

Herbaceous Species

Aquilegia Canadensis - Wild columbine

red & yellow flowers bloom April to July, plants grow up to 24"

Habitat: tall forests and meadows

Benefits: flower nectar attracts hummingbirds

Aruncus dioicus - Goat's beard

white plume flowers bloom May to July, plants reach 4' to 5'

Habitat: forests and along stream sides

Asclepias incarnata - Swamp milkweed

pink or rose flowers bloom from June to Aug., plants range from 3' to 5'

Habitat: wet meadows and wetlands

Benefits: flowers attract butterflies

Asclepias tuberosa - Butterfly weed

orange or yellow flowers bloom from June to Sept., plants grow up to 24"

Habitat: dry, open areas such as meadows or clearings

Benefits: flower nectar attract butterflies

Aster novae-angliae - New England aster

pink or purple flowers bloom from Aug. to Oct., height ranges from 2' to 4'

Habitat: moist soils and along shorelines

Benefits: flowers used by butterflies and birds, such as finches

Aster laevis - Smooth aster

blue or purple flowers bloom from Aug. to Oct., plants grow up to 4' dry, open areas

Benefits: flowers used by butterflies and birds such as finches

Aster novi-belgii - New York aster

blue or violet flowers bloom from July through Oct., height ranges from 2' to 5'

Habitat: marshes and meadows

Benefits: flowers used by butterflies and birds such as finches

Boltonia asteroides - Snowbank

white or yellow flowers bloom from July to Oct., plants range 4' to 5' in height

Habitat: moist, sandy soils

Cassia fasciculata - Partridge pea

yellow flowers bloom from July to Sept., height ranges from 3' to 4'

Habitat: sandy, dry soils

Chelone glabra - White turtlehead

white flowers bloom from July to Oct., height ranges from 3' to 4'

Habitat: along streamsides and in woods

Coreopsis vertecilla - Whirled tickseed

yellow flowers bloom from June to July, plants reach up to 15" tall

Habitat: meadows and along roadsides

Benefits: flowers attract hummingbirds

Eupatorium dubium - Joe-Pye weed

purplish flowers bloom from July to Sept., height ranges from 2' to 7'

Habitat: acid soils, swamps and bogs

Eupatorium maculatum - Spotted Joe-Pye weed

mauve flowers bloom from July to Sept., grow to 5' tall

Habitat: moist soils, also wet meadows
Benefits: flowers attract butterflies

Eupatorium perfoliatum - Boneset

white flowers bloom July to Sept., height ranges from 3' to 4'
Habitat: wetlands, woods, and meadows

Geranium maculatum - Wild geranium

lavender or pink flowers bloom from April to July, height reaches up to 18"
Habitat: woods and clearings

Helenium autumnale - Yellow sneezeweed

yellow flowers bloom from Aug. to Nov., height ranges from 3' to 4'
Habitat: wetlands and along shores
Benefits: flowers attract butterflies

Helianthus angustifolius - Sunflower

yellow flowers bloom from Aug. to Oct., height ranges 2' to 5'
Habitat: wet, acid soils
Benefits: flowers attract hummingbirds

Hibiscus moscheutos - Rose mallow

white or creamy flowers, height ranges from 3' to 6'
Habitat: wetlands, marshes

Iris versicolor - Blue flag iris

reddish, purple or blue flowers bloom from May - July, height ranges from 6" to 12"
Habitat: wetlands

Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal flower

red flowers bloom from July - Sept., height reaches up to 36"
Habitat: wetlands and open areas such as meadows, clearings and ditches
Benefits: flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds

Lobelia siphilitica - Great blue lobelia

blue or violet flowers bloom from Aug. to Sept., height ranges from 2' to 3'
Habitat: moist soils and shaded areas
Benefits: flowers butterflies and hummingbirds

Monarda fistulosa - Wild bergamot

lavender or pink flowers bloom from July - Aug., height from 2' to 5'
Habitat: dry meadows and thickets
Benefits: flowers butterflies and hummingbirds

Oenothera biennis - Evening primrose
yellow flowers bloom from June to Oct., height can reach up to 6'
Habitat: dry soils, various open areas

Peltandra virginica - Arrow arum

white spadix found from April - July, height ranges from 2' to 3'
Habitat: poorly drained soils, wetlands and along streams

Pontederia cordata - Pickerelweed

violet or blue flowers seen from June - Nov., height ranges from 2" to 5"
Habitat: wetlands

Rudbeckia hirta - Black-eyed susan

yellow or orange flowers bloom from June - Oct., grow from 1' to 3' tall
Habitat: open areas and woods

Benefits: flowers attract hummingbirds

Sagittaria latifolia - Duck potatoe

white flowers bloom from July - Sept., height ranges from 4" to 2'

Habitat: wetlands

Saururus cernuus - Water dragon

white flowers bloom from June - Aug., grow from 1' to 2' tall

Habitat: wetlands

Sisyrinchium atlanticum - Atlantic blue-eyed grass

blue flowers seen from May - July, height reaches up to 1'

Habitat: marshes, meadows, and woods

Solidago rugosa - Wrinkle-leaf goldenrod

yellow and black flowers bloom from Aug. - Oct, height ranges from 1" to 3' .

Habitat: meadows and along wood edges

Benefits: flowers attract butterflies and birds such as finches

Solidago sempervirens - Seaside goldenrod

lush vegetation and bright yellow flowers from Sept. to Oct.

Habitat: sandy, well-drained soil, commonly found on dunes

Benefits: plants used by birds such as the goldfinch, junco, and pine siskin

Vernonia noveboracensis - New York ironweed

purple flowers bloom from Aug. - Oct., can reach height of 5' to 8'

Habitat: wetlands

Grass Species

Ammophila breviligulata - American beachgrass

grows up to 3' in height, extensive root system; flowers from July to Sept.

Habitat: sandy, well-drained soil, dunes (commonly used in beach replenishment projects)

Benefits: plant mainly used as cover by birds and rabbits

Dulichium arundinaceum - Three-Way sedge

flowers from July to Oct., height ranges from 1' to 3'

Habitat: poorly drained soils, wetlands

Elymus virginicus - Virginia wild rye

flowers from June to Aug., height ranges from 20" to 60"

Habitat: poorly drained soils, wetlands

Juncus effusus - Soft rush

flowers from June to Sept., height ranges from 16" to 40"

Habitat: poorly drained soils, wetlands

Leersia oryzoides - Rice cutgrass

flowers from July to Oct., height ranges from 28" to 40"

Habitat: poorly drained soils, wetlands

Panicum amarum - Coastal panicgrass

grows 3' to 4' tall

Habitat: dunes and beaches

Benefits: produces lots of seed for birds, provides excellent cover for wildlife

Schizachyrium scoparium - Little bluestem

flowers from Aug. to Oct., height can reach 4'

Habitat: dry fields and open woods
Benefits: songbirds use seeds

Scirpus cyperinus - Woolgrass

blooms from Aug. to Sept., height ranges from 40" to 60"
Habitat: poorly drained soils, wetlands

Sorghastrum nutans - Indian grass

blooms from Aug. to Sept., height can reach 5' to 7'
Habitat: dry soils, open areas

Sparganium americanum - American bur-reed

blooms July through Aug., height can be greater than 40"
Habitat: poorly drained soils, wetlands

Shrub Species

Alnus serrulata - Smooth alder

yellow catkins appear from March through April, root nodules produce nitrogen for surrounding soil,
grows from 3' - 4' tall

Habitat: poorly drained soils, wetlands and along stream banks

Benefits: leaves and twigs eaten by deer, rabbits, beavers and more, seeds used by some birds

Amelanchier canadensis - Shadbush

white or pink flowers appear from May - Aug., height from 2' to 4'

Habitat: wetlands as well as dry upland

Benefits: berries used by birds and browsers

Baccharis halimifolia - Sea myrtle or High tide bush

flowers with white pappus appear from Aug. - Sept., height ranges 3' to 11', high salt tolerance

Habitat: wetlands and along shores

Benefits: can provide a wall of defense for less salt tolerant species

*leaves are poisonous to livestock

Callicarpa americana - Beauty berry

pink flowers bloom from June - Aug. and produce purple berries, height can reach 4'

Habitat: poorly drained soil, wetlands

Benefits: berries used by many birds

Cephalanthus occidentalis - Button bush

white flowers bloom from July to Aug., height ranges 3' to 4'

Habitat: wetland forests

Benefits: flowers attract butterflies

Clethra alnifolia - Sweet pepperbush

white or pink flowers appear from July to Aug., height ranges 3' to 4'

Habitat: poorly drained soil, wetlands

Benefits: fruit attracts birds and mammals

Chionanthus virginicus - White fringe-tree

copious fragrant white flowers appear May - June, height ranges 12' to 20'

Habitat: throughout the Eastern Shore

Cornus florida - Flowering dogwood

greenish-white flowers appear from April to May, grows to 20'

Habitat: wet acid soils, upland woods and along streamsides

Benefits: fruits provide excellent food for birds and mammals

Ilex glabra - Inkberry

black fruit found from May to June, height ranges 6' to 8'

Habitat: sandy soils, woodlands

Benefits: berries provide food for many birds

Ilex verticillata - Winterberry

red fruit appears May to June, height ranges from 6' to 10'

Habitat: woods

Benefits: berries provide food for many birds

Itea virginica - Virginia willow or Tassel-white

fragrant white flowers appear May to June, height reaches 4'

Habitat: wetlands of lower elevations

Kalmia latifolia - Mountain laurel

pink or white flowers found from May to July; height ranges from 7' to 15'; has evergreen foliage

Habitat: upland forests

Benefits: provides winter cover for birds and mammals, leaves eaten by deer and grouse

*can be poisonous to livestock

Magnolia virginiana - Sweet bay

white and brown flowers bloom May to July, height less than 30'

Habitat: wet woods and along stream-sides

Myrica pensylvanica - Bayberry

inconspicuous flowers appear March to April and produce waxy pale gray berries, height ranges 3' to 8'

Habitat: dry, sandy soil to wet soil, along the coast

Benefits: birds use for nesting and berries

Prunus maritima - Beach plum

perennial shrub; white, clustered flowers bloom from April - May; green fruits mature to red

Habitat: sandy soils, commonly along the coast

Benefits: flowers and nectar attract bee, birds and raccoons feed on the berries

Prunus virginiana - Common chokecherry

dense white clusters of flowers bloom from April to July; red fruits mature to dark red or purplish black; can grow up to 20'

Habitat: woods, old fields, along fences and roadsides, and river banks, grows in many soil types

Benefits: fruits provides food for numerous game and song birds and small mammals

Rosa palustris - Swamp rose

pink flowers bloom from June - July, height reaches up to 8'

Habitat: poorly drained soils, wetlands

Benefits: valuable winter food for songbirds and pheasants

Rosa Rugosa - Rugosa rose

beautiful pink flowers and red rosehips, grows low to the ground

Habitat: along dunes, in sandy, well-drained soils

Benefits: flowers and nectar used by numerous animal species

Rhododendron viscosum - Swamp azalea

pinkish white flowers bloom May to Aug., height reaches 6' to 9'

Habitat: swamps, ditches, and clearings

Vaccinium corymbosum - Highbush blueberry

pinkish white bell-shaped flowers bloom from April- May, berries available from June - Aug., grows 6'-12' tall

Habitat: acid soils, swamps and in wet woods and meadows

Benefits: berries are important for many game birds, as well as song birds such as tanagers, blue-birds, and thrushes

Viburnum dentatum - Southern arrow-wood

creamy white flowers bloom from May to June, height ranges from 6' to 8'

Habitat: sandy soil, wetlands

Benefits: fruit provides important food source for winter migrating birds

Viburnum Lentago - Nannyberry

white flowers bloom from May to June, height ranges from 15' to 18'

Habitat: along stream-sides and in woods

Benefits: fruit eaten by many birds such as flickers, robins, blue-birds, wax-wings, and more.

Tree Species

Acer rubrum - Red maple

yellowish green flowers bloom March to May, height ranges from 40' to 60'

Habitat: wide range, commonly along streamsides and wetlands

Benefits: seeds provide food for birds and mammals, birds also use for cover and nesting

Betula nigra - River birch

catkins appear from April to May, height ranges from 40' to 70'

Habitat: coastal zones and along streamsides

Benefits: seeds provide food source for birds and browsers

Carya ovata - Shagbark hickory

catkins appear throughout May, height ranges from 60' to 80'

Habitat: dry upland woods

Benefits: sweet, edible nuts eaten by many mammals, water-fowl, and songbirds

Celtis occidentalis - Hackberry

greenish flowers appear April to May, red or purple fruit found Sept. to Oct., height ranges 40' to 60'

Habitat: along streamsides and in woods

Benefits: fruit valuable for winter birds, frequently used for nesting also

Diospyros virginiana - Persimmon

greenish-yellow flowers bloom March to June, fruits orange to yellowish-green, height ranges from 30' to 50'

Habitat: moist bottomland, old fields, and along roadsides

Benefits: fruits provide food for songbirds and waterfowl

Fagus grandifolia - American beech

inconspicuous flowers appear from April to May, height ranges from 50' to 70'

Habitat: rich moist soils, found in woodlands

Benefits: flowers and fruit provide food for birds and mammals

Fraxinus americana - White ash

inconspicuous flowers with purple stamens found April to May, height ranges from 50' to 80'

Habitat: upland woods

Benefits: seeds provide a food source for wood ducks, black-birds, cardinals, finches, grosbeaks, and more

Fraxinus nigra - Black ash

inconspicuous flowers from April to May, height ranges from 40' to 70'

Habitat: along stream-banks and in wetlands

Benefits: seeds important for birds and waterfowl

Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Green ash

inconspicuous greenish-purple flowers bloom April to May, height ranges from 50' to 60'
Habitat: river valleys and wetlands, but can grow in dry soils
Benefits: seeds provide food for birds and waterfowl

Ilex opaca - American holly

red berries appear in August and persist throughout the winter, height ranges from 15' to 30'
Habitat: moist, sandy soil, often found in woods, prefers shade
Benefits: berries provide food for songbirds and turkeys

Juglans nigra - Black walnut

yellowish green catkins bloom April to May, height ranges from 50' to 75'
Habitat: poorly drained soils, woods and meadows
Benefits: fruit provides food for birds and mammals

Juniperus virginiana - Red cedar

highly aromatic, purplish female cones in early spring, fruits dark blue with light blue waxy covering, height ranges from 40' to 50'
Habitat: dry, sandy, or red clay soils, commonly found in coastal areas, esp. Assateague
Benefits: fruits provide food for songbirds, pheasant, owls, and turkeys

Liquidambar styraciflua - Sweet gum

grayish brown flowers bloom April to May, height ranges from 60' to 75'
Habitat: common in bottomland and swamps
Benefits: seeds provide food for many birds

Liriodendron tulipifera - Tulip poplar

greenish-yellow flowers appear from April to June, height ranges from 70' to 90'
Habitat: rich soil, woods
Benefits: seeds and nectar used by birds, also used for nesting and cover

Nyssa sylvatica - Black gum

greenish-white flowers bloom from April to May, height ranges from 30' to 50'
Habitat: moist and dry soils, swamps and woods
Benefits: fruit provide food for many songbirds and waterfowl

Pinus taeda - Loblolly pine

seeds located in brown cones, height ranges from 80' to 100'
Habitat: moist, sandy soils
Benefits: seeds provide food for some wildlife

Quercus alba - White oak

yellow catkins appear May to June, height can reach 100'
Habitat: many types of soil, has an extensive range
Benefits: fruits important for birds and mammals

Quercus palustris - Pin oak

inconspicuous flowers on pale yellow spikes found from April to May, height ranges from 60' to 70'
Habitat: swamps and moist bottomland
Benefits: fruits used by many birds and mammals

Quercus rubra - Red oak

inconspicuous flowers on long green spikes bloom from April to May, height ranges from 60' to 75'
Habitat: upland woods on well-drained soil
Benefits: fruits used by many birds and mammals

Chamaecyparis thyoides - Atlantic white cedar

inconspicuous flowers from April to May, fruits borne in cones
Habitat: swamps
Benefits: seeds provide food for birds

Taxodium distichum - Bald cypress

Cone-bearing conifer, feathery leaves drop in winter.

Habitat: swamps, edge of streams, will grow in uplands

Benefits: important songbird tree