Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton
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.

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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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 Passiflora incarnata-Passionflower (Lawless), Lonicera sempervirens - Coral honeysuckle (Field); bottom 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?

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!
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| Native plants featured in the guide are highlighted in blue on this list, organized by botanical categories. |

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A quick reference to the height patterns and light requirements of native plants featured in the guide, in alpha order by Latin name.
### Key to Herbaceous, Grass, Fern and Vine Sections

**Passiflora incarnata -** **Purple passionflower, Purple passion vine, Maypop, Apricot vine**

- Perennial
- Up to 25 ft., with sprawls along ground
- Lavender, May – Sep; orange-yellow berry
- Roadsides, meadows, pastures, woodland edges/opens, streams, riverbanks
- 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)

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

**Description of species including height and shape; leaf, flower and berry color; bloom time; natural habitat**

**Passiflora incarnata**

- **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

**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:**

### Key to Shrub and Tree Sections

**Photinia pyrifolia -** **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.
- Full sun
- Moist, acidic, rich soils

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

**ES Native alternative to:**
- Ligustrum sinense (Chinese privet)

**Interesting fact(s) about genus and/or species**

- Light requirement – soil/moisture requirements
- Natural alternative to a non-native species of concern on Virginia’s Eastern Shore

### 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.

**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).
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.

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.
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!

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.**
### Forbs

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name(s)</th>
<th>Common Name(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lilium superbum</strong></td>
<td>Turk’s cap lily <em>(p.13)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Limonium carolinianum</td>
<td>Sea lavender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lobelia cardinalis</td>
<td>Cardinal flower <em>(p.13)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mimulus ringens</td>
<td>Monkeyflower</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mitchella repens</strong></td>
<td>Partridgeberry <em>(p.13)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monarda fistulosa</strong></td>
<td>Wild bergamot <em>(p.14)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monarda punctata</td>
<td>Spotted bee-balm</td>
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<td><strong>Oenothera biennis</strong></td>
<td>American water lily</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oenothera fruticosa</strong></td>
<td>Common evening primrose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opuntia humifusa</td>
<td><strong>Sundrops</strong> <em>(p.14)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Peltandra virginica</td>
<td>Eastern prickly-pear</td>
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<td><strong>Phlox paniculata</strong></td>
<td>Arrow arum</td>
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<td>Podophyllum peltatum</td>
<td><strong>Summer phlox</strong> <em>(p.14)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Polygonatum biflorum</td>
<td>Mayapple</td>
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<td><strong>Rhedia virginica</strong></td>
<td>Solomon’s seal</td>
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<td><strong>Rhexia virginica</strong></td>
<td>Pickeral weed <em>(p.14)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rudbeckia hirta</strong></td>
<td>Virginia meadow-beauty</td>
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<td><strong>Rudbeckia laciniata</strong></td>
<td>Black-eyed Susan <em>(p.15)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Ruellia caroliniensis</strong></td>
<td>Cut-leaved coneflower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sagittaria latifolia</td>
<td>Carolina wild petunia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salvia lyrata</td>
<td>Broadleaf arrowhead</td>
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<td>Sanguinaria canadensis</td>
<td>Lyre-leaf sage</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saururus cernuus</strong></td>
<td>Bloodroot</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</strong></td>
<td>Lizard’s tail <em>(p.15)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sisyrinchium atlanticum</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Solidago caesia</strong></td>
<td>Coastal blue-eyed grass</td>
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<td><strong>Solidago odoratum</strong></td>
<td>Bluestem goldenrod</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Solidago sempervirens</strong></td>
<td>Sweet goldenrod</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Symphyotrichum novi-begii</strong></td>
<td><strong>Seaside goldenrod</strong> <em>(p.15)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New York aster</strong> <em>(p.15)</em></td>
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<td>Latin Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbesina alternifolia</td>
<td>Yellow ironweed</td>
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<td>Vernonia noveboracensis</td>
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<td>Viola cucullata</td>
<td>Marsh blue violet</td>
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<td>Yucca filamentosa</td>
<td>Common yucca</td>
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**Grasses/Sedges/Rushes**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ammophila breviligulata</td>
<td>American beach grass <em>(p.16)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Andropogon gerardii</td>
<td>Big bluestem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andropogon glomeratus</td>
<td>Bushy bluestem <em>(p.16)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Andropogon virginicus</td>
<td>Broomsedge <em>(p.16)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carex stricta</td>
<td>Tussock sedge <em>(p.16)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Distichlis spicata</td>
<td>Salt grass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dulichium arundinaceum</td>
<td>Three-sided sedge - Dwarf bamboo</td>
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<td>Elymus virginiticus</td>
<td>Virginia wild rye</td>
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<td>Festuca rubra</td>
<td>Red fescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juncus canadensis</td>
<td>Canada rush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juncus effusus</td>
<td>Soft rush <em>(p.17)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Juncus roemerianus</td>
<td>Black needlerush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panicum amarum</td>
<td>Coastal panic grass <em>(p.17)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Panicum virgatum</td>
<td>Switch grass <em>(p.17)</em></td>
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<td>Saccharum giganteum</td>
<td>Giant plumegrass</td>
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<td>Schizachyrium scoparium</td>
<td>Little bluestem <em>(p.17)</em></td>
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<td>Sparganium americanum</td>
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<td>Spartina alterniflora</td>
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<td>Sorghastrum nutans</td>
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<td>Zizania aquatica</td>
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**Ferns**

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<tr>
<td>Asplenium platyneuron</td>
<td>Ebony spleetwort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athyrium filix-femina</td>
<td>Northern lady fern <em>(p.18)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Botrychium virginianum</td>
<td>Rattlesnake fern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dryopteris cristata</td>
<td>Crested wood fern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dryopteris intermedia</td>
<td>Evergreen fern <em>(p.18)</em></td>
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<td>Onoclea sensibilis</td>
<td>Sensitive fern <em>(p.18)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Osmunda cinnamomea</td>
<td>Cinnamon fern <em>(p.18)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Osmunda claytoniana</td>
<td>Interrupted fern</td>
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<td>Osmunda regalis</td>
<td>Royal fern <em>(p.19)</em></td>
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<td>Polystichum acrostichoides</td>
<td>Christmas fern <em>(p.19)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pteridium aquilinum</td>
<td>Bracken fern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thelypteris noveboracensis</td>
<td>New York fern</td>
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<td>Thelypteris palustris</td>
<td>Marsh fern <em>(p.19)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodwardia areolata</td>
<td>Netted chain fern</td>
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<td>Woodwardia virginica</td>
<td>Virginia chain fern <em>(p.19)</em></td>
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**Vines**

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<tr>
<td>Bignonia capreolata</td>
<td>Crossvine <em>(p.20)</em></td>
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<td>Campsis radicans</td>
<td>Trumpet Creeper <em>(p.20)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Celastrus scandens</td>
<td>American bittersweet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clematis virginiana</td>
<td>Virgin’s bower <em>(p.20)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gelsemium sempervirens</td>
<td>Carolina jasmine <em>(p.20)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonicera sempervirens</td>
<td>Trumpet honeysuckle <em>(p.21)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikania scandens</td>
<td>Climbing hempvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</td>
<td>Virginia creeper <em>(p.21)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passiflora incarnata</td>
<td>Passion flower <em>(p.21)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisteria frutescens</td>
<td>Atlantic wisteria <em>(p.21)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The native plants featured in this guide are shaded in blue.

### Shrubs

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<thead>
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<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baccharis halimifolia</td>
<td>High tide bush/groundsel tree (p.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callicarpa americana</td>
<td>American beautyberry (p.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cephalanthus occidentalis</td>
<td>Buttonbush (p.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clethra alnifolia</td>
<td>Sweet pepper bush (p.23)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaultheria procumbens</td>
<td>Wintergreen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaylussacia baccata</td>
<td>Black huckleberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaylussacia frondosa</td>
<td>Dangleberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamamelis virginiana</td>
<td>Witch hazel (p.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex decidua</td>
<td>Possumhaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex glabra</td>
<td>Inkberry (p.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex verticillata</td>
<td>Winterberry (p.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex vomitoria</td>
<td>Yaupon holly (p.24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Itea virginica</td>
<td>Virginia willow (p.24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iva frutescens</td>
<td>Marsh elder (p.24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalmia angustifolia</td>
<td>Sheep laurel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalmia latifolia</td>
<td>Mountain laurel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leucothoe racemosa</td>
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<td>Lindera benzoin</td>
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<td>Morella (Myrica) cerifera</td>
<td>Southern wax myrtle (p.25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morella (Myrica) pensylvanica</td>
<td>Northern bayberry</td>
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<td>Persea palustris (borbonia)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>(Aronia arbutifolia, Pyrus arbutifolia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhododendron atlanticum</td>
<td>Coast azalea (p.25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhododendron periclymenoides</td>
<td>Pinxter Flower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhododendron viscosum</td>
<td>Swamp azalea (p.26)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhus copallinum</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhus glabra</td>
<td>Smooth sumac</td>
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### Small Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
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<td>Downy serviceberry (p.28)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amelanchier canadensis</td>
<td>Canada serviceberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asimina triloba</td>
<td>Pawpaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betula nigra</td>
<td>River birch (p.28)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cercis canadensis</td>
<td>Redbud (p.28)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Castanea pumila</td>
<td>Chinkapin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chionanthus virginicus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornus amomum</td>
<td>Silky dogwood (p.29)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornus florida</td>
<td>Flowering dogwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crataegus crus-galli</td>
<td>Corkspur hawthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morus rubra</td>
<td>Red mulberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ostrya virginiana</td>
<td>Eastern hop-hornbeam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus americana</td>
<td>American wild plum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix nigra</td>
<td>Black willow (p.31)</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Acer négundo</td>
<td>Box elder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer rubrum</td>
<td>Red maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carya alba</td>
<td>Mockernut hickory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carya glabra</td>
<td>Pignut hickory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carya ovata</td>
<td>Shagbark hickory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celtis occidentalis</td>
<td>Hackberry (p.28)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diospyros virginiana</td>
<td>Persimmon (p.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fagus grandifolia</td>
<td>American beech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</td>
<td>Green ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex opaca</td>
<td>American holly (p.29)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juglans nigra</td>
<td>Black walnut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juniperus virginiana</td>
<td>Eastern red cedar (p.30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liquidambar styraciflua</td>
<td>Sweetgum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liriodendron tulipifera</td>
<td>Tulip-tree (p.30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnolia virginiana</td>
<td>Sweetbay magnolia (p.30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nyssa aquatica</td>
<td>Water tupelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyssa sylvatica</td>
<td>Black gum (p.30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxydendrum arboreum</td>
<td>Sourwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinus echinata</td>
<td>Shortleaf pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinus taeda</td>
<td>Loblolly pine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinus virginiana</td>
<td>Virginia pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanus occidentalis</td>
<td>Sycamore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus serotina</td>
<td>Wild black cherry (p.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus alba</td>
<td>White oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus coccinea</td>
<td>Scarlet oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus falcata</td>
<td>Southern red oak (p.31)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus marilandica</td>
<td>Blackjack oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus michauxii</td>
<td>Swamp chestnut oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus nigra</td>
<td>Water oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus phellos</td>
<td>Willow oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus rubra</td>
<td>Northern red oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus stellata</td>
<td>Post oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus velutina</td>
<td>Black oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sassafras albidum</td>
<td>Sassafras (p.31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxodium distichum</td>
<td>Bald cypress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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/](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](http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/toc.htm)
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Austin - [http://www.wildflower.org/](http://www.wildflower.org/)
**Asclepias incarnata - Swamp milkweed**

- 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)

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

**ES Native Alternative to:**
*Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife)

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**

- 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**

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

**Benefits:**
Alarval 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**

- 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**

Benefits:
Nectar source for butterflies.

**Coreopsis lanceolata - Lanceleaf coreopsis, Sand coreopsis**

- 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.

**Conoclinum coelestinum - Blue mistflower**

Synonym: Eupatorium celestinum

- 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.

**Eupatorium dubium - Dwarf Joe-Pye weed, Little Joe**

- 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.
**Helianthus angustifolius** - Swamp sunflower, Narrow-leaf sunflower
- 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.

---

**Helenium autumnale** - Common sneezeweed, Fall sneezeweed
- 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.

---

**Hibiscus moscheutos** - Eastern rosemallow, Crimson-eyed rosemallow, Marshmallow hibiscus
- 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
- 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 officinalis, or Common Marsh Mallow

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

**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

**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 clay soils

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

**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.

**ES Native Alternative to:**
Altheae officinalis, or Common Marsh Mallow

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

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

**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.

**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.

**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)

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

The flowers bloom in succession
from the bottom up. The seeds can
be eaten like nuts and the young
leaf-stalks cooked as greens.
**Rudbeckia hirta** - **Black-eyed Susan, Brown-eyed Susan**

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

- **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.)*

- **Solidago sempervirens** - **Seaside goldenrod**

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

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

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

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

- **Benefits:**
  - Showy ornamental flower that attracts butterflies. A larval host to the Pearl Crescent butterfly (*Phyciodes tharos*).
**Ammophila breviligulata - American beach grass**

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


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

**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 disturbed lands and provides cover, nesting material, and seeds food for birds.

**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.*

**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

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:**
*Schiedonorus phoenix* (tall fescue)

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

---

**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

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

---

**Schedonurus phoenix (tall fescue)**

- 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

Benefits:
- 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.
**Athyrium filix-femina - Common ladyfern, Lady fern**

- perennial (decidual)
- 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**

- 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**

- perennial (decidual)
- 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**

- perennial (decidual)
- 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**

- 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.

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**Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas fern**

- 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.

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**Thelypteris palustris Schott - Eastern marsh fern, Marsh fern**

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

**Benefits:**
Attracts birds.

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**Woodwardia virginica - Virginia chain fern, Virginia chainfern**

- 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**

- 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)

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

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

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

**Campsis radicans**

**Synonyms:** Bignonia radicans -

- 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)

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

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

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

**Gelsemium sempervirens - Carolina jasmine, Yellow jessamine, Evening trumpetflower**

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

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

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

*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**

- 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.

**Passiflora incarnata - Purple passionflower, Maypop, Purple passion vine**

- 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.

**Parthenocissus quinquefolia - Virginia creeper**

- 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)

*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.

**Wisteria frutescens - American wisteria**

- 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*).
**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

**Benefits:**
- 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.

**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.

**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

**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.

**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.

**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**

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.

**Ilex glabra - Inkberry, Gallberry**

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.

**Hamamelis virginiana - Witch hazel, American witch hazel**

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 verticillata - Common winterberry, Michigan holly, Black alder**

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.
**Ilex vomitoria - Yaupon, Yaupon holly, Cassina**

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)

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

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

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

**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**

A 6 - 16 ft., single- or few-stemmed, fast-growing, 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:**
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.

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

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.

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

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

**Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian olive)**

**Ligustrum sinense (Chinese privet)**

**ES Native Alternative to:**

**Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton**
**Morella cerifera - Wax myrtle, Southern bayberry, Candleberry**

A wispy, 6 - 15 ft., multi-trunked, evergreen shrub that can reach 20 ft. in height. Light olive-green foliage has spicy fragrance. **Benefits:**
- attracts birds and butterflies.
- popular ornamental used for screens and hedges.
- Crush the leaves for an appealing, piquant fragrance.

**Pho**

**Photinia pyrifolia - Red chokeberry, Red chokecherry**

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. **Benefits:**
- full sun
- moist, acidic, rich soils

**Rhododendron atlanticum - Coastal azalea, Dwarf azalea**

A low, 1 - 3 ft., colony-forming shrub, sending up short-lived flowering branches. **Benefits:**
- Attractive ornamental.

**Persea palustris - Swamp bay, Swamp red bay**

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

**ES Native Alternative to:**

**Ligustrum sinense (Chinese privet)**

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

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

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.

**Benefits:**
Beautifully flowered ornamental.

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

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.

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

**Rosa palustris - Swamp rose**

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.”

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

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

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**

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**

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**

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

**Benefits:**


**ES Native Alternative to:**

*Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian olive)

**Viburnum prunifolium - Blackhaw, Smooth blackhaw**

A 12 - 15 ft., up to 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)

**Benefits:**

Sweet berries have a high wildlife value.

**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.
**Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton**

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

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

**Benefits:**

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

**Celtis occidentalis - Common hackberry**

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)

**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.

**Betula nigra - River birch**

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.

**Cercis canadensis - Eastern redbud**

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*

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.

- **Benefits:**
  - part shade
  - loose, moist, sandy soils

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

**Diospyros virginiana** - *Common persimmon, Eastern persimmon*

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.

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

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

**Cornus amomum** - *Red willow, Silky cornel, Silky dogwood*

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).

- **Benefits:**
  - part shade, shade
  - moist, clay, loam, sandy soils

**Ilex opaca** - *American holly, Christmas holly*

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.

- **Benefits:**
  - part shade
  - moist, well-drained, sandy, acidic soils

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

This evergreen tree, known for its fast growth, is also a common and invasive species. It is often found in urban areas and can cause problems with its rapid spread and aggressive root system. It can be used for ornamental purposes, but its invasive nature makes it a less desirable option for many landscapes.

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

*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.*
Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton

**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.

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

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**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.

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

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**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.

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

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**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.

- **Benefits:**
  - Handsome ornamental and shade tree. Juicy fruit is consumed by many birds and mammals.
**Prunus serotina - Black cherry**

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.

**Benefits:**
- 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.

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

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.

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

**ES Native Alternative to:**
*Salix sepulcralis* (Weeping willow)

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

An up to 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.

**Benefits:**
- 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 it’s unlike any oaks native to Spain.

**Sassafras albidum - Sassafras**

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.

**Benefits:**
- full sun, part shade, shade
- moist but well-drained, rich, sandy, acidic 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/esignativesdemosites.html.

Maritime Forest ES Native Plant Demonstration

UVA Anheuser Busch Coastal Research Center

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.

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

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.

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.

Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton
Shoreline ES Native Plant Demonstration

Willis Wharf Wildlife Observation Platform

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

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

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 pine straw 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

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

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

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.

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
Ariseema triphyllum – Jack-in-the-pulpit
Lobelia cardinalis – Cardinal flower
‘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.

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) with assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program 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, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the Campbell Foundation for the Environment. Virginia CZM Program staff will assist with development of the signage.

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

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

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 – Groundsel tree (buffer)
Pollinator Native Plant Demonstration
Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

A wide variety of Virginia native plants attract pollinators to two gardens at the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife 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 coelestinum – Mistflower
- Pycnanthemum tenuifolium – Narrowleaf mountainmint
- Baptisia australis – Wild blue indigo
- Vernonia noveboracensis – New York ironweed
- Symphoricarpos 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

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Height (ft.)</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<td>Juniperus virginiana</td>
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<td>30 - 40</td>
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<td><strong>Lilium superbum</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mitchella repens</strong></td>
<td>Partridgeberry</td>
<td>forb</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monarda fistulosa</strong></td>
<td>Wild bergamot</td>
<td>forb</td>
<td>2 - 4</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morella (Myrica) cerifera</strong></td>
<td>Southern wax myrtle</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>6 - 15</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nyssa sylvatica</strong></td>
<td>Black gum</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>30 - 75</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oenothera fruticosa</strong></td>
<td>Sundrops</td>
<td>forb</td>
<td>1 - 3</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Onoclea sensibilis</strong></td>
<td>Sensitive fern</td>
<td>fern</td>
<td>3 in. - 3 ft.</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Osmunda cinnamomea</strong></td>
<td>Cinnamon fern</td>
<td>fern</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Osmunda regalis</strong></td>
<td>Royal fern</td>
<td>fern</td>
<td>2 - 5</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Panicum amarum</strong></td>
<td>Coastal panic grass</td>
<td>grass</td>
<td>1 - 3</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Panicum virgatum</strong></td>
<td>Switch grass</td>
<td>grass</td>
<td>3 - 6</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</strong></td>
<td>Virginia creeper</td>
<td>vine</td>
<td>3 - 40</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Passiflora incarnata</strong></td>
<td>Passion flower</td>
<td>vine</td>
<td>up to 25</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Persea palustris (borbonia)</strong></td>
<td>Red bay</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>15 - 25</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phlox paniculata</strong></td>
<td>Summer phlox</td>
<td>forb</td>
<td>1.5 - 6.5</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photinia pyrifolia</strong></td>
<td>Red chokeberry</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>1.5 - 12</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Polystichum acrostichoides</strong></td>
<td>Christmas fern</td>
<td>fern</td>
<td>1 - 3</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin Name</td>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Height (ft.)</td>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pontederia cordata</em></td>
<td>Pickerel weed</td>
<td>forb</td>
<td>3 - 3.5</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Prunus serotina</em></td>
<td>Wild black cherry</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>40 - 75</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus falcata</em></td>
<td>Southern red oak</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>up to 70</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rhododendron atlanticum</em></td>
<td>Coast azalea, dwarf azalea</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>1 - 3</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rhododendron viscosum</em></td>
<td>Swamp azalea</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>5 - 10</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rosa palustris</em></td>
<td>Swamp rose</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>6 - 8</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rudbeckia hirta</em></td>
<td>Black-eyed Susan</td>
<td>forb</td>
<td>1 - 3.5</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Salix nigra</em></td>
<td>Black willow</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>10 - 60</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sambucus canadensis</em></td>
<td>Common elderberry</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>6 - 12</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sassafras albidum</em></td>
<td>Sassafras</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>35 - 50</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Saururus cernuus</em></td>
<td>Lizard’s tail</td>
<td>forb</td>
<td>1.5 - 4</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Schizachyrium scoparium</em></td>
<td>Little bluestem</td>
<td>grass</td>
<td>1.5 - 4</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Solidago sempervirens</em></td>
<td>Seaside goldenrod</td>
<td>forb</td>
<td>2 - 8</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Stewartia malacodendron</em></td>
<td>Silky camelia</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>up to 10</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</em></td>
<td>New York aster</td>
<td>forb</td>
<td>1 - 4.5</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Thelypteris palustris</em></td>
<td>Marsh fern</td>
<td>fern</td>
<td></td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vaccinium corymbosum</em></td>
<td>Highbush blueberry</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>6 - 12</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Vaccinium pallidum</em></td>
<td>Early lowbush blueberry</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>1.5 - 2</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum dentatum</em></td>
<td>Southern Arrowwood</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>6 - 15</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum prunifolium</em></td>
<td>Black-haw viburnum</td>
<td>shrub</td>
<td>12 - 15</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Wisteria frutescens</em></td>
<td>Atlantic wisteria</td>
<td>vine</td>
<td>25 - 30</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Woodwardia virginica</em></td>
<td>Virginia chain fern</td>
<td>fern</td>
<td>2 - 3</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTES:
Plant ES Natives
They're Shore Beautiful!