



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.

And you will have made the right choice. Native plants not only offer many practical, low cost, and environmental benefits they also offer an appealing display of foliage and flowers that surpass non-native ornamentals!



American Beautyberry

Plant Natives for the Birds!

The Shore is one of only a few rest stops for songbirds traveling thousands of miles each spring and fall. That's quite a long trip for birds that can weigh as little as half an ounce! Native trees and shrubs provide shelter and the berries and insects that songbirds eat to fuel their long journeys. Even the smallest lot can provide critical migratory "stopover habitat" for a few migrants. Research by the Center of Conservation Biology at William and Mary has shown that a 50% increase in the density of under story vegetation results in a 50% increase in the number of migrant birds supported. Help make the Shore a generous and safe rest stop.

Visit www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/go-native.html for more about the "Plant ES Natives" Campaign

What Makes Eastern Shore Native Plants So Special?

- Our native plants are survivors! They were part of the shore's local ecology prior to John Smith's landing and are well adapted to the Shore's soils and climate.
- Our natives generally require less watering and fertilizing than non-natives, and are less susceptible to drought.
- Our natives are often more resistant to insects and disease and less likely to need pesticides.
- Our natives can be resistant to occasional salt-water stress.
- Our natives help preserve the diversity, beauty, and function of our natural ecosystems.

These benefits save time, money and the Shore's Unique Environment!



Butterfly Weed

Plant Natives for the Butterflies!

Adult butterflies are attracted to the showy flowers and nutritious nectar of native wildflowers. Many must lay their eggs on specific species of native plants which provide essential food for their caterpillars. The Monarch butterfly, which also migrates through the Shore, needs to lay its eggs on milkweed. There are two milkweeds native the Shore - Swamp Milkweed and Common Milkweed. Using native plants in your garden or landscape will not only help ensure the survival of our butterflies, but will attract an abundance of these colorful visitors to your garden.



Eastern Redbud



American Beach Grass

Plant Natives to 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.



Sassafras

Plant Natives to Save 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, allowing water to infiltrate the ground, where it is filtered by the vegetation's roots and then recharges the groundwater supply.

Plant Natives to Help Save the Clams!

Landscaped areas of native trees, shrubs and groundcover can result in 50% less runoff than grass lawns, significantly reducing non-point source pollution. This protects water quality in the Shore's creeks and inlets, as well as the Shore's shellfish and underwater grasses. 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!



*Look for this plant tag in
Accomack and Northampton
garden centers!*

Campaign Partners (current): Accawmacke Ornamentals, Accomack County, Accomack-Northampton County Planning District Commission, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Appleseed Nursery, Barrier Islands Center, Bloomers Garden Center, Eastern Shore Alliance for Environmental Education, Eastern Shore Nursery of Virginia, Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, Hermitage Farm Nursery, Hortco Garden Center and Nursery, In Full Bloom Landscapers, Maplewood Gardens, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Northampton County, Southeastern Expeditions, Sunnyside Garden Center, Tankard Nursery, The Ivy Farms, Thomas Gardens, Town of Chincoteague, Town of Willis Wharf, The Nature Conservancy, University of Virginia, Anheuser Busch Coastal Research Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, 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 Eastern Shorekeeper, Virginia Master Gardeners, Virginia Master Naturalists



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All native plant photos courtesy DCR, with the exception of the Sassafras by Ruth Meyers.