Native Plants for Northern Virginia
This guide showcases the attractive variety of plants native to Northern Virginia. Native plant species have evolved within specific regions and been dispersed throughout their range without known human involvement. These plants form the primary structure of the living landscape and provide food and shelter for native animal species.

This guide is being provided through the Plant NoVA Natives Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to promote the use of these plants in the urban and suburban landscapes of Northern Virginia for their many social, cultural and economic benefits, and to increase the availability of Northern Virginia native plants in retail nurseries throughout the region. The campaign is a partnership of:

Audubon Society of Northern Virginia
Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
Mason Sustainability Institute
Nature By Design
Northern Virginia Regional Commission (lead organization)
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
Potowmack Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society
Prince William Wildflower Society Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society
Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Master Gardeners
Virginia Master Naturalists

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

Design and publication management by Virginia Witmer, Coastal Zone Management Program and Corey Miles, Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Native plant information was provided by the following sources: Flora of Virginia, Virginia Native Plant Society, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center/The University of Texas at Austin, and USFWS Native Plant Center. Special thanks to the collaborative effort of the following authors and reviewers: James McGlone, Alan Ford, Corey Miles, Nancy Vehrs, Carla Thomas, Joanne Hutton, Caroline Haynes, Elaine Tholen, Beth Polak, Suzanne Dingwell and Catherine Howell. Special thanks to all the wonderful photographers who shared their talent to help highlight the beauty of Northern Virginia native plants!

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Cover Photos (center): Lonicera sempervirens – Coral Honeysuckle, Dot Field/Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage; (inset images top to bottom) Kalmia latifolia – Mountain Laurel, Margaret Chatham/Virginia Native Plant Society; Fragaria virginiana – Wild Strawberry, Sue Dingwell/Virginia Native Plant Society; Euonymus americanus – Strawberry-bush, Laura Beaty/VNPS; Claytonia virginica – Spring Beauty, Judy Gallagher; Mertensia virginica – Virginia Bluebell, Laura Beaty/Virginia Native Plant Society
Loss of native vegetation and fragmentation of the natural landscape in Northern Virginia has had a significant impact on the ecological integrity of the region. As a result, wildlife habitat, water quality, air quality as well as the historic, natural character of the landscape has suffered.

Although much of Northern Virginia has been converted to pavement or lawns, individual gardeners can make a profound difference in the ecological sustainability of our region by simply choosing to plant species that are native to Northern Virginia in your landscape rather than species that are not native.

Whether you are a residential gardener, professional landscaper, or a grounds manager there are many Northern Virginia native plants from which to choose! More and more gardeners are discovering the benefits of native plants and requesting them at local garden centers.

Most of the plants featured in this guide are nursery propagated and can be found for sale at some local retail establishments. With increasing demand for natives, retailers are offering an ever-widening selection.

**Northern Virginia native plants are beautiful.** They have appealing foliage, flowers and berries that can make your landscape unique, attractive and welcoming, not only for people, but also for local wildlife.

**Northern Virginia native plants are easier to maintain and save time and money.** Naturally adapted to our local soils and climate, the native plants in this guide also are relatively easy to maintain if given the correct growing conditions. By requiring less fertilizer, water and pesticides, native plants help reduce the load of chemicals introduced into our environment.

**Northern Virginia native plants support wildlife.** Birds and butterflies depend on native plants for food, shelter and reproduction. Your garden can become a habitat sanctuary and ‘rest stop’ for these animals. If your neighbors also plant natives, your community will help create the green corridors, or natural pathways, and the food that these animals need to sustain themselves as they migrate across the landscape.

Learn more about the Plant NoVA Natives Campaign - www.plantnovanatives.org
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A quick reference to height patterns, and light, moisture, and soil requirements. Plants are organized by botanical category in Latin name order. Those species featured in the guide are highlighted in bold.
**Key to Perennial (Forb), Grass, Fern, Vine, Shrub, and Tree Sections**

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

This guide provides an index (page 6) of some of the many beautiful, resilient and beneficial plants that are native to Northern Virginia. A selection of these plants is highlighted beginning on page 11 including a photo and details on the plant’s characteristics and requirements. The plants in the guide are listed alphabetically by scientific name and grouped in the following categories:

**Forbs** are small non-woody plants with showy flowers, generally pollinated by insects. Typically these plants are labeled as “perennials” at your garden center, so the guide refers to them as “Perennials (Forbs)”.

**Grasses**, including sedges and rushes, have upright strap-like leaves.

**Ferns** reproduce using spores rather than flowers.

**Vines** can be woody or non-woody and do not support themselves.

**Shrubs** are small woody plants.

**Trees** are large woody plants.

Plant as great a variety of plants as you can from within and among these groups to enhance the value of your landscape.

All the plants in this guide are “perennials”—meaning that they come back every year.

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**Key to Terms**

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

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

**Soil type:**
Soils in Northern Virginia are quite variable due to geologic variability (see page 4 for more detail). Most of the top soils removed during development leave behind a clay-rich sub-soil. Before adding anything to your soil other than a top dressing of organic mulch you should have your soil tested. To have your soil tested, contact your county Cooperative Extension Office ([www.ext.vt.edu/offices](http://www.ext.vt.edu/offices)) or your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

**For more soil information and maps visit:**
The Map

The map to the left shows the area covered by this guide.

Temperatures are fairly even across the region, even though elevations vary from nearly sea level along the Potomac River to almost 2,000 feet in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western Loudoun County, and the region encompasses the coastal plain, piedmont, and mountain physiographic regions.

The fall line is a geologic feature that marks the boundary between the coastal plain and the piedmont. The change from the rolling hills of the piedmont to the flat coastal plain is marked by an abrupt change in elevation that causes falls or rapids in the streams and rivers that cross it.

Plant Distributions

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

Although terms like physiographic region or hardiness zone can describe general conditions across a large area, the local conditions in your yard will determine what will best grow there. Information on light, moisture, pH, soil requirements, and physiographic region of origin for each native plant is provided in the index at the back of this guide.

Local geology and prior land disturbance affects soil fertility and moisture holding capacity. A soil test is always recommended before planting a garden. You can get a soil test kit from your local Cooperative Extension office, Soil and Water Conservation District, and other county or city offices (see page 3).
The geology and soils of the NOVA region are somewhat varied, but they support four main natural plant communities: those with good soils (Basic Oak-Hickory and Basic Mesic) and those with poor soils (Acidic Oak-Hickory and Oak/Heath). These plant communities reflect competition in the wild. In the less competitive setting of your yard, you may be able to mix these plants across forest types, especially between Acidic Oak-Hickory and Oak/Heath forests, and between Basic Oak-Hickory and Basic Mesic forests.

### Oak/Heath Forest:

These forests are frequently found in the coastal plain, but may occur anywhere in the NOVA region. They are similar to the Acidic-Oak Hickory Forest, but generally have more laurel, rhododendron and blueberries and fewer forbs, grasses, and ferns. Characteristic oaks include: White Oak (Quercus alba), Black Oak (Quercus velutina) and Northern Red Oak (Quercus rubra). Small trees and shrubs found in this community include Downy Serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea), Wintergreen (Gaultheria procumbens), Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia), Black Huckleberry (Gaylussacia baccata), rhododendrons (Rhododendron maximum), Wild Azalea (Rhododendron periclymenoides), and blueberries (Vaccinium spp.). Forbs include Spotted Wintergreen (Chimaphila maculata), Yellow Wild Indigo (Baptisia tinctoria) and Perfoliate Bellwort (Uvularia perfoliata). Eastern Bracken Fern (Pteridium aquilinum) is also found here.

### Acidic Oak-Hickory Forest:

These are typical forests of the piedmont upland. Dominant oaks include: White Oak (Quercus alba), Black Oak (Quercus velutina), Scarlet Oak (Quercus coccinea), and Southern Red Oak (Quercus falcata). Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida), Witch Hazel (Hamamelis virginiana var. virginiana), and Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis) are found in the understory. Early Lowbush Blueberry (Vaccinium pallidum) and Maple-leaved Viburnum (Viburnum acerifolium) are usually found here. Typical forbs include Plaintain-leaved Pussytoes (Antennaria plantaginifolia), Whorled Coreopsis (Coreopsis verticillata), Common Azure Bluets (Houstonia caerulea), Indian Cucumber-root (Medeola virginiana), Partridge-berry (Mitchella repens), Violet Woodsorrel (Oxalis violacea), Beardtongue (Penstemon digitalis), Solomon’s-seal (Polygonatum biflorum), and Wild Pink (Silene caroliniana). New York Fern (Parathelypteris noveboracensis) and Pennsylvania Sedge (Carex pensylvanica) are also found in this group.

### Basic Mesic Forest:

These forests are typically found on north and east facing slopes. Dominant trees include: Chinquapin Oak (Quercus muehlenbergii), American Beech (Fagus grandifolia), Bitternut Hickory (Carya cordiformis). A common small tree is Pawpaw (Asimina triloba). Forbs include Common Black Cohosh (Actaea racemosa), Common Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum), Common Wild Ginger (Asarum canadense), Dutchman’s Breeches (Dicentra cucullaria), Wild Bleeding Heart (Dicentra eximia), Mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum), Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis), and Heart-leaved Foamflower (Tiarella cordifolia). Northern Maidenhair Fern (Adiantum pedatum) also is present here.

### Basic Oak-Hickory Forest:

This forest type is generally found in the Culpeper basin. Dominant overstory species are generally characterized by mixtures of White Oak (Quercus alba), Northern Red Oak (Quercus rubra), Pignut Hickory (Carya glabra), and Tulip Popular (Liriodendron tulipifera). Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis) and Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida) are common understory species. Forbs include Spring Beauty (Claytonia virginica), Woodland Sunflower (Helianthus divaricatus), Eastern Solomon’s-plume (Maianthemum racemosum), Solomon’s Seal (Polygonatum biflorum), Star Chickweed (Stellaria pubera), goldenrods (esp. Solidago caesia), Rue-anemone (Thalictrum thalictroides), Wood Violet (Viola palmata). Bottlebrush Grass (Elymus hystrix) also is found here.
**Aquilegia canadensis**  ●  **Wild or Eastern Red Columbine**

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

- **1–3 feet**
- Nodding, red and yellow bell-like flower with upward spurred petals in March–May
- **Part shade**
- Sandy, well-drained soils, medium loam, sandy loam
- Natural habitat: dry rocky woodlands to moist, well-drained forests

*Short-lived plant, but readily self-sows. Backward-pointed tubes, or spurs, of the flower contain nectar that attracts long-tongued insects and hummingbirds especially adapted for reaching the sweet secretion.*

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

1–2 feet

- Large, cylindrical, hooded flower, green in color with brown stripes in March–April; in late summer, a cluster of bright red berries appears
- **Part shade to full shade**
- **Moist to wet soils**
- Natural habitat: humus-rich woods, bogs, swamps

*Grows most vigorously in moist, shady, seasonally wet locations.*

Excellent woods-garden plant. Very easy to cultivate in variety of conditions.

**Aruncus dioicus**  ●  **Goatsbeard (Eastern Goat's-beard)**

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to Dusky Azure (*Celastrina nigra*) butterfly.

- **3–8 feet**
- Large, feathery clusters of small, white flowers in May–June
- **Part sun to shade—subject to sun scald when not moist enough**
- Moist/wet soils
- Natural habitat: rich woods, ravines, wooded roadsides, clearings

*Needs space; good for large-scale displays massed in a drift down a slope. Aruncus, from the Greek aryngos (goat's beard), refers to the showy, finger-like flower clusters, which form feathery masses of all male or all female flowers. Male plants have showier flowers.*

**Asarum canadense**  ●  **Common Wild Ginger**

Larval host for Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*) butterfly.

- **4–8 inches**
- Reddish to greenish brown flower at ground level beneath leaves in April–May
- **Part shade to full shade**
- **Moist, rich soils**
- Natural habitat: woodlands

*Semi-evergreen, colonizing groundcover in shade. Seed dispersed by ants.*
**Asclepias incarnata** ● Swamp Milkweed

Swamp Milkweed’s showy flower clusters attract butterflies and hummingbirds. It is an important food source for the Monarch caterpillar (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>).

- 4–6 feet
- Pink, purple flowers in May–August
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist/wet, rich soils
- Natural habitat: Wet freshwater areas such as meadow, field, riparian area, swamp, marsh

*Good plant for wetland gardens. 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** ● Butterfly Weed

As its common name suggests, Butterfly Weed attracts butterflies, and is a larval host and nectar source for the Monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>). Tolerates drought.

- 1–3 feet
- Yellow-orange to bright orange in May–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist or dry, well-drained sandy soils
- Natural habitat: dry/rocky open woods, glades, fields and roadsides

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

**Baptisia australis** ● Blue Wild Indigo

Special value to bumble bees and other native bees.

- Up to 5 feet
- Blue-purple and pea-like in April–May
- Full sun
- Moist, usually sandy acidic soil
- Natural habitat: dry to moist open woods, streambanks, floodplains

*Like other members of the pea family, this plant requires the presence of microorganisms that inhabit nodules on the plants root system and produce nitrogen compounds necessary for the plants survival.*

**Baptisia tinctoria** ● Yellow Wild Indigo

A larval host for Frosted Elfin (<i>Callophrys irus</i>) and Wild Indigo Duskywing (<i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>) butterflies.

- 1–3 feet
- Yellow pea-like; May–September
- Full sun
- Dry, loam, sandy, acidic soils
- Natural habitat: dry open woods and clearings

*The genus name, from the Greek <i>baptizein</i> (to dye), refers to the fact that some species are used as an inferior substitute for true indigo dye.*
Perennials (Forbs)

**Chelone glabra ● White Turtlehead**

- 2–4 feet
- White, pink in July–September
- Full sun to full shade
- Light, rich, wet to moist soils
- Natural habitat: brushy marshes, stream banks, wet ditches, low meadows, woodlands

_The distinctive shape of this flower is reflected in the genus name, derived from the Greek chelone (tortoise). The related Chelone lyonii has pink inflorescences._

Nectar source for butterflies.

**Coreopsis verticillata ● Whorled or Threadleaf Coreopsis**

- 6 inches–3.5 feet
- Yellow in May–August
- Full sun to part shade
- Dry, well-drained primarily acidic soils
- Natural habitat: dry, open woods

_This plant spreads by rhizomes._

Attracts birds, butterflies. Drought tolerant.

**Claytonia virginica ● Spring Beauty, Virginia Spring Beauty**

- 4–12 inches
- Pink or whitish flowers, striped with dark pink, in loose clusters in March–May
- Part shade
- Rich, moist soils; prefers high humus
- Natural habitat: rich woods, thickets

_Plant disappears from above ground shortly after the seed capsules have ripened but does not leave a large gap in the garden. It grows from an underground tuber like a small potato; this has a sweet, chestnut-like flavor. Native Americans and colonists used them for food._

This most attractive spring perennial is spectacular in large patches. It spreads rapidly.

**Dicentra eximia ● Wild Bleeding Heart**

- 1.5–2 feet
- Deep pink to red, drooping heart-shaped flowers in April–June
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist soils
- Natural habitat: brackish marshes, rocky woods and cliffs, rich woods

_Flowers close at night._

Attracts birds and bees.
**Eurybia divaricata** • White Wood Aster

- 6 inches–3.5 feet
- August–October
- Full shade
- Moist, loam, sandy, acidic soils; good drainage essential
- Natural habitat: medium to dry woods

Attracts butterflies.

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**Eutrochium purpureum** • Sweet Joe-pye-weed

- 1–6.5 feet
- Tiny, pale pinkish-lavender florets in July–October
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to wet well-drained, humus-rich, sandy & clay soils
- Natural Habitat: upland forests, barrens, floodplain forests, alluvial swamps, stream banks

Attracts birds and numerous pollinators. Special value to native bees.

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**Fragaria virginiana** • Wild Strawberry

- Up to 1 foot
- Loose cluster of small, white, five-petaled flowers followed by tasty, wild strawberries in April–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Dry soils
- Natural habitats: woodlands, clearings, meadows

* Cultivated strawberries are hybrids developed from this native species and the South American one. Not to be confused with Duchesnia indica - yellow-flowered groundcover. Supports Conservation Biological Control, meaning a plant that attracts predatory or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.

Attracts butterflies, larval host to Gray Hairstreak. Special value to native bees.

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**Geranium maculatum** • Wild Geranium, Spotted Geranium

- 8–28 inches
- Lavender flowers are in loose clusters of 2-5 in April–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Moderate to dry, highly acidic to calcium-rich soils
- Natural habitat: upland and floodplain forests

Attracts birds. Special value to bumble bees and other native bees.
Perennials (Forbs)

**Helianthus angustifolius** ● Narrow-leaved Sunflower

- 3–6 feet
- Yellow in September–October
- Part shade
- Wet soils
- Natural habitat: bogs, ditches clearings

*Narrowest-leaved sunflower.

Attracts birds and native bees.

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**Helianthus tuberosa** ● Jerusalem Artichoke

- 3–6 feet
- Yellow flowers, August–October
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to drying soil
- Natural habitat: roadsides, woodland edges, thickets

*Can be an aggressive spreader.*

Good for native bees, and also provides cover and seeds for animals.

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**Heuchera americana** ● American Alumroot

- Leaves up to 6 inches; flowering stems 1–5 feet
- Leafless, hairy, sticky flower stalk rises 18–36 inches and surrounds its upper third with loosely grouped, minute, greenish, cup-shaped flowers in April–June
- Part shade to full shade
- Dry to moist soils
- Natural habitat: rocky woodlands and outcrops of various geologic formations; tolerant of a range of rock types and chemistries

*This species has interesting foliage. It is a good rock garden plant and a good groundcover in shady gardens. It also grows well in pots. Deer resistant.*

Attracts small bees.

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**Hibiscus moscheutos** ● Swamp or Eastern Rose-mallow

- 3–8 feet
- Creamy-white flowers in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Wet or moist alkaline soils
- Natural habitat: swampy forests, meadows, freshwater marsh edges

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

Strikingly showy species. Nectar source for hummingbirds.
**Iris cristata** ● Dwarf Crested Iris

- 4–16 inches
- Blue-violet or less often white flower in April–May
- Part shade to full shade
- Dry to moist, rocky, acidic and basic soils
- Natural habitat: woodlands, sometimes in mountain hollows and ravines

Colonizes by rhizomes; separate plants as desired.

Attracts hummingbirds, bees.

**Lilium superbum** ● Turk’s-cap Lily

- 4–8 feet
- Red, orange, yellow in July–September
- Full sun
- Moist, loam, sand, acidic soils; good drainage essential
- Natural habitat: meadows, swamps, woods

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.

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

**Liatris**

A genus in the Aster family that belies the notion that straight native plants can’t compete with cultivars or non-natives for showiness or beauty. All of these plants produce a large spike of lilac flowers that are a stunning accent to any garden or can be grouped as a centerpiece. Not only are they beautiful, but they are nectar plants for hummingbirds, butterflies and are especially good for native bees.

Though generally thought of as a mid-western prairie plant, the species below are native to Northern Virginia.

**Liatris pilosa v. pilosa**  
Grass-leaf Blazing Star, Grass-leaf Gayfeather

**Liatris scariosa**  
Large Blazing Star, Eastern Blazing Star

**Liatris spicata**  
Dense Blazing Star, Gayfeather, Blazing Star

**Liatris squarrosa**  
Scaly Blazing Star, Plains Blazing Star

Laura Beaty/VNPS

Gary Fleming/DCR

Sue Dingwell/VNPS

Native Plants for Northern Virginia
Perennials (Forbs)

**Lobelia cardinalis ● Cardinal Flower**
- 1–6 feet
- Red in July–October
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to wet, humus-rich, sandy & clay soils
- Natural habitat: low areas, woodlands edge, stream banks, roadsides, meadows

*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.

**Lobelia siphilitica ● Blue Lobelia**
- 1.5 - 6 feet
- Lavender-blue, tubular flowers crowded together on the upper stem from July–October
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to wet clay, loam or sandy soils
- Natural habitat: woodlands, meadows, swamps

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

**Maianthemum racemosum ● Eastern Solomon's-plume, False Solomon's-seal**
- 1–3 feet
- Tiny white flowers at tip of stem (a 1–4 inch plume or raceme) March–June, followed by bright red berries
- Part shade to full shade
- Well-drained, medium to moist, slightly acidic soil
- Natural habitat: deciduous woods, shaded banks and ditches

*A typical woodland plant in much of NOVA and beautiful choice for home landscaping in lightly shaded settings. It spreads by rhizomes but not aggressively enough to ever be invasive. Multiple arching stems, 1–3 feet long, grow from a single parent plant, making it a good option for a taller ground cover.*

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

**Mertensia virginica ● Virginia Bluebell, Virginia Cowslip**
- 8–28 inches
- Lavender-blue, bell-shaped in March–May
- Well-drained medium soils
- Part shade to full shade
- Natural habitat: floodplains, slope forests

*This species is ephemeral, which means that its foliage dies back in summer. Interplant with other perennials. Reseeds freely. When it grows in masses, this species makes a spectacular show.*

Pollinated by long-tongued bees, but supports many other early pollinators.

Special value to hummingbirds. Attracts birds and hummingbirds. Attracts birds and hummingbirds.

Alli Baird

Deana Crumbling

Laura Beaty/VNPS

Donna Murphy

Native Plants for Northern Virginia
**Mitchella repens**  • Partridge-berry

- 6 inches, creeping
- Pinkish-white, trumpet in May–July; red berry in July–December
- Part shade to full shade
- Dry or moist, humus-rich, sandy or loam, acidic soils
- Natural habitat: woods; stream banks; sandy slopes

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

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

**Opuntia humifusa**  • Eastern Prickly-pear

- 1-2½ feet, evergreen with 1–3 levels of flattened pads, each pad is up to 10 inches long, 7 inches across, and 1½ inches thick
- Yellow buds, one or more, can form on top of pad and each produces a single satiny yellow flower about 3–4 inches across followed by a pear-like fruit in late spring to mid-summer
- Full sun
- Dry, sandy soil

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

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

- 1–3 feet
- Golden-yellow in May–September
- Full sun
- Moist, acidic, well-drained soils; tolerant of brackish and lime soils
- Natural habitat: woods, roadsides, meadows

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

Attracts birds and hummingbirds.

**Monarda didyma**  • Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea

- 2–4 feet
- Scarlet-red, tube-shaped, tightly clustered flowers in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to wet, acid soils
- Natural habitat: creekbanks, meadows, floodplains, woods

Linnaeus named the genus Monarda in honor of a 16th century Spanish physician and botanist, Nicolas Bautista Monardes (1493-1588). Monardes never went to the Americas but was able to study medicinal plants in Spain because Spain controlled navigation and commerce from the New World.

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies. Special value to bumble bees and other native bees.

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- Full sun
- Dry, sandy soil

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

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

- 1–3 feet
- Golden-yellow in May–September
- Full sun
- Moist, acidic, well-drained soils; tolerant of brackish and lime soils
- Natural habitat: woods, roadsides, meadows

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

Attracts birds and hummingbirds.

**Monarda didyma**  • Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea

- 2–4 feet
- Scarlet-red, tube-shaped, tightly clustered flowers in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to wet, acid soils
- Natural habitat: creekbanks, meadows, floodplains, woods

Linnaeus named the genus Monarda in honor of a 16th century Spanish physician and botanist, Nicolas Bautista Monardes (1493-1588). Monardes never went to the Americas but was able to study medicinal plants in Spain because Spain controlled navigation and commerce from the New World.

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies. Special value to bumble bees and other native bees.
**Packera aurea • Golden Ragwort, Heartleaf Ragwort**

- 1–4 feet
- Golden-yellow, daisy-like in March–May
- Full sun to full shade
- Dry or moist, loam, sandy, rich acidic soils
- Natural habitat: floodplain forests, meadows

*Fragrant, evergreen groundcover, energetic spreader. Toxic to humans - do not consume.*

Attracts butterflies and bees.

**Penstemon digitalis • Beardtongue, Tall or White Foxglove**

- 1.5–5 feet
- Showy white tubular flowers in May–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Medium, loamy soils
- Natural habitat: wood margins, fields and other open, disturbed habitats

*Relatively long bloom period on a well-behaved plant with handsome shiny leaves. Reseeds. Tolerates deer and drought.*

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

**Peltandra virginica • Arrow Arum, Green Arrow Arum, Tuckahoe**

- 2–3 feet
- Yellow spadix surrounded by a greenish-white spathe occurring atop a statuesque stalk; blackish berries follow; April–June
- Part shade
- Mud
- Natural habitat: common in and along shallow waterways

*The genus name derives from the Greek 'pelte' (small shield) and ‘aner’ (stamen), referring to the shield-like contour of stamens. The common name, Arrow Arum, derives from the pronounced leaf shape, while the name 'Tuckahoe' is derived from the Algonquin name for the plant.*

The berries of arrow arum attract wood ducks and king rails.

**Phlox divaricata • Wild Blue Phlox, Woodland Phlox**

- 5 inches–2 feet
- Fragrant, lavender or pink flowers in April–May
- Filtered sunlight to light shade
- Rich, sandy or rocky, well-drained soils
- Natural habitat: floodplain forests to open woods

*Often fragrant. Not rabbit or deer resistant. 'Divaricata' refers to its sprawling habit.*

Attracts hummingbirds, long-tongued bees and butterflies.
**Perennials (Forbs)**

**Podophyllum peltatum**  **•**  **Mayapple**

- Cross-pollinated by bees. New colonies started by box turtles, which consume the yellow fruit and thereby spread the seed.
- 8 inches–1.5 feet
- Solitary, nodding, white to rose-colored flower; 6–9 waxy white petals in March–May; followed by large, fleshy, lemon-shaped berry
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist to dry, humus-rich soils
- Natural habitat: deciduous woods (not pine), shaded banks and various moist disturbed habitats

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

**Pycnanthemum tenuifolium**  **•**  **Narrow-leaf Mountain-mint**

- 1–4 feet
- Whitish to lavender, with purple spots in June–September
- Sun, part shade
- Wet to dry soils
- Natural habitat: meadows, fields, roadsides, riverside outcrops

Silvery foliage and long blooming period. Rub leaves on skin to repel mosquitoes. Supports Conservation Biological Control, meaning it is a plant that attracts predatory or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.

**Rubeckia**

**Rudbeckia** species, including Black-eyed Susan, Brown-eyed Susan, and Orange Coneflower, are easy to grow and low maintenance plants that are tolerant of most soils. They occur in fields, meadows, and roadsides. Some are shorter lived, but all re-seed and establish clumps.

- 1.5–4 feet
- Yellow petals around a dry, woody “cone” in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to dry, clay, loam, sandy soils

Shown: *Rudbeckia fulgida* - Orange Coneflower. The seedheads of *Rubeckia* spp. are a favorite food source for goldfinches and chickadees.

**Ruellia caroliniensis**  **•**  **Carolina or Common Wild-petunia**

- 0.5–3 feet
- Purple flowers, May–August
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist soils
- Natural habitat: roadsides, thickets, open woodlands

It is moderately tolerant of salt and likes higher pH, it is a good plant for the area between sidewalks and streets.

This plant has high value for pollinators.

**Margaret Chatham/VNPS**

**Rochelle Bartolomei/VNPS**

**Laura Beaty/VNPS**

**James McGlone/VDOF**

Native Plants for Northern Virginia
**Perennials (Forbs)**

**Sedum ternatum** • Wild Stonecrop, Woodland Stonecrop

- 2–8 inches
- White with five, pointed petals in April–June
- Part shade
- Well-drained, base-rich soils
- Natural habitat: floodplains and upland forests, shaded ledges and outcrops

*Rock-loving, prostrate, spreading ground cover. Cuttings readily root and may be taken from sterile shoots at any time during the growing season. Easy to propagate.*

Bees, wasps, and flies visit flowers.

**Silene caroliniana** • Wild Pink, Sticky Catchfly

- 1.5–8 inches
- Rose-pink, tubular flowers in April–July
- Part shade
- Tolerant of a range of soil and rock chemistries
- Natural habitat: forests, woodlands, barrens and outcrops

*A single wild pink plant can produce 50-100 showy, rose-pink, tubular flowers. It is commonly mistaken for Phlox.*

Hummingbirds and butterflies nectar on this beauty. Stunning, showy plant.

**Solidago**

A genus of 90 to 110 species commonly known as goldenrod.

**Goldenrods** are mostly yellow late summer and fall blooming flowers with a variety of shapes. They provide late season food for bees and butterflies and may attract predatory or parasitoid insects that target pest insects. Goldenrod, with its brilliant fall flowers, is often mistakenly believed to cause hayfever; the real offender is ragweed, which blooms at the same time with inconspicuous flowers and wind blown pollen.

Goldenrods average one to four feet in height, but some varieties can reach eight feet. They grow in a broad range of light and moisture conditions on a variety of soils. The following species will add splashes of yellow and gold to home gardens and other cultivated landscapes.

**Species that grow in lightly shaded woodland settings:**

[Please note that these species will not grow in deep shade.]

- **Solidago caesia** Blue-stemmed Goldenrod, Wreath Goldenrod
- **Solidago flexicaulis** Zig-zag Goldenrod
- **Solidago nemoralis** Gray, Dwarf, Old Field Goldenrod

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

- **Solidago caesia** Blue-stemmed Goldenrod, Wreath Goldenrod
- **Solidago nemoralis** Gray, Dwarf, Old Field Goldenrod
- **Solidago rugosa** Rough-stemmed Goldenrod, Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod

**Species that prefer full sun:**

- **Solidago altissima** Tall Goldenrod, Late Goldenrod
- **Solidago juncea** Early Goldenrod
- **Euthamia graminifolia** Flat-top Goldenrod
**Viola**

A genus of over 500 species worldwide, with 30 species native to our region and commonly known as violets. Violets are small plants that come in a variety of flower colors, leaf shapes and forms. They provide nectar for bees and are host plants for several fritillary butterflies. Ants spread their seeds.

Two common species (V. sororia and V. bicolor) may be used in low maintenance settings such as meadows and naturalized lawns. The easy-care, attractive species listed here can be used as fillers among taller plants and will add color to spring and early summer gardens.

- **Viola cucullata**  
  Marsh Blue Violet  
  flowers April-June, moist conditions, marsh, riverbank

- **Viola labradorica**  
  Dog Violet (V. conspersa)  
  stemmed, flowers late Mar - May

- **Viola pedata**  
  Bird's-foot Violet  
  flowers March-June, deeply cut leaves, dry forests and clearings

- **Viola pubescens**  
  Yellow Violet  
  yellow flowers March-May, well drained rich soils

- **Viola sagittata**  
  Arrow-leaved Violet  
  flowers April, narrow shaped leaved

- **Viola striata**  
  Striped Violet, Cream Violet  
  moist woodlands, blooms later and longer than most

**Sisyrinchium angustifolium**  
(Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed-grass)

- 8–20 inches
- Delicate, blue or deep blue-violet flowers with yellow centers in April–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to dry, poor to average soils
- Natural habitat: upland forests, meadows, fields, woods

*Member of the iris family. Deciduous. Avoid heavy mulch. Should be divided every other year. Reseeds.*

**Symphyotrichum**

A genus of about 90 species of herbaceous annual and perennial plants in the composite family (Asteraceae) that were formerly treated within the genus Aster. The majority are native to North America.

- **Symphyotrichum cordifolium**  
  Heart-leaved Aster, Blue Wood Aster

- **Symphyotrichum laeve (Aster laevis)**  
  Smooth Blue Aster, Smooth Aster

- **Symphyotrichum lateriflorum**  
  Calico Aster

- **Symphyotrichum nova-angliae**  
  New England Aster

- **Symphyotrichum novi-belgii**  
  New York Aster

**Symphyotrichum**

Asters support many insect visitors. Bees, butterflies, and skippers enjoy the flowers.
Perennials (Forbs)

**Vernonia noveboracensis • New York Ironweed**
- 3–6 feet
- Red-purple flowers in July–September
- Full sun to part shade
- Found in moist soils in the wild, but will flourish in regular or dry soil; tolerates clay and neutral to acidic conditions
- Natural habitat: floodplain forests, riverbanks, meadows, roadsides

> As a tall, narrow plant, it is suited for the back of the border or tight spaces.

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

**Zizia aurea • Golden-alexanders, Common Golden-alexanders**
- 1–3 feet
- Clusters of tiny, yellow flowers in April–May
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to wet soils
- Natural habitat: floodplain forests, marshes, clearings

> Dry seedheads turn purple, adding summer interest. Supports Conservation Biological Control, meaning it is a plant that attracts predatory or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to Black Swallowtail. Special value to native bees.

**Insect–Plant Coevolution:**

The Story of the Yucca and the Yucca Moth

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

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

- 6–12 inches
- April–June
- Full sun to full shade
- Dry to moist soils
- Natural habitat: woods

*Plant enriches soil and makes a nice groundcover. Spreads by rhizomes. Many other sedges also make handsome, easy-care groundcovers.*

Attracts birds.

**Eragrostis spectabilis** • Purple Love Grass

- 8–18 inches
- Purplish red panicles appear in August–October
- Full sun
- Dry to moist sandy soils
- Natural habitat: woodlands, fields

*Drought tolerant. Best in masses, where it creates a lovely purple haze in seed.*

Host to Zabulon skipper. Seed consumed by birds and other wildlife.

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**Schizachyrium scoparium** • Little Bluestem

- 1.5–4 feet very dense mounds
- White seedhead in August–October
- Full sun to part shade
- Dry, well-drained, sandy, clay or loam soils
- Natural habitat: woodland edges, hillsides, slopes, open areas

*Wonderful planted en masse. This grass provides a changing visual dynamic that ranges from blue-green stems in late summer to radiant mahogany-red, white tufted seedheads in fall. A reddish-tan color persists during winter.*

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

**Sorghastrum nutans** • Indian Grass

- 1.5–8.5 feet
- Leaves turn brilliant mauve, red and purple in September–November and provide attractive early fall color; fruits turn from red to blue to black
- Full sun
- Dry to moist; tolerates range of soil chemistries
- Natural habitat: prairies, slopes, borders of woods

Birds eat fruit through the winter.
Adiantum pedatum - Northern Maidenhair Fern

- 8–20 inches
- Burgundy red fiddleheads appear in early spring; fertile, not flowering but reproduces by spores; June–August
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist/well-drained soil; nutrient-rich soils; not drought tolerant
- Natural habitat: mountains

This fern is quite easy to grow if it is provided with the right conditions. Forms colonies by creeping rhizomes.

Provides shelter for toads and lizards.

Osmundastrum cinnamomeum - Cinnamon Fern

- 6 feet
- Thick spore-bearing spikes that turn from green to chocolate brown appear April–May
- Full sun to full shade
- Muddy, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils
- Natural habitat: boggy areas, shaded ledges

Deciduous. Bristly root crown, called osmunda fiber, used as a potting medium for orchids.

Dramatic landscape accent. The fuzz that covers the young fiddleheads is a favorite nesting material for birds.

Matteuccia struthiopteris - Ostrich Fern

- 1–6 feet
- July–October; fertile, not flowering but reproduces by spores
- Part shade to full shade
- Cool, sandy soils
- Natural habitat: rich alluvial forests; swamps; bottomland woods & thickets

Deciduous. Beaded fertile plumes persist through winter. Spreads through underground runners, so give it room.

Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas Fern

- Fronds 1–3 feet, taller when fertile; non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist, well-drained, humus-rich, sandy, acidic soils; does not tolerate standing water
- Natural habitat: rocky woods, stream banks, swamps, thickets

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

Good, evergreen border or adaptable accent plant.
**Vines**

**Clematis virginiana • Virgin’s Bower**

- 12–15 feet
- Clusters of creamy white flowers turning into showy sprays of silky seeds that glisten with backlighting in July–September
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to dry, rich soils
- Natural habitat: woods, thickets, stream banks

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

Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

**Gelsemium sempervirens • Yellow Jessamine**

- 10–20 feet
- Yellow tubular flowers in January–May, December
- Full sun to part shade; best in sun
- Moist, well-drained, humus-rich, sandy or clay soils; pH adaptable
- Natural habitat: thickets, woods, fence rows, hammocks

Adaptable and tenacious evergreen, with no serious disease or insect problems. All parts of this plant are toxic.

**Lonicera sempervirens • Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle**

- 3–20 feet
- Red outer, sometimes yellow inner, tubular flowers in March–June followed by bright-red berries
- Full sun (best) to part shade
- Sandy and clay, but rich, moist soils preferred, lime and acidic soil okay; tolerates poor drainage for short periods
- Natural habitat: inhabits wide range of natural habitats

This beautiful semi-evergreen vine is great for arbors. The species name refers to its evergreen habit. Deer resistant.

Frequently visited by hummingbirds and butterflies. Fruits attract Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Hermit Thrush, and American Robin.

**Wisteria frutescens • American Wisteria**

- 25–30 feet, deciduous
- Lilac or bluish purple in May–June
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist, rich, sandy, loam or clay, neutral to slightly acid soils; prefers a good loamy soil in a sunny south or southwest facing position
- Natural habitat: woods, river banks, upland thickets

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 also is less aggressive than the similar Asian species.

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to Zarucco Duskywing Skipper (Erynnis zarucco).
**Amorpha fruticosa** • False Indigo Bush

- 6–13 feet
- Brilliant purple flowers on 3–6 inch spikes in April–June
- Full sun to part shade
- Tolerates wet soils
- Natural habitat: stream banks, bogs, pond areas

*Deciduous. Contains some indigo pigment that can be used to make blue dye.*

Larval host and nectar source for many butterflies and native bees. Can form dense thickets and provide cover for wildlife. Deer resistant.

**Cephalanthus occidentalis** • Buttonbush, Button Willow

- 6–12 feet spreading, multi-branched evergreen shrub or sometimes small tree
- Balls of long-lasting white or pale-pink flowers resembling pincushions in June–September, and button-like balls of fruit; rounded masses of nutlets that persist through the winter
- Full sun to part shade
- Wet, sandy and clay soils; poor drainage or standing water okay
- Natural habitat: shorelines, swamps

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

**Aronia arbutifolia** • Red Chokeberry, Red Chokecherry

- 6–12 feet
- Many clusters of small, white flowers in early May followed by bright red berries that persist into December
- Tolerates dry to wet, almost swampy conditions
- Full sun
- Natural habitat: wet and dry thickets

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

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

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

- 6–10 foot narrow, deciduous shrub, which often spreads into mounded clumps
- Spike-like, upright clusters of fragrant white flowers in July–August
- Full sun to full shade
- Wet to moist, acidic soils
- Natural habitat: forests and thickets

Leaves turn dull yellow to orange in fall. Its dry fruiting capsules remain long after flowering and help identify this plant in winter. Deer love it.

Versatile, carefree shrub that is remarkably free of any disease, insect or physiological problems.
**Gaultheria procumbens**  •  Wintergreen, Teaberry

- 2–6 inches evergreen subshrub, useful as a ground-cover
- Small, bell-shaped, white to pink flowers in June–August
- Part shade to full shade
- Poor, well-drained soil
- Natural habitat: forests, pine woodlands, bogs

**Ilex verticillata**  •  Common Winterberry

- 3–10 feet globular, upright, medium-sized deciduous shrub, male and female separate
- Inconspicuous flowers in April–July; dense clusters of bright red berries that remain throughout winter
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist, sandy, clay, acidic soils
- Natural habitat: swamps, thickets, low woods, along ponds and streams

**Hamamelis virginiana**  •  Witch Hazel

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

**Itea virginica**  •  Virginia-willow, Virginia Sweetspire

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

Oblong leathery leaves have a distinct wintergreen scent when crushed. This species has lovely winter color. Low-growing habit and creeping underground stems form small colonies of plants. Leaves may be browsed.

Bright red, showy berries that persist through winter make this plant a unique groundcover with four-season interest.

Birds eat the fruits (small brown capsules). The species has brilliant fall color and flowering.

Leaves are not shaped with sharp teeth like other hollies and are not evergreen. Berries are quite showy and will persist throughout the winter and often into early spring, providing considerable impact and interest to the winter landscape.

Flowers and fall foliage make this an attractive ornamental. Can grow in areas of poor drainage.

*The source of the astringent extract.*

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

Very effective in massed plantings and also good as a container plant.
**Shrubs**

**Kalmia Latifolia ● Mountain Laurel**

- 5–15 feet broadleaf thicket-forming evergreen shrub, sometimes a small tree with short, crooked trunk; stout, spreading branches
- Bell-shaped, white to pink flowers with deep rose spots inside occur in large flat-topped clusters in June–July; glossy leaves change from light-green to dark-green to purple throughout year
- Part shade
- Cool, moist, rocky or sandy, acidic soils
- Natural habitat: woods, pastures, meadows, slopes

*Mountain Laurel is one of the most beautiful native flowering shrubs. Needs afternoon shade, good drainage and the right setting to thrive. Poisonous plant parts.*

**Physocarpus opulifolius ● Ninebark**

- 3–10 feet deciduous shrub with recurved branches. Twigs are brown to yellowish; bark brown to orangish, peeling into thin strips or broader sheets on larger trunks
- Clusters of small white flowers May–June
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist to wet, mineral-rich (including calcium) soils
- Natural habitat: rocky open woodlands, cliffs, outcrops, rocky river shores, stream banks

*The ability to grow quickly in harsh conditions makes this shrub especially suitable for erosion control on banks. Disease resistant and drought tolerant.*

**Lindera benzoin ● Northern Spicebush, Spicebush**

- 6–12 foot single- or few-stemmed, fast-growing, deciduous shrub
- Dense clusters of tiny, pale yellow flowers bloom in April; glossy red fruit in September–October
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist, sandy, well-drained soils (better form, more berries with sun)

Fruit and foliage are aromatic. Leaves turn a golden—yellow in fall with some sun. These species has separate male and female plants. Deer avoid this species.

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

- 6–12 feet shrub with picturesque, horizontal branching
- Funnel-shaped, pink or white flowers with protruding stamens occur in large fragrant clusters, appearing before or with the leaves in March–May
- Part shade
- Well-drained, sandy soil
- Natural habitat: woods, bogs, riparian

*This species is relatively tolerant of dry sites, and needs good drainage. The species name, Latin for naked-flowered, refers to the fact that the flowers often appear before its leaves are fully expanded.*

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The stamens of the flowers have an odd, springlike mechanism which spreads pollen when tripped by a bee.

Value to songbirds, waterfowl, small mammals, and beneficial insects. Special value to native bees and honey bees.

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.

Especially showy flowers. Nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.
**Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis** • Common or Black Elder

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

*The genus name comes from Greek *sambuce*, an ancient musical instrument.*

**Vaccinium pallidum** • Early Lowbush Blueberry

- 1.5–2 feet shrub with green bark, light to dark brown twigs, alternate, elliptic leaves, dark green above, paler beneath
- Green-white to pink flowers in March–May; berries are dark blue to black and mature June to July
- Full sun to full shade
- Moist or dry, loam, sandy soils
- Natural habitat: many forest and soil types

*Sweet berries have a high wildlife value, as do flowers and leaves.*

*Hips develop lovely red color. Although one of the most shade-tolerant roses, this species grows best in open sunny locations.*

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

- 6–12 feet loose and graceful, deciduous shrub with both woody and herbaceous branches
- 4–6 feet deciduous shrub with multiple, erect-arching stems in a loose, round habit
- White, flat-topped flower clusters in May–July are followed by dark blue berries; dark-green foliage turns yellow to wine-red in fall
- Full sun to full shade
- Dry to wet, acidic soils and sands
- Natural habitat: woods and thickets

*Most soil-adaptable of the viburnums.*

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

- 1–3 feet freely suckering shrub
- Pink flowers from thorny stems—fragrant, 2 inch wide, 5-petaled—occur singly or in small clusters in May–June; fruit, a hip, turns from dark green to bright red as it ripens
- Full sun to part shade
- Dry to wet, acidic soils
- Natural habitat: sandy, open woods; thickets, roadsides, disturbed areas

*Birds are attracted to the purple-black fruit and spread the seeds.*

*Attracts birds. Special value to bumble bees and other native bees: a plant that native bees nest beneath, within, or harvest parts from to construct their nests. Drought tolerant.*

**Viburnum carlesii** • Japanese Snowball

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

*Most soil-adaptable of the viburnums.*

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

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

*The genus name comes from Greek *sambuce*, an ancient musical instrument.*
Amelanchier canadensis • Canada Serviceberry

15–30 feet with multiple, upright stems forming a dense shrub with a narrow crown and many small-diameter branches or, if properly pruned, a small tree
- White flowers in March–May followed by red to purple fruit in June–August; brilliant fall color display ranging from yellow and orange to red
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained acidic soils
- Natural habitat: wood borders; moist, upland woods

Good fall color commends serviceberry for multi-season interest and smaller gardens.

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

Asimina triloba • Pawpaw, Common Pawpaw

10–40 feet tree or multi-stemmed shrub
- Purple, six-petaled flowers are borne singly in leaf axils in April–May before leaf emergence; large, cylindrical, dark-green or yellow fruit follows; yellow fall foliage
- Full sun to full shade
- Rich, moist, slightly acid soils
- Natural habitat: ditches, ravines, depressions, flood plains, bottomland

A larval host for Zebra Swallowtail (Eurytides marcellus) and Pawpaw Sphinx (Dolba hyloeus). Aromatic tree with no serious disease or insect problems.

Betula nigra • River Birch

Up to 50 feet gracefully branched tree, can reach 90 feet with irregular, spreading crown; produces a cone fruit; satiny, silver bark peels to reveal a cinnamon brown trunk beneath; fall foliage is yellow
- Part shade
- Sandy or clay, moist, acidic soils; well-suited to periodically wet areas
- Natural habitat: flood plains, bottomland, ditches, ravines, depressions, swamps, stream and river banks to mid-slope

This is the southernmost New World birch and the only birch that occurs at low altitudes in the southeastern US.

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

Carpinus caroliniana • American Hornbeam, Ironwood

35–50 feet with a wide-spreading crown uniformly oval or very irregular and graceful, drooping branches and slender trunk, pale gray, smooth and sinewy with twisting, muscle-like bulges; shiny, bluish-green, deciduous leaves become scarlet-orange in the fall
- Hanging fruit, appearing March–April, is papery in texture
- Part shade to full shade
- Moist, well-drained soils
- Natural habitat: upland and floodplain forests, alluvial swamps, stream banks

The word ‘hornbeam’ is from the words horn (for toughness) and beam (for tree) and refers to the very hard tough wood.
**Diospyros virginiana** • **Common Persimmon**

- 15 up to 100 feet with a spreading crown and pendulous branches; large, oval, mature leaves usually become yellow-green in fall
- Bell-shaped, yellow flowers in April–June; large, sweet, orange fruit in autumn
- Part shade
- Moist, rich, sandy, loam or clay, acidic or calcareous soils
- Natural habitat: dry woods, old fields and clearings

The word ‘Persimmon’ is of Algonquin origin. Diospyros means ‘fruit of the god Zeus.’ With age, bark becomes thick, dark gray to almost black, and breaks into scaly, squarish blocks.

Valued for fruit. Attracts wildlife and is larval host to the Luna moth (*Actias luna*).

**Ilex opaca** • **American Holly, Christmas Holly**

- 25 to 60 feet evergreen has stout, stiff branches that 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
- Part shade
- Moist, well-drained, sandy, acidic soils
- Natural habitat: primarily an understory woodland tree

In late winter, many kinds of songbirds eat the bitter berries of this slow-growing but long-lived tree.

A popular Christmas decoration, the wood also is especially suited for inlays in cabinetwork, and carvings, can be dyed. Shorter, multi-trunked form may grow in lower-light situations.

**Juniperus virginiana** • **Eastern Redcedar**

- 30–40 feet (can reach 90 feet) 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; soft, silvery bark covers the single trunk
- Pale blue fruits occur on female plants
- Full sun to part shade
- All soils (adaptable)
- Natural habitat: any open spaces

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

**Magnolia virginiana** • **Sweetbay Magnolia**

- 12–30 feet (occasionally growing to 50 feet) evergreen tree with pale grey bark and multiple, slender, upright trunks bearing horizontal branches; aromatic, spicy foliage
- Solitary, velvety-white, fragrant flowers in May - July followed by dark red aggregate fruits exposing bright red seeds
- Part shade
- Moist, rich, sandy, loam, acidic soils
- Natural habitat: open woodlands, swamps

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

*First observed at Roanoke Island, VA, in 1564, this tree was prized by the colonists for building furniture, rail fences, and log cabins.*
**Nyssa sylvatica  • Blackgum, Black Tupelo**

- 30–60 feet variable-shaped, deciduous tree with horizontally spreading branches; 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
- Berries are small and blue
- Full sun to full shade
- Various moist, acidic, gravelly soils
- Natural habitat: wide-ranging, found in a variety of habitats

These species is one of the first plants to color in fall. These species tolerates drier sites and also tolerates poor drainage.

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

**Pinus echinata  • Shortleaf Pine**

- 50–130 feet large tree; short spreading branches form a pyramid that loosens with age to form a broad, open crown; bright green, 5 inch needles grow in tufts; trunks of larger trees have broad, flat, reddish-brown plates
- Yellow cones in March–April
- Part shade
- Moist, well-drained to dry soils
- Natural habitat: forests, old fields, rocky woodlands

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

The most widely distributed of the southern yellow pines. Native in 21 southeastern states.

**Quercus alba  • White Oak**

- Up to 120 feet with spreading branches and a wide rounded crown, the trunk irregularly divided into spreading, often horizontal, stout branches; round-lobed leaves turn burgundy in fall, and dried leaves remain into winter
- Brown catkins appear just before or with the appearance of new leaves from March–April; acorns up to 3/4 inch long, sometimes to 1 1/4 inches, the cup without the fringe found in Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa).
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to dry soils
- Natural habitat: woodlands and old fields

One of the most important species in the white oak group. Acorns are an important food source for a wide variety of mammals and birds. Supports hundreds of species of caterpillars. Very rot resistant. Good yard tree with few disease or pest problems.

**Taxodium distichum  • Baldcypress**

- Up to 100 feet conifer, with small deciduous needles and a thin, dark to silvery brown bark that shreds lengthwise; cones are 1 inch diameter globes
- Full sun to light shade
- Wet to dry soils
- Natural habitat: swamps, streambanks

Although Baldcypress is usually found in swamps, this is an adaptation to low oxygen not water need, so it does very well in dry compacted urban soils. A centerpiece tree with a color and texture that set it apart from other landscape trees. ‘Bald’ refers to the deciduous nature uncommon among other conifers.

Brilliant red fall color. Larval host for Baldcypress Sphinx (Isoparce cupressi).
How Will NoVA Natives Look in My Garden?

Visiting a demonstration garden is a good way to get inspiration and guidance on how to incorporate new plants into your landscape.

There are many different types of demonstration gardens in our area; you will find gardens focused on pollinators, rainwater, urban settings, and more. A computer search will show you many options. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) keeps a comprehensive listing on their website; search for "Local Northern Virginia Audubon at Home Demonstration Sites." You will find there regional, city and county parks hosting demonstration areas. You can also visit the many schoolyard gardens used for teaching the value of these plants' ecosystem services.

In Vienna, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens has extensive woodland and meadow plantings and signage. Fairfax County’s Green Spring Gardens also has a native plant trail and hosts the local chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society’s propagation beds. Arlington’s Potomac Overlook Regional Park, and the Bon Air Park sunny and shady gardens maintained by Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners respectively, offer year-round interest. The Nature Conservancy Headquarters near Ballston offers a native plant garden in a more urban setting. Prince William claims Merrimac Farm’s Wildlife Management Area, while the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy promotes many Monarch Waystations throughout the county and maintains a valuable website. And of course our State Arboretum, Blandy, in Clark County, has woodland, meadow and wetland plantings as well as extensive native tree offerings, and much more.

Happy visiting!

For more information about Northern Virginia’s growing number of demonstration gardens, visit the Plant NoVA Natives website at www.plantnovanatives.org.

Kids and Native Plants

Many public and private schools are building wildlife habitats on school grounds to offer students a rich, hands-on experience with native Virginia plants and animals. Fairfax County Public Schools, for example, have over 80 schools with wildlife habitat and the number is growing each year. These outdoor classrooms give students the opportunity to engage in authentic, problem-based learning efforts. Students work together to help plan, construct, and maintain the wildlife habitat, and see that their everyday actions can make a difference in the health of the environment.

Schools can be an agent of change by demonstrating sustainable landscaping techniques on their properties and educating their students and surrounding communities about the importance of providing wildlife habitat.
Finding plants that will thrive in dry shade can be challenging. Spring ephemerals (plants that flower and set seed before the tree canopy fills in and then go dormant) are good choices. The lists below contain many attractive species that can be grown in dry, shady areas.

**Perennials (Forbs)**

*Antennaria plantaginifolia* • Plantain-leaved Pussytoes  
*Chrysogonum virginianum* • Green and Gold  
*Conoclinium coelestinum* • Mistflower, Ageratum  
*Dicentra eximia* • Bleeding Heart  
*Erigeron pulchellus* • Robin’s Plantain  
*Eurybia divaricata* • White Wood Aster  
*Goodyera pubescens* • Downy Rattlesnake-plantain  
*Helianthus divaricatus* • Woodland Sunflower, Spreading Sunflower  
*Heuchera americana* • American Alumroot  
*Mitchella repans* • Partridgeberry  
*Packera aurea* • Golden or Heartleaf Ragwort  
*Polygonatum biflorum* • Solomon’s Seal  
*Pycnanthemum incanum* • Hoary Mountain Mint

**Ferns**

*Dryopteris carthusiana* • Spinulose Woodfern  
*Dryopteris marginalis* • Marginal Woodfern, Evergreen Shieldfern

**Vines**

*Clematis virginiana* • Virgin’s Bower  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* • Virginia Creeper  
*Wisteria frutescens* • American Wisteria

**Shrubs**

*Ceanothus americanus* • New Jersey Tea, Redroot  
*Gaultheria procumbens* • Wintergreen, Teaberry  
*Hamamelis virginiana* • Witch Hazel  
*Hydrangea arborescens* • Wild Hydrangea, Smooth Hydrangea  
*Hypericum prolificum* • Shrubby St. John’s Wort  
*Lindera benzoin* • Spicebush  
*Staphylea trifolia* • Bladdernut  
*Vaccinium corymbosum* • Highbush Blueberry  
*Vaccinium pallidum* • Early Lowbush Blueberry  
*Viburnum acerifolium* • Maple-leaved Viburnum

**Trees**

*Amelanchier arborea* • Downy Serviceberry  
*Carpinus caroliniana* • American Hornbeam, Ironwood  
*Cercis canadensis* • Eastern Redbud  
*Chionanthus virginicus* • Fringe Tree, Old Man’s Beard  
*Quercus prinus* • Chestnut Oak, Rock Chestnut Oak
Street side environments experience dry, harsh conditions and are exposed to pollutants, dust, spray, salt, and compacted soil. Soil pH can also be affected through leaching from concrete curbs and sidewalks. The best street trees happen to also be marsh species adapted to an environment with saturated soil and low oxygen. Consider the following species for street side environments.

**Perennials (Forbs)**
- **Hibiscus moscheutos, Swamp Rose-mallow** • Eastern Rose-mallow, Crimson-eyed Rose-mallow
- **Oenothera biennis** • Common Evening Primrose
- **Opuntia humifusa** • Eastern Prickly-pear

**Grasses/Ferns**
- **Panicum virgatum** • Switchgrass
- **Schizachyrium scoparium (Andropogon scoparius)** • Little Bluestem
- **Thelypteris palustris** • Marsh Fern

**Shrubs**
- **Aronia arbutifolia (Photinia pyrifolia)** • Red Chokeberry
- **Aronia melanocarpa (Photinia melanocarpa)** • Black Chokeberry
- **Cephalanthus occidentalis** • Buttonbush
- **Gaylussacia baccata** • Black Huckleberry
- **Lindera benzoin** • Spicebush
- **Rosa carolina** • Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose
- **Sambucus canadensis** • Common Elderberry, American Elder
- **Vaccinium corymbosum** • Highbush Blueberry, Northern Highbush Blueberry
- **Viburnum dentatum** • Arrow-wood, Southern Arrow-wood Viburnum

**Small Trees**
- **Amelanchier arborea** • Downy Serviceberry
- **Amelanchier canadensis** • Canada Serviceberry
- **Rhus typhina (R. hirta)** • Staghorn Sumac

**Tall Trees**
- **Celtis occidentalis** • Common Hackberry
- **Juniperus virginiana var. virginiana** • Eastern Red Cedar
- **Nyssa sylvatica** • Sour Gum, Black Gum
- **Pinus rigida** • Pitch Pine
- **Quercus alba** • White Oak
- **Quercus bicolor** • Swamp White Oak
- **Quercus palustris** • Pin Oak
- **Quercus rubra** • Northern Red Oak
- **Quercus stellata** • Post Oak
- **Quercus velutina** • Black Oak
- **Taxodium distichum** • Bald Cypress

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**Native Plants for Northern Virginia**

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**Yucca filamentosa**, Common Yucca, often can be seen streetside.
Not all plants will survive in wet and saturated soils. When soils are saturated they are oxygen poor, which affects both the microbial community and soil chemistry as well as depriving plants of oxygen needed to process energy. The plants that grow in wet areas in the wild are adapted to these conditions and should grow well in your wet site. The following list of plants are species that will tolerate saturated soils.

**Perennials (Forbs)**
- *Arisaema triphyllum* - Jack-in-the-Pulpit
- *Asclepias incarnata* - Swamp Milkweed
- *Caltha palustris* - Marsh Marigold, Cowslip
- *Chelone glabra* - White Turtlehead
- *Eupatorium perfoliatum* - Common Boneset
- *Helianthus angustifolius* - Narrow-leaved or Swamp Sunflower
- *Lobelia cardinalis* - Cardinal Flower
- *Mertensia virginica* - Virginia Bluebell
- *Monarda didyma* - Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea
- *Packera aurea* - Golden Ragwort
- *Phlox maculata* - Meadow phlox, Wild Sweet William
- *Rudbeckia laciniata* - Cut-leaved or Green-headed Coneflower
- *Spiranthes cernua* - Nodding Ladies’ Tresses
- *Symphyotrichum (Aster) novae-angliae, novi-belgii* - New England and New York Aster
- *Thalictrum pubescens* - Common Tall Meadow Rue

**Grasses**
- *Andropogon virginicus* - Broomedge, Sedge Grass
- *Carex stricta* - Tussock or Upright Sedge
- *Dichanthelium clandestinum* - Deer-Tongue Grass
- *Panicum virgatum* - Switchgrass
- *Saccharum giganteum* - Giant or Sugarcane Plume grass

**Ferns**
- *Dryopteris carthusiana, intermedia* - Spinulose and Intermediate Wood Fern
- *Onoclea sensibilis* - Sensitive Fern
- *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum* - Cinnamon Fern
- *Osmunda spectabilis* - Royal Fern
- *Pteridium aquilinum* - Bracken Fern
- *Thelypteris palustris* - Marsh Fern

**Shrubs**
- *Alnus serrulata* - Smooth or Hazel Alder
- *Aronia melanocarpa* - Black Chokeberry
- *Cephalanthus occidentalis* - Buttonbush
- *Clethra alnifolia* - Sweet Pepperbush, Summersweet
- *Cornus amomum* - Silky Dogwood
- *Hypericum densiflorum* - Bushy St. Johnswort
- *Ilex verticillata* - Winterberry Holly, Black Alder
- *Itea virginica* - Virginia Sweetspire
- *Morella (Myrica) spp.* - Southern and Northern Wax Myrtle or Bayberry
- *Physocarpus opulifolius* - Ninebark
- *Sambucus canadensis* - Common Elderberry
- *Rhododendron periclymenoides & viscous* - Pinxterbloom and Swamp Azalea
- *Rosa palustris* - Swamp Rose
- *Viburnum dentatum, nudum & prunifolium* - Arrowwood, Possum-haw and Blackhaw
- *Viburnum*

**Trees**
- *Betula nigra* - River Birch
- *Carpinus caroliniana* - American Hornbeam, Ironwood
- *Liquidambar styraciflua* - Sweetgum
- *Magnolia virginiana* - Sweetbay or Swamp Magnolia
- *Salix nigra* - Black Willow
Native plant gardens can also be grown in small spaces such as a townhouse yard or apartment. As with any other situation, small space gardening requires that you acknowledge the amount of space you and the plant need. In considering the space for the plant, don’t forget the roots. On apartment balconies a diverse mix of potted forbs, vines, grasses and ferns can provide pollinator habitat. Mixing spring, summer and fall blooming plants in a planter or group of planters can provide beauty and color throughout the growing season.

Perennials (Forbs)

Aquilegia canadensis • Canadian Wild Columbine
Actaea racemosa • Black Cohosh
Asarum canadense • Wild Ginger
Asclepias tuberosa • Butterfly Weed
Chrysogonum virginicum • Green and Gold

Grasses

Elymus hystrix • Bottlebrush Grass
Carex pennsylvanica • Pennsylvania Sedge
Carex stricta • Tussock or upright Sedge
Sisyrinchium angustifolium • Blue-eyed Grass
Tiarella cordifolia • Foamflower

Ferns

Adiantum pedatum • Maidenhair Fern
Asplenium platyneuron • Ebony Spleenwort
Athyrium asplenoides • Southern Lady Fern
Dryopteris marginalis • Evergreen Shield or Wood Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides • Christmas Fern

Vines

Lonicera sempervirens • Coral Honeysuckle
Passiflora lutea • Yellow Passionflower

Perennials (Forbs) con’t

Coreopsis verticillata • Threadleaf Tickseed
Dentaria eximia • Fringed Bleeding Heart
Erybia (Aster) divaricata • White Wood Aster
Geranium maculatum • Wild Geranium
Heuchera americana • American Alumroot
Lobelia cardinalis • Cardinal Flower
Lobelia siphilitica • Great Blue Lobelia
Maianthemum racemosum • Solomon’s Plume
Penstemon digitalis • Beardtounge Penstemon
Phlox divaricata • Wild Blue Phlox
Phlox stolonifera • Creeping Phlox
Polygonatum biflorum • Solomon’s Seal
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium • Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint
Salvia lyrata • Lyre-leaf Sage
Sedum ternatum • Wild Stonecrop
Sisyrinchium angustifolium • Blue-eyed Grass
Tiarella cordifolia • Foamflower

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

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

While this enjoinder to share our space may seem novel to some, it is actually an expression of Aldo Leopold’s Land Ethic. In his essay, “The Land Ethic,” Leopold asserts that “a land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it.” Given Tallamy’s findings, it is clear that using native plants in your landscape is one aspect of the land ethic. But notice that Leopold promotes humans to membership in the land, which means that part of the wildlife you are landscaping for is you.

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

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

When landscaping for wildlife, use a wide array of native plants and don’t forget you are part of the wildlife using the landscape.
Invasive, non-native plants do not provide the same ecosystem services as natives and have a harmful effect on our environment, not only in the suburban community but also in our forests, parks, and other natural areas.

Please do not plant these non-native, invasive species and consider removing them from the landscape. Volunteers and natural resource management staff spend many hours and resources to mitigate the spread and control the consequences of these and other invasive species. Although there are many non-native plant species that invade our natural areas, the plants listed below are particularly problematic because they are still available in the trade, and sold and planted throughout the region. Consider planting one of the natives listed here as an alternative to these plants.

*Acer platanoides* - Norway Maple  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Acer rubrum,* Red Maple; *Quercus spp.*, Oaks; *Tilia americana,* Basswood

*Akebia quinata* - Chocolate Vine  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Gelsemium sempervirens,* Carolina or Yellow Jessamine; *Lonicera sempervirens,* Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle; *Bignonia capreolata,* Crossvine

*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* Elegans – Porcelain-Berry  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** See alternatives listed above for *Akebia*

*Berberis thunbergii* - Japanese Barberry  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Ilex glabra,* Inkberry Holly; *Ilex verticillata,* Winterberry Holly; *Viburnum dentatum,* Arrowwood Viburnum; *Itea virginica,* Virginia sweetspire

*Phyllostachys aurea* - Golden Bamboo, Fishpole Bamboo, Walking Stick Bamboo  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Juniperus virginiana,* Eastern Red Cedar

*Humulus lupulus aureus* - Golden Hops Vine  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** See alternatives listed above for *Ampelopsis*

*Liriope muscari* - Liriope  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Carex pensylvanica* and *flaccosperma,* Pennsylvania and Blue Wood Sedge; *Elymus virginicus,* Virginia Wildrye and *Elymus hystrix,* Bottlebrush Grass

*Miscanthus sinensis* - Miscanthus  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Schizachyrium scoparium,* Little Bluestem; *Sorghastrum nutans,* Indian Grass

Native Plants for Northern Virginia

Pyrus calleryana - Bradford Pear  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Amelanchier spp.*, serviceberries; *Craetaegus spp.*, hawthorns; *Cercis canadensis,* Redbud; *Cornus florida,* Dogwood

*Hedera helix* - English Ivy  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* - Virginia Creeper; *Packera aurea* - Golden Ragwort; *Ferns*; *Creeping Phloxes*; *Asarum canadense,* Wild Ginger

*Euonymus alatus* - Burning Bush  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Vaccineum spp.*, Blueberries; *Myrica pensylvanica,* Bayberry

*Euonymus fortunei* - Wintercreeper  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Parthenocissus quinquefolia,* Virginia Creeper; *Packera aurea,* Golden Ragwort

*Lonicera japonica var. Halliana* – Japanese (Hall’s) Honeysuckle and *Lonicera periclymenum var. Harlequin* - Woodbine  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Lonicera sempervirens,* Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle; *Gelsemium sempervirens,* Yellow Jessamine; *Bignonia capreolata,* Crossvine

*Wisteria floribunda* and *Wisteria sinensis*  
**NoVA Native Alternatives:** *Wisteria frutescens,* American Wisteria

Learn More About Invasive Plants

Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia - Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage:  
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspfactsheets.shtml

USDA National Invasive Species Information Center:  

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

Mistaken Identity – Invasive Plants and Their Native Look-Alikes:  
Additional Resources About Native Plants

About Native Plants

Online


Flora of North America http://www.fna.org/

Flora of Virginia Project http://www.floraofvirginia.org

Virginia Native Plant Society http://www.vnps.org/

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

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia “Tried and True Plants” http://mgnv.org/plants/

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


USDA Plants Database http://plants.usda.gov/

Print

The American Woodland Garden, Rick Darke, 2002

Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area, Cristol Fleming, Marion Lobstein and Barbara Tuffy, 1995


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

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


Teaming with Microbes, Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis, Timber Press, 2010


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

About Landscaping with Natives

Online

Audubon Guide to a Healthy Yard and Beyond: www.audubon.org/bird/pesticide.html


Living Shoreline Design: http://ccrm.vims.edu/livingshores/index.html (go to “Plants and Vendors”)

Pollinator Partnership: http://www.pollinator.org/
It’s almost certain, even in urban locations. The deer population in Northern Virginia is growing. Suburban development, with its mix of land uses that juxtapose small woodlots and backyards replicates and multiplies the natural edge habitat in which deer thrive. These land use patterns combined with the almost total lack of predators make Northern Virginia and other suburban landscapes perfect deer habitat. Deer actually love many of the plants we grow in these places, and when they are starving, they will eat almost anything – including the plants in your garden. Deer particularly love plants in the lily (Liliaceae), amaryllis (Amaryllidaceae), rose (Rosaceae), and heath (Ericaceae) families. In addition, deer will enjoy eating the fallen leaves of the native bigtooth aspen (Populus grandidentata) or Eastern cottonwood (P. deltoides). They are less eager for grasses, ferns, and plants in the aster and mint families.

So what can you do about it?

To discourage browsing, you can select plants that deer find less palatable, such as spiny and aromatic plants. You can protect young plants with shelters and nets, and enclosures that prevent deer from eating tender growth and bark. You can try excluding deer, but they have been known to jump eight-foot fences. You also can choose plants that provide sustainable browse, including trees such as oaks and hickories, which provide a bounty of nuts and acorns just as other plants are going dormant. You may spray monthly with formulations based on putrescent egg solids. Finally, if you have the resources, you can increase the number and diversity of plants on your property to improve food availability for all of the wildlife in your habitat.
### Index of Native Plants for Northern Virginia

#### Perennials (Forbs)

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<td>M D</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actaea racemosa</td>
<td>Common Black Cohosh, Bugbane</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>4–6 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ageratina altissima</td>
<td>White Snakeroot</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–5 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemone virginiana</td>
<td>Tall Anemone, Thimbleweed</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–2 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antennaria plantaginifolia</td>
<td>Plantain-leaved Pussytoes</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquilegia canadensis</td>
<td>Wild or Eastern Red Columbine</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4.8–7</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aralia racemosa</td>
<td>Spikenard, American Spikenard</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1.5–6.5 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arisaema triphyllum</td>
<td>Common Jack-in-the-pulpit</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–2 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4.8–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aruncus dioicus</td>
<td>Goatsbeard (Eastern Goat's-beard)</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>3–8 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>&lt;6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asarum canadense</td>
<td>Common Wild Ginger</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>4–8 in</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>6–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asclepias incarnata</td>
<td>Swamp Milkweed</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>4–6 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4.8–6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
<td>Butterfly Weed</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>&lt;6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baptisia australis</td>
<td>Blue Wild Indigo</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>up to 5 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>&lt;6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baptisia tinctoria</td>
<td>Yellow Wild-indigo</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>5.8–7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bidens aristosa</td>
<td>Tickseed Sunflower</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>3–6 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bidens cernua</td>
<td>Nodding Beggar-ticks, Nodding Bur-marigold</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–3 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.1–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bidens laevis</td>
<td>Smooth Bur-marigold</td>
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<td>1–3 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>L S O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caltha palustris</td>
<td>Marsh Marigold, Cowslip</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1–2 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td>4.9–6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caulophyllum thalictroides</td>
<td>Blue Cohosh, Common Blue Cohosh</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–2.5 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>4.5–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chamaecrista fasciculata</td>
<td>Common Partridge Pea</td>
<td>P C</td>
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<td>●</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>S</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chelone glabra</td>
<td>White Turtlehead</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>2–4 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chimaphila maculata</td>
<td>Spotted or Striped Wintergreen</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chimaphila umbellata</td>
<td>Umbellate Wintergreen, Pipsissewa</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chrysogonum virginianum</td>
<td>Green and Gold</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chrysopsis mariana</td>
<td>Maryland Golden-aster</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–2.5 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claytonia virginica</td>
<td>Virginia Spring Beauty</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>4–12 in</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>&lt;6.8</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clitoria mariana</td>
<td>Butterfly Pea, Maryland Butterfly Pea</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>6 ft</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>S</td>
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</table>

**Region:** M = mountain; P = piedmont; C = coastal  
**Moisture:** W = wet; M = moist; D = dry  
**Soil Type:** C = clay; L = loam; S = sandy
## Index of Native Plants for Northern Virginia

### Perennials (Forbs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mistflower, Ageratum</strong></td>
<td>Conoclinium coelestinium</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Whorled or Threadleaf Coreopsis</strong></td>
<td>Coreopsis verticillata</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>.5–3.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>D L S</td>
<td>&lt;6.8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dutchman's Breeches</strong></td>
<td>Dicentra cucullaria</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>0.5–1 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M L S</td>
<td>&lt;6.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Bleeding heart</strong></td>
<td>Dicentra eximia</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>1.5–2 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>W M L</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tall Scouring Rush, Scouring Horsetail</strong></td>
<td>Equisetum hyemale</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–6 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>W C L S</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Robin's Plantain</strong></td>
<td>Erigeron pulchellis</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D L S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hyssop-leaved Thoroughwort</strong></td>
<td>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–4.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Boneset, Common Boneset</strong></td>
<td>Eupatorium perfoliatum</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>W M C L S</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White Wood Aster</strong></td>
<td>Eurybia divaricata</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>6 in–3.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D C L S</td>
<td>5–7.2</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flat-top Goldenrod</strong></td>
<td>Euthamia graminifolia</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>3–6 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sweet-scented Joe-pye-weed</strong></td>
<td>Eutrochium purpureum</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–6.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>W M C L S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Strawberry</strong></td>
<td>Fragaria virginiana</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>up to 1 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D C L S</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bottle or Closed Gentian</strong></td>
<td>Gentiana clausa</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>W M L</td>
<td>5.8–7.2</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wild or Spotted Geranium</strong></td>
<td>Geranium maculatum</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>.5–2.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Downy Rattlesnake-plantain</strong></td>
<td>Goodyera pubescens</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D C L S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common Sneezeweed</strong></td>
<td>Helianthus autumnale</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1.5–6 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M C L S</td>
<td>4–7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Narrow-leaved Sunflower</strong></td>
<td>Helenium angustifolius</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>3–6 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>W M L</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Woodland or Spreading Sunflower</strong></td>
<td>Helianthus divaricatus</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1.5–6.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jerusalem Artichoke</strong></td>
<td>Helianthus tuberosus</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>3–6 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D C L S</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oxeye, Smooth Oxeye, Oxeye Sunflower</strong></td>
<td>Heliopsis helianthoides</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D L S</td>
<td>5.6–6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Round-lobed Hepatica</strong></td>
<td>Hepatica noblis v. obtusa</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–2 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D L S</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Alumroot</strong></td>
<td>Heuchera americana</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>D L S</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wild ginger, Virginia Heartleaf</strong></td>
<td>Hexastylis virginica</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M L</td>
<td>4–7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Swamp or Eastern Rose-mallow</strong></td>
<td>Hibiscus moscheutos</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>3–8 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>W M C L S</td>
<td>4–7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Common Bluets, Azur Bluets, Quaker Ladies</strong></td>
<td>Houstonia caerulea</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shrubby St. Johns-wort</strong></td>
<td>Hypericum prolificum</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1.5–8 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>M D C L S</td>
<td>6.8–7.2</td>
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<td><strong>Orange or Spotted Jewelweed</strong></td>
<td>Impatiens capensis</td>
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<td>1.5–5 ft</td>
<td>🔼</td>
<td>W M C L S</td>
<td>5.4–7.4</td>
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</table>

*The plants in bold are featured in this guide.*
## Index of Native Plants for Northern Virginia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perennials (Forbs)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Iris cristata</td>
<td>Dwarf Crested Iris</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>.5–1.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>&lt;6.8</td>
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<td>Iris virginica</td>
<td>Virginia or Southern Blueflag</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–2 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td>4.8–7.3</td>
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<td>Jeffersonia diphylla</td>
<td>Twinleaf</td>
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<td>0.5–1 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M L</td>
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<td>Lespedeza procumbens</td>
<td>Trailing Bush-clover</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<td>Slender Lespedeza, Slender Bush-clover</td>
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<td>D S</td>
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<td>Liatris pilosa v. pilosa</td>
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<td>M C L S</td>
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<td>Large Blazing Star, Eastern Blazing Star</td>
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<td>Dense Blazing Star, Gayfeather, Blazing Star</td>
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<td>3-6 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
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<td>&lt;6.8</td>
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<td>Liatris squarrosa</td>
<td>Scaly Blazing Star, Plains Blazing Star</td>
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<td>1-3 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lilium canadense</td>
<td>Canada Lily</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1.5–6.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M L</td>
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<td>Lilium superbum</td>
<td>Turk's-cap Lily</td>
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<td>☀</td>
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<td>Lobelia cardinalis</td>
<td>Cardinal Flower</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–6 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M C L S</td>
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<td>Lobelia siphilitica</td>
<td>Great Blue Lobelia</td>
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<td>1–5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lupinus perennis</td>
<td>Sundial Lupine, Lupine</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–6 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maianthemum canadense</td>
<td>Canada Mayflower, False Lily-of-the-valley</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maianthemum racemosum</td>
<td>Eastern Solomon's-plume, False Solomon's-seal</td>
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<td>1–4.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medeola virginiana</td>
<td>Indian Cucumber-root, Indian Cucumber</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mertensia virginica</td>
<td>Virginia Bluebell, Virginia Cowslip</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>.5–2.5 in</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M C L</td>
<td>4.5–8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micranthes virginiensis</td>
<td>Early Saxifrage</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mimulus ringens</td>
<td>Square-stemmed or Allegheny Monkeyflower</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchellia repens</td>
<td>Partridge-berry</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D L S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarda didyma</td>
<td>Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2–4 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarda fistulosa</td>
<td>Wild Bergamot</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1.5–5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D C L</td>
<td>6–8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuttallanthus canadensis</td>
<td>Blue, Canada or Oldfield Toadflax</td>
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<td>0.5–2.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D L S</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oenothera fruticosa</td>
<td>Narrow-leaf or Southern Sundrops</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M C L S</td>
<td>4.5–7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Opuntia humifusa</td>
<td>Eastern Prickly-pear</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–2.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>D L S</td>
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</table>

Region: M = mountain; P = piedmont; C = coastal  
Moisture: W= wet; M = moist; D = dry  
Soil Type: C = clay; L = loam; S = sandy  

Native Plants for Northern Virginia
## Index of Native Plants for Northern Virginia

### Perennials (Forbs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osmorhiza claytonii</td>
<td>Sweet Cicely {or O. longistylis}</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>&lt;6.8</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxalis violacea</td>
<td>Violet Wood-sorrel</td>
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<td>0.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>&lt;6.8</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Packera aurea</td>
<td>Golden or Heartleaf Ragwort</td>
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<td>1–4 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>5.5–7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peltandra virginica</td>
<td>Arrow Arum, Green Arrow Arum, Tuckahoe</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>2–3 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td>5.5–7.2</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penstemon digitalis</td>
<td>Beardtongue, Tall or White Foxglove</td>
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<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.5–7</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phlox divaricata</td>
<td>Wild Blue or Woodland Phlox</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>.5–2 in</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<td>Phlox maculata</td>
<td>Meadow Phlox, Wild Sweet William</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>M C L</td>
<td>5.9–6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phlox paniculata</td>
<td>Fall or Garden Phlox</td>
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<td>1.5–6.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.7–7.5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlox subulata</td>
<td>Moss Phlox, Moss Pink</td>
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<td>0.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Podophyllum peltatum</td>
<td>Mayapple</td>
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<td>1.5–5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.7–7.5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polemonium reptans</td>
<td>Spreading Jacob’s Ladder, Greek Valerian</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4.5–7</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polygonatum biflorum</td>
<td>Solomon’s seal</td>
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<td>0.5–6.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>4.5–7</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pycnanthemum incarnatum</td>
<td>Hoary Mountain Mint</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>3 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.7–7.5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</td>
<td>Narrow-leaf or Slender Mountain-mint</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–4 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M D S</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhexia virginica</td>
<td>Virginia Meadow Beauty, Deergrass</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudbeckia fulgida</td>
<td>Orange Coneflower</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>1–4 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudbeckia laciniata</td>
<td>Cut-leaf, Common or Green-headed Coneflower</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1.5–10 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M C L S</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruellia carolinensis</td>
<td>Carolina or Common Wild-petunia</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2–3 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M C L S</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salvia lyrata</td>
<td>Lyre-leaf Sage</td>
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<td>1–2 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scutellaria integrifolia</td>
<td>Rough or Hyssop Skullcap, Helmet Flower</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–2.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum ternatum</td>
<td>Wild or Woodland Stonecrop</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>2–8 in</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senna marilandica</td>
<td>Maryland or Southern Wild Senna</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>3–6.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silene caroliniana</td>
<td>Wild or Northern Wild Senna</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1.5–8 in</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>4–7</td>
<td>16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The plants in **bold** are featured in this guide.
### Native Plants Index for Northern Virginia

#### Perennials (Forbs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</td>
<td>Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed-grass</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–1.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago caesia</td>
<td>Blue-stemmed or Wreath Goldenrod</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>1-3.5 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td>5.5–7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago flexicaulis</td>
<td>Zig-zag Goldenrod</td>
<td>M P</td>
<td>3-6 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.3–7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago nemoralis</td>
<td>Gray, Dwarf, Old Field Goldenrod</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>0.5–3 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>6.5–7.5</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solidago rugosa</td>
<td>Rough-stemmed or Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>1-6.5 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>5-7.5</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solidago altissima</td>
<td>Tall Goldenrod, Late Goldenrod</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>3.5-6.5 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solidago juncea</td>
<td>Early Goldenrod</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>3-6 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiranthes cernua</td>
<td>Nodding Ladies’ Tresses</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–2 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>4.5 - 6.5</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stellaria pubera</td>
<td>Star, Giant or Great Chickweed, Common Starwort</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</td>
<td>Heart-leaved aster, Blue Wood Aster</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>3-6 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symphyotrichum laeve</td>
<td>Smooth Blue Aster, Smooth Aster</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>3-6 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</td>
<td>Calico Aster</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>3-6 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</td>
<td>New England Aster</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>3-6 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</td>
<td>New York Aster</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1-4.5 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thalictrum dioicum</td>
<td>Early Meadow Rue</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>1–2.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thalictrum pubescens (T. polygamum)</td>
<td>Common Tall Meadow Rue Rue, King of the Meadow</td>
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<td>1.5–9 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thalictrum thalictroides</td>
<td>Rue Anemone (Windflower)</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiarella cordifolia</td>
<td>Heart-leaved Foamflower, False Miterwort</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tradescantia virginiana</td>
<td>Virginia Spiderwort</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td>4-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uvularia perfoliata</td>
<td>Perfoliate or Mealy Bellwort</td>
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<td>0.5–2 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbena hastata</td>
<td>Blue, Common or Swamp Verbena</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>1.5–5 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbesina alternifolia</td>
<td>Wingstem, Yellow Ironweed</td>
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<td>3.5–8 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
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<td>Vernonia noveboracensis</td>
<td>New York Ironweed</td>
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<td>M D</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veronicastrum virginicum</td>
<td>Culver’s-root</td>
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<td>3–6.5 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viola cucullata</td>
<td>Marsh Blue Violet</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>0.5 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Viola labradorica (conspersa)</td>
<td>Dog Violet</td>
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<td>1 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viola pedata</td>
<td>Bird’s-foot Violet</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>☀ ⬤☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viola sagittata</td>
<td>Arrow-leaved Violet</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viola striata</td>
<td>Striped Violet, Cream Violet</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yucca filamentosa</td>
<td>Common Yucca, Adam's Needle</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1–6.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>5.5–7.5</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zizia aurea</td>
<td>Golden-alexanders</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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### Grasses

<table>
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<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andropogon virginicus</td>
<td>Broomsedge, Broomstraw, Sedge Grass</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>4.9–7</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>Carex pensylvanica</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Sedge</td>
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<td>.5–1 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>M D S</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carex stricta</td>
<td>Tussock Sedge, Upright Sedge</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1–3.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>3.5–7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dichanthelium clandestinum</td>
<td>Deer-Tongue Grass</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>2–5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>4–7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elymus hystrix</td>
<td>Bottlebrush Grass</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>2–4 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elymus virginicus</td>
<td>Virginia Wild Rye</td>
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<td>1–5.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eragrostis spectabilis</td>
<td>Purple Love Grass</td>
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<td>.5–1.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juncus effusus</td>
<td>Common Rush, Soft Rush</td>
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<td>1–4 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panicum virgatum</td>
<td>Switchgrass</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saccharum giganteum</td>
<td>Giant Plumegrass, Sugarcane Plumegrass</td>
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<td>3.5–10 ft</td>
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<td>W M</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>3.5–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schizachyrium scoparium</td>
<td>Little Bluestem</td>
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<td>Scirpus cyperinus</td>
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<td>Sorghastrum nutans</td>
<td>Indian Grass</td>
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<td>M D</td>
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<td>Tridens flavus var. flavus</td>
<td>Purpletop, Tall Redtop</td>
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<tr>
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### Ferns

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<th>Region</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adiantum pedatum</td>
<td>Northern Maidenhair Fern</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>.5–2 ft</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4.5–6.5</td>
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<td>Asplenium platyneuron</td>
<td>Ebony Spleenwort</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>0.5–1.5 ft</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>4.5–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athyrium asplenioides</td>
<td>Southern Lady Fern</td>
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<td>2–3 ft</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dryopteris carthusiana</td>
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<td>1–2.5 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L</td>
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# Index of Native Plants for Northern Virginia

## Ferns

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<tr>
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<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
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<td>Dryopteris intermedia</td>
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<td>Dryopteris marginalis</td>
<td>Marginal Wood Fern, Evergreen Shield Fern</td>
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<td>C L S</td>
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<td>Matteuccia struthiopteris</td>
<td>Ostrich Fern</td>
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<td>L S</td>
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<td>Onoclea sensibilis</td>
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<td>Osmunda claytoniana</td>
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<td>C L</td>
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<td>Royal Fern</td>
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<td>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</td>
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<td>C L</td>
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<td>Parathelypteris novaboracensis</td>
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<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>Polystichum acrostichoides</td>
<td>Christmas Fern</td>
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<td>L S</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pteridium aquilinum</td>
<td>Bracken Fern</td>
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<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thelypteris palustris</td>
<td>Marsh Fern</td>
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<td>☀ ☀</td>
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## Vines

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<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bignonia capreolata</td>
<td>Cross-vine</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>20–35 ft</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>6.1–8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clematis virginiana</td>
<td>Virgin’s Bower</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>12–15 ft</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>6.1–8.5</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decumaria barbara</td>
<td>Climbing Hydrangea, Woodvamp</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>12–36 ft</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gelsemium sempervirens</td>
<td>Yellow Jessamine</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>10–20 ft</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>6.8–7.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lonicera sempervirens</td>
<td>Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>3–20 ft</td>
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<td>C L S</td>
<td>6.1–7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passiflora incarnata</td>
<td>Purple Passionflower, Maypop</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>12–36 ft</td>
<td>☀ ☀</td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passiflora lutea</td>
<td>Yellow Passionflower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vitis aestivalis</td>
<td>Summer Grape</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>25–35 ft</td>
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<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisteria frutescens</td>
<td>American Wisteria</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>25–30 ft</td>
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<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>4–7</td>
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*Region: M = mountain; P = piedmont; C = coastal
Moisture: W = wet; M = moist; D = dry
Soil Type: C = clay; L = loam; s = Sandy*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shrubs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alnus serrulata</td>
<td>Smooth or Hazel Alder</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>12–20 ft</td>
<td>🌞</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td>5.5–7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amorpha fruticosa</td>
<td>False Indigo</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>6–13 ft</td>
<td>☀️</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aronia arbutifolia</td>
<td>Red Chokeberry</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>6–12 ft</td>
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<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.1–6.5</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aronia melanocarpa (Photinia melanocarpa)</td>
<td>Black Chokeberry</td>
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<td>3–6 ft</td>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baccharis halimifolia</td>
<td>High Tide Bush, Groundsel Tree, Mullet Bush</td>
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<td>6–12 ft</td>
<td>🌞</td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<td>Castanea pumila</td>
<td>Allegheny Chinquapin</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4.5–7.5</td>
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<td>Ceanothus americanus</td>
<td>New Jersey Tea, Redroot</td>
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<td>3 ft</td>
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<td>Clethra alnifolia</td>
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<td>Crataegus crus-galli</td>
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<td>4–6 ft</td>
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<td>●</td>
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<td>C L S</td>
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<td>Euonymus americanus</td>
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<td>C L S</td>
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<td>Gaultheriaprocumbens</td>
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<td>2–6 ft</td>
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<td>●</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>L S</td>
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<td>Gaylussacia baccata</td>
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<td>Hydrangea arborescens</td>
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<td>●</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L S</td>
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<td>●</td>
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<td>Ilex verticillata</td>
<td>Winterberry, Winterberry Holly, Black Alder</td>
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<td>3–10 ft</td>
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<td>●</td>
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<td>C L S</td>
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<td>●</td>
<td>M D</td>
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**Native Plants for Northern Virginia**

The plants in **bold** are featured in this guide.
## Index of Native Plants for Northern Virginia

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<thead>
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<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
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<td><em>Rhododendron viscosum</em></td>
<td>Swamp or Clammy Azalea</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>M L S</td>
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<td><em>Rhus aromatica</em></td>
<td>Fragrant sumac</td>
<td>M P</td>
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<td>L S</td>
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<td><em>Rhus copallinum</em></td>
<td>Winged, Shining or Flameleaf Sumac</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>20–35 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.3–7.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rhus glabra</em></td>
<td>Smooth Sumac</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>2–20 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>5.3–7.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rosa carolina</em></td>
<td>Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>1–6.5 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>6.1–8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Rosa palustris</em></td>
<td>Swamp Rose</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>8 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L</td>
<td>4–7</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Salix sericea</em></td>
<td>Silky Willow</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>12 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.2–7</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Sambucus canadensis</em></td>
<td>Common Elderberry, American Elder</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>6–12 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>6.1–7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Staphylea trifolia</em></td>
<td>Bladdernut</td>
<td>M P</td>
<td>3–15 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>6.1–8</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Vaccinium corymbosum</em></td>
<td>Highbush or Northern Highbush Blueberry</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>6–12 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4–6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Vaccinium pellidum</em></td>
<td>Early Lowbush or Blue Ridge Blueberry</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>1.5–2 ft</td>
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<td>W M D</td>
<td>M L</td>
<td>5.1–6</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum acerifolium</em></td>
<td>Maple-leaved Viburnum, Dockmackie</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>4–6 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.1–6</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum dentatum</em></td>
<td>Arrow-wood, Southern Arrow-wood Viburnum</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>10–15 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>5.1–6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum nudum</em></td>
<td>Possum-haw Viburnum, Southern Wild Raisin</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>6.5–20 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>L S</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum prunifolium</em></td>
<td>Blackhaw Viburnum, Nannyberry</td>
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<td>12–24 ft</td>
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<td>4.8–7.5</td>
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<td><strong>Trees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Acer rubrum</em></td>
<td>Red Maple</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>40–100 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.4–7.1</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Amelanchier arborea</em></td>
<td>Downy Serviceberry</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>15–25 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>5.5–7.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Amelanchier canadensis</em></td>
<td>Canada Serviceberry</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>15–30 ft</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.6–7.5</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Aralia spinosa</em></td>
<td>Devil's Walking-stick, Hercules club</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>20–30 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>5.5–7.1</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Asimina triloba</em></td>
<td>Pawpaw, Common Pawpaw</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>10–40 ft</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>5.2–7.2</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Betula nigra</em></td>
<td>River Birch</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>30–50 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>4–6</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Carpinus caroliniana</em></td>
<td>American Hornbeam, Ironwood</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>35–50 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4–7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Carya cordiformis</em></td>
<td>Bitternut Hickory</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>60–100 ft</td>
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<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>6.5–7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Carya glabra</em></td>
<td>Pignut Hickory</td>
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<td>60–100 ft</td>
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<td>W M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>6.5–7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Carya tomentosa</em></td>
<td>Mockernut Hickory</td>
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<td>60–100 ft</td>
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<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4–7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Celtis occidentalis</em></td>
<td>Common Hackberry</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>40–100 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>6–7.8</td>
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Region: M = mountain; P = piedmont; C = coastal  
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cercis canadensis</td>
<td>Eastern Redbud</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>20–35 ft</td>
<td>W M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chionanthus virginicus</td>
<td>Fringe Tree, Old Man’s Beard</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>20–35 ft</td>
<td>M D L S</td>
<td>4.5–6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornus florida</td>
<td>Flowering Dogwood</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>20–50 ft</td>
<td>M D L L S</td>
<td>5–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diospyros virginiana</td>
<td>Common or American Persimmon</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>15–100 ft</td>
<td>W M C L</td>
<td>5–7</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fagus grandifolia</td>
<td>American Beech</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>50–100 ft</td>
<td>M C L S</td>
<td>4.1–6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ilex opaca</td>
<td>American Holly</td>
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<td>25–60 ft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juniperus virginiana</td>
<td>Eastern Red Cedar</td>
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<td>30–40 ft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liquidambar styraciflua</td>
<td>Sweetgum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liriodendron tulipifera</td>
<td>Tulip-tree, Tulip-poplar, Yellow Poplar</td>
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<td>70–100 ft</td>
<td>M L S</td>
<td>4.5–6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnolia virginiana</td>
<td>Sweetbay Magnolia, Swamp Magnolia</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>12–30 ft</td>
<td>W M C L S</td>
<td>5–6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morella cerifera</td>
<td>Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry</td>
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<td>6–15 ft</td>
<td>W M D L S</td>
<td>5.5–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nyssa sylvatica</td>
<td>Sour Gum, Black Gum, Tupelo</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>30–60 ft</td>
<td>M D L S</td>
<td>4.5–6</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinus echinata</td>
<td>Shortleaf Pine</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>50–130 ft</td>
<td>M D C L S</td>
<td>4.6–6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinus rigida</td>
<td>Pitch Pine</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>50–75 ft</td>
<td>D L S</td>
<td>3.5–5.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinus taeda</td>
<td>Loblolly Pine</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>70–90 ft</td>
<td>W M D C L S</td>
<td>4.5–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinus virginiana</td>
<td>Virginia Pine, Scrub Pine</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>50–80 ft</td>
<td>M D C L S</td>
<td>4.5–7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prunus americana</td>
<td>American Wild Plum</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>20–35 ft</td>
<td>M D L S</td>
<td>5–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prunus angustifolia</td>
<td>Chickasaw Plum</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>12–36 ft</td>
<td>D L S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus alba</td>
<td>White Oak</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>40–100 ft</td>
<td>W M D L S</td>
<td>4.5–6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus bicolor</td>
<td>Swamp White Oak</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>60–100 ft</td>
<td>W M D C L S</td>
<td>4.3–6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus coccinea</td>
<td>Scarlet Oak</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>40–75 ft</td>
<td>M D L S</td>
<td>4.5–6.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus falcata</td>
<td>Southern Red Oak, Spanish Oak</td>
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<td>70–80 ft</td>
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<td>4.8–7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus marilandica</td>
<td>Blackjack Oak</td>
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<td>35–50 ft</td>
<td>D L S</td>
<td>4.6–5.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus michauxii</td>
<td>Swamp Chestnut Oak, Basket Oak</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>50–80 ft</td>
<td>W M L</td>
<td>4.5–6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus montana</td>
<td>Chestnut Oak, Rock Chestnut Oak</td>
<td>M P C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus muehlenbergii</td>
<td>Chinquapin, Chinkapin or Yellow Oak</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>35–50 ft</td>
<td>M D L</td>
<td>6.5–8</td>
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</table>

The plants in bold are featured in this guide.
### Index of Native Plants for Northern Virginia

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<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<th>Sun</th>
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<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>pH</th>
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<td>Quercus palustris</td>
<td>Pin Oak</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>50–80 ft</td>
<td>☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L</td>
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<td>Quercus phellos</td>
<td>Willow Oak</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>80–100 ft</td>
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<td>W M</td>
<td>C L</td>
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<td>Quercus rubra</td>
<td>Northern Red Oak</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>90 ft</td>
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<td>C L</td>
<td>4.3–6.5</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<td>Black Oak</td>
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<td>75–100 ft</td>
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<td>M D</td>
<td>C L S</td>
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<td>Salix nigra</td>
<td>Black Willow</td>
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<td>35–50 ft</td>
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<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>6–8</td>
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<td>Sassafras albidum</td>
<td>Sassafras</td>
<td>M P C</td>
<td>35–50 ft</td>
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<td>M D</td>
<td>L S</td>
<td>4.5–7.2</td>
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<td>Taxodium distichum</td>
<td>Baldcypress</td>
<td>P C</td>
<td>up to 100 ft</td>
<td>☀ ☀ ☀</td>
<td>W M</td>
<td>C L S</td>
<td>4.5–6</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

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