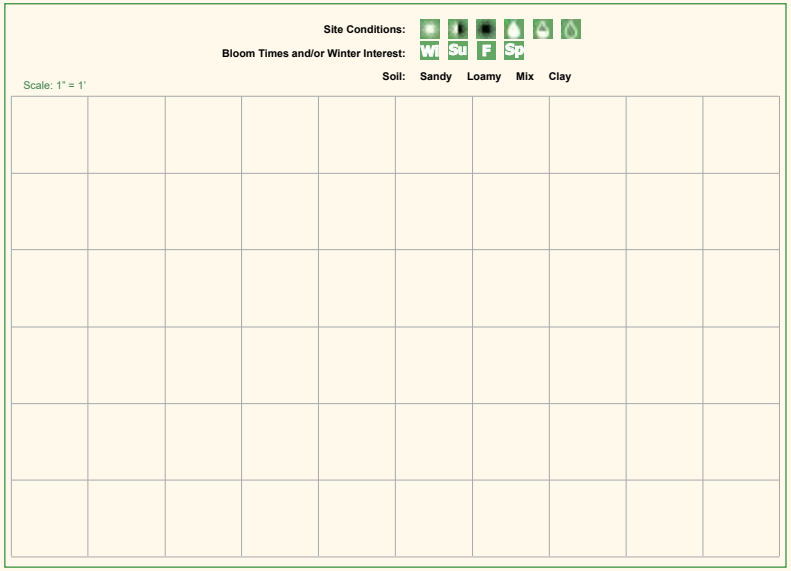
   Use the downloadable Planning Worksheet (or any sheet of paper) to list your candidate plants, along with important details like mature plant height and width, bloom time, and bloom color.

3. **Doublecheck your list against the site conditions noted on the planning grid.**

   The plants selected should have similar needs for sun, soil, and moisture, and should fit the conditions of your location.

Be Aware:

Many plants, native and non-native, use various toxins to protect themselves. We note in plant descriptions where toxicity is known. Since some plants or parts of plants may irritate skin when handled, it is a good practise to wear gloves when gardening. Landscape plants should not be assumed to be edible.



4. **Start drawing!**

   Draw circles to show where each plant will go. The size of each circle can (roughly) represent the plant at its full size. Colored markers, pens, or pencils can suggest bloom colors. Add notes on the grid about plant heights and bloom times. Play with it! The art does not have to be exact or fancy. Bring your plan with you when you meet with a designer or go shopping for native plants.

Design Tips:

Arrange smaller plants at the front or sides, and group taller plants at the center or back. This produces a neater appearance, allows all plants to thrive without shading each other out, and allows all flowers to be easily seen and appreciated.

Planting in drifts (multiple plants of the same type) helps pollinators find food and helps provide a less-cluttered design for people. Even in a small garden with limited space, it is best to incorporate at least 3–5 plants of each selected species rather than plant one specimen each of many species.

Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name(s)
Forbs *continued*	
Pontederia cordata	**Pickerelweed** *(pg 16)*
Pycnanthemum incanum	Hoary Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum muticum	**Clustered Mountain Mint** *(pg 16)*
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium	Narrow-leaf Mountain Mint
Rhexia mariana	Maryland Meadow Beauty
Rhexia nashii	Hairy Meadow Beauty
Rhexia virginica	Virginia Meadow Beauty
Rudbeckia hirta	**Black-Eyed Susan** *(pg 16)*
Rudbeckia laciniata	**Cut-Leaf Coneflower** *(pg 16)*
Rudbeckia triloba	**Three-Lobed Coneflower** *(pg 17)*
Ruellia caroliniensis	Carolina Wild Petunia
Sagittaria latifolia	Broad-Leaved Arrowhead
Salvia lyrata	**Lyre-leaf Sage** *(pg 22)*
Sanguinaria canadensis	**Bloodroot** *(pg 17)*
Saururus cernuus	Lizard's Tail
Scutellaria integrifolia	**Hyssop Scullcap** *(pg 17)*
Sedum ternatum	**Woodland Stonecrop** *(pg 22)*
Senna marilandica	Southern Wild Senna
Silene caroliniana	**Wild Pink** *(pg 23)*
Sisyrinchium angustifolium	**Narrowleaf Blue-Eyed Grass** *(pg 23)*
Sisyrinchium grandiflorum	Large-flowered Aster
Solidago altissima	**Canada Goldenrod** *(pg 18)*
Solidago caesia	**Blue-stemmed Goldenrod** *(pg 18)*
Solidago juncea	**Early Goldenrod** *(pg 18)*
Solidago nemoralis	**Gray Goldenrod** *(pg 18)*
Solidago odora	**Sweet Goldenrod** *(pg 18)*
Solidago pinetorum	**Pineywoods Goldenrod** *(pg 18)*
Solidago rugosa	**Rough-stemmed Goldenrod** *(pg 18)*
Solidago sempervirens	**Seaside Goldenrod** *(pg 18)*
Symphyotrichum dumosum	Bushy Aster
Symphyotrichum grandiflorum	Large-flowered Aster
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum	**Calico Aster** *(pg 17)*
Symphyotrichum novi-belgii	**New York American Aster** *(pg 18)*
Thalictrum thalictroides	**Rue Anemone** *(pg 18)*

Scientific Name	Common Name(s)
Forbs *continued*	
Tradescantia virginiana	**Virginia Spiderwort** *(pg 19)*
Vernonia glauca	Upland or Broad-leaf Ironweed
Vernonia noveboracensis	**New York Ironweed** *(pg 19)*
Viola affinis	**Sand Violet, Lecompte's Violet** *(pg 23)*
Viola cucullata	**Marsh Blue Violet** *(pg 23)*
Viola pedata	**Bird's Foot Violet** *(pg 23)*
Viola primulifolia	**Primrose-leaved Violet** *(pg 23)*
Viola sororia	**Common Blue Violet** *(pg 23)*
Yucca filamentosa	**Adam's Needle Yucca** *(pg 19)*
Zephyranthes atamasca	Atamasco Lily
Ferns	
Adiantum pedatum	Northern Maidenhair
Asplenium platyneuron	Ebony Spleenwort
Athyrium asplenioides	**Lady Fern** *(pg 25)*
Dennstaedtia punctilobula	**Hay-Scented Fern** *(pg 25)*
Dryopteris intermedia	Evergreen Wood Fern
Dryopteris marginalis	Marginal Wood Fern
Onoclea sensibilis	**Sensitive Fern** *(pg 25)*
Osmunda spectabilis	**Royal Fern** *(pg 25)*
Osmundastrum cinnamomeum	**Cinnamon Fern** *(pg 24)*
Polystichum acrostichoides	**Christmas Fern** *(pg 26)*
Thelypteris palustris	Marsh Fern
Woodwardia areolata	**Netted Chain Fern** *(pg 26)*
Vines	
Bignonia capreolata	**Crossvine** *(pg 29)*
Campsis radicans	**Trumpet Vine** *(pg 29)*
Clematis crispa	Marsh Swamp Leatherflower
Clematis viorna	Vasevine
Clematis virginiana	**Virgin's Bower** *(pg 29)*
Decumaria barbara	**Climbing Hydrangea** *(pg 29)*
Gelsemium sempervirens	**Carolina Jessamine** *(pg 27)*
Lonicera sempervirens	**Coral Honeysuckle** *(pg 30)*

Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name(s)
Vines *continued*	
Muscadinia rotundifolia	Muscadine Grape
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	**Virginia Creeper** *(pg 30)*
Passiflora incarnata	**Passionflower** *(pg 30)*
Passiflora lutea	Yellow Passion Vine
Wisteria frutescens	**American Wisteria** *(pg 30)*
Grasses/Sedges/Rushes	
Ammophila breviligulata	Dunegrass
Andropogon glomeratus	**Bushy Bluestem** *(pg 32)*
Andropogon ternarius	**Splitbeard Bluestem** *(pg 33)*
Andropogon virginicus	**Broomsedge** *(pg 33)*
Bolboschoenus robustus	Saltmarsh Bulrush
Carex comosa	**Bottlebrush Sedge** *(pg 33)*
Carex crinita	**Long-fringed Sedge** *(pg 33)*
Carex laxiculmis	**Spreading Sedge** *(pg 34)*
Carex lupulina	**Hop Sedge** *(pg 34)*
Carex pensylvanica	Pennsylvania Sedge
Carex stricta	**Tussock Sedge** *(pg 34)*
Carex vulpinoidea	Fox Sedge
Chasmanthium latifolium	**River Oats** *(pg 34)*
Danthonia spicata	**Poverty Oatgrass** *(pg 35)*
Disctichlis spicata	Saltgrass
Eragrostis spectabilis	**Purple Love Grass** *(pg 35)*
Juncus effusus	**Common Rush** *(pg 35)*
Muhlenbergia capillaris	Pink Muhly Grass
Panicum amarum	Bitter Panic Grass
Panicum virgatum	**Switchgrass** *(pg 35)*
Schoenoplectus americanus	Olney Threesquare
Schizachyrium scoparium	**Little Bluestem** *(pg 36)*
Schoenoplectus pungens	Common Threesquare
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	Soft-stem Bulrush
Scirpus cyperinus	**Woolgrass** *(pg 36)*
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian Grass
Spartina alterniflora	**Smooth Cordgrass** *(pg 36)*

Scientific Name	Common Name(s)
Grasses/Sedges/Rushes *continued*	
Spartina cynosuroides	Big Cordgrass
Spartina patens	**Salt Marsh Hay** (pg 36)
Uniola paniculata	Sea Oats
Shrubs	
Alnus serrulata	**Smooth Alder** *(pg 39)*
Aronia arbutifolia	**Red Chokeberry** *(pg 39)*
Aronia melanocarpa	Black Chokeberry
Baccharis halimifolia	**High-tide Bush** *(pg 39)*
Callicarpa americana	**Beautyberry** *(pg 38)*
Ceanothus americanus	**New Jersey Tea** *(pg 39)*
Cephalanthus occidentalis	**Buttonbush** *(pg 40)*
Clethra alnifolia	**Sweet Pepperbush** *(pg 40)*
Cornus amomum	**Silky Dogwood** *(pg 40)*
Corylus americana	**American Hazelnut** *(pg 40)*
Cyrilla racemiflora	Swamp Cyrilla
Eubotrys racemosus	**Fetterbush** *(pg 41)*
Euonymus americanus	**American Strawberry Bush** *(pg 41)*
Gaultheria procumbens	Wintergreen
Gaylussacia baccata	**Black Huckleberry** *(pg 41)*
Hamamelis virginiana	**Witch Hazel** *(pg 41)*
Hydrangea arborescens	**Wild Hydrangea** *(pg 42)*
Ilex decidua	Possum-haw
Ilex glabra	**Inkberry Holly** *(pg 42)*
Ilex verticillata	**Winterberry Holly** *(pg 42)*
Ilex vomitoria	Yaupon Holly
Itea virginica	**Virginia Sweetspire** *(pg 42)*
Iva frutescens	Marsh Elder
Kalmia latifolia	**Mountain Laurel** *(pg 43)*
Leucothoe axillaris	Coastal Dog-hobble
Lindera benzoin	**Northern Spicebush** *(pg 43)*
Lyonia lucida	Shining Fetterbush
Lyonia mariana	**Staggerbush** *(pg 43)*

Index of Southeast Virginia Native Plants

Invasives of Particular Concern in Southeast Virginia


Jan Newton,/John Clayton Chapter, VNPS

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

Invasive 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 here are currently on the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List based on their threat to natural communities and native species.

Akebia quinata, Chocolate Vine or Five-leaf Akebia

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

Ailanthus altissima, Tree of Heaven

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

Albizia julibrissin, Mimosa, Silk Tree

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

***Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, Porcelain-Berry**

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

***Eleagnus umbellate*, Autumn Olive**

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

***Hedera helix*, English Ivy**

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

***Ligustrum sinense*, Chinese Privet**

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

***Lonicera japonica*, Japanese honeysuckle**

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

***Miscanthus sinensis*, Miscanthus, Chinese Silvergrass**

SEVA Native Alternatives:
Panicum virgatum, Switchgrass

***Microstegium vimineum*, Japanese Stiltgrass**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Learn More About Invasive Plants and How You Can Help

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

Blue Ridge PRISM: *https://blueridgeprism.org/*

Virginia Invasive Plant Coalition: *https://virginiainvasives.org/*

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

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

***Mistaken Identity–Invasive Plants and Their Native Look-Alikes* (pub):** *www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_024329.pdf*

***Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas* (pub):** *www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/*

Additional Resources

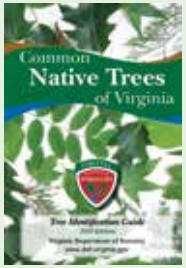
About Native Plants

Plant Virginia Natives – *www.PlantVirginiaNatives.org*

Flora of Virginia Mobile App – contains everything from the print Flora of Virginia, with photos, more illustrations, range maps, and easy-to-use Graphic Key *(September 2017; updated in 2023)*

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

Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage (Native Plant Finder) – *www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml*



Field Guide to Virginia Salt and Brackish Marsh Plants, William & Mary Virginia Institute of Marine Science – *https://www.vims.edu/ccrm/outreach/teaching_marsh/native_plants/salt_marsh/fieldguidevasaltbrackishmarshplants_oct2023.pdf*

Virginia Native Plant Society – *www.vnps.org/*

National Wildlife Foundation "Native Plant Finder" (search by zip code to find plants that host the highest numbers of butterflies and moths to feed birds and other wildlife where you live, based on Doug Tallamy's research) **-** *http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/*

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Univ. of Texas at Austin – *www.wildflower.org/*

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

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

Which Tree Should I Plant? A Guide for Selecting Riparian Trees and Shrubs in Virginia, *https://rb.gy/uy6mdx*

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

The American Woodland Garden, Rick Darke, 2002

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

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

About Landscaping with Natives

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

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

Habitat Gardening for Wildlife, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources – https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat/

How to Naturescape*, www.plantnative.org/how_intro.htm*
Native Gardening with Wildflowers, U.S. Forest Service – *www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native Plant_Materials/Native_Gardening/index.shtml*

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

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

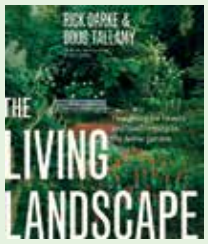
Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, Douglas W. Tallamy, 2009 **–** and ***Nature's Best Hope: A new approach to conservation that starts in your yard***, 2020 - **Homegrown National Park** - *https://homegrownnationalpark.org/*

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Plant HR Natives

www.plantvirginianatives.org/plant-southeast-virginia-natives

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