



# PLANTING AND MAINTAINING BUFFERS

~Using vegetation to protect water quality~

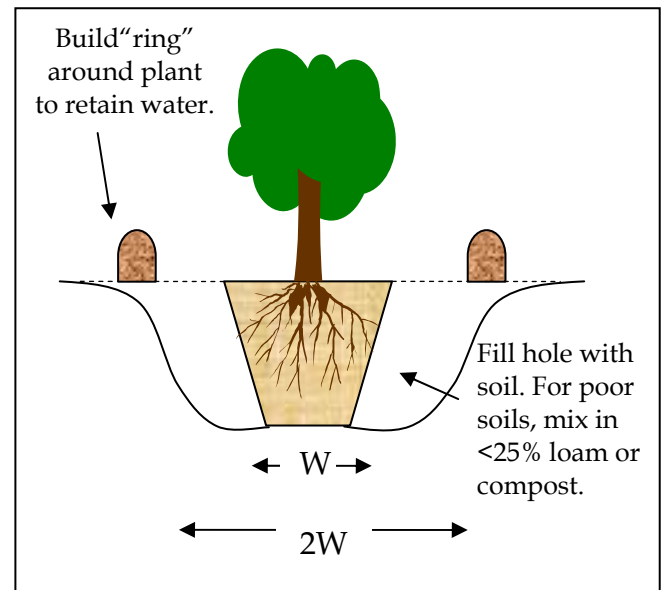


Portland Water District

**Purpose:** Vegetated buffers are trees, shrubs and groundcover plants that catch sediment and other pollution before it reaches lakes or streams. Trees and shrubs intercept raindrops and reduce their impact on the soil. Low growing plants and the “duff” layer on the ground filter runoff. Root systems hold soil in place and absorb water and nutrients. In addition, buffers can enhance privacy, filter noise and wind, and attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

**Installation:** Select plants suitable to the growing zone, light and soil conditions of the planting area. Ideally, native plants should be selected since these are better adapted to local conditions, fit in with the natural landscape and do not require fertilizers or pesticides. Also, the most effective buffers should be as wide as possible and include a mix of trees, shrubs and groundcover plants. Fall and spring are ideal planting times, but anytime during the growing season is acceptable. Plant as described below (from [www.odonaldsnurseries.com](http://www.odonaldsnurseries.com)).

1. Water the plant while it is still in its container. Dig a hole 2 times the width of the container and as deep as the soil level in the container.
2. Remove the root ball from the container and loosen the outside layer of the root system either by scoring with a knife or pulling by hand.
3. Set the plant in the middle of the hole. The top of the root ball should be at or slightly above normal ground level. If not, remove the plant and adjust the hole. Keep in mind that planting too deeply can kill the plant.
4. Backfill  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the planting hole with soil. If the original soil is very poor and the plant requires better soil conditions, mix in no more than 25% loam and/or compost with the original soil.
5. Fill the planting hole with water. This will result in a "moat" around the soil ball. When this drains completely, re-fill with water again.
6. After the water has drained, backfill the rest of the hole to ground level, and gently press the soil down to remove air pockets. Next, form a circular mound of soil around the planting hole. Formation of this "ring" around the hole will help future watering and rain sink into the ground.
7. Water thoroughly once more to remove any remaining air pockets.
8. Place no more than 2" to 4" of mulch around the plant, but keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk or branches emerging from the root ball. Cover leftover bare soil with additional mulch or move to areas where it will not erode into the lake.



**Materials:** Plants and bags of compost and loam can be purchased from local nurseries.

**Maintenance:**

**Year One**

Deep, weekly watering is a must during the first year of planting. Most plants that die in the first season do so because of inadequate watering. Make sure that the water reaches the depth of the root ball. The “ring” around the plant helps the water sink into the ground instead of running off. Planting areas can be weeded, but should not be raked.

**After One Year**

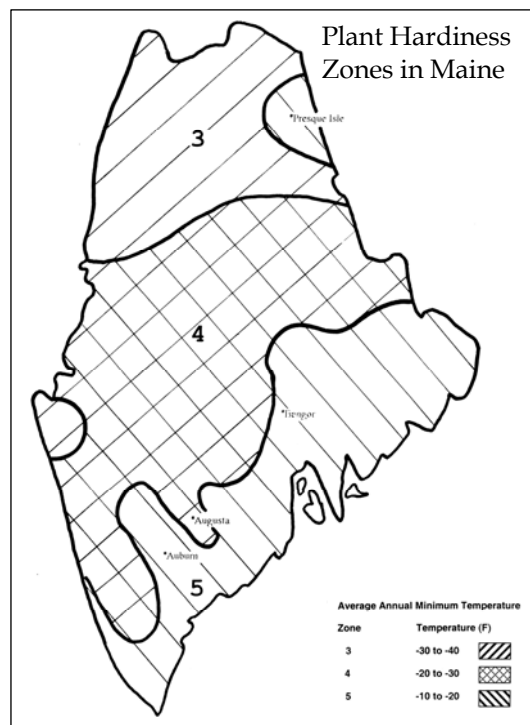
After the first year, you should only need to water if there is a lack of normal rainfall. Once the plants are well established, you can let the planted area naturalize so that you do not need to replenish mulch or weed. The “duff” layer of leaves and pine needles will serve as natural mulch.

**Applying Fertilizer**

If plants appear to be growing well, they should not require fertilization. Fertilizer can actually harm newly developing roots, and summer/fall applications can prevent shrubs and trees from hardening off in time for winter. Shrubs and trees should only be fertilized in early spring, and only after a soil test has been performed.

**Transplanting:** You can save money by transplanting native plants into your buffer area. Keep in mind, however, that mortality rates of transplants is relatively high. Here are some general transplanting guidelines:

- Make sure to ask for landowner permission before harvesting and do not take too many plants from any one area. Do not remove plants next to lakes or streams.
- Transplant in the early spring or late fall when the plants are dormant. This reduces trauma to their root systems.
- Choose sturdy-looking plants. Dig up the root ball as much as possible (extend your digging area at least to the width of the plant's branches.)
- Once your transplant has been replanted, water frequently until well established.



Part of the **Conservation Practices for Homeowners** Factsheet Series, available at:  
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# NATIVE PLANT LIST

○ ~Shade, Dry Soils~ ✂



Portland Water District

Although this is not an exhaustive list, the following native plants are carried at local nurseries. If a particular plant is not available at your nursery, ASK for it by name. The more demand there is for native plants, the more likely a nursery is to carry it. Additionally, nursery staff may be able to recommend a suitable, NON-INVASIVE substitute.

-  **Full Sun** – more than 5 hours of direct sun a day
-  **Part-Sun** – 2 to 5 hours of direct sun or full day of dappled sun a day
-  **Full Shade** – less than 2 hours of direct sun a day

## SMALL SHRUBS (<6')



**Bush Honeysuckle** (*Diervilla lonicera*) Also called American Fly Honeysuckle. (Do not confuse with European Fly Honeysuckle which is invasive.) Grows 2 to 5 feet high. A straggling shrub with handsome red berries. Sun to shade. Sandy, dry soil. Drought tolerant. Found in cool, rocky woods. Zones 3-7.

**Mapleleaf Viburnum** (*Viburnum acerifolium*) Grows from 4 to 6 feet high with an equal spread. Grows best in well-drained, mildly acidic soil with average moisture but can tolerate drier soils. Prefers shade to partial shade. Similar to other viburnums, a cluster of small white flowers gives way to dark blue/black fruits that are enjoyed by birds and other wildlife. *Mapleleaf Viburnum* is susceptible to attack from the *Viburnum Leaf Beetle*. Check with your local nursery to see if the Beetle is a problem in your area. Zones 4-8.



## TREES



**Ironwood** (*Carpinus caroliniana*) Also known as American hornbeam. Grows up to 30 feet. Somewhat shrubby appearance. Very shade tolerant; often an understory tree. Prefers moist soils, but tolerates periodic flooding or dry soils. Thin, smooth, gray to bluish gray bark; trunk is fluted heavily, resulting in a muscular appearance. Dark red fall foliage. Zones 3-9.

**Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*) Can grow up to 80 feet with a 30 foot spread in ideal conditions. Large, irregular, pyramidal tree. Small, deep-green needles with a loose, feathery appearance. Small, interesting cones. Also available in dwarf forms. Sun to shade. Does best in cool, moist, well-drained soil. Zones 3-7.



## VINES AND GROUNDCOVERS



**Bunchberry** (*Cornus canadensis*) Grows to approximately 6 inches in height and spreads easily. Favors moist, rich, acidic soils. Grows best in partial to full shade. Larger white bracts surround small green flowers. A red berry is produced in the fall is attractive to birds. Zones 2-6.

**Checkerberry/Wintergreen** (*Gaultheria procumbens*) Also known as teaberry. Grows up to 6 inches high and spreads 4 to 6 inches annually. Favors well-drained, acidic soil with average moisture. Grows in partial to full shade but produces more fruit with adequate light. Leaves are evergreen and red berries remain on the plant all winter. Young leaves and berries have a wintergreen flavor. Zones 3-5.







**Woodbine/Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) A climbing vine that can reach heights of up to 40 feet. Grows easily. Will tolerate a range of soil types and a variety of light conditions. Drought tolerant. Small white flowers in spring. Foliage turns bright red in the fall and small purple berries are produced. When not in a position to climb, it is an excellent ground cover and will put down more roots. Zones 3-9.

**Lingonberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) Also called Crowberry or Mountain Cranberry. Grows to 7 inches and spreads. Small, glossy-green, leathery foliage and small pink or white flowers, followed by small, red fruit, sour but edible. Found in bogs and wet or dry, rocky, mossy slopes. Sun to shade. Dry to moist, well-drained soil. Zones 2-6.



## **PERENNIALS**



**Bowman's Root** (*Gillenia trifoliata*) Grow up to 3 feet tall with 2 foot spread. Bushy plant with white star-like flowers in late spring and summer. Dark red stems. Good fall color. Moderate moisture, but tolerates dry soil and drought when established. Part sun to shade. Zone 4.

**Creeping Phlox** (*Phlox stolonifera*) Grows 6 to 10 inches tall and spreads easily. Approximately ¾ inch wide flowers in spring, ranging from white to purple. Evergreen foliage. Prefers organic soil, but will tolerate drought conditions. Part sun to shade. Zones 2 to 9.



**Foamflower** (*Tiarella cordifolia*) Grows 8 to 10 inches high with a 1 to ½ foot spread. Masses of tiny white or pink flowers seem to float above the foliage. Broad, maple shaped leaves. Flowers remain up to 6 weeks. Easy to grow in moist to dry soil. Wet soil, especially in winter, can kill the plant. Part shade to shade. Zones 3 to 8.

**Appalachian Barren Strawberry** (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) Grows from 3 to 8 inches high with a ½ to 1 foot spread. A low, mat-forming, strawberry-like plant with evergreen, basal leaves and several yellow flowers on a leafless stalk. Fruit is not fleshy or edible. Sun to shade. Prefers medium wet, well-drained, organic, slightly acidic soil, but tolerates a wide range. Flowers from April to June. Zones 3-9.



## **USEFUL LINKS:**

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# NATIVE PLANT LIST

○ ~Shade, Moist to Wet Soils~



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**Full Sun** – more than 5 hours of direct sun a day



**Part-Sun** – 2 to 5 hours of direct sun or full day of dappled sun a day



**Full Shade** – less than 2 hours of direct sun a day

## SMALL SHRUBS (<6')



**Summersweet** (*Clethra alnifolia*) Also called Hummingbird Clethra or Sweet Pepperbush. Grows 3 to 8 feet high with a 4 to 6 foot spread. Attractive, deep-green foliage and very fragrant, white or pink flowers in summer. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soil. Zones 4-9.



**Canadian Yew** (*Taxus canadensis*) Grows from 1 to 6 feet high with branches spreading to 6 feet. Grows best in moist, loamy, alkaline, well-drained soils. Prefers partial to full shade. A popular food for moose and deer. Tolerant of the cold. Zones 2-6.



**Mapleleaf Viburnum** (*Viburnum acerifolium*) Grows from 4 to 6 feet high with an equal spread. Grows best in well-drained, mildly acidic soil with average moisture but can tolerate drier soils. Prefers shade to partial shade. Similar to other viburnums, a cluster of small white flowers gives way to dark blue/black fruits that are enjoyed by birds and other wildlife. *Mapleleaf Viburnum* is susceptible to attack from the *Viburnum Leaf Beetle*. Check with your local nursery to see if the Beetle is a problem in your area. Zones 4-8.

## TALL SHRUBS (>6')

**Allegheny Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier laevis*) Grows to approximately 25 feet high with a spread of 20 feet. Grows in shade and partial shade and prefers moist soils. A hardy serviceberry species that will tolerate more moisture and light than some other varieties. White flowers and purple/black edible berries are typical. Zones 4-8.



**Witherod** (*Viburnum cassinoides*) Also called Wild Raisin. Grows 6 to 10 feet with a lesser spread. A slender, upright shrub with glossy, green leaves. Round clusters of feathery, white to pink flowers in late spring and whitish fruit turning blue-black in the fall. Red fall color. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soil but tolerates drier conditions. Found in damp clearings, swamps and moist thickets. Good for birds. *Witherod* is susceptible to attack from the *Viburnum Leaf Beetle*. Check with your local nursery to see if the Beetle is a problem in your area. Zones 3-8.

## TREES



**Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*) Can grow up to 80 feet with a 30 foot spread in ideal conditions. Large, irregular, pyramidal tree. Small, deep-green needles with a loose, feathery appearance. Small, interesting cones. Also available in dwarf forms. Sun to shade. Does best in cool, moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates shade and some flooding. Zones 3-7.

**Yellow Birch** (*Betula alleghaniensis*) Can grow up to 80 feet with a 50 foot spread. Attractive golden, peeling bark on older specimens. Leaves are alternate, 3-5 inches long, turning yellow in fall. Part-sun to shade. Moist soil. Found near streams. Zones 3-7.



**Balsam Fir** (*Abies balsamea*) Grow up to 50 feet high and 20 feet wide. Narrow, pyramidal tree; typical Christmas tree shape. Needles are short, dark green, and blunt. Small, light brown cones. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soils. Zones 3-5.

## VINES AND GROUNDCOVERS

**Bunchberry** (*Cornus canadensis*) Grows to approximately 6 inches in height and spreads easily. Favors moist, rich, acidic soils. Grows best in partial to full shade. Larger white bracts surround small green flowers. A red berry is produced in the fall is attractive to birds. Zones 2-6.



**Checkerberry/Wintergreen** (*Gaultheria procumbens*) Also known as teaberry. Grows up to 6 inches high and spreads 4 to 6 inches annually. Favors well-drained, acidic soil with average moisture. Grows in partial to full shade but produces more fruit with adequate light. Leaves are evergreen and red berries remain on the plant all winter. Young leaves and berries have a wintergreen flavor. Zones 3-5.

**Woodbine/Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) A climbing vine that can reach heights of up to 40 feet. Grows easily. Will tolerate a range of soil types and a variety of light conditions. Drought tolerant. Small white flowers in spring. Foliage turns bright red in the fall and small purple berries are produced. When not in a position to climb it is an excellent ground cover and will put down more roots. Zones 3-9.



**Lingonberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) Also called Crowberry or Mountain Cranberry. Grows to 7 inches and spreads. Small, glossy-green, leathery foliage and small pink or white flowers, followed by small, red fruit, sour but edible. Found in bogs and wet or dry, rocky, mossy slopes. Sun to shade. Dry to moist, well-drained soil. Zones 2-6.

## PERENNIALS

**Jack-in-the-Pulpit** (*Arisaema triphyllum*) Grows from 1 to 2 feet high with a spread of 1 to 1½ feet. Unusually shaped and striped “flower” in mid-spring; clusters of brilliant red berries in fall. Typically grows in wet woodland areas and may take 5 years to flower if grown from seed. Roots are poisonous. Prefers medium wet to wet rich organic soils and partial to full shade. Zones 3-9.





**Soloman's Seal** (*Polygonatum pubescens*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high. Typically found in wooded areas. Leaves are slightly hairy underneath and flowers are a greenish white in color and flower in late spring to early summer. Deep blue berries in the fall. Grows best in full to partial shade with rich moist soil. Zone 3-9.



**Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) Grows from 6 to 12 inches high and is usually found in colonies. Three inch white flowers with yellow centers. Leaves and root contain an orange/red juice that is poisonous. Flowers in early spring. Grows best in part sun to shade and leaf litter. Zones 3-9.

**Marsh Blue Violet** (*Viola cucullata*) Grows from 5 to 10 inches high with a spread of less than 1 foot. Typically found in wet meadows and bogs. Foliage spreads to provide a good groundcover and attracts butterfly larvae. Blue violet flowers bloom from late spring to mid summer. Prefers moist soils and is shade tolerant. Zones 4-8.



**Round-leaved Violet** (*Viola rotundifolia*) Grows from 2 to 5 inches high. Yellow flowers bloom in late spring. Distinctive leaves are large and glossy. Typically found in wooded areas. Prefers partial shade with moist soil but will tolerate seasonal dryness. Zones 3-9.

**Appalachian Barren Strawberry** (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) Grows from 3 to 8 inches high with a ½ to 1 foot spread. A low, mat-forming, strawberry-like plant with evergreen, basal leaves and several yellow flowers on a leafless stalk. Fruit is not fleshy or edible. Sun to shade. Prefers medium wet, well-drained, organic, slightly acidic soil, but tolerates a wide range. Flowers from April to June. Zones 3-9.



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# NATIVE PLANT LIST



~Part Sun, Dry Soils~



Portland Water District

Although this is not an exhaustive list, the following native plants are carried at local nurseries. If a particular plant is not available at your nursery, ASK for it by name. The more demand there is for native plants, the more likely a nursery is to carry it. Additionally, nursery staff may be able to recommend a suitable, NON-INVASIVE substitute.



**Full Sun** – more than 5 hours of direct sun a day



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**Full Shade** – less than 2 hours of direct sun a day

## SMALL SHRUBS (<6')



**Bush Honeysuckle** (*Diervilla lonicera*) Also called American Fly Honeysuckle. (Do not confuse with European Fly Honeysuckle which is invasive.) Grows 2 to 5 feet high. A straggling shrub with handsome red berries. Sun to shade. Sandy, dry soil. Drought tolerant. Found in cool, rocky woods. Zones 3-7.

**Sheep Laurel/Lambkill** (*Kalmia angustifolia*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high with a greater spread. Grows best in moist, organic, cool, acidic soils but can tolerate a variety of soil types. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Bright pink flowers bloom in early summer. As the name suggests it is poisonous to livestock. Zones 1-6.



**Fragrant Sumac** (*Rhus aromatica*) Available in standard and 'Gro-Low' varieties. Dwarf grows 2 to 3 feet with a 6 to 8 foot spread. A low shrub with compound leaves and small, fragrant, yellow flowers in spring, followed by red fruit. Excellent orange to red fall color. Leaves are aromatic when crushed. Sun to part shade. Dry, sandy to rocky soil. Good as bank covers and in mass plantings. Dwarf variety used as a ground cover. Found in dry, rocky, open woods. Zones 3-9.

**Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos alba*) Grows 3 to 6 feet high with similar spread. Spreads by suckering so will form thickets, if allowed. Good for erosion control. Blue-green foliage, pink spring flowers and ornamental, white berries in fall. Rapid growth. Sun to part-sun. Moist to dry soil. Adaptable to a variety of soil conditions. Good for birds. Zones 3-7.



**Highbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) Grows from 6 to 8 feet in height with a spread of 8 to 12 feet. Typically found near bogs and marshes. Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil. Sun to partial shade. White bell-shaped flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by edible dark blue berries. Leaves turn red in the fall. Berries are attractive to birds and other wildlife. Zones 5-7.

**Mapleleaf Viburnum** (*Viburnum acerifolium*) Grows from 4 to 6 feet high with an equal spread. Grows best in well-drained, mildly acidic soil with average moisture but can tolerate drier soils. Prefers shade to partial shade. Similar to other viburnums, a cluster of small white flowers gives way to dark blue/black fruits that are enjoyed by birds and other wildlife. *Mapleleaf Viburnum* is susceptible to attack from the *Viburnum Leaf Beetle*. Check with your local nursery to see if the Beetle is a problem in your area. Zones 4-8.





## TALL SHRUBS (>6')



**Black Chokeberry** (*Aronia melanocarpa*) Can grow up to 8 feet high with a spread of 8 feet. Grows best in moist, well-drained, acidic soils but will tolerate drier sandy soils or wet clay ones. Particularly good for soil stabilization. Prefers full to partial sun. White flowers bloom in the spring with black berries appearing in the fall and lasting through the winter. Zones 3-8.

**Northern Bayberry** (*Myrica pennsylvanica*) Typically grows from 5 to 6 feet high but can reach 10 feet. Spreads easily and forms colonies. Often found in coastal areas. Foliage is semi-evergreen aromatic. Will grow well in dry, infertile, sandy, acidic soils. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Zones 2-6.



**Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*) Grows from 25 to 30 feet tall with a spread of 20 feet. Grows best in moist soil but will tolerate drier conditions. Partial to full sun. White flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by bright red berries. Flowers have a strong sweet fragrance. The fruit has an astringent taste but does attract birds. Zones 2-6.

**Staghorn Sumac** (*Rhus typhina*) Grows from 10 to 25 feet tall with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. Tolerates a wide range of soils as long as they are well-drained. Grows best in full sun to partial shade. Clusters of fuzzy berry-like fruits are produced in the fall. A popular ornamental shrub due to its showy autumn colors. Zones 3-8.



**Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*) Grows from 14 to 16 feet with a spread of 6 to 12 feet. Grows well in medium wet to average soil but is tolerant of drier soils. Prefers full sun to part shade. Clusters of white flowers turn into blue/black berry like fruit. Supposedly the fruit is attractive to nanny goats, hence its name. *Nannyberry is susceptible to attack from the Viburnum Leaf Beetle. Check with your local nursery to see if it is a problem in your area.* Zones 2-8.

## TREES

**Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*) Grows up to 75 feet with a 40 foot spread. Stunning orange- red fall color. Full sun, but tolerates some shade. Moist, well-drained soil. Does not tolerate wet or compacted soil. Zones 3-8.



**Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*) Can grow to 100 feet with a 40 foot spread. Large, open tree with horizontal branching. Long, soft, blue-green needles. Can be pruned to hedges or windbreaks. Rapid growth. Sun to partial shade. Moist soil best, but tolerates dry soil. Does not tolerate salt or flooding. Zones 3-7.

**Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*) Can grow up to 80 feet with a 30 foot spread in ideal conditions. Large, irregular, pyramidal tree. Small, deep-green needles with a loose, feathery appearance. Small, interesting cones. Also available in dwarf forms. Sun to shade. Does best in cool, moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates shade and some flooding. Zones 3-7.



## VINES AND GROWDCOVERS



**Bearberry** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) Grows from 4 to 6 inches with a spread of 3 feet. Spreads easily to form a mat. Grows best in moist, well-drained, rich, acidic soil. Full sun to partial shade. Light pink, cup-shaped flowers give way to bright red berries in the fall. It is a useful in preventing erosion and is commonly planted along banks. Zones 2-6.

**Virgin's Bower** (*Clematis virginiana*) A climbing vine that can grow up to 20 feet high. Grows best in soil with average to medium moisture and full sun to partial shade. Attractive clusters of silky seeds follow showy white flowers. Grows best on a trellis or fence. Zones 2-10.



**Hay-scented Fern** (*Dennstaedtia punctiloba*) Vigorously spreading fern grows to 12 inches with light-green, finely-divided fronds. Foliage is sweet-scented when crushed. Versatile fern grows in many soils and tolerates drought. Found in clearings and on rocky slopes. Part-sun to shade. Moist, well-drained soil. Drought tolerant. Zones 3-8.

**Checkerberry/Wintergreen** (*Gaultheria procumbens*) Also known as teaberry. Grows up to 6 inches high and spreads 4 to 6 inches annually. Favors well-drained, acidic soil with average moisture. Grows in partial to full shade but produces more fruit with adequate light. Leaves are evergreen and red berries remain on the plant all winter. Young leaves and berries have a wintergreen flavor. Zones 3-5.



**Woodbine/Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) A climbing vine that can reach heights of up to 40 feet. Grows easily. Will tolerate a range of soil types and a variety of light conditions. Drought tolerant. Small white flowers in spring. Foliage turns bright red in the fall and small purple berries are produced. When not in a position to climb it is an excellent ground cover and will put down more roots. Zones 3-9.

**Lowbush Blueberry** Grows from 2 to 24 inches and spreads to form colonies. Prefers an acidic, well-drained soil that has previously been untilled. A popular ground cover. Blueberries are attractive to wildlife and humans. Grows well in partial shade to full sun. Zones 2-6.



**Lingonberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) Also called Crowberry or Mountain Cranberry. Grows to 7 inches and spreads. Small, glossy-green, leathery foliage and small pink or white flowers, followed by small, red fruit, sour but edible. Found in bogs and wet or dry, rocky, mossy slopes. Sun to shade. Dry to moist, well-drained soil. Zones 2-6.

## PERENNIALS

**Harebell** (*Campanula rotundifolia*) Grows from 1 to 2 feet high with a spread of 6 inches. Flowers are deep blue and bell shaped. Blooms from June to September often until the first hard frost. Full to partial sun. Prefers dry to medium sand or gravel soils. Zones 3-8.



**Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of 1 to 2 feet. Leaves are rough, hairy, and lance shaped. Flowers are yellow to orange-yellow with a dark brown center. Full sun to part shade. Prefers dry to medium wet, well-drained soil but is tolerant of heat, drought and a wide range of soils. Low maintenance. Zones 3-9.



**Tall Meadow Rue** (*Thalictrum polygamum*) Grows from 3 to 8 feet high. Typically found in swampy areas and near water bodies. Small white inflorescences bloom in mid summer. Often recommended for the back border of gardens due to its large size. Prefers average to moist soil with light shade to full sun. Zones 3-8.

**Appalachian Barren Strawberry** (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) Grows from 3 to 8 inches high with a ½ to 1 foot spread. A low, mat-forming, strawberry-like plant with evergreen, basal leaves and several yellow flowers on a leafless stalk. Fruit is not fleshy or edible. Sun to shade. Prefers medium wet, well-drained, organic, slightly acidic soil, but tolerates a wide range. Flowers from April to June. Zones 3-9.



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- ☾ **Full Shade** – less than 2 hours of direct sun a day

## SMALL SHRUBS (<6')

**Bog Rosemary** (*Andromeda polifolia*) Grows from 6 to 30 inches high with a spread of 3 feet. Leaves are narrow, evergreen and leathery with a blue-green color. Some resemblance to the culinary herb. Typically found in northern bogs and marshes. Flowers are small, pink, and bell-shaped. Grows best in very moist, acidic soil in cooler climates. Zones 2-6.



**Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) – Grows 6 to 10 feet with a similar spread. Darkish-green, glossy leaves. Large, showy, spherical flower heads (pom-poms) in summer, followed by spherical fruits that persist into winter. Sun to part-sun. Wet soil. Grows in up to 3 feet of water. Flood tolerant. Found along lakes and streams. Zones 4-11.

**Summersweet** (*Clethra alnifolia*) Also called Hummingbird Clethra or Sweet Pepperbush. Grows 3 to 8 feet high with a 4 to 6 foot spread. Attractive, deep-green foliage and very fragrant, white or pink flowers in summer. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soil. Zones 4-8.



**Sheep Laurel/Lambkill** (*Kalmia angustifolia*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high with a greater spread. Grows best in moist, organic, cool, acidic soils but can tolerate a variety of soil types. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Bright pink flowers bloom in early summer. As the name suggests it is poisonous to livestock. Zones 1-6.

**Labrador Tea** (*Ledum groenlandicum*) Grows to approximately 3 feet high with a spread of 3 feet. Typically found growing in bogs and swamps. Clusters of white flowers bloom in the spring. Grows best with full sun to partial shade. Prefers a wet, acid soil. Leaves are evergreen with a silvery underside. Zones 2-5.



**Rhodora** (*Rhododendron canadense*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high with a similar spread. Typically found near bogs and marshy areas. Grows best in wet, acidic soils with full sun to partial shade. Bright pink/purple flowers bloom in spring. Very hardy. Zones 2-6.

**Meadow Rose** (*Rosa blanda*) Grows from 3 to 4 feet high and spreads easily. Grows best in rich soil with medium moisture and full sun or light shade. Showy, attractive flowers are white to pink in color. Stems only have very small prickles at base of stem. Often called the “thornless rose”. Zones 3-7.





**Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos alba*) Grows 3 to 6 feet high with similar spread. Spreads by suckering so will form thickets, if allowed. Good for erosion control. Blue-green foliage, pink spring flowers and ornamental, white berries in fall. Rapid growth. Sun to part-sun. Moist to dry soil. Adaptable to a variety of soil conditions. Good for birds. Zones 3-7.

**Canadian Yew** (*Taxus canadensis*) Grows from 1 to 6 feet high with branches spreading to 6 feet. Grows best in moist, loamy, alkaline, well-drained soils. Prefers partial to full shade. A popular food for moose and deer. Tolerant of the cold. Zones 2-6.



**Mapleleaf Viburnum** (*Viburnum acerifolium*) Grows from 4 to 6 feet high with an equal spread. Grows best in well-drained, mildly acidic soil with average moisture but can tolerate drier soils. Prefers shade to partial sun. Similar to other viburnums, a cluster of small white flowers gives way to dark blue/black fruits that are enjoyed by birds and other wildlife. *Mapleleaf Viburnum* is susceptible to attack from the *Viburnum Leaf Beetle*. Check with your local nursery to see if the Beetle is a problem in your area. Zones 4-8.

**Highbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) Grows from 6 to 8 feet in height with a spread of 8 to 12 feet. Typically found near bogs and marshes. Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil. Sun to partial shade. White bell-shaped flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by edible dark blue berries. Leaves turn red in the fall. Berries are attractive to birds and other wildlife. Zones 5-7.



## **TALL SHRUBS (>6')**



**Downy Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier arborea*) Grows from 10 to 25 feet high with a spread of 12 feet. Sun to part sun. Prefers rich loamy soil but will grow well in clay or any soil that has moderate moisture. White showy flowers bloom in early to mid spring and turn into dark red to purple edible berries. Zones 4-9.

**Shadblow Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier canadensis*) Grows from 25 to 30 feet high with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. Grows best in medium wet, well-drained soil but will tolerate a wide range. Prefers partial shade to full sun. Clusters of white flowers are followed by edible red/purple berries in late summer. Zones 4-8.



**Allegheny Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier laevis*) Grows to approximately 25 feet high with a spread of 20 feet. Grows in shade and partial shade and prefers moist soils. A hardy serviceberry species that will tolerate more moisture and light than some other varieties. White flowers and purple/black edible berries are typical. Zones 4-8.

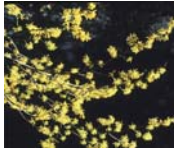
**Black Chokeberry** (*Aronia melanocarpa*) Can grow up to 8 feet high with a spread of 8 feet. Grows best in moist, well-drained, acidic soils but will tolerate drier sandy soils or wet clay ones. Very good for soil stabilization. Prefers full to partial sun. White flowers bloom in the spring with black berries appearing in the fall and lasting through the winter. Zones 3-8.



**Gray Dogwood** (*Cornus racemosa*) Grows to 10 feet high with a spread of 10 to 15 feet. Can form thickets. Tolerant of a wide range of soils and city air pollution. Grows best in medium wet soil with full sun to partial shade. Small white clusters of flowers bloom in late spring. Zones 3-8.

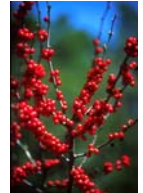


**Redosier Dogwood** (*Cornus sericea*) Grows from 6 to 9 feet high with a spread of 8 to 12 feet. Grows best in rich medium to wet soil. Typically found in bogs or swamps and will tolerate a wide range of soils. Young branches are bright red. Small white clusters of flowers bloom in late spring and are followed by fall fruits which are attractive to birds. Prefers full sun to part shade. Zones 2-7.



**Common Witchhazel** (*Hamamelis virginiana*) Grows 10 to 15 feet high with an equal spread. Prefers moist, acidic soil and grows best with full sun to partial shade. Small clumps of yellow flowers with narrow petals bloom in early fall and have a pleasing fragrance. Zones 3-8.

**Winterberry** (*Ilex verticillata*) Grows 6 to 10 feet high with a similar spread. Grows best in moist well-drained soils but will tolerate wet, swampy areas. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Bright red attractive fruits are produced and last through the winter. Male and female plants are needed to produce berries. Zones 3-9.



**Northern Bayberry** (*Myrica pennsylvanica*) Typically grows from 5 to 6 feet high but can reach 10 feet. Spreads easily and forms colonies. Often found in coastal areas. Foliage is semievergreen and aromatic. Will grow well in dry, infertile, sandy, acidic soils. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Zones 2-6.

**Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*) Grows from 25 to 30 feet tall with a spread of 20 feet. Grows best in moist soil but will tolerate drier conditions. Partial to full sun. White flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by bright red berries. Flowers have a strong sweet fragrance. The fruit has an astringent taste but does attract birds. Zones 2-6.



**Witherod** (*Viburnum cassinoides*) Also called Wild Raisin. Grows 6 to 10 feet with a lesser spread. A slender, upright shrub with glossy, green leaves. Round clusters of feathery, white to pink flowers in late spring and whitish fruit turning blue-black in the fall. Red fall color. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soil but tolerates drier conditions. Found in damp clearings, swamps and moist thickets. Good for birds. Witherod is *susceptible to attack from the Viburnum Leaf Beetle*. Check with your local nursery to see if it is a problem in your area. Zones 3-8.

**Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*) Grows from 14 to 16 feet with a spread of 6 to 12 feet. Grows well in medium wet to average soil but is tolerant of drier soils. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Clusters of white flowers give way to blue/black berry like fruit. Supposedly the fruit is particularly attractive to nanny goats, hence its common name. *Susceptible to attack from the Viburnum Leaf Beetle*. Check with your local nursery to see if it is a problem in your area. Zones 2-8.



## **TREES**



**Balsam Fir** (*Abies balsamea*) Grow up to 50 feet high and 20 feet wide. Narrow, pyramidal tree; typical Christmas tree shape. Needles are short, dark green, and blunt. Small, light brown cones. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soils. Zones 3-5.

**Yellow Birch** (*Betula alleghaniensis*) Can grow up to 80 feet with a 50 foot spread. Attractive golden, peeling bark on older specimens. Leaves are alternate, 3-5 inches long, turning yellow in fall. Part-sun to shade. Moist soil. Found near streams. Zones 3-7.







**Green Ash** (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) Grows to 60 feet. Rapid growth. Rounded crown. Five to nine leaflets on each compound leaf turns bright yellow in fall. Bark has narrow, interlacing ridges. Dry to wet soils. Sun to part sun. Zones 3-9.

**Swamp White Oak** (*Quercus bicolor*) Grows to 60 feet with a similar spread. Produces many acorns. Leaves irregularly lobed, about 6 inches long, shiny, dark green above and light below. Bark on large trees ridged and furrowed. Moist to wet soil. Tolerates swampy, poorly-drained conditions. Sun to part sun. Zones 4-8.



**White Cedar** (*Thuja occidentalis*) Also called Arborvitae. Grows to 60 feet and 25 feet across. A dense tree with flat, green aromatic foliage. Often sheered and shaped for landscaping purposes, but has an attractive shape on its own. Sun to part sun. Moist soil best, tolerates flooding and occasional drought. Found in wet soils and swampy areas. Zone 3.

**Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*) Can grow up to 80 feet with a 30 foot spread in ideal conditions. Large, irregular, pyramidal tree. Small, deep-green needles with a loose, feathery appearance. Small, interesting cones. Also available in dwarf forms. Sun to shade. Does best in cool, moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates shade and some flooding. Zones 3-7.



## VINES AND GROUNDCOVERS



**Bearberry** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) Grows from 4 to 6 inches with a spread of 3 feet. Spreads easily to form a mat. Grows best in moist, well-drained, rich, acidic soil. Full sun to partial shade. Light pink, cup-shaped flowers give way to a bright red berry in the fall. It is a useful in preventing erosion and is commonly planted along banks. Zones 2-6.

**Bunchberry** (*Cornus canadensis*) Grows to approximately 6 inches in height and spreads easily. Favors moist, rich, acidic soils. Grows best in partial to full shade. Larger white bracts surround small green flowers. A red berry is produced in the fall is attractive to birds. Zones 2-6.



**Woodbine/Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) A climbing vine that can reach heights of up to 40 feet. Grows easily. Will tolerate a range of soil types and a variety of light conditions (except for complete shade). Drought tolerant. Small white flowers in spring. Foliage turns bright red in the fall and small purple berries are produced. When not in a position to climb it is an excellent ground cover and will put down more roots. Zones 3-9.

**Lowbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) Grows from 2 to 24 inches and spreads to form colonies. Prefers an acidic, well-drained soil that has previously been untilled. A popular ground cover. Blueberries are attractive to wildlife and humans. Grows well in partial shade to full sun. Zones 2-6.



**Lingonberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) Also called Crowberry or Mountain Cranberry. Grows to 7 inches and spreads. Small, glossy-green, leathery foliage and small pink or white flowers, followed by small, red fruit, sour but edible. Found in bogs and wet or dry, rocky, mossy slopes. Sun to shade. Dry to moist, well-drained soil. Zones 2-6.

## PERENNIALS

**Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of 1 to 1½ feet. Flowers are light pink with yellow to blood red with yellow and bell shaped. Full sun to part shade. Prefers medium wet, well-drained soil but will tolerate a wide range as long as drainage is adequate. Flowers are attractive to hummingbirds. Zones 3-8.



**Goats Beard** (*Aruncus dioicus*) Grows from 4 to 6 feet high with a spread of 2 to 4 feet. Typically bushy and tends to form clumps. Small white flowers are clustered in plumes which extend above the foliage. Blooms occur in early to mid summer. Full sun to part shade. Prefers, medium wet to wet, well-drained soil. Zones 4-8.

**Marsh Marigold** (*Caltha palustris*) Grows from 8 inches to 2 feet high with a spread of approximately 1 foot. Typically found in swamps and marshes and is recommended for planting along stream banks, in bog gardens and near ponds. Bright yellow flowers bloom in late spring to early summer. Prefers wet organic soils and partial to full sun. Zones 1-8.



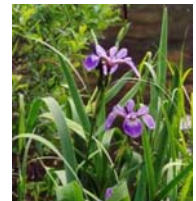
**Turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*) Grows to a height of 2 to 3 feet with a spread of 1½ to 2½ feet. Flowers are white with a pinkish tinge and are similar to snapdragons. Prefers a rich, moist to wet, organic soil with partial shade. Zones 3 to 9.

**Joe Pye Weed** (*Eupatorium maculatum*) Grows from 4 to 5 feet high with a spread of 1.5 to 2 feet. Found naturally growing in damp meadows. Light pink flowers bloom from mid summer to early fall and are attractive to butterflies. Prefers average to wet soil with full sun. Zones 4-8.



**Boneset** (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) Grows 4 to 6 feet high with a spread of 3 to 4 feet. Clusters of small, white flowers bloom in late summer. Leaves are lance shaped and have hairy stems. Full sun to part shade. Prefers medium wet to wet soil and will tolerate sand and clay soils with adequate moisture. Found in swamps and on streambanks. Zones 4-8.

**Blue Flag Iris** (*Iris versicolor*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet with a spread of 6 to 12 feet. Leaves are sword shaped and can be up to 3 feet long. Flowers are usually blue-violet but can be lavender, or red-violet. Full sun to partial shade. Prefers moist to wet, organic, slightly acidic soils. Can tolerate growing in up to 6 inches of standing water. Grows well near bogs and ponds. Zones 3-9.



**Cardinal Flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*) Grows from 2 to 4 feet high with a spread of 1 to 2 feet. Bright red flowers are tubular and bloom in late summer. Lance-shaped leaves are finely toothed and approximately 4 inches long. Full sun to partial shade. Prefers medium wet to wet, rich, organic soil. Found near streams and swamps and in low wooded areas. Attractive to hummingbirds. Zones 3-9.

**Bee Balm** (*Monarda didyma*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a 1 to 2 foot spread. Spreads easily. Leaves are toothed and have a minty fragrance. Blooms can be purple, red, or pink. Full sun to partial shade. Prefers medium wet to wet, moisture retentive, organic soil. Attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. Zones 4-9.





**Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of 1 to 2 feet. Leaves are rough, hairy, and lance shaped. Flowers are yellow to orange-yellow with a dark brown center. Full sun to part shade. Prefers dry to medium wet, well-drained soil but is tolerant of heat, drought and a wide range of soils. Low maintenance. Zones 3-9.

**Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) Grows from 6 to 12 inches high and is usually found in colonies. Part sun to shade. Leaves and root contain an orange/red juice that is poisonous. Flowers in early spring. Grows best in part sun to shade and leaf litter.



**Tall Meadow Rue** (*Thalictrum polygamum*) Grows from 3 to 8 feet high. Typically found in swampy areas and near water bodies. Small white inflorescences bloom in mid summer. Often recommended for the back border of gardens due to its large size. Prefers average to moist soil with light shade to full sun. Zones 3-8.

**Appalachian Barren Strawberry** (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) Grows from 3 to 8 inches high with a ½ to 1 foot spread. A low, mat-forming, strawberry-like plant with evergreen, basal leaves and several yellow flowers on a leafless stalk. Fruit is not fleshy or edible. Sun to shade. Prefers medium wet, well-drained, organic, slightly acidic soil, but tolerates a wide range. Flowers from April to June. Zones 3-9.



### USEFUL LINKS:

The following publications can be found at: <http://extensionpubs.umext.maine.edu/>

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2502 “*Native Plants: A 2002 Maine Source List.*”

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2500 “*Gardening to Conserve Maine's Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid.*”

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2701 “*Designing Your Landscape for Maine.*”

Part of the **Conservation Practices for Homeowners** Factsheet Series, available at:  
Maine DEP (800.452.1942); <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/materials.htm>  
Portland Water District (207.774.5961); <http://www.pwd.org/news/publications.php>





# NATIVE PLANT LIST



~Sun, Dry Soil~ ☼



Portland Water District

Although this is not an exhaustive list, the following native plants are carried at local nurseries. If a particular plant is not available at your nursery, ASK for it by name. The more demand there is for native plants, the more likely a nursery is to carry it. Additionally, nursery staff may be able to recommend a suitable, NON-INVASIVE substitute.



**Full Sun** – more than 5 hours of direct sun a day



**Part-Sun** – 2 to 5 hours of direct sun or full day of dappled sun a day



**Full Shade** – less than 2 hours of direct sun a day

## SMALL SHRUBS (<6')



**Sweetfern** (*Comptonia peregrina*) Grows 2 to 4 feet high with similar spread. Not a true fern but has somewhat leathery fern-like foliage which has a nice, pungent, spicy smell. Brown catkins in early spring and a bur-like nut in the fall. Full sun. Moist to dry soil. Grows well on poor, sandy, rocky soil. Deep, good root system. Good for roadbanks and steep, dry areas. Zones 2-6.

**Bush Honeysuckle** (*Diervilla lonicera*) Also called American Fly Honeysuckle. (Do not confuse with European Fly Honeysuckle which is invasive.) Grows 2 to 5 feet high. A straggling shrub with handsome red berries. Sun to shade. Sandy, dry soil. Drought tolerant. Found in cool, rocky woods. Zones 3-7.



**Common Juniper** (*Juniperus communis*) Grows to a height of 3-10 feet with an equal spread. Form can be variable from low and spreading to an erect shrub. Cones are berry-like. Leaves are evergreen needles but can turn light brown during the winter. Tolerant of a wide variety of soils. Grows best with full sun. Zones 2-6.

**Sheep Laurel/Lambkill** (*Kalmia angustifolia*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high with a greater spread. Grows best in moist, organic, cool, acidic soils but can tolerate a variety of soil types. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Bright pink flowers bloom in early summer. As the name suggests it is poisonous to livestock. Zones 1-6.



**Fragrant Sumac** (*Rhus aromatica*) Available in standard and 'Gro-Low' varieties. Dwarf grows 2 to 3 feet with a 6 to 8 foot spread. A low shrub with compound leaves and small, fragrant, yellow flowers in spring, followed by red fruit. Excellent orange to red fall color. Leaves are aromatic when crushed. Sun to part shade. Dry, sandy to rocky soil. Good as bank covers and in mass plantings. Dwarf variety used as a ground cover. Found in dry, rocky, open woods. Zones 3-9.

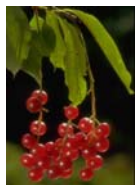
**Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos alba*) Grows 3 to 6 feet high with similar spread. Spreads by suckering so will form thickets, if allowed. Good for erosion control. Blue-green foliage, pink spring flowers and ornamental, white berries in fall. Rapid growth. Sun to part-sun. Moist to dry soil. Adaptable to a variety of soil conditions. Good for birds. Zones 3-7.



**Highbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) Grows from 6 to 8 feet in height with a spread of 8 to 12 feet. Typically found near bogs and marshes. Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil. Sun to partial shade. White bell-shaped flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by edible dark blue berries. Leaves turn red in the fall. Berries are attractive to birds and other wildlife. Zones 5-7.



## **TALL SHRUBS (>6')**



**Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*) Grows from 25 to 30 feet tall with a spread of 20 feet. Grows best in moist soil but will tolerate drier conditions. Partial to full sun. White flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by bright red berries. Flowers have a strong sweet fragrance. The fruit has an astringent taste but does attract birds. Zones 2-6.

**Northern Bayberry** (*Myrica pennsylvanica*) Typically grows from 5 to 6 feet high but can reach 10 feet. Spreads easily and forms colonies. Often found in coastal areas. Foliage is semievergreen aromatic. Will grow well in dry, infertile, sandy, acidic soils. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Zones 2-6.



**Beach Plum** (*Prunus maritima*) Grows from 6 to 8 feet high with a spread of 6 feet. Grows best in well-drained soil but is adaptable to a range of soil types. Prefers full sun. White flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by purple fruits which are edible. Typically found along the coast and tolerant of salt. Zones 3-7.

**Black Chokeberry** (*Aronia melanocarpa*) Can grow up to 8 feet high with a spread of 8 feet. Grows best in moist, well-drained, acidic soils but will tolerate drier sandy soils or wet clayey ones. Particularly good for soil stabilization. Prefers full to partial sun. White flowers bloom in the spring with black berries appearing in the fall and lasting through the winter. Zones 3-8.



**Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*) Grows from 14 to 16 feet with a spread of 6 to 12 feet. Grows well in medium wet to average soil but is tolerant of drier soils. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Clusters of white flowers give way to blue/black berry like fruit. Supposedly the fruit is particularly attractive to nanny goats, hence it's common name. *Nannyberry is susceptible to attack from the Viburnum Leaf Beetle. Check with your local nursery to see if the Beetle is a problem in your area.* Zones 2-8.

**Shadblow Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier canadensis*) Grows from 25 to 30 feet high with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. Grows best in medium wet, well-drained soil but will tolerate a wide range. Prefers partial shade to full sun. Clusters of white flowers are followed by edible red/purple berries in late summer. Zones 4-8.



**Staghorn Sumac** (*Rhus typhina*) Grows from 10 to 25 feet tall with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. Tolerates a wide range of soils as long as they are well-drained. Grows best in full sun to partial shade. Clusters of fuzzy berry-like fruits are produced in the fall. A popular ornamental shrub due to its showy autumn colors. Zones 3-8.

## TREES



**Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*) Grows up to 75 feet with a 40 foot spread. Stunning orange- red fall color. Full sun, but tolerates some shade. Moist, well-drained soil. Does not tolerate wet or compacted soil. Zones 3-8.



**Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) Grows up to 75 feet. Rapid growth. An impressive shade tree, with reddish-brown bark and dark green leaves. Leaves turn red in fall. Moist, well drained soil. Sun. Zones 3-7.



**Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*) Can grow up to 80 feet with a 30 foot spread in ideal conditions. Large, irregular, pyramidal tree. Small, deep-green needles with a loose, feathery appearance. Small, interesting cones. Also available in dwarf forms. Sun to shade. Does best in cool, moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates shade and some flooding. Zones 3-7.



**Red Pine** (*Pinus resinosa*) Also called Norway Pine. Can reach 80 feet. Rapid growth. Large, handsome, straight tree. Long, dark green, stiff needles. Reddish bark. Makes an excellent windbreak. Full sun. Bet in dry, sandy soil. First discovered near Norway, Maine. Zones 2-5.



**Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*) Can grow to 100 feet with a 40 foot spread. Large, open tree with horizontal branching. Long, soft, blue-green needles. Can be pruned to hedges or windbreaks. Rapid growth. Sun to partial shade. Moist soil best, but tolerates dry soil. Does not tolerate salt or flooding. Zones 3-7.

## VINES AND GROUNDCOVERS

**Bearberry** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) Grows from 4 to 6 inches with a spread of 3 feet. Spreads easily to form a mat. Grows best in moist, well-drained, rich, acidic soil. Full sun to partial shade. Light pink, cup-shaped flowers give way to a bright red berry in the fall. It is a useful in preventing erosion and is commonly planted along banks. Zones 2-6.



**Virgin's Bower** (*Clematis virginiana*) A climbing vine that can grow up to 20 feet high. Grows best in soil with average to medium moisture and full sun to partial shade. Attractive clusters of silky seeds follow showy white flowers. Grows best on a trellis or fence. Zones 2-10.

**Creeping Juniper** (*Juniperus horizontalis*) Grows approximately 2 feet high with a spread of 8 feet. Tolerates a wide range of soil as long it is well drained. Grows best in full sun. Foliage is often a silvery blue color. Small, blue, berry-like fruit. Zones 3-9.



**Woodbine/Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) A climbing vine that can reach heights of up to 40 feet. Grows easily. Will tolerate a range of soil types and a variety of light conditions. Drought tolerant. Small white flowers in spring. Foliage turns bright red in the fall and small purple berries are produced. When not in a position to climb it is an excellent ground cover and will put down more roots. Zones 3-9.





**Lowbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) Grows from 2 to 24 inches and spreads to form colonies. Prefers an acidic, well-drained soil that has previously been untilled. A popular ground cover. Blueberries are attractive to wildlife and humans. Grows well in partial shade to full sun. Zones 2-6.

**Lingonberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) Also called Crowberry or Mountain Cranberry. Grows to 7 inches and spreads. Small, glossy-green, leathery foliage and small pink or white flowers, followed by small, red fruit, sour but edible. Found in bogs and wet or dry, rocky, mossy slopes. Sun to shade. Dry to moist, well-drained soil. Zones 2-6.



## **PERENNIALS**



**Milkweed** (*Asclepias syriaca*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of approximately 1 foot. Clusters of pink flowers bloom in the late spring into the summer and are attractive to butterflies, particularly Monarch larvae. Very adaptable. Can grow in average, dry to medium wet soils that are well drained. Prefers full sun. Zones 3-9.

**New England Aster** (*Aster novae-angliae*) Grows from 1½ to 2 feet high with a spread of 2 to 3 feet. It grows best in average to wet, well-drained soil with full sun. Blooms in late summer to early fall with dark purple flowers that are attractive to butterflies. Zones 3-9.



**New York Aster** (*Aster novi-belgii*) Grows to a height of 1 to 3 feet. Found in meadows, along stream banks and in thickets. Flowers are found from August to October. Optimal growth is encouraged by average to moist soil and full sun. Zones 3-9.

**Harebell** (*Campanula rotundifolia*) Grows from 1 to 2 feet high with a spread of 6 inches. Flowers are deep blue and bell shaped. Blooms from June to September often until the first hard frost. Full to partial sun. Prefers dry to medium sand or gravel soils. Zones 3-8.



**Echinacea** (*Echinacea purpurea*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high with a spread of 1 to 2 feet depending on variety. Large, daisy-like flowers can be red, white or light purple. Tends to form clumps. Full sun. Prefers moist, well-drained, neutral to slightly alkaline soil. Heat and drought tolerant. Attracts birds and butterflies. Zones 3-10.

**Moss Phlox** (*Phlox subulata*) Grows to about 6 inches high and spreads to form an attractive groundcover. Often grown on rock walls. Flowers are typically varying shades of pink but different varieties can be found in purple and white. Easily grown in full sun in almost any type of well-drained soil. Zones 3-8.



**Obedient Plant** (*Physostegia virginiana*) Grows to a height of 3 to 4 feet with a spread of 2 to 3 feet. Pink or white flowers bloom late in the season. Should be divided every 2-3 years to prevent aggressive spreading. Prefers average to wet, well-drained soil with full sun. Zones 3-9.

**Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of 1 to 2 feet. Leaves are rough, hairy, and lance shaped. Flowers are yellow to orange-yellow with a dark brown center. Full sun to part shade. Prefers dry to medium wet, well-drained soil but is tolerant of heat, drought and a wide range of soils. Low maintenance. Zones 3-9.



**Tall Meadow Rue** (*Thalictrum polygamum*) Grows from 3 to 8 feet high. Typically found in swampy areas and near water bodies. Small white inflorescences bloom in mid summer. Often recommended for the back border of gardens due to its large size. Prefers average to moist soil with light shade to full sun. Zones 3-8.

**Appalachian Barren Strawberry** (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) Grows from 3 to 8 inches high with a ½ to 1 foot spread. A low, mat-forming, strawberry-like plant with evergreen, basal leaves and several yellow flowers on a leafless stalk. Fruit is not fleshy or edible. Sun to shade. Prefers medium wet, well-drained, organic, slightly acidic soil, but tolerates a wide range. Flowers from April to June. Zones 3-9.



### USEFUL LINKS:

The following publications can be found at: <http://extensionpubs.umext.maine.edu/>

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2502 “*Native Plants: A 2002 Maine Source List.*”

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2500 “*Gardening to Conserve Maine's Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid.*”

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Part of the **Conservation Practices for Homeowners** Factsheet Series, available at:  
Maine DEP (800.452.1942); <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/materials.htm>  
Portland Water District (207.774.5961); <http://www.pwd.org/news/publications.php>



# NATIVE PLANT LIST



~Sun, Moist to Wet Soil~



Portland Water District

Although this is not an exhaustive list, the following native plants are carried at local nurseries. If a particular plant is not available at your nursery, ASK for it by name. The more demand there is for native plants, the more likely a nursery is to carry it. Additionally, nursery staff may be able to recommend a suitable, NON-INVASIVE substitute.



**Full Sun** – more than 5 hours of direct sun a day



**Part-Sun** – 2 to 5 hours of direct sun or full day of dappled sun a day



**Full Shade** – less than 2 hours of direct sun a day

## SMALL SHRUBS (<6')

**Bog Rosemary** (*Andromeda polifolia*) Grows from 6 to 30 inches high with a spread of 3 feet. Leaves are narrow, evergreen and leathery with a blue-green color. Some resemblance to the culinary herb. Typically found in northern bogs and marshes. Flowers are small, pink, and bell-shaped. Grows best in very moist, acidic soil in cooler climates. Zones 2-6.



**Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) – Grows 6 to 10 feet with a similar spread. Darkish-green, glossy leaves. Large, showy, spherical flower heads (pom-poms) in summer, followed by spherical fruits that persist into winter. Sun to part-sun. Wet soil. Grows in up to 3 feet of water. Flood tolerant. Found along lakes and streams. Zones 4-11.

**Summersweet** (*Clethra alnifolia*) Also called Hummingbird Clethra or Sweet Pepperbush. Grows 3 to 8 feet high with a 4 to 6 foot spread. Attractive, deep-green foliage and very fragrant, white or pink flowers in summer. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soil. Zones 4-8.



**Common Juniper** (*Juniperus communis*) Grows to a height of 3-10 feet with an equal spread. Form can be variable from low and spreading to an erect shrub. Cones are berry-like. Leaves are evergreen needles but can turn light brown during the winter. Tolerant of a wide variety of soils. Grows best with full sun. Zones 2-6.

**Sheep Laurel/Lambkill** (*Kalmia angustifolia*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high with a greater spread. Grows best in moist, organic, cool, acidic soils but can tolerate a variety of soil types. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Bright pink flowers bloom in early summer. As the name suggests it is poisonous to livestock. Zones 1-6.



**Labrador Tea** (*Ledum groenlandicum*) Grows to approximately 3 feet high with a spread of 3 feet. Typically found growing in bogs and swamps. Clusters of white flowers bloom in the spring. Grows best with full sun to partial shade. Prefers a wet, acid soil. Leaves are evergreen with a silvery underside. Zones 2-5.

**Sweetgale** (*Myrica gale*) Grows from 2 to 4 feet high and can spread up to 8 feet. Typically found near lakes, streams and wetlands. Leaves are dark green and aromatic. Produces fruits that are similar to small pine cones. Grows best in a moist to wet soil with full sun. Attractive to wildlife. Zones 2-4.





**Rhodora** (*Rhododendron canadense*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high with a similar spread. Typically found near bogs and marshy areas. Grows best in wet, acidic soils with full sun to partial shade. Bright pink/purple flowers bloom in spring. Very hardy. Zones 2-6.



**Meadow Rose** (*Rosa blanda*) Grows from 3 to 4 feet high and spreads easily. Grows best in rich soil with medium moisture and full sun or light shade. Showy, attractive flowers are white to pink in color. Stems only have very small prickles at base of stem. Often called the “thornless rose”. Zones 3-7.

**Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos alba*) Grows 3 to 6 feet high with similar spread. Spreads by suckering so will form thickets, if allowed. Good for erosion control. Blue-green foliage, pink spring flowers and ornamental, white berries in fall. Rapid growth. Sun to part-sun. Moist to dry soil. Adaptable to a variety of soil conditions. Good for birds. Zones 3-7.



**Highbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) Grows from 6 to 8 feet in height with a spread of 8 to 12 feet. Typically found near bogs and marshes. Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil. Sun to partial shade. White bell-shaped flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by edible dark blue berries. Leaves turn red in the fall. Berries are attractive to birds and other wildlife. Zones 5-7.

## **TALL SHRUBS (>6')**

**Downy Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier arborea*) Grows from 10 to 25 feet high with a spread of 12 feet. Sun to part sun. Prefers rich loamy soil but will grow well in clay or any soil that has moderate moisture. White showy flowers bloom in early to mid spring and are followed by dark red to purple edible berries. Zones 4-9.



**Shadblow Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier canadensis*) Grows from 25 to 30 feet high with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. Grows best in medium wet, well-drained soil but will tolerate a wide range. Prefers partial shade to full sun. Clusters of white flowers are followed by edible red/purple berries in late summer. Zones 4-8.

**Allegheny Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier laevis*) Grows to approximately 25 feet high with a spread of 20 feet. Grows in shade and partial shade and prefers moist soils. A hardy serviceberry species that will tolerate more moisture and light than some other varieties. White flowers and purple/black edible berries are typical. Zones 4-8.



**Black Chokeberry** (*Aronia melanocarpa*) Can grow up to 8 feet high with a spread of 8 feet. Grows best in moist, well-drained, acidic soils but will tolerate drier sandy soils or wet clay ones. Particularly good for soil stabilization. Prefers full to partial sun. White flowers bloom in the spring with black berries appearing in the fall and lasting through the winter. Zones 3-8.

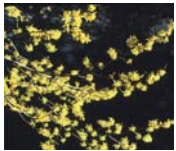
**Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) Grows from 3 to 10 feet high with a spread of 3-8 feet. Easily grown in rich, very moist soil. Typically found in bogs and marshes or growing near ponds and streams. White, ball-shaped flowers attract butterflies and birds. Prefers full sun. Zones 5-10.





**Gray Dogwood** (*Cornus racemosa*) Grows to 10 feet high with a spread of 10 to 15 feet. Can form thickets. Tolerant of a wide range of soils and city air pollution. Grows best in medium wet soil with full sun to partial shade. Small white clusters of flowers bloom in late spring. Zones 3-8.

**Redosier Dogwood** (*Cornus sericea*) Grows from 6 to 9 feet high with a spread of 8 to 12 feet. Grows best in rich medium to wet soil. Typically found in bogs or swamps and will tolerate a wide range of soils. Young branches are bright red. Small white clusters of flowers bloom in late spring and are followed by fall fruits which are attractive to birds. Prefers full sun to part shade. Zones 2-7.



**Common Witchhazel** (*Hamamelis virginiana*) Grows 10 to 15 feet high with an equal spread. Prefers moist, acidic soil and grows best with full sun to partial shade. Small clumps of yellow flowers with narrow petals bloom in early fall and have a pleasing fragrance. Zones 3-8.

**Winterberry** (*Ilex verticillata*) Grows 6 to 10 feet high with a similar spread. Grows best in moist well-drained soils but will tolerate wet, swampy areas. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Bright red attractive fruits are produced and last through the winter. Male and female plants are needed to produce berries. Zones 3-9.



**Northern Bayberry** (*Myrica pennsylvanica*) Typically grows from 5 to 6 feet high but can reach 10 feet. Spreads easily and forms colonies. Often found in coastal areas. Foliage is semievergreen aromatic. Will grow well in dry, infertile, sandy, acidic soils. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Zones 2-6.

**Beach Plum** (*Prunus maritima*) Grows from 6 to 8 feet high with a spread of 6 feet. Grows best in well-drained soil but is adaptable to a range of soil types. Prefers full sun. White flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by purple fruits which are edible. Typically found along the coast and tolerant of salt. Zones 3-7.



**Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*) Grows from 25 to 30 feet tall with a spread of 20 feet. Grows best in moist soil but will tolerate drier conditions. Partial to full sun. White flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by bright red berries. Flowers have a strong sweet fragrance. The fruit has an astringent taste but does attract birds. Zones 2-6.

**Witherod** (*Viburnum cassinoides*) Also called Wild Raisin. Grows 6 to 10 feet with a lesser spread. A slender, upright shrub with glossy, green leaves. Round clusters of feathery, white to pink flowers in late spring and whitish fruit turning blue-black in the fall. Red fall color. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soil but tolerates drier conditions. Found in damp clearings, swamps and moist thickets. Good for birds. *Witherod is susceptible to attack from the Viburnum Leaf Beetle. Check with your local nursery to see if the Beetle is a problem in your area.* Zones 3-8.



**Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*) Grows from 14 to 16 feet with a spread of 6 to 12 feet. Grows well in medium wet to average soil but is tolerant of drier soils. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Clusters of white flowers give way to blue/black berry like fruit. Supposedly the fruit is attractive to nanny goats, hence its common name. *Nannyberry is susceptible to attack from the Viburnum Leaf Beetle. Check with your local nursery to see if the Beetle is a problem in your area.* Zones 2-8.



## TREES

**Green Ash** (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) Grows to 60 feet. Rapid growth. Rounded crown. Five to nine leaflets on each compound leaf turns bright yellow in fall. Bark has narrow, interlacing ridges. Dry to wet soils. Sun to part sun. Zones 3-9.



**Larch** (*Larix laricina*) Also known as Tamarack. Grows to 65 feet. Narrow and upright with horizontal branches and sweeping twigs. Fine, light-green needles turn yellow in fall and drop. Has the appearance of an evergreen but is not. Full sun. Prefers moist soil but tolerates poor, wet soil and flooding. Zones 2-4.

**Swamp White Oak** (*Quercus bicolor*) Grows to 60 feet with a similar spread. Produces quantities of acorns. Leaves irregularly lobed, about 6 inches long, shiny, dark green above and light below. Bark on large trees ridged and furrowed. Moist to wet soil. Tolerates swampy, poorly-drained conditions. Sun to part sun. Zones 4-8.



**White Cedar** (*Thuja occidentalis*) Also called Arborvitae. Grows to 60 feet and 25 feet across. A dense tree with flat, green aromatic foliage. Often sheared and shaped for landscaping purposes, but has an attractive shape on its own. Sun to part sun. Moist soil best, tolerates flooding and occasional drought. Found in wet soils and swampy areas. Zone 3.

## VINES AND GROUNDCOVERS

**Bearberry** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) Grows from 4 to 6 inches with a spread of 3 feet. Spreads easily to form a mat. Grows best in moist, well-drained, rich, acidic soil. Full sun to partial shade. Light pink, cup-shaped flowers give way to a bright red berry in the fall. It is a useful in preventing erosion and is commonly planted along banks. Zones 2-6.



**Woodbine/Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) A climbing vine that can reach heights of up to 40 feet. Grows easily. Will tolerate a range of soil types and a variety of light conditions. Drought tolerant. Small white flowers in spring. Foliage turns bright red in the fall and small purple berries are produced. When not in a position to climb it is an excellent ground cover and will put down more roots. Zones 3-9.

**Lowbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) Grows from 2 to 24 inches and spreads to form colonies. Prefers an acidic, well-drained soil that has previously been untilled. A popular ground cover. Blueberries are attractive to wildlife and humans. Grows well in partial shade to full sun. Zones 2-6.



**Cranberry** (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) Grows from 6 to 9 inches high and spreads easily. Prefers an acidic, wet to moist soil. Typically grows in bogs. Grows best in full sun. Small pink flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by the commonly known red berries. Useful for both wildlife and human consumption. Zones 2-6.

**Lingonberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) Also called Crowberry or Mountain Cranberry. Grows to 7 inches and spreads. Small, glossy-green, leathery foliage and small pink or white flowers, followed by small, red fruit, sour but edible. Found in bogs and wet or dry, rocky, mossy slopes. Sun to shade. Dry to moist, well-drained soil. Zones 2-6.





## PERENNIALS



**Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of 1 to 1½ feet. Flowers are light pink with yellow to blood red with yellow and bell shaped. Full sun to part shade. Prefers medium wet, well-drained soil but will tolerate a wide range as long as drainage is adequate. Flowers are attractive to hummingbirds. Zones 3-8.

**Goats Beard** (*Aruncus dioicus*) Grows from 4 to 6 feet high with a spread of 2 to 4 feet. Typically bushy and tends to form clumps. Small white flowers are clustered in plumes which extend above the foliage. Blooms occur in early to mid summer. Full sun to part shade. Prefers medium wet to wet, well-drained soil. Zones 4-8.



**Milkweed** (*Asclepias syriaca*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of approximately 1 foot. Clusters of pink flowers bloom in the late spring into the summer and are attractive to butterflies, particularly Monarch larvae. Very adaptable. Can grow in average, dry to medium wet soils that are well drained. Prefers full sun. Zones 3-9.

**New England Aster** (*Aster nova-angliae*) Grows from 1½ to 2 feet high with a spread of 2 to 3 feet. It grows best in average to wet, well-drained soil with full sun. Blooms in late summer to early fall with dark purple flowers that are attractive to butterflies. Zones 3-9.



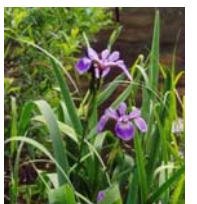
**New York Aster** (*Aster novi-belgii*) Grows to a height of 1 to 3 feet. Found in meadows, along stream banks and in thickets. Flowers are found from August to October. Optimal growth is encouraged by average to moist soil and full sun. Zones 3-9.

**Marsh Marigold** (*Caltha palustris*) Grows from 8 inches to 2 feet high with a spread of approximately 1 foot. Typically found in swamps and marshes and is recommended for planting along stream banks, in bog gardens and near ponds. Bright yellow flowers bloom in late spring to early summer. Prefers wet organic soils and partial to full sun. Zones 1-8.



**Joe Pye Weed** (*Eupatorium maculatum*) Grows from 4 to 5 feet high with a spread of 1.5 to 2 feet. Found naturally growing in damp meadows. Light pink flowers bloom from mid summer to early fall and are attractive to butterflies. Prefers average to wet soil with full sun. Zones 4-8.

**Boneset** (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) Grows 4 to 6 feet high with a spread of 3 to 4 feet. Clusters of small, white flowers bloom in late summer. Leaves are lance shaped and have hairy stems. Full sun to part shade. Prefers medium wet to wet soil and will tolerate sand and clay soils with adequate moisture. Found in swamps and on streambanks. Zones 4-8.



**Blue Flag Iris** (*Iris versicolor*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet with a spread of 6 to 12 feet. Leaves are sword shaped and can be up to 3 feet long. Flowers are usually blue-violet but can be lavender, or red-violet. Full sun to partial shade. Prefers moist to wet, organic, slightly acidic soils. Can tolerate growing in up to 6 inches of standing water. Grows well near bogs and ponds. Zones 3-9.



**Cardinal Flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*) Grows from 2 to 4 feet high with a spread of 1 to 2 feet. Bright red flowers are tubular and bloom in late summer. Lance-shaped leaves are finely toothed and approximately 4 inches long. Full sun to partial shade. Prefers medium wet to wet, rich, organic soil. Found near streams and swamps and in low wooded areas. Attractive to hummingbirds. Zones 3-9.

**Bee Balm** (*Monarda didyma*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a 1 to 2 foot spread. Spreads easily. Leaves are toothed and have a minty fragrance. Blooms can be purple, red, or pink. Full sun to partial shade. Prefers medium wet to wet, moisture retentive, organic soil. Attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. Zones 4-9.



**Obedient Plant** (*Physostegia virginiana*) Grows to a height of 3 to 4 feet with a spread of 2 to 3 feet. Pink or white flowers bloom late in the season. Should be divided every 2-3 years to prevent aggressive spreading. Prefers average to wet, well-drained soil with full sun. Zones 3-9.

**Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of 1 to 2 feet. Leaves are rough, hairy, and lance shaped. Flowers are yellow to orange-yellow with a dark brown center. Full sun to part shade. Prefers dry to medium wet, well-drained soil but is tolerant of heat, drought and a wide range of soils. Low maintenance. Zones 3-9.



**Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) Grows from 6 to 12 inches high and is usually found in colonies. Part sun to shade. Leaves and root contain an orange/red juice that is poisonous. Flowers in early spring. Grows best in part sun to shade and leaf litter.

**Tall Meadow Rue** (*Thalictrum polygamum*) Grows from 3 to 8 feet high. Typically found in swampy areas and near water bodies. Small white inflorescences bloom in mid summer. Often recommended for the back border of gardens due to its large size. Prefers average to moist soil with light shade to full sun. Zones 3-8.



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