



Native Plants of Worcester County



MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM

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Thank you for choosing to landscape with native plants. This plant list is a compilation of many sources to provide a quick view of just some of the local plants that are beneficial for our wildlife and environment. By planting native's, you provide food and shelter for wildlife while enabling the intricate cycles of nature to continue.

Native plants are uniquely adapted to their region's climate, soil, insects, and pathogens. Native plants diminish the need for applying fertilizers and biocides and reduce water use. While these plants may cost more initially, in the long run, you will spend less time and money on maintaining your yard.

One thing to keep in mind, even though a plant is native, it still requires the correct shading and soil type. The column titled Habitat on the list gives one an idea of the plant's requirements. Plants that typically grow in woods are probably shade tolerant. Plants growing in meadows or clearings would require full sun. If you have a chance, consult with your local greenhouses and nurseries. I've also included a few local native plant suppliers on the following page.

Thank you for your interest in protecting Maryland's coastal bays and their watershed!

*Front Cover Photo of *Iris versicolor* by Dave Wilson

Here's a list of a local plant growers that provide native plants. Please contact them if you have something specific in mind. There may be other suppliers, so call around to find the plants you want.

Allanbank Farm & Nursery
6811 Cherry Walk Rd.
Hebron, MD
410-742-5790

Environmental Concern
201 Boundry Lane
St. Michaels, MD
410-745-9620

Helen's Plant-A-Tarium
11525 Carefree Lane
Berlin, MD
410-641-3818

Hortco Greenhouses and Garden Center
PO Box 632
Onley, VA
757-787-7493

Riverside Nursery
1734 Riverside Drive
Salisbury, MD
410-742-8058
Carry willow oak, wax myrtle, red maple, river birch, and flowering dogwood

Village Greens Landscape & Garden Center
Trader Lee's Village
West Ocean City, MD
410-213-7673

NATIVE PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE LANDSCAPING

HERBACEOUS SPECIES

| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|
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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> Wild Columbine | red & yellow flowers bloom April to July, plants grow up to 24" tall | found in forests and meadows | flower nectar attracts hummingbirds |
| <i>Aruncus dioicus</i> Goat's Beard | white plume flowers bloom May to July, plants reach 4' to 5' | found in forests and along streamsides | |
| <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> Swamp Milkweed | pink or rose flowers bloom from June to Aug., plants range from 3' to 5' | found in wet meadows and wetlands | flowers attract butterflies |
| <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly Weed | orange or yellow flowers bloom from June to Sept., plants grow up to 24" | found in dry, open areas such as meadows or clearings | flower nectar attract butterflies |
| <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> New England Aster | pink or purple flowers bloom from Aug. to Oct., height ranges from 2' to 4' | found in moist soils and along shorelines | flowers used by butterflies and birds, such as finches |
| <i>Aster laevis</i> Smooth Aster | blue or purple flowers bloom from Aug. to Oct., plants grow up to 4' | found in dry, open areas | flowers used by butterflies and birds such as finches |
| <i>Aster novi-belgii</i> New York Aster | blue or violet flowers bloom from July through Oct., height ranges from 2' to 5' | found in marshes and meadows | flowers used by butterflies and birds such as finches |
| <i>Boltonia asteroides</i> Snowbank | white or yellow flowers bloom from July to Oct., plants range 4' to 5' in height | grow in moist, sandy soils | |
| <i>Cassia fasciculata</i> Partridge Pea | yellow flowers bloom from July to Sept., height ranges from 3' to 4' | grow in sandy, dry soils | |
| <i>Chelone glabra</i> White Turtlehead | white flowers bloom from July to Oct., height ranges from 3' to 4' | found along streamsides and in woods | |
| <i>Coreopsis vertecilla</i> Whirled Tickseed | yellow flowers bloom from June to July, plants reach up to 15" tall | found in meadows and along roadsides | flowers attract hummingbirds |

| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |
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|---|--|--|--|
| <i>Eupatorium dubium</i> Joe-Pye Weed | purplish flowers bloom from July to Sept., plant height ranges from 2' to 7' | grow in acid soils, found in swamps and bogs | |
| <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> Spotted Joe-Pye Weed | mauve flowers bloom from July to Sept., grow to 5' tall | grow in moist soils, also found in wet meadows | flowers attract butterflies |
| <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> Bonaset | white flowers bloom July to Sept., height ranges from 3' to 4' | found in wetlands, woods, and meadows | |
| <i>Geranium maculatum</i> Wild Geranium | lavender or pink flowers bloom from Apr. to July, height reaches up to 18" | found in woods and clearings | |
| <i>Helenium autumnale</i> Yellow Sneezeweed | yellow flowers bloom from Aug. to Nov., height ranges from 3' to 4' | found in wetlands and along shores | flowers attract butterflies |
| <i>Helianthus angustifolius</i> Sunflower | yellow flowers bloom from Aug. to Oct., height ranges 2' to 5' | grow in wet, acid soils | flowers attract hummingbirds |
| <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> Rose Mallow | white or creamy flowers, height ranges from 3' to 6' | found in wetlands | |
| <i>Iris versicolor</i> Blue Flag Iris | reddish purple or blue flowers bloom from May - July, height ranges from 6" to 12" | found in wetlands | |
| <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> Cardinal flower | red flowers bloom from July - Sept., height reaches up to 36" | found in wetlands and open areas such as meadows and clearings | flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds |
| <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> Great Blue Lobelia | blue or violet flowers bloom from Aug. to Sept., height ranges from 2' to 3' | grow in moist soils and shade tolerant | flowers butterflies and hummingbirds |
| <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> Wild Bergamot | lavender or pink flowers bloom from July - Aug., height ranges from 2' to 5' | found in dry meadows and thickets | flowers butterflies and hummingbirds |
| <i>Oenothera biennis</i> Evening Primrose | yellow flowers bloom from June to Oct., height can reach up to 6' | grow in dry soils, found in various open areas | |
| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |

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| <i>Peltandra virginica</i> Arrow Arum | white spadix found from Apr. - July, height ranges from 2' to 3' | grows in poorly drained soils, found in many wetlands and along streams | |
| <i>Pontederia cordata</i> Pickerelweed | violet or blue flowers seen from June - Nov., height ranges from 2" to 5" | found in wetlands | |
| <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Black-eyed Susan | yellow or orange flowers bloom from June - Oct., grow from 1' to 3' tall | found in open areas and woods | flowers attract hummingbirds |
| <i>Sagittaria latifolia</i> Duck Potatoe | white flowers bloom from July - Sept., height ranges from 4" to 2' | found in wetlands | |
| <i>Saururus cernuus</i> Water Dragon | white flowers bloom from June - Aug., grow from 1' to 2' tall | found in wetlands | |
| <i>Sisyrinchium atlanticum</i> Atlantic Blue-eyed Grass | blue flowers seen from May - July, height reaches up to 1' | found in marshes, meadows, and woods | |
| <i>Solidago rugosa</i> Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod | yellow and black flowers bloom from Aug. - Oct, height ranges from 1" to 3' | found in meadows and along wood edges | flowers attract butterflies and birds such as finches |
| <i>Solidago sempervirens</i> Seaside Goldenrod | lush vegetation and bright yellow flowers from Sept. to Oct. | grows in sandy, well-drained soil, commonly found on dunes | plants used by birds such as the Goldfinch, Junco, and Pine Siskin |
| <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i> New York Ironweed | purple flowers bloom from Aug. - Oct., can reach height of 5' to 8' | found in wetlands | |

GRASSES

| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |
|---|---|---|---|
| <i>Ammophila breviligulata</i> American Beachgrass | grows up to 3' in height, extensive root system; flowers from July to Sept. | grows in sandy, well-drained soil, found on dunes (commonly used in beach replenishment projects) | plant mainly used as cover by birds and rabbits |
| <i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i> Three-Way Sedge | flowers from July to Oct., height ranges from 1' to 3' | grows in poorly drained soils, found in wetlands | |
| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |

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|---|--|--|--|
| <i>Elymus virginicus</i> Virginia Wild Rye | flowers from June to Aug., height ranges from 20" to 60" | grows in poorly drained soils, found in wetlands | |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i> Soft Rush | flowers from June to Sept. , height ranges from 16" to 40" | grows in poorly drained soils, found in wetlands | |
| <i>Leersia oryzoides</i> Rice Cutgrass | flowers from July to Oct., height ranges from 28"to 40" | grows in poorly drained soils, found in wetlands | |
| <i>Panicum amarum</i> Coastal panicgrass | grows 3' to 4' tall | found along dunes and beaches | produces lots of seed for birds, provides excellent cover for wildlife |
| <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> Little Bluestem | flowers from Aug to Oct., height can reach 4' | found in dry fields and open woods | songbirds use seeds |
| <i>Scirpus cyperinus</i> Wool-grass | blooms from Aug to Sept., height ranges from 40" to 60" | grows in poorly drained soils, found in wetlands | |
| <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> Indian Grass | blooms from Aug to Sept., height can reach 5' to 7' | grow in dry soils, found in open areas | |
| <i>Sparganium americanum</i> American Bur-reed | blooms July through Aug., height can be greater than 40" | grows in poorly drained soils, found in wetlands | |

SHRUBS

| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |
|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Alnus serrulata</i> Smooth alder | yellow catkins appear from Mar. through Apr., root nodules produce Nitrogen for surrounding soil, grows from 3' - 4' tall | grows in poorly drained soil, found in wetlands and along stream banks | leaves and twigs eaten by deer, cottontails, hares, beavers and more. Seeds used by some birds |
| <i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i> Bartram Serviceberry | white or pink flowers appear from May - Aug., height ranges from 2' to 4' | found in wetlands as well as dry upland | berries used by birds and browsers |
| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |

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|--|---|---|--|
| <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> Sea Myrtle | flowers with white pappus appear from Aug. - Sept., height ranges 3' to 11', high salt tolerance can provide a wall of defense for less salt tolerant species | found in wetlands and along shores | *leaves are poisonous to livestock |
| <i>Callicarpa americana</i> Beauty Berry | pink flowers bloom from June - Aug. and produce purple berries, height can reach 4' | grows in poorly drained soil, found in wetlands | berries used by many birds |
| <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> Button bush | white flowers bloom from July to Aug., height ranges 3' to 4' | found in wetlands and forests | flowers attract butterflies |
| <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> Sweet Pepperbush | white or pink flowers appear from July to Aug., height ranges 3' to 4' | grows in poorly drained soil, found in wetlands | fruit attracts birds and mammals |
| <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> white fringe-tree | copious fragrant white flowers appear May - June, height ranges 12' to 20' | found throughout the eastern shore | |
| <i>Cornus florida</i> Flowering dogwood | greenish-white flowers appear from Apr. to May, grows to 20' tall | grow in wet acid soils, found in upland woods and along streamsides | fruits provide excellent food for birds and mammals |
| <i>Ilex glabra</i> Inkberry | black fruit found from May to June, height ranges 6' to 8' | grow in sandy soils, found in woodlands | berries provide food for many birds |
| <i>Ilex verticillata</i> Winterberry | red fruit appears May to June, height ranges from 6' to 10' | found in woods | berries provide food for many birds |
| <i>Itea virginica</i> Virginia willow | fragrant white flowers appear May to June, height reaches 4' | found in wetlands of lower elevations | |
| <i>Kalmia latifolia</i> Laurel | pink or white flowers found from May to July; height ranges from 7' to 15'; has evergreen foliage | found in wetlands and forests | provides winter cover for birds and mammals, leaves eaten by deer and grouse *can be poisonous to livestock |
| <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> Sweet bay | white and brown flowers bloom May to July, height usually less than 30' | found in wet woods and along stream-sides | |
| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |

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|---|--|---|---|
| <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> Bayberry | inconspicuous flowers appear Mar. to Apr. and produce waxy pale gray berries, height ranges 3' to 8' | grows in dry, sandy soil to wet soil, found along the coast | birds use for nesting and berries |
| <i>Prunus maritima</i> Beach Plum | perennial shrub; white, clustered flowers bloom from Apr. - May; green fruits mature to red | grow in sandy soils, commonly found along the coast | flowers and nectar attract bee, birds and raccoons feed on the berries |
| <i>Prunus virginiana</i> common chokecherry | dense white clusters of flowers bloom from Apr. to July; red fruits mature to dark red or purplish black; can grow up to 20' | found in woods, old fields, along fences and roadsides, and river banks, grows in many soil types | fruits provides food for numerous game and song birds and small mammals |
| <i>Rosa palustris</i> Swamp Rose | pink flowers bloom from June - July, height reaches up to 8' | grow in poorly drained soils, commonly found in wetlands | valuable winter food for songbirds and pheasants |
| <i>Rosa Rugosa</i> Rugosa rose | beautiful pink flowers and red rosehips, grows low to the ground | found along dunes, grow in sandy, well-drained soils | flowers and nectar used by numerous animal species |
| <i>Rhododendron viscosum</i> Swamp azalea | pinkish white flowers bloom May to Aug., height reaches 6' to 9' | found in swamps, ditches, and clearings | |
| <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> Highbush blueberry | pinkish white bell-shaped flowers bloom from Apr.- May, berries available from June - Aug., grows 6'-12' tall | grow in acid soils, found in swamps and in wet woods and meadows | berries are important for many game birds, as well as song birds such as tanagers, blue-birds, and thrushes |
| <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> Southern Arrow-wood | creamy white flowers bloom from May to June, height ranges from 6' to 8' | grows in sandy soil, found in wetlands | fruit provides important food source for winter migrating birds |
| <i>Viburnum Lentago</i> nannyberry | white flowers bloom from May to June, height ranges from 15' to 18' | found along stream-sides and in woods | fruit eaten by many birds such as flickers, robins, blue-birds, wax-wings, and more |

TREES

| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |
|---|---|--|--|
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> Red Maple | yellowish green flowers bloom Mar. to May, height ranges from 40' to 60' | wide range, commonly found along streamsides and wetlands | seeds provide food for birds and mammals, birds also use for cover and nesting |
| <i>Betula nigra</i> River Birch | catkins appear from Apr. to May, height ranges from 40' to 70' | found in coastal zones and along streamsides | seeds provide food source for birds and browsers |
| <i>Carya ovata</i> Shagbark hickory | catkins appear throughout May, height ranges from 60' to 80' | found in dry upland woods | sweet, edible nuts eaten by many mammals, waterfowl, and songbirds |
| <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> common hackberry | greenish flowers appear April to May, red or purple fruit found Sept. to Oct., height ranges 40' to 60' | found along streamsides and in woods | fruit valuable for winter birds, frequently used for nesting also |
| <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> Common Persimmon | greenish-yellow flowers bloom Mar. to June, fruits orange to yellowish-green, height ranges from 30' to 50' | found in moist bottomland, old fields, and along roadsides | fruits provide food for songbirds and waterfowl |
| <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> American Beech | inconspicuous flowers appear from Apr. to May, height ranges from 50' to 70' | grows in rich moist soils, found in woodlands | flowers and fruit provide food for birds and mammals |
| <i>Fraxinus americana</i> White ash | inconspicuous flowers with purple stamens found Apr. to May, height ranges from 50' to 80' | found in upland woods | seeds provide a food source for wood ducks, black-birds, cardinals, finches, grosbeaks, and more |
| <i>Fraxinus nigra</i> Black ash | inconspicuous flowers from Apr. to May, height ranges from 40' to 70' | found along stream-banks and in wetlands | seeds important for birds and waterfowl |
| <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> Green ash | inconspicuous greenish-purple flowers bloom Apr. to May, height ranges from 50' to 60' | found in river valleys and wetlands, but can grow in dry soils | seeds provide food for birds and waterfowl |

| Latin/Common Name | Description | Habitat | Wildlife Uses |
|---|---|---|---|
| <i>Ilex opaca</i> American holly | red berries appear in August and persist throughout the winter, height ranges from 15' to 30' | grows in moist, sandy soil, often found in woods, prefers shade | berries provide food for songbirds and turkeys |
| <i>Juglans nigra</i> Black walnut | yellowish green catkins bloom Apr. to May, height ranges from 50' to 75' | grows in poorly drained soils, found in woods and meadows | fruit provides food for birds and mammals |
| <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> Red cedar | highly aromatic, purplish female cones in early spring, fruits dark blue with light blue waxy covering, height ranges from 40' to 50' | grow in dry, sandy or red clay soils, commonly found in coastal areas | fruits provide food for songbirds, pheasant, owls, and turkeys |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> Sweet gum | grayish brown flowers bloom Apr. to May, height ranges from 60' to 75' | common in bottomland and swamps | seeds provide food for many birds |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> Tulip poplar | greenish-yellow flowers appear from Apr. to June, height ranges from 70' to 90' | grow in rich soil, found in woods | seeds and nectar used by birds, also used for nesting and cover |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> Black gum | greenish-white flowers bloom from Apr. to May, height ranges from 30' to 50' | grows in moist and dry soils, found in swamps and woods | fruit provide food for many songbirds and waterfowl |
| <i>Pinus taeda</i> loblolly pine | seeds located in brown cones, height ranges from 80' to 100' | grow in moist, sandy soils | seeds provide food for many wildlife species |
| <i>Quercus alba</i> White oak | yellow catkins appear May to June, height can reach 100' | grows in many types of soil, has an extensive range | fruits important for birds and mammals |
| <i>Quercus palustris</i> Pin oak | inconspicuous flowers on pale yellow spikes found from Apr. to May, height ranges from 60' to 70' | found in swamps and moist bottomland | fruits used by many birds and mammals |
| <i>Quercus rubra</i> Red oak | inconspicuous flowers on long green spikes bloom from Apr. to May, height ranges from 60' to 75' | found in upland woods on well-drained soil | fruits used by many birds and mammals |
| <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> Atlantic White Cedar | inconspicuous flowers from Apr. to May, fruits borne in cones | found in wetlands and dry woods | seeds provide food for birds |