

Native Plants: Riparian Plants

Recommended Uses	Native Regions	Minimum Light Requirements	Riparian Vegetation Zones
W = Wildlife	M = Mountains	S = Full Shade	1 = Emergent
H = Horticulture and Landscaping	P = Piedmont	P = Partial Sun	2 = Riverside Thicket
C = Conservation and Restoration	C = Coastal Plain	F = Full Sun	3 = Saturated Thicket
D = Domestic Livestock Forage			4 = Well-drained Forest

Native Riparian Plants															
Scientific Name	Common Name	Uses				Region			Light			Zone			
		W	H	C	D	M	P	C	S	P	F	1	2	3	4
Herbaceous plants															
<i>Acorus americanus</i> (A. calamus)	sweet flag		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	blue star		X				X	X	X	X				X	X
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit		X			X	X	X	X					X	X
<i>Asarum canadense</i> +	wild ginger		X	X		X	X	X	X						X
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	swamp milkweed	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England aster		X	X		X				X	X			X	
<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	New York aster	X	X	X				X		X	X	X	X		
<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	flat-top white aster		X	X		X	X			X	X			X	
<i>Bidens cernua</i> +	nodding beggar-ticks	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
<i>Boltonia asteroides</i> *	aster-like boltonia		X					X			X	X	X	X	
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	marsh marigold		X	X		X		X		X	X			X	
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i> +	partridge pea			X		X	X	X			X				X
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	white turtlehead		X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	green and gold		X	X		X	X	X	X						X
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	tall coreopsis		X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
<i>Delphinium tricorne</i>	dwarf larkspur		X			X	X		X	X					X
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's breeches		X			X	X		X						X
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	horsetail, scouring rush			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	mistflower	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X

<i>Athyrium asplenoides</i>	Southern ladyfern		X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X
<i>Botrychium virginianum</i>	Rattlesnake fern		X			X	X	X	X	X				X
<i>Onoclea sensibilis+</i>	sensitive fern		X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	cinnamon fern		X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	royal fern		X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X
<i>Polystichium acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern		X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	marsh fern		X			X	X	X	X	X			X	X
<i>Woodwardia virginica+</i>	Virginia chain fern		X	X				X	X	X			X	X
Grasses, sedges, reeds														
<i>Agrostis perennans</i>	autumn bentgrass			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	bushy bluestem		X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	
<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>	wild cane, river cane	X		X		X			X	X	X		X	X
<i>Carex crinita var. crinita</i>	long hair sedge	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Carex lurida</i>	sallow sedge	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Carex stricta</i>	tussock sedge	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	river oats, spanglegrass		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<i>Dichanthelium clandestinum</i>	deer-tongue	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Dichanthelium commutatum</i>	variable panicgrass	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	dwarf bamboo	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Elymus hystrix (Hystrix patula)</i>	bottlebrush grass	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wild rye	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Juncus canadensis</i>	Canada rush	X		X			X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	soft rush	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	rice cutgrass	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	switch grass	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Saccharum giganteum</i>	giant plumegrass	X	X	X			X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	woolgrass bulrush	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Sparganium americanum</i>	American bur-reed	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		X	
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	gama grass	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	broad-leaved cattail	X		X		X	X	X			X		X	
<i>Zizania aquatica</i>	wild rice	X	X	X				X			X		X	
Vines														
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	crossvine	X	X			X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	climbing bitter-sweet	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X

<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	virgin's bower		X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	
Shrubs																
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	common alder	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	red chokeberry		X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	black chokeberry		X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American beautyberry	X	X					X	X	X				X	X	
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	buttonbush		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X			
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	sweet pepper-bush	X	X	X				X	X	X				X		
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	silky dogwood	X		X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	wild hydrangea		X			X	X	X	X	X						X
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	possumhaw	X	X	X			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	winterberry	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia willow	X	X	X				X	X	X			X	X		
<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>	fetterbush, sweetbells		X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X		
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spicebush	X	X	X		X	X	X	X					X	X	
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Southern wax myrtle	X	X	X				X	X	X			X	X	X	X
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	swamp azalea		X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X		
<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	Alleghany blackberry	X	X	X		X	X			X			X	X	X	
<i>Salix sericea</i>	silky willow		X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X		
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	common elderberry	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	narrow-lvd. meadowsweet	X	X	X		X				X			X	X		
<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>	broad-lvd. meadowsweet	X	X	X		X				X			X	X	X	
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	highbush blueberry	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	So. arrow-wood viburnum	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X					
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	black-haw viburnum	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X					
Small trees																
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	downy serviceberry	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X					X
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Canada serviceberry	X	X	X		X	X	X			X		X	X	X	
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	smooth serviceberry	X	X	X		X				X	X					X
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	paw paw	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X	X	
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	alternate-leaf dogwood	X	X	X		X	X		X	X						X
<i>Crateagus flava</i>	October haw	X	X			X	X	X		X	X			X		
<i>Morus rubra</i>	red mulberry	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X	X	
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Eastern hop-hornbeam		X			X	X	X	X	X						X

<i>Persea borbonia</i>	redbay, sweet bay		X	X				X	X	X			X	
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	smooth sumac	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			X	X
<i>Salix nigra</i>	black willow			X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Medium to Large Trees														
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X
<i>Betula lenta</i>	sweet birch, black birch	X	X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Betula nigra</i>	river birch	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			X	X
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	persimmon	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	white ash	X	X			X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	green ash	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	black walnut	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	sweetgum		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tulip-tree, tulip poplar	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			X	X
<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	water tupelo	X	X	X				X		X	X	X		
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	black gum	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	sourwood		X			X	X	X		X			X	X
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	loblolly pine	X	X	X			X	X			X		X	X
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	sycamore			X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	swamp laurel oak	X		X				X		X	X		X	X
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	swamp chestnut oak	X	X				X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	water oak	X		X				X		X	X		X	X
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	willow oak	X	X	X			X	X		X	X		X	X
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	bald cypress		X	X				X			X	X		

+May be aggressive in garden setting.

*Due to the rarity and sensitivity of habitat in Virginia, these species are recommended for horticultural use only.

Planting these species in natural areas could be detrimental to the survival of native populations.