Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton

Plant ES Natives
They're Shore Beautiful!

Plant Accommack and Northampton Natives!

For the purposes of this guide, plants native to Virginia's Eastern Shore - Accomack and Northampton counties - are those that have been part of the local ecology prior to John Smith's landing and are adapted to the Shore's local soils and climate conditions, resulting in many benefits to the region, its residents and migratory birds. The Eastern Shore native plants featured in this guide 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 to Accomack and Northampton native plants is being provided through the "Plant ES Natives" campaign, initiated by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program through its Virginia Seaside Heritage Program, and developed with the assistance of a planning team representing the following partners:

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Barrier Islands Center
Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council
Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District
Maplewood Gardens
The Nature Conservancy
University of Virginia Anheuser Busch Coastal Research Center
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Eastern Shore Regional Office
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality - Office of Environmental Education
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Master Gardeners
Virginia Master Naturalists

To learn more visit - www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/go-native.html.

The "Plant ES Natives" campaign logo depicts a branch of Downy Serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea) and a Scarlet Tanager, a migratory songbird which needs the berries and insects provided by this and other Eastern Shore native plants to fuel their long journey. The Shore is one of only a few rest stops for these and other migratory birds.

Special thanks to our wonderful native plant photographers - Dot Field, Irv Wilson, Gary Fleming, Alli Baird, Alan Cressler, Ruth Meyers and the late Ken Lawless - without whom this guide would not be so attractive!

Design and editing by Virginia Witmer, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. Native plant information provided by the following sources: USDA Plants Database (United States Department of Agriculture), Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Austin, Division of Natural Heritage - Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Native Plants for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Special thanks to Dot Field for her invaluable assistance in production of this guide.

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Virginia Coastal Zone MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Visit us on the Web at: www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/

Cover Photos: **top row** *Baccharis halimifolia* - Groundsel tree (Field), *Rosa palustris* - Swamp rose (Lawless), *Cercis canadensis* - Eastern redbud (Field); **second row** *Symphyotrichum novi-belgii* - New York aster (Field), *Sassafras albidum* - Sassafras (Meyers), *Rudbeckia hirta* - Black-eyed susan (Field); **bottom row** *Callicarpa americana* - American beautyberry (Field), *Amelanchier arborea* - Downy serviceberry (Fleming), *Osmunda cinnamomea* - Cinnamon fern (Wilson). ***Back Cover Photos:*** **top row** *Asclepias tuberosa* - Butterflyweed (Field), *Baptisia tinctoria* - Yellow wild indigo (Lawless), *Viburnum prunifolium* - Blackhaw (Fleming); **second row** *Passifora incarnata*-Passionflower (Lawless), *Lonicera sempervirens* - Coral honeysuckle (Field); b**ottom row** *Andropogon glomeratus* - Bushy bluestem (Field), *Hibiscus moscheutos* - Seashore mallow (Field), *Alnus serrulata* - Common alder (Wilson).

What Makes Accomack and Northampton Native Plants So Special?

Dot Field/DCR

Whether you want to put in a flower garden or establish or restore the landscape around your home, there are a **great variety of Eastern Shore native plants** from which to choose.

Native plants not only offer many practical, low cost, environmental benefits over non-native plants, many also offer an **appealing display of foliage and flowers** that surpass non-native ornamentals.

By planting natives, you will join an increasing number of gardeners who have discovered that wildflowers, trees, shrubs, grasses and annuals native to their region are not only important to protecting local water supply and wildlife, but are **simply gorgeous.**

So, regardless of your gardening and landscaping plans, Virginia's Eastern Shore natives are worth checking out. We think you'll find just what you and the Shore need!

Here's Why!

- Our native plants are survivors! They are well adapted to the Virginia Eastern Shore's local soils and climate conditions.
- Our natives generally require less watering and fertilizing than non-natives, and are less susceptible to drought conditions. Less watering means conserving potable water supplies for non-watering uses.
- Our natives are often more resistant to insects and disease and less likely to need pesticides that may leach into water supplies or run off into shellfish aquaculture farms.
- Some of our native plants are resistant to occasional salt-water stress.
- Our native plants play a crucial role in our unique ecosystem. They help preserve the diversity, beauty, and function of our natural ecosystems.
- Our native plants provide critical habitats and food for the millions of migratory birds that rely on Virginia's Eastern Shore as a rest stop each spring and fall.

Save time and money! And the Shore's unique environment! Plant Virginia Eastern Shore natives!

Table Of Contents

How to Use This Guide 3

Benefits of Eastern Shore Native Plants 4

Accomack and Northampton Native Plants List 6
Native plants featured in the guide are highlighted in blue on this list, organized by botanical categories.

Botanical Category Sections:

Forbs (flowers and groundcovers) 10

Grasses 16

Ferns 18

Vines 20

Shrubs 22

Trees 28

"Plant ES Natives" Demonstration Sites 32

Other Public Sites Featuring ES Natives 35

Index of Eastern Shore Native Plants in Guide 36
A quick reference to the height patterns and light requirements of native plants featured in the guide, in alpha order by Latin name.

Look for this banner at Accomack and Northampton Garden Centers ...

Dot Field/DCR

... and this tag in the pots of Eastern Shore native plants!

Dot Field/DCR

How To Use This Guide

Key to Herbaceous, Grass, Fern and Vine Sections

Passiflora incarnata - **Purple passionflower, Purple passion vine, Maypop, Apricot vine** ← *Latin name/ common name(s)*

- perennial ← *height of plant at maturity*
- up to 25 ft., with sprawls along ground
- lavender, May – Sep; orange-yellow berry ← *flower color, approximate bloom time; berry color*
- roadsides, meadows, pastures, woodland edges/opens, streams, riverbanks ← *natural habitat*
- full sun, part shade ← *light requirement*
- rich, moist, clay and sandy, non-saline soils ← *soil/moisture requirements*

ES Native alternative to:
Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle) ← *natural alternative to a non-native species of concern on Virginia's Eastern Shore*

Floral parts said to represent aspects of Christian crucifixion story, sometimes referred to as the Passion. Maypop refers to pop of berries when crushed. ← *interesting fact(s) about genus and/or species*

Benefits:
Showy ornamental for arbor and fences, walls and columns. Birds eat fruit and flower attracts butterflies.
← *Environmental, aesthetic, and economic benefits.*

Key to Shrub and Tree Sections

Photinia pyrifolia - ← *Latin name*
Synonyms: Aronia arbutifolia, Pyrus arbutifolia

← *common name(s)*
Red chokeberry, Red chokecherry

6-12 ft., multi-stemmed shrub with four-season interest. In May, flat-topped clusters of white, five-petaled flowers with red anthers appear in profusion and give way to dark green, glossy leaves that consistently turn a rich, orange-red in fall. Bright red berries appear in fall and remain until December or January and along with a reddish-brown, exfoliating bark add color to the winter landscape. ← *Description of species including height and shape; leaf, flower and berry color and bloom time; fall colors and other interesting facts*

- full sun ← *light requirement*
- moist, acidic, rich soils ← *soil/moisture requirements*

ES Native alternative to:
Ligustrum sinense (Chinese privet) ← *natural aternative to a non-native species of concern on the Virginia Eastern Shore*

Benefits:
Berries persist through much of the winter, and are occasionally eaten by songbirds.
← *a few environmental, aesthetic, and economic benefits*

Key to Terms:

Light requirement:

Full Sun - 6 or more hrs
Part shade - 2 to 6 hrs
Shade - 2 hrs or less

Soil moisture:

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

Accomack and Northampton counties are in garden zone 7 - 9.

Soil type:

Most soils on Virginia's Eastern Shore will be sandy (coarse and grainy - drains well but dries out rapidly) or a sandy-loam mix (loam is the ideal mixture of sand, clay and silt). To have your soil tested, contact the Accomack County Cooperative Extension Office at (757) 787-1361 or Northampton County Cooperative Extension Service Office at (757) 678-7946.

For more soil information and maps visit:

USDA Soil Survey - http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

Warning:

Please take extreme care when harvesting native plants for any consumptive purpose. Sometimes although one part of a plant can be harmless, another part can be poisonous or toxic. For example, the seeds of all Prunus species, found inside the fruits, contain poisonous substances and should never be eaten (e.g. Black cherry). All Ilex species may be somewhat toxic if ingested (e.g. Inkberry, American holly).

Benefits Of Eastern Shore Native Plants

Plant for the Birds and Butterflies!

Native plants are critical to the millions of migratory songbirds that visit the Eastern Shore of Virginia each spring and fall! The Eastern Shore is one of only a few rest stops along the Atlantic coast for songbirds traveling thousands of miles to their winter homes in Central and South America. That's quite a long trip for birds that can weigh as little as half an ounce! Native trees and shrubs provide the berries and insects that songbirds eat to fuel their long journeys. Native understory plants provide the greatest diversity and amount of fall fruits as well as safe cover from migrating raptors. Even the smallest yard can provide a "stopover habitat" for hungry migrants. Research by the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary has shown that a 50% increase in the density of understory vegetation results in a 50% increase in the number of migrants supported. Help make the Shore a generous rest stop!

Native plants are crucial to the large variety of butterflies that occur on Virginia's Eastern Shore! Adult butterflies are attracted to the showy flowers and nutritious nectar of native wildflowers.

The colorful Black-throated Blue Warbler is one of many songbirds which rely on the native vegetation of Virginia's Eastern Shore for food and shelter during migration.

A Eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly enjoys the nectar of Asclepias tuberosa, commonly known as Butterflyweed, Butterfly milkweed or Orange milkweed.

Many can only lay their eggs on specific species of native plants which provide essential food for their caterpillars. This is especially important for sustaining the annual Monarch butterfly migration through the Eastern Shore. By using native plants in your landscape you will not only ensure the survival of our butterflies, but will attract an abundance of these colorful visitors to your garden.

Migratory songbirds and butterflies play very important ecological and economic roles on Virginia's Eastern Shore! Songbirds consume tons of insects that would otherwise plague us, and damage our crops. Butterflies are important pollinators of the native plants the songbirds rely on. Together, they help sustain the "miracle of migration", a unique source of ecotourism almost unparalleled on the East Coast. This fall migration will continue to contribute an increasing source of revenue for the Eastern Shore's communities, if critical migratory bird stopover habitat is plentiful.

Benefits Of Eastern Shore Native Plants

Plant to Save Water, Time and Money! And Maybe Your Next Meal!

Natives can help fill your next glass of water! Groundwater is the Shore's only source of drinking water. An increase in native vegetation helps slow the speed of water and sediment running off the land. This allows the water to soak into the ground where it is filtered by plant roots and can recharge the groundwater supply.

Natives can help you save time and money! Adapted to the Shore's environment, native species are drought and disease resistant, requiring less water, fertilizers and pesticides. Native plants are extremely well suited to "low maintenance" gardening and landscaping.

Natives can help protect your next meal! Landscaped areas of native trees, shrubs and groundcover can result in 50% greater reduction of runoff compared to grass lawns, significantly reducing non-point source pollution.* This helps protect water quality in the Shore's creeks and inlets where the Shore's shellfish live (*like the native oysters in the photo above*). The Shore is the largest source of aquaculture-grown hard clams on the East Coast. In 2004, according to a Virginia Sea Grant Study, the total economic impact of hard clam aquaculture was almost 50 million dollars!

Virginia Witmer/VACZM

* *Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Handbook for the Eastern Shore of Virginia - Accomack-Northampton Planning Dsitrict Commission through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*

Please Be Aware of Invasive Non-Natives

Some non-native plants can be highly invasive or aggressive and crowd out Eastern Shore natives. These invasive species can result in the degradation of the Shore's natural communities and lead to the disruption of the local ecosystem. They are a potential threat to the Shore's natural areas, parks and other protected habitats. Staff of the Virginia Department of Conservation Division of Natural Heritage Eastern Shore Office have identified the following invasive non-native species on the market to be of particular concern on the Shore:

Ailanthus altissima – Tree of Heaven
Cynodon dactylon – Bermuda Grass
Eleagnus angustifolia – Russian Olive
Eleagnus umbellata – Autumn Olive
Festuca elatior – Tall Fescue
Hedera helix – English Ivy
Ligustrum sinense – Chinese Privet **
Lonicera japonica – Japanese honeysuckle
Melia azedarach – China Berry
Morus alba – White Mulberry
Pawlonia tomentosa – Princess Tree
Rosa multiflora – Multiflora Rose
Vinca minor – Common Periwinkle Vine
Vitex rotundifolia – Beach Vitex
Wisteria sinensis – Chinese Wisteria

Please do not plant these species! Although they may attract songbirds, they can disrupt the natural ecosystem!

For more information, including a downloadable fact sheet, about these and other invasive non-native species in Virginia, visit http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspfactsheets.shtml.

*** Please note that all privet species are potentially invasive.*

Accomack and Northampton Native Plants

The native plants featured in this guide are shaded in blue.

Forbs

Latin Name	*Common Name(s)*
Ageratina altissima (*Eupatorium rugosum*)	White snakeroot
Anemone quinquefolia	Wood anemone
Asclepias incarnata	**Swamp milkweed** *(p.10)*
Asclepias syriaca	Common milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa	**Butterfly weed** *(p.10)*
Arisaema triphyllum	Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Baptisia tinctoria	**Yellow wild-indigo** *(p.10)*
Caltha palustris	**Marsh marigold** *(p.10)*
Chelone glabra	**White turtlehead** *(p.11)*
Chrysopsis mariana	Maryland golden aster
Clitoria mariana	Maryland butterfly pea
Conoclinium coelestinum (*Eupatorium coelistinum*)	**Mistflower** *(p.11)*
Coreopsis lanceolata	**Lanceleaf coreopsis** *(p.11)*
Coreopsis tripteris	Tall coreopsis
Desmodium paniculatum	Narrow-leaf tick trefoil
Eupatorium dubium	**Coastal Plain Joe Pye weed** *(p.11)*
Eupatorium fistulosum	Joe Pye weed, Trumpetweed
Eupatorium hyssopifolium	Hyssop-leaved thoroughwort
Eupatorium perfoliatum	Common boneset
Eupatorium purpureum	Green-stemmed Joe Pye weed
Helenium autumnale	**Sneezeweed** *(p.12)*
Helianthus angustifolius	**Narrow-leaf sunflower** *(p.12)*
Hibiscus moscheutos	**Eastern rosemallow** *(p.12)*
Impatiens capensis	Jewelweed
Iris versicolor	**Blue flag** *(p.12)*
Iris virginica	Virginia blue flag
Kosteletzkya virginica	**Seashore mallow** *(p.13)*
Liatris pilosa	Grass-leaf blazing star

Latin Name	*Common Name(s)*
Lilium superbum	**Turk's cap lily** *(p.13)*
Limonium carolinianum	Sea lavender
Lobelia cardinalis	**Cardinal flower** *(p.13)*
Mimulus ringens	Monkeyflower
Mitchella repens	**Partridgeberry** *(p.13)*
Monarda fistulosa	**Wild bergamot** *(p.14)*
Monarda punctata	Spotted bee-balm
Nymphaea odorata	American water lily
Oenothera biennis	Common evening primrose
Oenothera fruticosa	**Sundrops** *(p.14)*
Opuntia humifusa	Eastern prickly-pear
Peltandra virginica	Arrow arum
Phlox paniculata	**Summer phlox** *(p.14)*
Podophyllum peltatum	Mayapple
Polygonatum biflorum	Solomon's seal
Pontederia cordata	**Pickerel weed** *(p.14)*
Rhexia virginica	Virginia meadow-beauty
Rudbeckia hirta	**Black-eyed Susan** *(p.15)*
Rudbeckia laciniata	Cut-leaved coneflower
Ruellia caroliniensis	Carolina wild petunia
Sagittaria latifolia	Broadleaf arrowhead
Salvia lyrata	Lyre-leaf sage
Sanguinaria canadensis	Bloodroot
Saururus cernuus	**Lizard's tail** *(p.15)*
Sisyrinchium angustifolium	Blue-eyed grass
Sisyrinchium atlanticum	Coastal blue-eyed grass
Solidago caesia	Bluestem goldenrod
Solidago odora	Sweet goldenrod
Solidago sempervirens	**Seaside goldenrod** *(p.15)*
Symphyotrichum novi-begii	**New York aster** *(p.15)*

Latin Name	*Common Name(s)*
Forbs *Cont'd*	
Verbesina alternifolia	Yellow ironweed
Vernonia noveboracensis	New York ironweed
Viola cucullata	Marsh blue violet
Yucca filamentosa	Common yucca
Grasses/Sedges/Rushes	
Ammophila breviligulata	**American beach grass** *(p.16)*
Andropogon gerardii	Big bluestem
Andropogon glomeratus	**Bushy bluestem** *(p.16)*
Andropogon virginicus	**Broomsedge** *(p.16)*
Carex stricta	**Tussock sedge** *(p.16)*
Distichlis spicata	Salt grass
Dulichium arundinaceum	Three-sided sedge - Dwarf bamboo
Elymus virginicus	Virginia wild rye
Festuca rubra	Red fescue
Juncus canadensis	Canada rush
Juncus effusus	**Soft rush** *(p.17)*
Juncus roemerianus	Black needlerush
Panicum amarum	**Coastal panic grass** *(p.17)*
Panicum virgatum	**Switch grass** *(p.17)*
Saccharum giganteum	Giant plumegrass
Schizachyrium scoparium	**Little bluestem** *(p.17)*
Sparganium americanum	American bur-reed
Spartina alterniflora	Salt marsh cordgrass
Spartina cynosuroides	Big cordgrass
Spartina patens	Salt meadow hay
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass
Zizania aquatica	Wild rice

Latin Name	*Common Name(s)*
Ferns	
Asplenium platyneuron	Ebony spleetwort
Athyrium filix-femina	**Northern lady fern** *(p.18)*
Botrychium virginianum	Rattlesnake fern
Dryopteris cristata	Crested wood fern
Dryopteris intermedia	**Evergreen fern** *(p.18)*
Onoclea sensibilis	**Sensitive fern** *(p.18)*
Osmunda cinnamomea	***Cinnamon fern*** *(p.18)*
Osmunda claytoniana	Interrupted fern
Osmunda regalis	**Royal fern** *(p.19)*
Polystichum acrostichoides	**Christmas fern** *(p.19)*
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken fern
Thelypteris noveboracensis	New York fern
Thelypteris palustris	**Marsh fern** *(p.19)*
Woodwardia areolata	Netted chain fern
Woodwardia virginica	**Virginia chain fern** *(p.19)*
Vines	
Bignonia capreolata	**Crossvine** *(p.20)*
Campsis radicans	**Trumpet Creeper** *(p.20)*
Celastrus scandens	American bittersweet
Clematis virginiana	**Virgin's bower** *(p.20)*
Gelsemium sempervirens	**Carolina jasmine** *(p.20)*
Lonicera sempervirens	**Trumpet honeysuckle** *(p.21)*
Mikania scandens	Climbing hempvine
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	**Virginia creeper** *(p.21)*
Passiflora incarnata	**Passion flower** *(p.21)*
Wisteria frutescens	**Atlantic wisteria** *(p.21)*

Accomack and Northampton Native Plants

The native plants featured in this guide are shaded in blue.

Latin Name	*Common Name(s)*
Shrubs	
Alnus serrulata	**Common alder** *(p.22)*
Baccharis halimifolia	**High tide bush/groundsel tree** *(p.22)*
Callicarpa americana	**American beautyberry** *(p.22)*
Cephalanthus occidentalis	**Buttonbush** *(p.22)*
Clethra alnifolia	**Sweet pepper bush** *(p.23)*
Gaultheria procumbens	Wintergreen
Gaylussacia baccata	Black huckleberry
Gaylussacia frondosa	Dangleberry
Hamamelis virginiana	**Witch hazel** *(p.23)*
Ilex decidua	Possomhaw
Ilex glabra	**Inkberry** *(p.23)*
Ilex verticillata	**Winterberry** *(p.23)*
Ilex vomitoria	**Yaupon holly** *(p.24)*
Itea virginica	**Virginia willow** *(p.24)*
Iva frutescens	**Marsh elder** *(p.24)*
Kalmia angustifolia	Sheep laurel
Kalmia latifolia	Mountain laurel
Leucothoe racemosa	Fetterbush, Sweetbells
Lindera benzoin	**Spicebush** *(p.24)*
Lyonia ligustrina	Male berry
Morella (Myrica) cerifera	**Southern wax myrtle** *(p.25)*
Morella (Myrica) pensylvanica	Northern bayberry
Persea palustris (borbonia)	**Red bay** *(p.25)*
Photinia pyrifolia *(Aronia arbutifolia, Pyrus arbutiflolia)*	**Red chokeberry** *(p.25)*
Rhododendron atlanticum	**Coast azalea** *(p.25)*
Rhododendron periclymenoides	Pinxter Flower
Rhododendron viscosum	**Swamp azalea** *(p.26)*
Rhus copallinum	Winged sumac
Rhus glabra	Smooth sumac
Rosa carolina	Pasture rose
Rosa palustris	**Swamp rose** *(p.26)*
Salix sericea	Silky willow
Sambucus canadensis	**Common elderberry** *(p.26)*
Stewartia malacodendron	**Silky camelia** *(p.26)*
Vaccinium corymbosum	**Highbush blueberry** *(p.27)*
Vaccinium macrocarpon	Cranberry
Vaccinium pallidum	**Early lowbush blueberry** *(p.27)*
Vaccinium stamineum	Deerberry
Viburnum dentatum	**Southern Arrowood** *(p.27)*
Viburnum nudum	Naked arrowod
Viburnum prunifolium	**Black-haw viburnum** *(p.27)*
Small Trees	
Amelanchier arborea	**Downy serviceberry** *(p.28)*
Amelanchier canadensis	Canada serviceberry
Asimina triloba	Pawpaw
Betula nigra	**River birch** *(p.28)*
Cercis canadensis	**Redbud** *(p.28)*
Castanea pumila	Chinkapin
Chionanthus virginicus	**Fringetree** *(p.29)*
Cornus amomum	**Silky dogwood** *(p.29)*
Cornus florida	Flowering dogwood
Crataegus crus-galli	Corkspur hawthorn
Morus rubra	Red mulberry
Ostrya virginiana	Eastern hop-hornbeam
Prunus americana	American wild plum
Salix nigra	**Black willow** *(p.31)*

Latin Name	*Common Name(s)*
Medium to Large Trees	
Acer negundo	Box elder
Acer rubrum	Red maple
Carya alba	Mockernut hickory
Carya glabra	Pignut hickory
Carya ovata	Shagbark hickory
Celtis occidentalis	**Hackberry** *(p.28)*
Diospyros virginiana	**Persimmon** *(p.29)*
Fagus grandifolia	American beech
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Green ash
Ilex opaca	**American holly** *(p.29)*
Juglans nigra	Black walnut
Juniperus virginiana	**Eastern red cedar** *(p.30)*
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum
Liriodendron tulipifera	**Tulip-tree** *(p.30)*
Magnolia virginiana	**Sweetbay magnolia** *(p.30)*
Nyssa aquatica	Water tupelo
Nyssa sylvatica	**Black gum** *(p.30)*
Oxydendrum arboreum	Sourwood
Pinus echinata	Shortleaf pine
Pinus taeda	Loblolly pine
Pinus virginiana	Virginia pine
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore
Prunus serotina	**Wild black cherry** *(p.31)*
Quercus alba	White oak
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet oak
Quercus falcata	**Southern red oak** *(p.31)*
Quercus marilandica	Blackjack oak
Quercus michauxii	Swamp chestnut oak
Quercus nigra	Water oak
Quercus phellos	Willow oak
Quercus rubra	Northern red oak
Quercus stellata	Post oak
Quercus velutina	Black oak
Sassafras albidum	**Sassafras** *(p.31)*
Taxodium distichum	Bald cypress

Links to more photos and information about the plants in this guide:

USDA Plants Database (United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service) - http://plants.usda.gov/

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Native Plants for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) - http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/toc.htm

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Austin - http://www.wildflower.org/

Flora of North Amercia - http://www.fna.org/

The Flora of Virginia Project - http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/vaflora.shtml (Information on development of project)

Forbs

Asclepias incarnata - Swamp milkweed

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial
- 4 - 6 ft.
- pink, purple; May - Aug
- wet freshwater areas: meadow, field, riparian area, swamp, marsh
- full sun, part shade
- moist/wet, rich soils (good plant for wetland gardens)

ES Native Alternative to:
Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife)

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

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

Asclepias tuberosa - Butterflyweed, Butterfly or Orange milkweed

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial
- 1 - 3 ft.
- yellow-orange to bright orange; May - Sep
- open woods
- full sun, part shade
- moist or dry, well-drained sandy soils (tolerates drought)

Benefits:
As its common name suggests, Butterfly weed attracts butterflies, and is a larval host and nectar source for the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

Although it is sometimes called Orange Milkweed, this species has no milky sap. Butterfly weed makes a delightful cut flower.

Baptisia tinctoria - Yellow wild indigo

Ken Lawless

- perennial
- 1 - 3 ft.
- yellow pea-like; May - Sep
- dry open woods and clearings
- full sun
- dry, loam, sandy, acidic soils

Benefits:
A larval host for Frosted elfin (*Callophrys irus*) and Wild indigo duskywing (*Erynnis baptisiae*) butterflies.

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

Caltha palustris - Cowslip, Yellow marsh marigold

Irvine Wilson/DCR

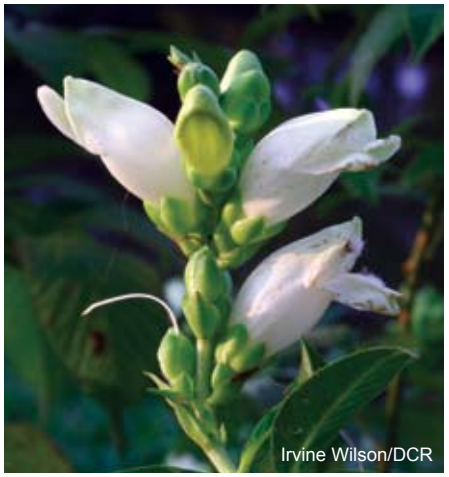
- perennial
- 1 - 2 ft.
- shiny yellow; May - Jun
- wet woods; marshy hollows; stream edges
- part shade, shade
- wet or moist, humus-rich, acidic soils

Benefits:
Nectar source for butterflies.

Warning:
Plant juices can cause blistering or inflammation on skin or mucous membranes on contact, and gastric illness if ingested.

Marsh marigold requires little care other than protection from drying and winter and early spring winds. The flowers resemble large buttercups rather than marigolds. The name Caltha derives from the Greek for cup (calyx), describing the open flowers.

Chelone glabra - White turtlehead


Irvine Wilson/DCR

- perennial
- 1 - 4 ft.
- white, pink; Jul - Sep
- brushy marshes; stream banks; wet ditches; low meadows; woodlands
- full sun, part shade, shade
- light, rich, wet to moist soils

The distinctive shape of this flower is reflected in the genus name, derived from the Greek chelone (a tortoise).

Benefits:
Nectar source for butterflies.

Conoclinum coelestinum - Blue mistflower

Synonym: Eupatorium celestinum

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial
- 1 - 3.5 ft.
- bright blue or violet; July - Nov
- wood margins; stream banks; low woods; wet meadows; ditches
- full sun, part shade
- moist, loam, sandy or clay soils

Blue mistflower is a colonizing groundcover. It spreads quickly and is good for areas with poor drainage.

Benefits:
Fluffy-edged flowers are a magnet for late-season butterflies.

Coreopsis lanceolata - Lanceleaf coreopsis or tickseed, Sand coreopsis

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial
- 1 - 2.5 ft.
- yellow; May - June
- open woodlands; meadows; pastures
- full sun, part shade, shade
- dry, sandy, gravelly, well-drained, acid-based soils

Grows in small clumps but forms extensive colonies. It is the most common native coreopsis, easy to grow and drought tolerant. It prefers sun and should have frequent deadheading to keep it in bloom well into the summer.

Benefits:
Attractive ground cover for harsh sunny conditions. Its seeds are a favorite food for goldfinches.

Eupatorium dubium - Dwarf Joe-Pye weed, Little Joe

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial
- 2 - 5 ft.
- purple, rarely white; Jul - Oct
- swamps, bogs, marshes, swales
- full sun, part shade
- moist, usually sandy acidic soil

Other identifying marks for eastern Joe-Pye weed are the fine purple spots on the stem, and the dome-shaped flower clusters (as opposed to the flat-topped clusters of spotted Joe-Pye weed). While the flower heads last a long time, this is one perennial that does not re-bloom if you remove spent blossoms so leave old flower heads on the plant and let them go to seed.

Benefits:
Flowers attract butterflies, especially swallowtails and monarchs. Fluffy seed heads provide nesting materials for birds.

Forbs

Helenium autumnale - Common sneezeweed, Fall sneezeweed

Gary Fleming/DCR

- perennial
- 1.5 - 5 ft.
- yellow; Jul - Nov
- open areas along streams & ponds; wet meadows
- full sun
- moist soils

Sneezeweed does not derive its common name from the effects of its pollen. The common name is based on the former use of its dried leaves in making snuff, inhaled to cause sneezing that would supposedly rid the body of evil spirits.

Benefits:
Attracts butterflies. A beautiful addition to your landscape with many elongate leaves and numerous flower heads.

Helianthus angustifolius - Swamp sunflower, Narrow-leaf sunflower

Ken Lawless

- perennial
- 1.5 - 5.5 ft.
- yellow; Aug - Oct
- flood plains; bottomland
- full sun, part shade
- wet, sandy, loam or clay, acidic soils

Part of the Asteraceae family in which there are about 920 genera and 19,000 species including Cosmos, Sunflower, Zinnia and Dahlia.

Benefits:
Attracts birds and are very beautiful in bouquets.

Hibiscus moscheutos - Eastern rosemallow, Crimson-eyed rosemallow, Marshmallow hibiscus

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial
- 3 - 8 ft.
- creamy-white flowers; Jul - Sep
- swampy forests; wet meadows; freshwater marsh edges
- full sun, part shade
- wet or moist alkaline soils

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

Benefits:
Strikingly showy species that is a nectar source for hummingbirds.

Iris versicolor - Harlequin blueflag, Northern blue flag

Ken Lawless

- perennial
- 2 - 3 ft.
- shades of purple; May - Aug
- meadows; stream banks; marshes; swamps
- full sun, part shade
- wet or moist, acidic soils (can tolerate complete submergence)

From the middle English flagge, meaning rush or reed. Flowers have symbolized power, with the three parts representing wisdom, faith and courage.

Benefits:
Attracts hummingbirds and birds. Insects attracted to the sepals must crawl under the tip of a style and brush past a stigma and stamen, thus facilitating pollination.

Kosteletzkya virginica - Virginia saltmarsh mallow, Virginia fen-rose, Seashore marsh-mallow

- perennial
- 1.5 - 4.5 ft., spreads to 4 ft. in width
- light pink; Jun - Oct
- brackish marshes; coastal plains; swamps
- full sun
- moist - prefers sand, but will tolerate clay soils
  (moderately salt tolerant, though does best with high acidity)

ES Native Alternative to:
Altheae officianalis, or Common Marsh Mallow

Flowers close at night.

Great for color in late summer through fall. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Lilium superbum - Turk's-cap lily

- perennial
- 4 - 8 ft.
- red, orange, yellow; Jul - Sep
- wet meadows; swamps; and woods
- full sun
- moist, loam, sand, acidic soils (good drainage essential)

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

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

Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal flower

- perennial
- 1 - 6 ft.
- red; July - Oct
- low areas, woodlands edge, stream banks, roadsides, meadows
- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist to wet, humus-rich, sandy & clay soils

The common name of this flower alludes to the bright red robes worn by Roman Catholic cardinals.

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

Mitchella repens - Partridgeberry, Twinberry, Running box

- perennial
- .5 ft., creeping
- pinkish-white, trumpet; May - Jul; red berry in July - Dec
- dry or moist woods; stream banks;
- sandy slopes
- part shade, shade
  moist or dry, humus-rich, sandy or

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

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

Forbs

Monarda fistulosa - **Wild bergamot, Beebalm**

- perennial
- 2 - 4 ft., can reach 6 ft.
- lavender, pink, white; May - Sep
- open woods; fields; meadows; ditches; edges of woods/marshes
- full sun, part shade
- well-drained but moist, acid to lime, rich to poor, sand to clay soils

Genus Monarda named in honor of a 16th century Spanish physician and botanist, Nicolas Bautista Monardes (1493-1588). Fistulosa means tubular. Aromatic leaves used to make mint tea.

Benefits:
Drought and heat tolerant. Attracts birds, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Very easy to start from seed.

Oenothera fruticosa - **Narrowleaf Evening-primrose, Sundrops**

- perennial
- 1 - 3 t.
- golden-yellow; May - Sep
- dry woods; roadsides; meadows
- full sun
- moist, acidic, well-drained soils (tolerant of brackish and lime soils)

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

Benefits:
Attracts birds and hummingbirds.

Phlox paniculata - **Summer phlox, Garden phlox**

- perennial
- 1.5 - 6.5 ft.
- pink, purple; Jun - Oct
- open woods; thickets; meadows; moist roadsides
- full sun
- moist, organic, loam soils

The very similar Large-leaved Phlox (P. amplifolia) has a hairy stem, only 6-15 leaf pairs below the flower cluster, and a hairless corolla tube and is found in the southern Appalachian Mountains.

Benefits:
Beautiful ornamental flower that attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Pontederia cordata - **Pickerelweed, Pickerel weed**

- perennial
- 3 - 3.5 ft.
- deep blue; Jun - Nov
- shallow, quiet water; freshwater marshes, up to a foot under water
- full sun, part shade
- wet or moist, sandy, loam or clay soils

ES Native Alternative to:
Eichhornia crassipes (common water hyacinth)

The flowers bloom in succession from the bottom up. The seeds can be eaten like nuts and the young leaf-stalks cooked as greens.

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

Rudbeckia hirta - **Black-eyed Susan, Brown-eyed Susan**

- annual
- 1 - 3.5 ft.
- bright-yellow; Jun - Oct
- meadows; pastures; woodland edges
- full sun, part shade, shade (may bloom longer with some afternoon shade)
- moist to dry, well-drained acidic soils (drought tolerant)

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.)

Benefits:
Cheerful blossoms liven up bouquets. Birds enjoy the ripe seeds. Nectar attracts bees, butterflies.

Saururus cernuus - **Lizard's tail, Lizard's-tail**

- perennial
- 1.5 - 4 ft.
- white; May - Sep
- still water; wet lowlands; stream edges
- part shade, shade
- wet, moist, muddy soils (aquatic - up to 4 in. inundation)

The common name and the genus name, from the Greek sauros (lizard) and oura (tail), depict the shape of the drooping flower cluster. Crushed foliage has a pleasant, sassafras aroma.

Benefits:
Great spreading groundcover for moist soils, shallow water, and containers. Good for wetland gardens and habitat. Colonizes large areas. Attracts birds.

Solidago sempervirens - **Seaside goldenrod**

- perennial
- 2 - 8 ft.
- deep-yellow; Jul - Nov
- saline places along the coast (resistant to salt spray)
- full sun
- moist, sandy soils

Pinch the growing tips in June for a more compact plant. This goldenrod does not spread by rhizomes or become invasive.

Benefits:
Attracts birds and migrating Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*).

Symphyotrichum novi-belgii - **New York aster**

- perennial
- 1 - 4.5 ft.
- purple, blue-violet; Jul - Oct
- meadow; field
- full sun
- moist, loam soil

Benefits:
Showy ornamental flower that attracts butterflies. A larval host to the Pearl Crescent butterfly (*Phyciodes tharos*).

Grasses

Ammophila breviligulata - American beach grass

- perennial
- 1.5 - 5 ft.
- yellow; Jul - Sep
- back beaches; sand dunes
- full sun
- dry, sandy

Most common dune plant along much of the Atlantic Coast. Instrumental in building dunes. Very salt tolerant. Ammophila means sand lover.

Benefits:
Important dune stabilizer. It can withstand burial within a shifting dune by sending up vertical rhizomes that produce new emerging stems.

Andropogon glomeratus - Bushy or Brushy bluestem

- perennial
- 2 - 5 ft.
- white, brown; Aug - Nov
- low, moist grassland areas (poor drainage okay, even preferred)
- full sun
- wet or moist, relatively sterile, sandy, clay or loam soils (tolerates salinity)

Perhaps best for large-scale gardens and landscapes, as it seeds out heavily and may fall over once it reaches maximum height.

Benefits:
Seed and nesting material for birds. Can be a luxurious addition to a fall flower display and is ideal for wetland gardens.

Andropogon virginicus - Broomsedge bluestem, Broom-sedge

- perennial
- 1 - 3 ft.
- yellow, reddish-brown; Aug - Nov
- dry fields; thin woods; upper shores of ponds
- part shade
- moist or dry, sandy soils

Striking in fall and winter when the fine hairs of the expanded racemes catch the sunlight. This clump-forming grass turns a tawny brown in fall.

Benefits:
Helps control erosion on distrurbed lands and provides cover, nesting material, and seeds food for birds.

Carex stricta - Tussock sedge, Upright sedge, Uptight sedge

- perennial
- 1 - 3 ft., 3 ft. wide
- greenish/brownish spikes; Apr - Aug
- acid or neutral swamps; low woods; seasonally flooded sites
- full sun
- wet, moist soil

Harvested for insulation in ice packing houses and used for rug making. This sedge has a distinctive, elevated tussock (dense tuft).

Benefits:
Excellent nesting habitat for rails and snipes.

Juncus effusus - Common rush, Soft rush

- perennial
- 1 - 4 ft.
- small, greenish-brown; Jun - Sep
- swamps; damp open ground
- full sun
- wet or moist, clay, sandy or loam soils

Benefits:
Birds find shelter among the stems. Provides very good shoreline protection.

Panicum amarum - Beachgrass, Bitter or Coastal panic grass

- perennial
- 1 - 3 ft.
- Aug - Oct
- coastal shores and dunes
- full sun
- dry or moist, loam, sandy soil

Very salt tolerant. Adapted to very dry sterile sites. It can withstand periods of extended drought and is somewhat winter hardy.

Benefits:
Attracts birds.

Panicum virgatum - Switchgrass, Wand panic grass

- perennial
- 3 - 6 ft.
- red-purple seedhead; Aug - Oct
- open areas; stream banks
- full sun, part shade
- dry to moist, sandy, clay or loam soils (poor drainage okay)

ES Native Alternative to:
Schedonorus phoenix (tall fescue)

The rich, yellow-colored clumps last throughout the winter. Pollinated by wind.

Benefits:
Seeds eaten by songbirds. Provides cover, nesting material. Larval host to Delaware Skipper (*Anatrytone logan*).

Schizachyrium scoparium - Little bluestem

- perennial
- very dense mounds at 1.5 - 4 ft.
- white seedhead; Aug - Oct
- woodland edges; hillsides; slopes; open areas
- full sun, part shade
- dry, well-drained, sandy, clay or loam soils

Wonderful planted en masse, the visual dynamics this grass provides ranges from blue-green stems in late summer to radiant mahogany-red with white cotton-tufted seedheads in fall. A reddish-tan color persists through winter.

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

Ferns

Athyrium filix-femina - Common ladyfern, Lady fern

Gary Fleming/DCR

- perennial (deciduous)
- 1 - 3 ft.
- non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- forest; woodland; wet meadow; swamp; marsh
- part shade, shade
- wet, moist, humus-rich, sandy, loam, soils

Its light-green color and fronds create the illusion of a dainty fern, despite its large size.

Dryopteris intermedia - Intermediate woodfern, Evergreen wood-fern, Fancy wood fern

Alan Cressler

- perennial (evergreen)
- up to 10 inches, lacy foliage
- forest; woodland; swamp
- shade
- moist, organic, humus enriched soils

Benefits:
Good choice for deep shade.

Onoclea sensibilis - Sensitive fern, Bead fern, Sympathy fern

Alli Baird

- perennial (deciduous)
- few inches to more than 3 ft.
- non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- woodlands; floodplains; stream banks; swamps; marshes
- part shade, shade
- moist to wet, loose, sandy, loam, acidic soils

Fiddleheads appear in the spring in shades of pale red. The roots colonize but are usually shallow, though hefty. The stalks of this fern are said to have a decorative, beaded appearance, lending the plant one of its common names.

Benefits:
Shelters salamanders and frogs and attracts birds. Cut fronds good for dried flower arrangements.

Osmunda cinnamomea - Cinnamon fern

Ken Lawless

- perennial (deciduous)
- 6 ft.
- non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- boggy areas; shaded ledges
- full sun, part shade, shade
- muddy, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils

Bristly root crown, called osmunda fiber, used as a potting medium for orchids. Thick spore-bearing spikes, that turn from green to chocolate brown, appear Apr - May.

Benefits:
Dramatic landscape accent. Fuzz which covers the young fiddleheads is a favorite nesting material for birds.

Osmunda regalis - Royal fern

Ken Lawless

- perennial (deciduous)
- 2 - 5 ft. high, 18 in. wide
- non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- freshwater wetlands; stream banks
- part shade, shade
- wet, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils (tolerates yr-round shallow water)

The form and texture of this fern is unique - foliage resembles that of the pea family. Delicate, bright green fronds, often with a silvery cast, are crowned with golden, fruiting pinnae on wine-colored petioles.

Benefits:
Attractive color.

Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas fern

Irvine Wilson/DCR

- perennial (evergreen)
- fronds 1 - 3 ft., taller when fertile
- non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- rocky woods; stream banks; swamps; thickets
- part shade, shade
- moist, well-drained, humus-rich, sandy, acidic soils (does not tolerate standing water)

Christmas fern got its name because it stays green right through the holiday season.

Benefits:
Good, evergreen border or accent plant.

Thelypteris palustris Schott - Eastern marsh fern, Marsh fern

Alan Cressler

- perennial (deciduous)
- non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- swamps; wet fields or thickets; wooded streambanks
- full sun
- wet, clay, loam, sandy soils

Benefits:
Attracts birds.

Woodwardia virginica - Virginia chain fern, Virginia chainfern

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial (deciduous)
- 2 - 3 ft.
- non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- swamps; still water; waterway banks
- part shade
- moist to wet, sandy, medium or clay loam, acidic soils

The frond turns bronze in the fall. This fern will quickly take over a small garden. It is best planted in large, water-logged areas where little else will grow.

Vines

Bignonia capreolata - Crossvine

Irvine Wilson/DCR

- perennial (evergreen)
- 36 - 50 ft.
- red, yellow; Mar - May
- full sun, part shade (best flowers in sun)
- moist, well-drained, acidic or calcareous, sandy or clay soils (cold tolerant, tolerates brief flooding)

ES Native alternative to:
Hedera helix (English ivy)
Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)

Benefits:
Showy ornamental with glossy leaves and showy, two-tone, trumpet flowers. An early nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.

Claws at the end of its tendrils allow crossvine to cling to stone, bricks and fences without support.

Campsis radicans

Synonyms: *Bignonia radicans* -

Trumpet creeper or vine

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial (deciduous)
- up to 35 ft.
- red, orange; Jun - Sep
- in trees of moist woods or along fence rows in old fields
- full sun
- well-drained, sandy, loam, clay soils (high drought tolerance)

ES Native alternative to:
Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)
Melia azedarach (Chinaberry tree)
Wisteria sinensis (Chinese wisteria)

Benefits:
Attractive flowers. Its bright trumpet-shaped flowers beckon hummingbirds. With its vigorous growth habits, trumpet vine is a good soil stabilizer.

Cut back branches to two buds in the winter to encourage bushier growth and more blooms.

Clematis virginiana - Virgin's bower, Devil's darning needles, Old man's beard

W.D. Bransford/LBJ Wildflower Center

- perennial (deciduous)
- 12-15 ft.
- white; Jul - Sep
- woods; thickets; stream banks
- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist to dry, rich soils

Benefits:
Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Clematis virginiana has clusters of creamy white flowers turning into showy clusters of silky seeds that glisten with backlighting. Lacking tendrils, the vine supports itself by means of twisted stems, or petioles, that wrap around other plants. These fast-growing stems can grow 20 ft. in one year. They may be pruned at any time during the growing season.

Gelsemium sempervirens - Carolina jasmine, Yellow jessamine, Evening trumpetflower

Irvine Wilson/DCR

- perennial (evergreen)
- 10 - 20 ft
- yellow; Jan - May, Dec
- dry to wet thickets; woods; fence rows or hammocks
- full sun, part shade (best in sun)
- moist, well-drained, humus-rich, sandy or clay soils (pH adaptable, heat/cold tolerant)

ES Native alternative to:
Hedera helix (English ivy)
Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)

Benefits:
Aromatic, showy evergreen vine whose flowers attract hummingbirds and Swallowtail butterflies.

It is quite adaptable and tenacious, with no serious disease or insect problems. All parts of this plant are toxic.

Lonicera sempervirens - Coral honeysuckle, Trumpet honeysuckle

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial (evergreen)
- 3 - 20 ft.
- red outer, sometimes yellow inner, Mar - Jun followed by bright-red berries
- full sun (best), part shade
  sandy and clay, but rich, moist soils preferred, lime and acidic soil okay (tolerates poor drainage for short periods)

ES Native alternative to:
Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)

The species name refers to its evergreen habit.

Benefits:
Frequently visited by hummingbirds and butterflies. Fruits attract Purple finch, goldfinch, Hermit thrush, and American robin. This beautiful vine is great for arbors.

Parthenocissus quinquefolia - Virginia creeper

Dot Field/DCR

- perennial (deciduous)
- 3 - 40 ft.
- yellowish-green; May - Jun
- open woodlands, shaded woods, stream, riverbanks
- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist, well-drained, sand, loam, clay soils

ES Native alternative to:
Hedera helix (English ivy)
Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)

A vigorous grower, it tolerates most soils and climatic conditions. Unlike some climbing vines, it adheres via adhesive discs rather than penetrating rootlets.

Benefits:
Birds eat fruit through the winter. Leaves turn brilliant mauve, red and purple and provides attractive early fall color. Berries turn from red to blue to black.

Passiflora incarnata - Purple passionflower, Maypop, Purple passion vine

Ken Lawless

- perennial
- up to 25 ft., with sprawls on ground
- lavender; Apr - Sep; orange-yellow berry
- roadsides, meadows, woodland edges/opens, streams, riverbanks
- full sun, part shade
- moist, rich, clay and sandy, non-saline soils

ES Native alternative to:
Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)

Floral parts said to represent aspects of Christian crucifixion story, sometimes referred to as the Passion. Maypop refers to pop of the berries when crushed.

Benefits:
Showy ornamental for arbor and fences, walls and columns. Birds eat fruit and flower attracts butterflies.

Wisteria frutescens - American wisteria

Phillip Merritt

- perennial (deciduous)
- 25 - 30 ft.
- lilac or bluish purple; May - Jun
- moist or wet woods; river banks; upland thickets
- full sun, part shade, 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)

Large, fragrant, drooping clusters of flowers - 6–9 inches long - appear only on new wood and after the plant has leafed out, a difference from the popular Asian species. This species is less aggressive than the similar Asian species.

Benefits:
Attracts butterflies. Larval host to Zarucco duskywing skipper (*Erynnis zarucco*).

Shrubs

Alnus serrulata - Hazel or Smooth alder, Common alder

A 12 - 20 ft., multiple-trunked, deciduous shrub with a shiny gray-brown bark. Summer foliage is dark green and glossy, becoming yellow, tinged with red, in fall. Flowers are purple catkins; males in drooping clusters, females in upright clusters (Mar - Apr). The fruit resembles a small, woody cone and persists Aug - Feb. Commonly found at edge of water - very flood tolerant.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- wet or moist, fine sandy loams, and mucks

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

Benefits:
Use to improve wildlife habitat (space 5-10 ft. apart to allow for crown development and to optimize seed production).

Baccharis halimifolia - Groundsel tree, Sea-myrtle, Salt myrtle, Salt marsh-elder, Salt bush alder

A 6 - 12 ft. deciduous shrub bearing gray-green oval leaves. Numerous branches from short trunks are covered densely with branchlets. White to green flowers (Aug - Oct) occur in small, dense, terminal clusters. Silvery, plume-like achenes resembling silvery paintbrushes appear in the fall on female plants.

- full sun, part shade
- wet to dry, sandy, loam soils

ES Native Alternative to:
Elaeagnus umbellata (autumn olive)

In the aster family with Iva frutescens (Marsh elder) - both can reach tree size. Baccharis ancient Greek name (the god Bacchus) of a plant with fragrant roots.

Benefits:
Tolerant of saltwater spray, its one of the few eastern shrubs suitable for planting near the ocean. Marsh wrens and other small birds frequently nest in the openly branched, brittle stems.

Callicarpa americana - American beautyberry, French mulberry

A 3 - 6 ft. deciduous understory shrub with a loose and graceful arching form and small and pink flowers (Jun - Aug) in dense clusters at the bases of the leaves. In fall and early winter, branches are laden with magenta purple berry clusters (Sep - Mar) that look spectacular as the leaves drop in autumn. Useful as a screen in wet or wooded locations or under shade trees in a garden setting.

- part shade
- moist, rich, sandy and clay, acidic soils
  (cold and heat tolerant)

Benefits:
Seeds and berries are important foods for many species of birds. Valuable for edge landscapes and requires little maintenance.

Cephalanthus occidentalis - Buttonbush, Button willow

A 6 - 12 ft. spreading, multi-branched evergreen shrub or sometimes small tree with many branches (often crooked and leaning), irregular crown, balls of long-lasting (Jun - Sep), white or pale-pink flowers resembling pincushions, and button-like balls of fruit - rounded masses of nutlets that persist through the winter.

- part shade, shade
- wet, sandy and clay soils
  (poor drainage or standing water okay)

Benefits:
Ducks and other water birds and shorebirds consume the seeds and its nectar attracts bees and butterflies.

Clethra alnifolia - Coastal sweet pepperbush

Gary Fleming/DCR

A narrow, 6 - 12 ft., deciduous shrub, which often spreads into mounded clumps and has spike-like, upright clusters of fragrant white flowers (Jul - Aug). The shrub's leaves turn dull yellow to orange in fall. This shrub forms sizable patches. Its dry fruiting capsules remain long after flowering and help identify this plant in winter.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- wet to moist, acidic soils (salt-spray tolerant)

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

Hamamelis virginiana - Witch hazel, American witch hazel

Gary Fleming/DCR

This 10 - 15 ft., up to 30 ft., shrub is often multi-trunked. Its large, crooked, spreading branches form an irregular, open crown. The floral display of witch hazel is unique. Its fragrant, yellow flowers with strap-like, crumpled petals appear in the fall, persisting for some time after leaf drop (Sep – Dec). Lettuce-green, deciduous leaves maintain a rich consistency into fall when they turn brilliant gold. Bark is smooth and gray.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist, sandy, clay, acidic and calcareous soils

Benefits:
Birds eat the fruits (small brown capsules). Very aromatic. Commercial witch-hazel is an alcohol extract of witch-hazel bark.

ES Native Alternative to:
Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian olive)

Ilex glabra - Inkberry, Gallberry

Ken Lawless

A 6 - 12 ft. mound-shaped, colony-forming shrub. Lance-shaped, glossy, leathery leaves vary in color from dark- to light-green both in summer and fall. Inconspicuous white flowers (May – Jul) are followed by black berries which persist well into winter.

- part shade
- wet, moist, sandy to peaty, acid soils (flood tolerant)

ES Native Alternative to:
Ligustrum sinense (Chinese privet)

Benefits:
Pest free. High wildlife value.

Ilex verticillata - Common winterberry, Michigan holly, Black alder

Gary Fleming/DCR

A 3 - 10 ft. globular, upright, medium-sized shrub. Its leaves are not shaped with sharp teeth like other hollies and are not evergreen. The purplish-green foliage turns black, in fact, with the first frost. The inconspicuous flowers (Apr - Jul) are followed by dense clusters of bright red berries that remain on the branches throughout winter.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist, sandy, clay, acidic soils

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

Shrubs

Ilex vomitoria - Yaupon, Yaupon holly, Cassina

Dot Field/DCR

A 12 - 25 ft., upright, single- or multi-trunked evergreen shrub. Female plants produce very large amounts of bright red berries. The leaves are small, dark-green, usually less than 1 1/2 in. Flowers are white (Apr - May). The pale gray bark is marked with white patches.

- part shade
- various sandy, clay and limestone soils (tolerates drought and poor drainage, best production of fruit with half day of sun or more)

Indian tribes traveled to the coast in large numbers each spring to partake of the caffeinated leaves as a tonic.

Benefits:
Good late winter source of food for many bird species. Shiny green leaves and red berries are a favorite Christmas decoration.

Itea virginica - Virginia willow, Virginia sweetspire, Tassel-white

Gary Fleming/DCR

A 6 - 10 ft. mound-shaped, slender-branched, deciduous shrub. Small, white flowers bloom (Apr - Jun) in 4 in. spires that droop with the arching branches. Flowers open from base to tip so that the plant appears to bloom for a long time. Leaves turn red to purple in fall and persist well into the winter.

- full sun, part shade
- moist, sandy, loam, clay, acid soils (blooms best, better fall color if it receives full sun at least part of the day; can grow in areas of poor drainage)

Benefits:
Flowers and fall foliage make this an attractive ornamental. Most effective in massed plantings.

Iva frutescens - Marsh elder, High-tide bush, High-water shrub, Jesuit's bark

Dot Field/DCR

A 2 - 10 ft. succulent, bushy-branched shrub, with opposite, pubescent, narrowly lance-shaped leaves. Greenish-white flowers occur singly in upper leaf axils (Aug - Oct). Naturally grows in the mid to high salt marsh-estuarine area and back dunes, and commonly occurs with groundsel tree to form the salt bush community.

- full sun
- moist to wet, saline soils

Often confused with Baccharis halimifolia whose leaves are alternately arranged on the stem rather than oppositely arranged. Both species are in the aster family and can reach tree size.

Benefits:
Attractive shrub for wet, salty areas that will support little other vegetation. Requires little to no care but can be pruned and shaped regularly.

Lindera benzoin - Northern spicebush, Spicebush

Ken Lawless

A 6 - 16 ft., single- or few-stemmed, fast-growing, deciduous shrub, with glossy leaves and graceful, slender, light green branches. Dense clusters of tiny, pale yellow flowers bloom in April before the leaves form globose (spherical) buds along the twigs. Flowers occur in umbel-like clusters and are followed by glossy red fruit (Sept-Oct). Fruit and foliage are aromatic. Leaves turn a golden-yellow in fall with some sun.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist, sandy, well-drained soils (better form, more berries with sun)

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

ES Native Alternative to:
Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian olive)
Ligustrum sinense (Chinese privet)

Morella cerifera - Wax myrtle, Southern bayberry, Candleberry

Irvine Wilson/DCR

A wispy, 6 - 15 ft., multi-trunked, evergreen shrub that can reach 20 ft. in height. Light olive-green foliage has spicy fragrance. Flowers in March and April. Pale blue berries occur on female plants in winter. Handsome gray bark is almost white on some plants.

- full sun, part shade
- wet, sandy, slightly acidic soils (fast-growing, tolerates poor drainage and drought)

ES Native Alternative to:
Ligustrum sinense (Chinese privet)
Melia azedarach (Chinaberrytree)

Colonists separated the fruits' waxy covering in boiling water to make fragrant-burning candles.

Benefits:
Attracts birds and butterflies. Popular ornamental used for screens and hedges. Crush the leaves for an appealing, piquant fragrance.

Persea palustris - Swamp bay, Swamp red bay

Dot Field/DCR

A 15 - 25 ft. evergreen shrub with a round-topped to cylindrical crown, 6-18 in. trunk (often leaning), 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 (spring-early summer). Oblong dark blue fruit mature in early fall.

- full sun
- seasonally wet, moderately well-drained to poorly-drained organic soils (low salt tolerance)

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

Benefits:
A larval host plant for Palamedes swallowtail (*Papilio palamedes*) and Spicebush swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) butterflies.

Photinia pyrifolia - Red chokeberry, Red chokecherry

Synonyms: Aronia arbutifolia, Pyrus arbutifolia

Gary Fleming/DCR

A 1.5 - 12 ft., multi-stemmed shrub with four-season interest. Beginning in March, flat-topped clusters of white, five-petaled flowers with red anthers appear in profusion and give way to dark green, glossy leaves that consistently turn a rich, orange-red in fall. Bright red berries appear in fall and remain until December or January and along with a reddish-brown, exfoliating bark add color to the winter landscape.

- full sun
- moist, acidic, rich soils

ES Native Alternative to:
Ligustrum sinense (Chinese privet)

Benefits:
Berries persist through much of the winter, and are occasionally eaten by songbirds.

Rhododendron atlanticum - Coastal azalea, Dwarf azalea

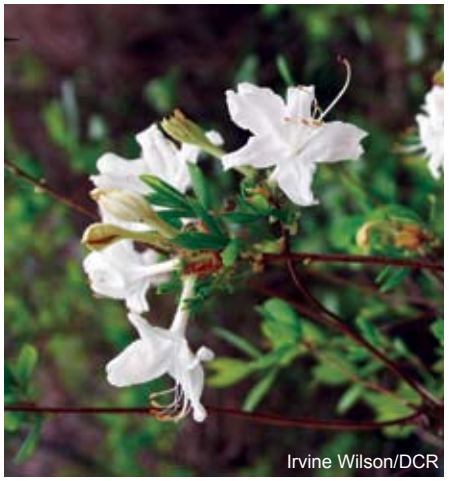
Irvine Wilson/DCR

A low, 1 - 3 ft., colony-forming shrub, sending up short-lived flowering branches. White to pinkish, funnel-shaped flowers with protruding stamens occur in long-stalked clusters before or with the leaves (Apr and May). Leaves are distinctly blue-green.

- part shade
- well-drained, sandy soil

Benefits:
Attractive ornamental.

Rhododendron viscosum - **Swamp azalea, Swamp honeysuckle**


Irvine Wilson/DCR

Benefits:
Beautifully flowered ornamental.

A 5 - 10 ft., loose, open, deciduous shrub growing to 12 ft. in width. One of the last azaleas to bloom. White flowers with a pleasantly sweet, spicy fragrance and a long, slender lavender-colored corolla tube, appear after the leaves in May – August. Fall foliage is orange to maroon.

- part shade
- wet, acidic soil (flood tolerant)

The fragrant flowers with their sticky corolla have given this shrub the names Clammy azalea and Swamp honeysuckle, although it is unrelated to honeysuckles. Viscosum means sticky in Latin.

Rosa palustris - **Swamp rose**

Ken Lawless

Benefits:
Beautiful ornamental. Flowers provide nectar for bees and butterflies. Rose hips are eaten by birds.

A 6 - 8 ft. upright shrub with numerous, bushy-branched, thorny stems and dark-green foliage. Produces showy, but short-lived, dark rose-pink flowers in Jun - Aug, which give way to smooth, red hips (fruit).

- full sun, part shade, shade
- wet, moist, rich soils (salt tolerant and perfect for poorly-drained sites)

Member of the family Rosaceae which includes about 2,000 species of trees, shrubs, and herbs worldwide, including service-berries (Amelanchier), in addition to the many wild and cultivated types of roses. Palustris is Latin for "of marshes."

Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis - **Common elder, Common elderberry, Black elder**

Gary Fleming/DCR

Benefits:
Purple-black fruit is attractive to birds that spread the seeds and is used to make pies, jelly and wine.

A 6 - 12 ft., loose, graceful, deciduous shrub with both woody and herbaceous branches. Many long stems arise from the base, arching at the top. White flowers (May to July) in broad, flat, conspicuous clusters up to 10 inches or more in diameter. Berrylike fruit is dark purple when ripe (Jul - Sept).

- part shade
- tolerates a wide variety of wet to dry soils but prefers rich, moist, slightly acid soil.

The genus name comes from Greek sambuce, an ancient musical instrument, and refers to the soft pith, easily removed from the twigs and used to make flutes and whistles.

Stewartia malacodendron - **Silky camellia, Virginia stewartia**

Gary Fleming/DCR

Benefits:
Beautifully flowered ornamental.

Up to 10 ft., open-branched, deciduous shrub. Leaves are silky below and distinctly veined. Flowers (Apr - Jun) are white to cream-colored, 2–3 in. across, and saucer-shaped with crimped petals and numerous, conspicuous dark-purple stamen filaments and bluish anthers.

- shade
- acid, humus-rich, well-drained soils (prefers deep shade during heat of day, thrives on early morning sun)

ES Native Alternative to:
Hibiscus syriacus (rose of Sharon)

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

Vaccinium corymbosum - Highbush blueberry

Dot Field/DCR

A 6 - 12 ft. deciduous shrub with numerous upright stems and twiggy branches forming a rounded, compact outline. Reddish-green spring leaves turn blue-green in summer and red, yellow, orange and purple in fall. White or pink, bell-shaped flowers in drooping clusters (Apr - Jun) are followed by edible, blue fruit.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- wet to dry, acid, rocky soils to organic peats
  (benefits from mulch; prune after fruiting)

Benefits:
Berries are relished by many birds and songbirds, including the Scarlet Tanager.

Vaccinium pallidum - Blue Ridge blueberry, Early lowbush blueberry

Gary Fleming/DCR

A 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 (March to May). Berries are dark blue to black and mature June to July.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist or dry, loam, sandy soils

Benefits:
Sweet berries have a high wildlife value.

Viburnum dentatum - Southern arrowwood

Gary Fleming/DCR

A 6 - 15 ft. deciduous shrub, sometimes taller, with multiple, erect-arching stems in a loose, round habit. White, flat-topped flower clusters in May – Jul are followed by dark blue berries. Lustrous, dark-green foliage turns yellow to wine-red in fall.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- dry to wet, acidic soils and sands

ES Native Alternative to:
Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian olive)

Benefits:
Flood, insect and disease tolerant. Most soil-adaptable of the viburnums. Attracts Eastern bluebird, Northern flicker, Gray catbird, and American robin.

Viburnum prunifolium - Blackhaw, Smooth blackhaw

Gary Fleming/DCR

A 12 - 15 ft.,up tp 24 ft, sturdy, shapely deciduous shrub, rounded in outline, which bears many white flower clusters in Apr and May followed by yellow berries turning blue-black. Attractive, dark-green foliage becomes reddish-purple in fall.

- part shade
- moist to dry, well-drained soils
  (for best flowers and fruit, be sure blackhaw gets 4-5 hrs of sun/day)

ES Native Alternative to:
Ligustrum sinense (Chinese privet)

The Latin prunifolium refers to the leaves' plum-color in fall. Prune immediately after flowering since buds form in summer for the following year.

Benefits:
Fruit is eaten by songbirds and can be made into preserves. This plant is durable and pest free.

Trees

Amelanchier arborea - Downy or Common serviceberry, Shadbush, Junebush, Shadblow

Gary Fleming/DCR

A 15 - 30 ft with multiple, upright stems forming a dense shrub with a narrow crown and many small-diameter branches or, if properly pruned, a small tree. Trees can be trained to have, and are offered by nurseries, with one trunk. Ornamental white flowers (Mar - May) followed by red to purple fruit (Jun - Aug). Fruits are quickly eaten by birds. Brilliant fall color display ranging from yellow and orange to red.

- full sun, part shade
- moist, well-drained acidic soils

The fruits taste similar to blueberry and they can be eaten fresh or cooked in pastries or puddings.

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

Betula nigra - River birch

Irvine Wilson/DCR

This 30 - 75 ft. gracefully branched tree, usually multi-trunked tree can reach 90 ft. It is an often slightly leaning and forked tree with irregular, spreading crown of several large, ascending limbs supporting slightly weeping branches. Produces a cone fruit. The tree's selling point is its satiny, silver bark that peels to reveal a cinnamon-brown trunk beneath. Fall foliage is yellow.

- part shade
- sandy or clay, moist, acidic soils (well-suited to areas that are periodically wet)

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

Celtis occidentalis - Common hackberry

Dot Field/DCR

A 30 - 100 ft. deciduous tree, varying greatly in response to habitat. The broad crown is often erratic in shape with spreading or slightly drooping branches, often deformed as bushy growths called witches'-brooms. Older bark is covered with conspicuous, corky projections. Foliage is dull-green and rough. Orange-brown to dark-purple berries are arranged in clusters.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- rich, moist soils. pH adaptable (drought tolerant)

Common name apparently derived from hagberry, meaning marsh berry, a name used in Scotland for a cherry.

Benefits:
Hackberries are among the best food and shelter plants for wildlife. The sweetish fruit is relished by birds, including woodpeckers and the Cedar Waxwing.

Cercis canadensis - Eastern redbud

Dot Field/DCR

A 15 - 40 ft. deciduous tree with one to several picturesque, maroon-purple trunks and a wide, umbrella-like crown. Its pink flowers (Apr - May), borne in tight clusters along the stems and branches before new leaves appear, create a showy spring display. Smooth, heart-shaped, deciduous foliage does not have significant fall color.

- part shade, shade
- moist, fertile, well-drained soils

Benefits:
Stunning ornamental.

ES Native Alternative to:
Ailanthus altissima (tree of heaven)

Chionanthus virginicus - White fringetree, Fringe tree

Irvine Wilson/DCR

A 15 - 35 ft. deciduous tree with short trunk, narrow, oblong crown and showy, drooping clusters of delicate, fragrant, white blossoms in May - Jun. Dark-blue, grape-like clusters of fruits are produced from female blossoms. Dark-green, glossy foliage and a pale-gray trunk with bands of white. Fall color is usually not significant. One of the last trees to bear new leaves in spring.

- part shade
- loose, moist, sandy soils

Benefits:
Berries are attractive to wildlife.

The genus name Chionanthus, meaning snow and flower, describes the blossoms.

Cornus amomum - Red willow, Silky cornel, Silky dogwood

Ken Lawless

A 6 - 10 ft small tree or a multi-stemmed shrub with an upright rounded growth habit however, where stems are in contact with the ground, roots are formed. This behavior creates thickets. Young dogwoods have bright red stems in the fall, winter and early spring, which turn reddish-brown in the summer. As the shrub matures, the stems turn reddish-brown year-round and later gray. Yellowish-white flowers (Mar - Apr) and bluish colored fruit (Sept).

- part shade, shade
- moist, clay, loam, sandy soils

Benefits:
Attracts birds and is a beautiful ornamental that can help stabilize soil and provide a wildlife border.

Diospyros virginiana - Common persimmon, Eastern persimmon

Dot Field/DCR

This deciduous tree can grow 50 up to 100 ft. in moist, rich soil and has a spreading crown and pendulous branches. Bell-shaped, yellow flowers (Apr - Jun). Large, oval, mature leaves usually become yellow-green in fall. On old trunks the bark is thick and dark-gray to almost black and broken into scaly, squarish blocks. Best-known by its large, sweet, orange fruit in autumn.

- part shade
- moist, rich, sandy, loam or clay, acidic or calcareous soils

ES Native Alternative to:
Ailanthus altissima (tree of heaven)

Benefits:
Valued for fruit and attraction to wildlife and is larval host to Luna moth (*Actias luna*). Fruit is not edible until exposed to frost or consistent low temperatures and recalls flavor of dates.

Persimmon is of Algonquian origin, Diospyros imeans fruit of the god Zeus.

Ilex opaca - American holly, Christmas holly

Dot Field/DCR

This evergreen tree ranges from 25 ft. to as tall as 60 ft. Its stout, stiff branches form a pyramidal shape and bear dark-green, non-glossy, spine-tipped leaves. New growth pushes off the old leaves in spring. Bright red berries occur on female plants. Shorter, multi-trunked form may grow in lower-light situations. The bark is a light-gray color.

- part shade
- moist, well-drained, sandy, acidic soils

Benefits:
Many kinds of songbirds and mammals eat the bitter berries of this slow-growing but long-lived tree. Many varieties are grown for ornament, shade, and hedges.

A popular Christmas decoration, the wood also is especially suited for inlays in cabinetwork, handles, carvings, and rulers, and can be dyed various shades, even black.

Trees

Juniperus virginiana - Eastern red cedar, Virginia juniper

A 30 - 40 ft. (can reach 90 ft) evergreen, aromatic tree with trunk often angled and buttressed at base. Pyramidal when young, mature form is quite variable. Fragrant, scale-like foliage can be coarse or fine-cut, and varies in color from gray-, blue-, to dark-green. All colors tend to brown in winter. Pale blue fruits occur on female plants. Soft, silvery bark covers the single trunk.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- dry, limestone soils (adaptable)

Benefits:
Juicy berries consumed by wildlife, including the Cedar waxwing, named for this tree. Resistant to extremes of drought, heat, and cold.

Of great medicinal value over the centuries. First observed at Roanoke Island, Virginia, in 1564, it was prized by the colonists for building furniture, rail fences, and log cabins.

Liriodendron tulipifera - Tuliptree, Tulip poplar

One of the tallest - up to 150 ft. - deciduous eastern hardwoods, with a long, straight trunk; a narrow crown that spreads with age; large showy, yellow-orange, flowers resembling tulips or lilies (Apr - Jun); and, distinctive, waxy, star-shaped foliage that turns bright gold in fall. Flowers are up 50 ft or higher. Cone-shaped seedheads remain after leaves have fallen.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- rich, moist acidic soils

Benefits:
Insect and disease free. Favorite nesting tree, flowers attract hummingbirds and larval host to the Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*).

Introduced into Europe from Virginia by the earliest colonists. Pioneers hollowed out a single log to make a long, lightweight canoe. Member of the magnolia family.

Magnolia virginiana - Sweetbay, Sweetbay magnolia, Swampbay

A slender, 12 - 30 ft. (occasionally growing to 50 ft) evergreen tree with pale grey bark and multiple, slender, upright trunks bearing horizontal branches. Aromatic, spicy foliage semi-evergreen to evergreen and dark green in the South. Solitary, velvety-white, fragrant flowers (May - Jul) followed by dark red aggregate fruits exposing bright red seeds.

- part shade
- moist, rich, sandy, loam, acidic soils

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

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

Nyssa sylvatica - Blackgum, Black tupelo, Sourgum, Tupelo

A 30 - 75 ft. variable-shaped, deciduous tree with horizontally spreading branches. A bottle-shaped trunk forms if grown in shallow standing water. Smooth, waxy, dark-green summer foliage changes to fluorescent yellow, orange, scarlet and purple in fall. (Trees in warmer climates may not be as colorful.) Berries are small and blue.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- various moist, acidic, gravelly soils (species tolerates drier sites and tolerates poor drainage)

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

Prunus serotina - **Black cherry**

Dot Field/DCR

Benefits:
Largest, most important native cherry, known for the beauty and quality of its wood. Easy to grow. Wildlife eat the fruit. Larval host to Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*).

A 40 - 75 ft. deciduous tree, distinctly conical in youth. When open-grown it becomes oval-headed with spreading, pendulous limbs and arching branches. Crowded trees grow tall and slender. Oblong leaves shiny on the upper surface. Drooping white flowers (May-Jun) appear after leaves emerge. Dark red fruit changes to black from Aug-Oct. Crushed foliage and bark have distinctive cherrylike odor and bitter taste. Fall foliage is yellow.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist or dry, well-drained soils

One of first New World trees introduced to English gardens - as early as 1629.

Quercus falcata - **Southern red oak, Spanish oak**

Dot Field/DCR

Benefits:
Grows relatively quickly, for an oak, and is long-lived. Provides shade and a nesting site for birds.

An up tp 70 ft. tree, although it is usually somewhat shorter, Straight-trunked. In time, develops long, spreading branches, giving the top an even, well-formed appearance. Its smooth gray bark becomes dark and furrowed, eventually becoming black. Yellow flowers appear in Apr - May. Papery leaves turn reddish-brown in fall. Acorns appear biennially.

- part shade
- dry, sandy, loamy or clay acid-based soils

Often called Spanish Oak, possibly because it commonly occurs in areas of the early Spanish colonies, yet its unlike any oaks native to Spain.

Salix nigra - **Black willow, Gulf black willow**

Gary Fleming/DCR

Benefits:
Shade tree. Early season harvest for songbirds. A larval host for the Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*).

A 10 - 60 ft., tree with an open crown often with several trunks growing out at angles from one root. Leaf blades up to 5 inches long, narrow and tapering. Bright yellow-green twigs bear yellow-green catkins. Flowers inconspicuous, arranged in elongate clusters which appear in March and April; male and female flowers on separate trees. Seeds wind-borne on silky hairs. The bark is deeply furrowed.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- wet, moist, clay or sandy soils (fast-growing but short-lived)

ES Native Alternative to:
Salix sepulcralis (Weeping willow)

Sassafras albidum - **Sassafras**

Ruth Myers

Benefits:
Although it grows most quickly in fertile soil, its an appropriate tree to introduce into disturbed sites with infertile soil.

A 35 - 50 ft. deciduous tree with horizontal branching in cloud-like tiers. Mahogany-brown bark deeply ridged and furrowed. Little bunches of yellow-green flower balls (Mar-May) scattered profusely over the female tree; more sparsely on the male. Dark-blue fruits on scarlet stalks appear on female plants in late summer. Bright-green, mitten-shaped, oval, or three-lobed leaves have outstanding fall color.

- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist but well-drained, rich, sandy, aidic soils

Explorers and colonists thought the aromatic root bark was a cure-all and shipped quantities to Europe.

"Plant ES Natives" Demonstration Sites

Want a closer look at the natives featured in this guide? Visit one of the growing number of "Plant ES Natives" demonstration sites being installed on the Eastern Shore. These public sites are designed using 100% Eastern Shore native plants, highlighting their beauty, benefits and the variety of plants from which to choose. More demos are planned! For an update visit the "Plant ES Natives' campaign website - http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/esnativesdemosites.html.

Maritime Forest ES Native Plant Demonstration

UVA Anheuser Busch Coastal Research Center

David Boyd

Eastern Shore Native Plants

Morella (Myrica) cerifera – Southern wax myrtle
Juniperus virginiana – Eastern red cedar
Cercus canadensis – Redbud
Prunus serotina – Wild black cherry
Quercus stellata – Post oak
Sassafras albidum – Sassafras
Cornus florida – Flowering dogwood
Amelanchier arborea – Downy serviceberry
Rhus copallinum – Winged sumac
Lonicera sempervirens – Coral honeysuckle
Parthenocissus quinquefolia – Virginia creeper
Panicum virgatum – Switch grass
Schizachyrium scoparium – Little bluestem

Gary Fleming

Downy Serviceberry is the symbol of the "Plant ES Natives" campaign and featured in the campaign logo. It attracts over 40 species of bird. *See page 28.*

This site exhibits plants all native to the Eastern Shore that can tolerate sandy soils, low level salt spray and bright sun to partial shade. Plants were chosen to provide year-round food sources to a wide variety of birds, butterflies and small animals. The planting is in the first year, with initial emphasis on overstory species. Additional planting is planned.

The site was installed and is maintained by staff from the Anheuser Busch Coastal Research Center. Planning assistance was provided by the Eastern Shore Master Gardeners, Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, Maplewood Gardens, Bloomers Garden Center/Appleseed Nurseries, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation/Eastern Shore Regional Office, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality/Office of Environmental Education, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

David Boyd

Winged Sumac is an evergreen, understory shrub which provides food for birds and small mammals. It has greenish yellow flowers in June/July, red berries in October/November and leaves which turn a flaming red color in the fall. It forms large colonies, providing abundant winter food for wildlife.

"Plant ES Natives" Demonstration Sites

Shoreline ES Native Plant Demonstration

Willis Wharf Wildlife Observation Platform

(Above) Shown just after planting, the landscaping at this site has filled in beautifully.

Eastern Shore Native Plants

Morella (Myrica) cerifera – Southern wax myrtle
Morella (Myrica) pennsylvanica – Northern bayberry
Juniperus virginiana – Eastern red cedar
Panicum amarum – Coastal panic grass
Symphyotrichum (Aster) novi-belgii – New York aster
Diospyros virginiana – Persimmon
Lonicera sempervirens – Coral or Trumpet honeysuckle
Kosteletzkya virginica – Seashore mallow

This site exhibits plants all native to the Eastern Shore that can tolerate the Shore's bright sun and salt spray.

Coral honeysuckle is an evergreen that attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. *See page 21.*

The site was designed by Appleseed Nurseries, Inc, a local landscaper, with assistance from Eastern Shore Master Naturalists, who will help maintain the site. The observation platform and native landscaping, funded by the Virginia CZM Program, served as a backdrop for the launch of the "Plant ES Natives" campaign on April 24, 2009.

Shady ES Native Plant Demonstration

Chincoteague Island Nature Trail

Winged sumac is an evergreen, understory shrub which provides food for birds and small mammals. It has greenish yellow flowers in June/July, red berries in October/November and leaves which turn a flaming red color in the fall. It forms large colonies, providing abundant winter food for wildlife.

This site exhibits a variety of plants all native to the Eastern Shore that do well in shady moist conditions. The landscape was kept as natural as possible - the plants installed along the trail are covered with pinestraw and blend beautifully into the existing native vegetation.

Designed by In Full Bloom, Inc., a local landscaper, this site was funded by the Virginia CZM Program and is being maintained by Eastern Shore Master Naturalists.

Eastern Shore Native Plants

Callicarpa americana – American beautyberry
Magnolia virginiana – Sweetbay magnolia
Osmunda cinnamomea – Cinnamon fern
Clethera alnifolia – Sweet pepper bush
Amelanchier arborea – Downy serviceberry
Polystichum acrostichoides – Christmas fern
Solidago caesia – Bluestem goldenrod
Gaultheria procumbens – Wintergreen
Iris versicolor – Blue flag
Osmunda regalis – Royal fern
Itea virginica – Virginia willow
Chelone glabra – White turtlehead
Podophyllum peltatum - May apple
Ariseama triphyllum – Jack-in-the-pulpit
Lobelia cardinalis – Cardinal flower

"Plant ES Natives" Demonstration Sites

'Healing' Garden ES Native Plant Demonstration

Onley Rural Health Center

This site will highlight the therapeutic power of Eastern Shore native plants in a "healing garden" at the new Onley Rural Health Center. The garden will be installed in 2010 and will be part of a sustainable landscape surrounding the center. Signage in the "healing garden" will highlight the link between healthy landscapes and healthy people.

This demonstration site is a partnership between the Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (which helped fund the demonstration site design), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Eastern Shore Native Plants

Chionanthus virginicus – Fringetree
Crataegus crus-gali – Cockspur hawthorn
Viburnum dentatum – Arrowwood
Rudbeckia hirta – Blackeyed susan
Itea virginica – Virginia Sweetspire
Panicum virgatum – Switchgrass
Asclepias tuberosa – Butterflyweed
Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe-pye weed
Vaccinium corymbosum – Highbush blueberry

Living Shoreline ES Native Plant Demonstration

The Nature Conservancy

A new Living Shoreline in Oyster demonstrates how Eastern Shore Native Plants help stabilize the shoreline, filter runoff and protect water quality. The demonstration site, shown in the photo at left prior to planting in November 2009, was installed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and is open to the public. TNC plans to install a walking trail and viewing platform with interpretive signs describing the Living Shoreline and the importance of coastal habitat. An existing boat ramp for kayak and canoe use will be kept in place. This demonstration site was funded by the NOAA Restoration Center, Chesapeake Bay Trust, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Campbell Foundation for the Environment. Virginia CZM Program staff will assist with development of the signage.

Eastern Shore Native Plants

Spartina alterniflora – Smooth cordgrass (low marsh)
Spartina patens – Saltmeadow cordgrass (high marsh)
Distichlis spicata – Saltgrass (high marsh)
Borrichia frutescens – Sea ox-eye daisy (buffer)
Panicum virgatum – Switchgrass (buffer)
Solidago sempervirens – Seaside goldenrod (buffer)
Kosteletzkya virginica – Virginia saltmarsh mallow (buffer)
Iva frutescens – Marsh elder (buffer)
Baccharis halimifolia – Groundseltree (buffer)

Living Shorelines are a natural alternative to bulkheading. For more information visit http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/livingshore.html.

Pollinator Native Plant Demonstration

Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

Virginia Witmer/VACZM

Virginia Witmer/VACZM

A wide variety of Virginia native plants attract pollinators to two gardens at the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Willdife Refuge (one located in front of the visitor center and the other next to the Refuge office).

Eastern Shore Native Plants Featured

Asimina triloba – Pawpaw
Helianthus angustifolius – Narrowleaf sunflower
Chelone glabra – White turtlehead
Kosteletzkya virginica – Seashore mallow
Conoclinium coeleatinum – Mistflower
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium – Narrowleaf mountainmint
Baptisia australis – Wild blue indigo
Vernonia noveboracensis – New York ironweed
Symphotrichum novi-belgii – New York aster
Solidago rugosa – Wrinkleleaf goldenrod
Asclepias tuberosa – Butterfly weed
Solidago sempervirens – Seaside goldenrod
Hibiscus moscheutos – Rose mallow
Lobelia cardinalis – Cardinal flower
Monarda fistulosa – Bergamot

To complete this two-year project, the Refuge partnered with the Virginia CZM Program, The Nature Conservancy, Back Bay NWR Youth Conservation Corps, Virginia Field Office Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Eastern Shore SWCD, Youth Conservation Corps and Refuge volunteers. Over 550 plants, many provided locally by Bloomers Garden Center, were planted.

Butterfly Native Plant Demonstration

Northampton Free Library

Karen Howl

Ken Lawless

The white flowers of Ilex glabra, Inkberry, are followed by black berries that persist well into winter, making this shrub of particulalry high value to wildlife. *See page 23.*

This site features flowering Virginia native plants that provide nectar for butterflies. Shrubs add winter interest while annuals add season long bloom.

This site was designed, planted and is maintained by the Eastern Shore Virginia Master Gardeners with assistance from The Nature Conservancy and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Eastern Shore Native Plants Featured

Asclepias tuberosa – Butterflyweed
Conoclinium coelestinum – Mistflower
Ilex glabra – Inkberry
Lobelia cardinalis – Cardinal flower
Phlox paniculata – Phlox
Rudbeckia hirta – Black-eyed Susan
Solidago rugosa – Goldenrod

Index of Eastern Shore Native Plants in Guide

Latin Name	Common Name	Category	Height (ft.)	Light	Page
Alnus serrulata	Common alder	shrub	12 - 20	☼ ◐ ●	22
Amelanchier arborea	Downy serviceberry, Shadbush, Juneberry	tree	15 - 30	☼ ◐	28
Ammophila breviligulata	American beach grass	grass	1.5 - 5	☼	16
Andropogon glomeratus	Bushy bluestem	grass	2 - 5	☼	16
Andropogon virginicus	Broomsedge	grass	1 - 3	◐	16
Athyrium filix-femina	Northern lady fern	fern	1 - 3	◐ ●	18
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp milkweed	forb	4 - 6	☼ ◐	10
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly weed	forb	1 - 3	☼	10
Baccharis halimifolia	High tide bush/groundsel tree	shrub	6 - 12	☼ ◐	22
Baptisia tinctoria	Yellow wild-indigo	forb	1 - 3	☼	10
Betula nigra	River birch	tree	30 - 75	◐	28
Bignonia capreolata	Crossvine	vine	36 - 50	☼ ◐	20
Callicarpa americana	American beautyberry	shrub	3 - 6	◐	22
Caltha palustris	Marsh marigold	forb	1 - 2	◐ ●	10
Campsis radicans	Trumpet Creeper	vine	up to 35	☼	20
Carex stricta	Tussock sedge	grass	1 - 3	☼	16
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry	tree	30 - 100	☼ ◐ ●	28
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	shrub	6 - 12	◐ ●	22
Cercis canadensis	Redbud	tree	15 - 40	◐ ●	28
Chelone Glabra	White turtlehead	forb	3 - 6	☼ ◐ ●	11
Chionanthus virginicus	Fringetree	tree	15 - 30	◐	29
Clematis virginiana	Virgin's bower	vine	12 - 15	☼ ◐ ◐	20

Index of Eastern Shore Native Plants in Guide

Latin Name	Common Name	Category	Height (ft.)	Light	Page
Clethra alnifolia	Sweet pepper bush	shrub	6 - 12	☼ ◐ ●	23
Conoclinium coelestinum	Mistflower	forb	1 - 3.5	☼ ◐	11
Coreopsis lanceolata	Lance-leaved coreopsis	forb	1 - 2.5	☼ ◐ ●	11
Cornus amomum	Silky dogwood	tree	6 - 10	◐ ●	29
Diospyros virginiana	Persimmon	tree	50 - 100	◐	29
Dryopteris intermedia	Evergreen fern	fern	up to 10 in.	●	18
Eupatorium dubium	Joe-Pye Weed	forb	2 - 5	☼ ◐	11
Gelsemium sempervirens	Carolina jasmine	vine	12 - 20	☼ ◐	20
Hamamelis virginiana	Witch hazel	shrub	10 - 15	☼ ◐ ●	23
Helenium autumnale	Sneezeweed	forb	1.5 - 5	☼	12
Helianthus angustifolius	Narrow-leaf sunflower	forb	1.5 - 5.5	☼ ◐	12
Hibiscus moscheutos	Eastern rosemallow	forb	3 - 8	☼ ◐	12
Ilex glabra	Inkberry	shrub	6 - 12	◐	23
Ilex opaca	American holly	tree	25 - 60	◐	29
Ilex verticillata	Winterberry	shrub	3 - 10	☼ ◐ ●	23
Ilex vomitoria	Yaupon holly	shrub	12 - 25	◐	24
Iris versicolor	Blue flag	forb	2 - 3	☼ ◐	12
Itea virginica	Virginia willow	shrub	6 - 10	☼ ◐	24
Iva frutescens	Marsh elder	shrub	2 - 10	☼	24
Juncus effusus	Soft rush	grass	1 - 4	☼	17
Juniperus virginiana	Eastern red cedar	tree	30 - 40	☼ ◐ ●	30
Kosteletzkya virginica	Seashore mallow	forb	1.5 - 4.5	☼	13

Index of Eastern Shore Native Plants in Guide

Latin Name	Common Name	Category	Height (ft.)	Light	Page
Lilium superbum	Turk's cap lily	forb	4 - 8	☼	13
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	shrub	6 - 16	☼ ◐ ●	24
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip-tree	tree	up to 150	☼ ◐ ●	30
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal flower	forb	1 - 6	☼ ◐ ●	13
Lonicera sempervirens	Trumpet honeysuckle	vine	3 - 20	☼ ◐	21
Magnolia virginiana	Sweetbay magnolia	tree	12 - 30	◐	30
Mitchella repens	Partridgeberry	forb	.5	◐ ●	13
Monarda fistulosa	Wild bergamot	forb	2 - 4	☼ ◐	14
Morella (Myrica) cerifera	Southern wax myrtle	shrub	6 - 15	☼ ◐	25
Nyssa sylvatica	Black gum	tree	30 - 75	☼ ◐ ●	30
Oenothera fruticosa	Sundrops	forb	1 - 3	☼	14
Onoclea sensibilis	Sensitive fern	fern	3 in. - 3 ft.	☼ ◐ ●	18
Osmunda cinnamomea	Cinnamon fern	fern	6	◐ ●	18
Osmunda regalis	Royal fern	fern	2 - 5	◐ ●	19
Panicum amarum	Coastal panic grass	grass	1 - 3	☼	17
Panicum virgatum	Switch grass	grass	3 - 6	☼ ◐	17
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia creeper	vine	3 - 40	☼ ◐ ●	21
Passiflora incarnata	Passion flower	vine	up to 25	☼ ◐	21
Persea palustris (borbonia)	Red bay	shrub	15 - 25	☼	25
Phlox paniculata	Summer phlox	forb	1.5 - 6.5	☼	14
Photinia pyrifolia	Red chokeberry	shrub	1.5 - 12	☼	25
Polystichum acrostichoides	Christmas fern	fern	1 - 3	◐ ●	19

Index of Eastern Shore Native Plants in Guide

Latin Name	Common Name	Category	Height (ft.)	Light	Page
Pontederia cordata	Pickerel weed	forb	3 - 3.5	☼ ◐	14
Prunus serotina	Wild black cherry	tree	40 - 75	☼ ◐ ●	31
Quercus falcata	Southern red oak	tree	up to 70	◐	31
Rhododendron atlanticum	Coast azalea, dwarf azalea	shrub	1 - 3	◐	25
Rhododendron viscosum	Swamp azalea	shrub	5 - 10	◐	26
Rosa palustris	Swamp rose	shrub	6 - 8	☼ ◐ ●	26
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	forb	1 - 3.5	☼ ◐ ●	15
Salix nigra	Black willow	tree	10 - 60	☼ ◐ ●	31
Sambucus canadensis	Common elderberry	shrub	6 - 12	◐	26
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras	tree	35 - 50	☼ ◐ ●	31
Saururus cernuus	Lizard's tail	forb	1.5 - 4	◐ ●	15
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little bluestem	grass	1.5 - 4	☼ ◐	17
Solidago sempervirens	Seaside goldenrod	forb	2 - 8	☼	15
Stewartia malacodendron	Silky camelia	shrub	up to 10	◐	26
Symphyotrichum novi-belgii	New York aster	forb	1 - 4.5	☼	15
Thelypteris palustris	Marsh fern	fern		☼	19
Vaccinium corymbosum	Highbush blueberry	shrub	6 -12	☼ ◐ ●	27
Vaccinium pallidum	Early lowbush blueberry	shrub	1.5 - 2	☼ ◐ ●	27
Viburnum dentatum	Southern Arrowood	shrub	6 - 15	☼ ◐ ●	27
Viburnum prunifolium	Black-haw viburnum	shrub	12 -15	◐	27
Wisteria frutescens	Atlantic wisteria	vine	25 - 30	☼ ◐ ●	21
Woodwardia virginica	Virginia chain fern	fern	2 - 3	◐	19

NOTES:

Plant ES Natives

They're Shore Beautiful!