



Native Plants for Difficult Situations

Hot dry sun or sunny slope

- *Andropogon species (Broom Sedge) grass
- *Comptonia peregrina (Sweet Fern) small shrub
- *Diervilla lonicera (Bush Honeysuckle) small shrub
- *Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Red Cedar) evergreen tree
- *Rhus aromatica "Gro-low" (Fragrant Sumac) shrub
- *Rhus copallinum (Flameleaf Sumac) large shrub
- *Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Milkweed) perennial
- *Baptisia australis (Blue False Indigo) perennial
- *Penstemon species (Beardtongue) perennial
- *Phlox subulata (Moss Phlox) evergreen perennial
- *Silene virginica (Fire Pink) perennial
- *Solidago rugosa Fireworks (Goldenrod) perennial

Dry shade

- *Carex platyphylla, C. albicans, appalachica, eburnea, pensylvanica (Sedge) grass
- *Chasmanthium latifolium (Wild Oats) grass
- *Fothergilla major (Large Fothergilla) large shrub
- *Kalmia latifolia (Mountain Laurel) evergreen shrub
- *Xanthorhiza simplicissima (Yellowroot) small shrub
- *Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas Fern) fern
- *Anemone virginiana (Thimbleweed) perennial
- *Aruncus dioicus (Goatsbeard) perennial
- *Eurybia divaricata (White Wood Aster) perennial
- *Geranium maculatum (Wild Geranium) perennial
- *Heuchera villosa (Hairy Alumroot) perennial
- *Solidago caesia (Blue-stemmed Goldenrod) perennial
- *Symphyotrichum cordifolium Blue Wood Aster

Sandy soils

- *Andropogon ternarius (Splitbeard Bluestem) grass
- *Carex eburnea (Bristle-leaf Sedge) grass
- *Chasmanthium latifolium (Wild Oats) grass
- *Eragrostis spectabilis (Love Grass) grass
- *Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem) grass
- *Comptonia peregrina (Sweet Fern) small shrub
- *Diospyros virginiana (persimmon) tree
- *Ilex opaca (American Holly) evergreen tree
- *Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Red Cedar) evergreen tree
- *Morella pensylvanica (Bayberry) large shrub
- *Prunus maritima (Beach Plum) small tree
- *Rhus copallinum (Flameleaf Sumac) large shrub



- **Vaccinium angustifolium* (Lowbush Blueberry) small shrub
- **Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Milkweed) perennial
- **Monarda punctata* (Dotted Monarda) perennial
- **Rudbeckia laciniata* (Cutleaf Coneflower) perennial
- **Silene virginica* (Fire Pink) perennial
- **Solidago flexicaulis* (Zigzag Goldenrod) perennial

Heavy clay soil

- **Chasmanthium latifolium* (Wild Oats) grass
- **Juncus tenuis* (Poverty Rush) grass
- **Sorghastrum nutans* (Yellow Indian Grass) grass
- **Quercus bicolor* (Swamp White Oak) tree
- **Physocarpus opulifolius* (Atlantic Ninebark) shrub
- **Amsonia tabernaemontana* (Blue Dogbane) perennial
- **Aruncus dioicus* (Goatsbeard) perennial
- **Baptisia australis* (Blue False Indigo) perennial
- **Geranium maculatum* (Wild Geranium) perennial
- **Monarda fistulosa* (Wild Bergamot) perennial
- **Penstemon* species (Beardtongue) perennial
- **Rudbeckia laciniata* (Cutleaf Coneflower) perennial
- **Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (New England Aster) perennial

Septic fields & mounds

Because mowing compacts the soil and shortens the useful lifespan

- **Carex appalachica* (Appalachian Sedge) grass
- **Carex pensylvanica* (Pennsylvania Sedge) grass
- **Ageratina altissima* (White Snakeroot) perennial
- **Conoclinium coelestinum* (Mistflower) perennial
- **Coreopsis verticillata* "Zagreb" (Whorled Tickseed) perennial
- **Monarda didyma* (Bee Balm) perennial
- **Dennstaedtia punctiloba* (Hay-scented Fern) Fern
- **Matteuccia struthiopteris* (Ostrich Fern) fern

Rain garden, stream bank or pond edge

- **Carex grayi* (Gray's Sedge) grass
- **Carex laxiculmis* (Spreading Sedge) grass
- **Juncus* species (Rush) grass
- **Panicum* species (Switch Grass) grass
- **Acer rubrum* (Red Maple) tree
- **Alnus serrulata* (Smooth Alder) small tree
- **Aronia* (Chokeberry) shrub
- **Betula nigra* (River Birch) tree
- **Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush) shrub
- **Chamaecyparis thyoides* (Atlantic White-cedar) evergreen tree
- **Cornus sericea* (Red Osier Dogwood) large shrub
- **Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry) large shrub



- *Magnolia virginiana (Sweet Bay) small tree
- *Salix species (Willow) small trees
- *Spiraea alba (Meadow Sweet) small shrub
- *Eutrochium dubium (Joe Pye) perennial
- *Hibiscus moscheutos (Swamp Rose Mallow) perennial
- *Iris versicolor (Blue Flag) perennial
- *Rhexia virginica (Virginia Meadow Beauty) perennial
- *Rudbeckia laciniata (Cutleaf Coneflower) perennial
- *Spiranthes odorata (Fragrant Ladies'-tresses) perennial
- *Vernonia noveboracensis (New York Ironweed) perennial
- *Osmunda regalis var. spectabilis (Royal Fern) fern

Groundcovers for under trees and shrubs

- *Carex appalachica, C. eburnea, C. platyphylla (Sedge) grass
- *Luzula acuminata (Woodrush) grass
- *Xanthorhiza simplicissima (Yellowroot) small shrub
- *Ageratina altissima (White Snakeroot) perennial
- *Eurybia divaricata (White Wood Aster) perennial
- *Geranium maculatum (Wild Geranium) perennial
- *Heuchera villosa (Hairy Alumroot) perennial
- *Maianthemum canadense, M. racemosum (False Solomon's Seal) perennial
- *Packera aurea (Golden Ragwort) perennial
- *Phlox stolonifera (Creeping Phlox) perennial
- *Polygonatum (Solomon's Seal) perennial
- *Tiarella cordifolia (Foalflower) perennial
- *Dennstaedtia punctiloba (Hay-scented Fern) fern
- *Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas Fern) fern

Small shrubs

- *Ceanothus americana (New Jersey Tea)
- *Clethra alnifolia Hummingbird (Summer Sweet Clethra)
- *Diervilla lonicera and D. sessilifolia (Bush Honeysuckle)
- *Fothergilla gardenii (Dwarf Fothergilla)
- *Hydrangea arborescens (Wild Hydrangea)
- *Hydrangea quercifolia Ruby Slippers (Oakleaf Hydrangea)
- *Hypericum frondosum (Golden St Johnswort)
- *Itea virginica (Virginia Sweetspire)
- *Leucothoe axillaris (Coast Leucothoe)

Under a Walnut tree

- *Any fern or grass
- *Cornus species (Dogwood) trees and shrubs
- *Cercis canadensis (Redbud) small tree
- *Nyssa sylvatica (Sour Gum) tree
- *Hypericum frondosum (Golden St Johnswort)
- *Allium cernuum (Nodding Onion) perennial
- *Asclepias species (Milkweed) perennial



- **Echinacea purpurea* (Purple Coneflower) perennial
- **Monarda* species (Bee Balm) perennial
- **Phlox* species (Phlox) perennial
- **Physostegia virginiana* (Obedient-plant) perennial
- **Polygonatum* (Solomon's Seal) perennial
- **Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (Narrowleaf Mountain-mint) perennial
- **Rudbeckia* species (Coneflower) perennial
- **Salvia* species (Sage) perennial
- **Sissyrinchium angustifolium* (Blue-eyed Grass) perennial
- **Symphyotrichum* species (Aster) perennial
- **Tradescantia virginiana* (Common Spiderwort) perennial
- **Viola* species (Violet) perennial