For the purposes of this guide, plants native to Accomack and Northampton counties on Virginia’s Eastern Shore are those that have been part of the local ecology prior to John Smith’s landing and are adapted to the Shore’s local soils and climate conditions, resulting in many benefits to the region, its residents and migratory birds. The Eastern Shore native plants featured in this guide were selected because they are attractive, relatively easy for the home gardener to acquire, easy to maintain, and offer various benefits to wildlife and the environment.

This guide to Accomack and Northampton native plants is being provided through the Plant ES Natives campaign, initiated by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, by the following partners:

 Barrier Islands Center
 Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council
 Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District
 Eastern Shore Resource Conservation & Development Council
 Eastern Shore Watersheds Roundtable Partners
 The Nature Conservancy
 University of Virginia Anheuser Busch Coastal Research Center
 Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
 Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
 Virginia Cooperative Extension
 Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Eastern Shore Regional Office
 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
 Virginia Master Gardeners
 Virginia Master Naturalists

To learn more about the Plant ES Natives Campaign visit - www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/NativePlants.aspx.

What Makes Accomack and Northampton Native Plants So Special?

Whether you want to put in a flower garden or establish or restore the landscape around your home, there are a great variety of Eastern Shore native plants from which to choose.

Native plants not only offer many practical, low cost, environmental benefits over non-native plants, many also offer an appealing display of foliage and flowers that surpass non-native ornamentals.

By planting natives, you will join an increasing number of gardeners who have discovered that wildflowers, trees, shrubs, grasses and annuals native to their region are not only important to protecting local water supply and wildlife, but are simply gorgeous.

So, regardless of your gardening and landscaping plans, Virginia’s Eastern Shore natives are worth checking out. We think you’ll find just what you and the Shore need.

Here’s Why

Eastern Shore native plants are survivors! They are well adapted to the Virginia Eastern Shore’s local soils and climate conditions.

Eastern Shore natives generally require less watering and fertilizing than non-natives, and are less susceptible to drought conditions. Less watering means conserving potable water supplies for non-watering uses.

Eastern Shore natives are often more resistant to insects and disease and less likely to need pesticides that may leach into water supplies or run off into shellfish aquaculture farms.

Some of our native plants are resistant to occasional salt-water stress.

Eastern Shore native plants play a crucial role in our unique ecosystem. They help preserve the diversity, beauty, and function of our natural ecosystems.

Eastern Shore native plants provide critical habitats and food for the millions of migratory birds and butterflies that rely on Virginia’s Eastern Shore as a rest stop.

Save time and money! Help preserve the Shore’s unique environment! Plant Virginia Eastern Shore natives!
Table of Contents

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Accomack and Northampton Native Plants List ...................... 6

Plants are organized by botanical category in Latin-name order.
Species featured in the guide are highlighted in bold.

Botanical Category Sections:

Forbs (flowers and groundcovers) ..................................... 10
Small non-woody (herbaceous) flowering plants with showy flowers,
generally pollinated by insects. Typically, these plants are labeled as
“perennials” at your garden center. Low-growing or trailing plants used to cover
the ground, providing protection of the topsoil from erosion and drought.

Grasses ................................................................. 16
Plants with upright straplike leaves and small non–showy flowers.

Ferns ........................................................................ 18
Reproduce using spores rather than flowers.

Vines ........................................................................... 20
Woody or non-woody plants that do not support themselves.

Shrubs ................................................................. 22
Small woody plants, usually with multiple stems.

Trees .......................................................................... 28
Large woody plants, usually with a single stem/trunk.

Plant ES Natives Demonstration Gardens ......................... 32

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The Right Plants in the Right Place ................................. 40

Look for these Plant ES Natives plant tags
at your local garden center!
Key to Herbaceous, Grass, Fern and Vine Sections

**Passiflora incarnata** • Purple Passionflower, Maypop

- Perennial
- Up to 25 ft., with sprays along ground
- Lavender, May-Sep; orange-yellow berry
- roadsides, meadows, pastures, woodland edges/opens, streams, riverbanks
- Full sun, part shade
- Rich, moist, clay and sandy, non-saline soils

**ES Native alternative to:**
*Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle)

Floral parts said to represent aspects of Christian crucifixion story, sometimes referred to as the Passion. Maypop refers to pop of berries when crushed.

- Environmental, aesthetic, and economic benefits

Key to Shrub and Tree Sections

**Baccharis halimifolia** • High-tide Bush, Groundsel Tree

- A 6 - 12 ft. deciduous shrub bearing gray-green oval leaves. Numerous branches from short trunks are covered densely with branchlets. **White to green flowers** (Aug-Oct) occur in small, dense, terminal clusters. **Silvery, plume-like achenes resembling silvery paintbrushes appear in the fall on female plants.**

- Tolerant of saltwater spray, its one of the few eastern shrubs suitable for planting near the ocean. **Marsh wrens and other small birds frequently nest in the openly branched, brittle stems.**

- In the aster family with *Iva frutescens* (Marsh elder) - both can reach tree size.

  *Baccharis ancient Greek name (the god Bacchus) of a plant with fragrant roots."

- **ES Native Alternative to:**
*Elaeagnus umbellata* (autumn olive)

- **Light requirement:**
- Full sun: 6 or more hrs sun
- Part sun/shade: 2 to 6 hrs sun
- Full shade: 2 hrs or less sun

- **Soil moisture:**
- Dry: no signs of moisture
- Moist: looks & feels damp
- Wet: saturated

-**Wildlife supported by plant:**
- Food source for birds (*berries, nectar or insects resident on plant*)
- Nectar source for pollinators - butterflies, moths, bees or other insects
- Larval host for butterflies or moths (*larva are newly hatched forms of insects before they undergo metamorphosis*)

- Interesting fact(s) about genus and/or species

**Light requirement:**

- Full sun: 6 or more hrs sun
- Part sun/shade: 2 to 6 hrs sun
- Full shade: 2 hrs or less sun

**Soil moisture:**

- Dry: no signs of moisture
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**Wildlife supported by plant:**

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**Soil type on Eastern Shore:**

Most soils on Virginia's Eastern Shore will be sandy (coarse and grainy - drains well but dries out rapidly) or a sandy-loam mix (loam is the ideal mixture of sand, clay and silt). To have your soil tested, contact the Accomack County Cooperative Extension Office at (757) 787-1361 or Northampton County Cooperative Extension Service Office at (757) 678-7946. Accomack and Northampton counties are in garden zone 7 - 9.

**For more soil information and maps visit:** USDA Soil Survey - [http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx](http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx)
Native plants are critical to the millions of migratory songbirds that visit the Eastern Shore of Virginia each spring and fall. The Eastern Shore is one of only a few rest stops along the Atlantic coast for songbirds traveling thousands of miles to their winter homes in Central and South America. That’s quite a long trip for birds that can weigh as little as half an ounce! Native trees and shrubs provide the berries and insects that songbirds eat to fuel their long journeys. Native understory plants provide the greatest diversity and amount of fall fruits as well as safe cover from migrating raptors. Even the smallest yard can provide a “stopover habitat” for hungry migrants. Research by the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary has shown that a 50% increase in the density of understory vegetation results in a 50% increase in the number of migrants supported. Help make the Shore a generous rest stop!

Native plants are crucial to the large variety of butterflies that occur on Virginia’s Eastern Shore. Adult butterflies are attracted to the showy flowers and nutritious nectar of native wildflowers. Many can only lay their eggs on specific species of native plants which provide essential food for their caterpillars. This is especially important for sustaining the annual Monarch butterfly migration through the Eastern Shore. By using native plants in your landscape you will not only ensure the survival of our butterflies, but will attract an abundance of these colorful visitors to your garden.

Migratory songbirds and butterflies play very important ecological and economic roles on Virginia’s Eastern Shore. Songbirds consume tons of insects that would otherwise plague us, and damage our crops. Butterflies are important pollinators of the native plants the songbirds rely on. Together, they help sustain the “miracle of migration”, a unique source of ecotourism almost unparalleled on the East Coast. This fall migration will continue to contribute an increasing source of revenue for the Eastern Shore’s communities, if critical migratory bird stopover habitat is plentiful.

Clockwise from top left: A Spicebush Swallowtail, Papilio troilus, enjoys Butterflyweed nectar; a Cedar Waxwing feeds on Holly berries; an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly, Papilio glaucus, and an American Painted Lady butterfly, Vanessa virginiensis, enjoy the nectar of Joe-pye-weed; a Gray Hairstreak butterfly nectars on Hyssop-leaf Thoroughwort; and Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Scarlet Tanager rest and watch warily from their perches in trees and shrubs.
Plant to Save Water, Time and Money and Maybe Your Next Meal

**Natives can help fill your next glass of water.** Groundwater is the Shore’s only source of drinking water. An increase in native vegetation helps slow the speed of water and sediment running off the land. This allows the water to soak into the ground where it is filtered by plant roots and can recharge the groundwater supply.

**Natives can help you save time and money.** Adapted to the Shore’s environment, native species are drought and disease resistant, requiring less water, fertilizers and pesticides. Native plants are extremely well suited to “low maintenance” gardening and landscaping.

**Natives can help protect your next meal.** Landscaped areas of native trees, shrubs and groundcover can result in 50% greater reduction of runoff compared to grass lawns, significantly reducing non-point source pollution.* This helps protect water quality and eelgrass habitats in the Shore’s creeks and inlets where the Shore’s shellfish live (like the native oysters, clams and scallops in the photos below). The Shore is the largest source of aquaculture-grown hard clams on the East Coast. In 2004, according to a Virginia Sea Grant Study, the total economic impact of hard clam aquaculture was almost 50 million dollars.

Invasive Non-Natives of Particular Concern on Eastern Shore

Some non-native plants can be highly invasive or aggressive and crowd out Eastern Shore natives. These invasive species can result in the degradation of the Shore’s natural communities and lead to the disruption of the local ecosystem. They are a potential threat to the Shore’s natural areas, parks and other protected habitats. Staff of the Virginia Department of Conservation Division of Natural Heritage Eastern Shore Office have identified the following invasive non-native species on the market to be of particular concern on the Shore:

- *Ailanthus altissima* – Tree of Heaven
- *Cynodon dactylon* – Bermuda Grass
- *Eleagnus angustifolia* – Russian Olive
- *Eleagnus umbellata* – Autumn Olive
- *Festuca elatior* – Tall Fescue
- *Hedera helix* – English Ivy
- *Ligustrum sinense* – Chinese Privet **
- *Lonicera japonica* – Japanese honeysuckle
- *Melia azedarach* – China Berry
- *Morus alba* – White Mulberry
- *Pawlonia tomentosa* – Princess Tree
- *Rosa multiflora* – Multiflora Rose
- *Vinca minor* – Common Periwinkle Vine
- *Vitex rotundifolia* – Beach Vitex
- *Wisteria sinensis* – Chinese Wisteria

**Please do not plant these species! Although they may attract songbirds, they can disrupt the natural ecosystem!**

For more information, including a downloadable fact sheet, about these and other invasive non-native species in Virginia, visit [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspfactsheets.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspfactsheets.shtml).

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* Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Handbook for the Eastern Shore of Virginia - Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Top left - Virginia native oysters; bottom left - aquaculture grown clams; above - scallops are making a steady comeback as eelgrass habitat is restored on the seaside of the Eastern Shore.

**Please note that all privet species are potentially invasive.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Common Name(s)</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name(s)</th>
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<td><strong>Forbs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Scientific Name</strong></td>
<td><strong>Common Name(s)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ageratina altissima</td>
<td>White Snakeroot</td>
<td>Mitchella repens</td>
<td>Partridge-berry (p.13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Eupatorium rugosum)</td>
<td>Wood Anemone</td>
<td>Monarda punctata</td>
<td>Spotted bee-balm (p.14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anemone quinquefolia</td>
<td>Swamp Milkweed (p.10)</td>
<td>Nymphaea odorata</td>
<td>White Water-lily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asclepias incarnata</td>
<td>Common Milkweed</td>
<td>Oenothera biennis</td>
<td>Common Evening-primsrose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asclepias syriaca</td>
<td>Butterfly-weed (p.10)</td>
<td>Oenothera fruticosa</td>
<td>Narrow-leaf Sundrops (p.14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
<td>Common Jack-in-the-pulpit</td>
<td>Opuntia humifusa</td>
<td>Eastern Prickly-pear (p.14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arisaema triphyllum</td>
<td>Yellow Wild Indigo (p.10)</td>
<td>Pelletandra virginica</td>
<td>Arrow Arum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baptisia tinctoria</td>
<td>Marsh Marigold</td>
<td>Phlox paniculata</td>
<td>Fall Phlox (p.14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caltha palustris</td>
<td>White Turtlehead (p.11)</td>
<td>Maryland Golden-aster</td>
<td>Mayapple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelone glabra</td>
<td>Chrysopsis mariana</td>
<td>Butterfly Pea</td>
<td>Solomon’s-seal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coreopsis lanceolata</td>
<td>Conoclinium coelestinum</td>
<td>Mistflower (p.11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coreopsis tripteris</td>
<td>Coreopsis lanata</td>
<td>Long-stock Coreopsis (p.11)</td>
<td>Virginia Meadow Beauty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desmodium paniculatum</td>
<td>Coreopsis perfoliatum</td>
<td>Tall Coreopsis</td>
<td>Black-eyed Susan (p.15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</td>
<td>Narrow-leaf Tick-trefoil</td>
<td>Narrow-leaf Tick-trefoil</td>
<td>Cut-leaf Coneflower</td>
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<td>Eupatorium perfoliatum</td>
<td>Hyssop-leaf Throughwort</td>
<td>Hyssop-leaf Throughwort</td>
<td>Carolina Wild-pertunia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eutrochium dubium</td>
<td>Common Boneset</td>
<td>Three-nerved Joe-pye-weed (p.11)</td>
<td>Broad-leaved Arrowhead</td>
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<td>Eutrochium fistulosum</td>
<td>Hollow Joe-pye-weed</td>
<td>Sweet-scented Joe-pye-weed</td>
<td>Lyre-leaf Sage</td>
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<td>Eutrochium purpureum</td>
<td>Sweet-scented Joe-pye-weed</td>
<td>Common Sneezeweed (p.12)</td>
<td>Bloodroot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helianthus autunnale</td>
<td>Narrow-leaved Sunflower (p.12)</td>
<td>Swamp Rose-mallow (p.12)</td>
<td>Lizard’s Tail (p.15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helianthus angustifolius</td>
<td>Swamp Rose-mallow</td>
<td>Orange Jewelweed</td>
<td>Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed-grass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hibiscus moscheutos</td>
<td>Larger Blue Flag (p.12)</td>
<td>Virginia Blue Flag</td>
<td>Eastern Blue-eyed-grass</td>
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<td>Impatiens capensis</td>
<td>Virginia Blue Flag</td>
<td>Seashore Mallow (p.13)</td>
<td>Blue-stemmed Goldenrod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iris versicolor</td>
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<td>Grass-leaf Blazing Star</td>
<td>Sweet Goldenrod</td>
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<td>Iris virginica</td>
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<td>Turks-cap Lily (p.13)</td>
<td>Seaside Goldenrod (p.15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kosteletzkya pentacarpos</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sea Lavender</td>
<td>New York Aster (p.15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liatris pilosa</td>
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<td>Cardinal Flower (p.13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lilium superbum</td>
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<td>Square-stemmed Monkeyflower</td>
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<td>Limmonium carolinanum</td>
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<td>Lobelia cardinalis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mimulus ringens</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton**
### Scientific Name | Common Name(s)
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**Forbs Cont’d**  
Verbesina occidentalis  
Vernonia noveboracensis  
Viola cucullata  
Yucca filamentosa  
**Grasses/Sedges/Rushes**  
*Ammophila breviligulata* | American Beach Grass (p.16)  
Big Bluestem  
*Bushy Bluestem* (p.16)  
*Broomsedge* (p.16)  
*Tussock Sedge* (p.16)  
Saltgrass  
Three-way Sedge  
Virginia wild Rye  
Knapweed  
Red Fescue  
Canadian Rush  
*Common Rush* (p.17)  
Black Needle Rush  
*Bitter Seabeach Grass* (p.17)  
*Switchgrass* (p.17)  
Giant Plumegrass  
*Little Bluestem* (p.17)  
*American Bur-reed*  
*Saltmarsh Cordgrass*  
*Big Cordgrass*  
*Saltmeadow Cordgrass*  
Indian Grass  
Southern Wild Rice  
**Ferns**  
*Asplenium platyneuron*  
*Botrypus virginianus*  
*Dryopteris cristata*  
*Dryopteris intermedia*  
*Onoclea sensibilis*  
*Osmunda claytoniana*  
*Osmunda spectabilis*  
*Parathelypteris noveboracensis*  
*Polystichum acrostichoides*  
*Pteridium aquilinum*  
*Thelypteris palustris*  
*Woodwardia areolata*  
*Woodwardia virginica*  
**Vines**  
*Bignonia capreolata*  
*Campsis radicans*  
*Celastrus scandens*  
*Clematis virginiana*  
*Gelsemium sempervirens*  
*Lonicera sempervirens*  
*Mikania scandens*  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*  
*Passiflora incarnata*  
*Wisteria frutescens*  
*Ebony Spleenwort*  
*Southern Lady Fern* (p.18)  
*Rattlesnake Fern*  
*Crested wood Fern*  
*Evergreen Wood Fern* (p.18)  
*Sensitive Fern* (p.18)  
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*Cinnamon Fern* (p.18)  
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*Marsh Fern* (p.19)  
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*Virginia Chain Fern* (p.19)  
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*Climbing Bittersweet*  
*Virgin’s-bower* (p.20)  
*Yellow Jessamine* (p.20)  
*Trumpet Honeysuckle* (p.21)  
*Climbing Hempweed*  
*Virginia creeper* (p.21)  
*Purple Passionflower* (p.21)  
*American Wisteria* (p.21)

The native plants in **bold** are featured in this guide.
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<thead>
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<th>Common Name(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shrubs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Small Trees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Alnus serrulata</em></td>
<td>Smooth Alder (p. 22)</td>
<td><em>Sambucus canadensis</em></td>
<td>Common Elderberry (p. 26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aronia arbutifolia</em></td>
<td>Red Chokeberry (p. 22)</td>
<td><em>Stewartia malacodendron</em></td>
<td>Silky Camelia (p. 26)</td>
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<td><em>Baccharis halimifolia</em></td>
<td>High-tide Bush (Groundsel Tree) (p. 22)</td>
<td><em>Vaccinium corymbosum</em></td>
<td>Highbush Blueberry (p. 27)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Callicarpa americana</em></td>
<td>American Beauty-berry (p. 22)</td>
<td><em>Vaccinium macrocarpon</em></td>
<td>Cranberry</td>
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<td><em>Cephalaria occidentalis</em></td>
<td>Buttonbush (p. 23)</td>
<td><em>Vaccinium pallidum</em></td>
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<td>Coastal White-alder (Pepperbush) (p. 23)</td>
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<td>Fetterbush, Sweetbells</td>
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<td><em>Gaultheria procumbens</em></td>
<td>Wintergreen</td>
<td><em>Viburnum nudum</em></td>
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<td>Black Huckleberry</td>
<td><em>Viburnum prunifolium</em></td>
<td>Black Haw (p. 27)</td>
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<td>Witch Hazel (p. 23)</td>
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<td>Inkberry (p. 23)</td>
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<td><em>Ilex verticillata</em></td>
<td>Winterberry (p. 24)</td>
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<td>Yaupon (p. 24)</td>
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<td>Virginia-willow (p. 24)</td>
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<td><em>Kalmia angustifolia</em></td>
<td>Sheep Laurel</td>
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<td>Mountain Laurel</td>
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<td><em>Lindera benzoin</em></td>
<td>Spicebush (p. 25)</td>
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<td>Maleberry</td>
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<td>Wax Myrtle (p. 25)</td>
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<td><em>Persea palustris (borbonia)</em></td>
<td>Red Bay (p. 25)</td>
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<td>Wild Black Cherry (p. 31)</td>
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<td>Southern Red Oak (p. 31)</td>
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<td>Quercus rubra</td>
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The native plants in **bold** are featured in this guide.
**Asclepias incarnata ● Swamp Milkweed**

- Perennial
- 4 - 6 ft.
- Pink, purple; May - Aug
- Wet freshwater areas: meadow, field, riparian area, swamp, marsh
- Full sun, part shade
- Moist to wet, rich soils
  (good plant for wetland gardens)

*Cannot be transplanted because of its deep taproot. It is deer resistant. Will inevitably have aphids, but the insects are not a problem unless the plant looks sick; at that point an effective treatment is to spray the plant and aphids with soapy water. The genus was named in honor of Aesculapius, Greek god of medicine.*

**Asclepias tuberosa ● Butterfly-weed**

- Perennial
- 1 - 3 ft.
- Yellow-orange to bright orange; May - Sep
- Open woods
- Full sun, part shade
- Moist or dry, well-drained sandy soils
  (tolerates drought)

*Although sometimes called Orange Milkweed, this species has no milky sap. Makes a delightful cut flower, and easily grown from seed, but somewhat slow to establish and may take 2-3 years to produce flowers. Mature plants may freely self-seed in the landscape if seed pods are not removed prior to splitting open. Does not transplant well due to its deep taproot and is probably best left undisturbed once established.*

**Baptisia tinctoria ● Yellow Wild Indigo**

- Perennial
- 1 - 3 ft.
- Yellow pea-like; May - Sep
- Dry open woods and clearings
- Full sun
- Dry, loam, sandy, acidic soils

*The genus name, from the Greek “baptizein” (to dye), refers to the fact that some species are used as an inferior substitute for true indigo dye.*

**Chelone glabra ● White Turtlehead**

- Perennial
- 1 - 4 ft.
- White, pink; Jul - Sep
- Brushy marshes; stream banks; wet ditches; low meadows; woodlands full
- Sun, part shade, shade
- Light, rich, wet to moist soils

*The 2-lipped flowers of White Turtlehead resemble turtle heads, which gives it its distinctive common name. Its genus name is derived from the Greek chelone (tortoise). The related Chelone obliqua (often sold as C. lyonii) has pink inflorescences.*

**Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife)**

ES Native Alternative to:
A larval host for Frosted elfin (*Callophrys irus*) and Wild indigo duskywing (*Erynnis baptisiae*) butterflies.

**Nectar source for butterflies. Larval host of the Baltimore Butterfly (*Euphydryas phaeton)*.
**Eutrochium dubium** • Three-nerved Joe-pye-weed

- Perennial
- 2 - 5 ft.
- Purple, rarely white; Jul - Oct
- Swamps, bogs, marshes, swales
- Full sun, part shade
- Moist, usually sandy acidic soil

*This Joe-Pye Weed is sometimes called Coastal Joe-Pye Weed. It has distinctive purple spots on the stem. Flower heads do not re-bloom, so leave the spent flowers on the plant and let them go to seed. Other identifying marks for eastern Joe-Pye weed are the fine purple spots on the stem, and the dome-shaped flower clusters (as opposed to the flat-topped clusters of spotted Joe-Pye weed).*

Flowers are magnets of butterflies, especially swallowtails and monarchs. Fluffy seed heads provide nesting materials for birds.

---

**Coreopsis lanceolata** • Long-stock Coreopsis

- Perennial
- 1 - 2.5 ft.
- Yellow; May - June
- Open woodlands; meadows; pastures
- Full sun, part shade, shade; prefers sun
- Dry, sandy, gravelly, well-drained, acid-based soils

Grows in small clumps but forms extensive colonies. It is the most common native coreopsis, easy to grow and drought tolerant. It prefers sun and should have frequent deadheading to keep it in bloom well into the summer.

Attractive ground cover for harsh sunny conditions. Its seeds are a favorite food for goldfinches.

---

**Conoclinum coelestinum** • Mistflower

- Perennial
- 1 - 3.5 ft.
- Bright blue or violet; July - Nov
- Wood margins; stream banks; low woods; wet meadows; ditches
- Full sun, part shade
- Moist, loam, sandy or clay soils

*Disk flowers are almost ¼ inch long, they form almost a flat top.*

Fluffy-edged flowers are a magnet for late-season butterflies. It is a colonizing groundcover. It spreads quickly and is good for areas with poor drainage.

---

**Helenium autumnale** • Common or Fall Sneezeweed

- Perennial
- 1.5 - 5 ft.
- Yellow; Jul - Nov
- Open areas along streams & ponds; wet meadows
- Full sun
- Moist soils

Sneezeweed does not cause sneezing. The common name is based upon the former use of its dried leaves in making snuff, inhaled to cause sneezing that would supposedly rid the body of evil spirits.

Caution: The leaves, flowers, seeds are poisonous to humans, and toxic if eaten in large quantities.

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**Dot Field/DCR**

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Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton
**Helianthus angustifolius** • Narrow-leaved Sunflower

- Perennial
- 1.5 - 5.5 ft.
- Yellow; Aug - Oct
- Flood plains; bottomland
- Full sun, part shade
- Wet, sandy, loam or clay, acidic soils

Narrow-leaved Sunflower has the narrowest leaves. This perennial can be used for ornamental bogs and ponds. Part of the Asteraceae family in which there are about 920 genera and 19,000 species including Cosmos, Sunflower, Zinnia and Dahlia.

Conspicuous flowers on Narrow-leaved Sunflower attract birds and native bees. and are very beautiful in bouquets.

**Iris versicolor** • Larger or Northern Blue Flag

- Perennial
- 2 - 3 ft.
- Shades of purple; May - Aug
- Meadows; stream banks; marshes; swamps
- Full sun, part shade
- Wet or moist, acidic soils (can tolerate complete submergence)

Attracts hummingbirds and birds. Insects attracted to the sepals must crawl under the tip of a style and brush past a stigma and stamen, thus facilitating pollination.

From the middle English “flagge”, meaning rush or reed. Flowers have symbolized power, with the three parts representing wisdom, faith and courage.

**Hibiscus moscheutos** • Swamp or Eastern Rose-mallow

- Perennial
- 3 - 8 ft.
- Creamy-white flowers; Jul - Sep
- Swampy forests; wet meadows; freshwater marsh edges
- Full sun, part shade
- Wet or moist alkaline soils

Strikingly showy species with large, heart-shaped leaves. It is a nectar source for hummingbirds.

Clumps of Swamp Rose-mallow start to grow late in the season and flower over a long period in late summer. Rose mallow is easily grown from seed. Seeds are ready to collect when they are dark-brown.

**Iris versicolor** • Larger or Northern Blue Flag

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From the middle English “flagge”, meaning rush or reed. Flowers have symbolized power, with the three parts representing wisdom, faith and courage.

**Kosteletzkya pentacarpos** • Seashore or Salt Marsh Mallow

- Perennial
- 1.5 - 4.5 ft., spreads to 4 ft. in width
- Light pink; Jun - Oct
- Brackish marshes; coastal plains; swamps
- Full sun
- Moist; prefers sand, but will tolerate clay soils (moderately salt tolerant, though does best with high acidity)

The flowers of the Seashore Mallow close at night. This perennial takes 5 years to fully mature and lives for 5 years. It is easily propagated from seed.

Great for color in late summer through fall. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

ES Native Alternative to: *Altheae officinalis*, or Common Marsh Mallow
**Mitchella repens** **Partridge-berry**

- Perennial
- .5 ft., creeping
- Pinkish-white, trumpet; May - Jul; red berry in July - Dec
- Dry or moist woods; stream banks; sandy slopes
- Part shade, shade
- Moist or dry, humus-rich, sandy or loam, acidic soils

A most attractive, dainty, woodland creeper, Partridge-Berry can be used as a groundcover under acid-loving shrubs and in terraria in the winter. It was used medicinally by Native American women.

Common name implies that the scarlet fruits are relished by partridges, and they are consumed by a variety of birds and mammals.

**Lobelia cardinalis** **Cardinal Flower**

- Perennial
- 1 - 6 ft.
- Red; July - Oct
- Low areas, woodlands edge, stream banks, roadsides, meadows
- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist to wet, humus-rich, sandy & clay soils

Cardinal Flower is a short-lived perennial that self sows. The common name of this flower alludes to the bright red robes worn by Roman Catholic cardinals. This species is not drought tolerant.

Caution: All parts of this plant are toxic.

Valued for its ornamental blooms and color. Attracts birds. Depends on hummingbirds, which feed on the nectar, for pollination.

**Lilium superbum** **Turks-cap Lily**

- Perennial
- 4 - 8 ft.
- Red, orange, yellow; Jul - Sep
- Wet meadows; swamps; and woods
- Full sun
- Moist, loam, sand, acidic soils (good drainage essential)

The recurved sepals and petals, which presumably resemble a type of cap worn by early Turks, and the showy extruded stamens, are distinctive features. Indians used the bulbs for soup.

Largest and most spectacular of the native lilies; up to 40 flowers have been recorded on a single plant.

**Monarda punctata** **Horsemint, Spotted Beebalm**

- 1–3 ft.
- Rosettes of aromatic, yellowish, purple spotted tubular fragrant, flowers occur in whorls in April–August; forms a dense spike at the end of the stem; each whorl is supported by large, conspicuous, whitish, purple-tinged, leaf-like bracts
- Maritime forests, dune woodlands and grasslands, sandy upland forests, fields, and roadsides
- Sun
- Dry, sandy soils

Nectar source for butterflies and other pollinators.

Linnaeus named the genus “Monarda” in honor of a 16th century Spanish physician/botanist, Nicolas Bautista Monardes (1493-1588).
**Oenothera fruticosa** • Narrow-leaf or Southern Sundrops

- **Perennial**
- **1 - 3 t.**
- **Golden-yellow; May - Sep**
- **Roadsides; meadows**
- **Full sun**
- **Moist, acidic, well-drained soils** (tolerant of brackish and lime soils)

*Narrow-leaf Sundrops spread rapidly under favorable conditions, but does not usually become aggressive.*

Attracts birds and hummingbirds. Of special value to native bees.

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**Opuntia humifusa** • Eastern Prickly-pear

- **Evergreen**
- **1-2½ ft. with 1-3 levels of flattened pads, each pad is up to 10” long, 7” across, and 1½” thick**
- **One or more flower buds can form on top of pad and each produces a single satiny yellow flower about 3-4” across followed by a pear-like fruit; late spring to mid-summer**
- **Full sun best**
- **Dry, sandy soil**

The blooming period of Eastern Prickly-pear occurs from late spring to mid-summer and lasts about a month for a colony of plants, although each flower lasts only a single day. *It is faster and easier to start new plants using pads (break at joints, and plant), rather than seeds.*

Caution: Glochids (minute bristle-like, barbed hairs) on the stems can cause severe skin irritation upon contact.

Attracts pollinating bees. A striking plant with beautiful, showy flowers.

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**Phlox paniculata** • Fall Phlox, Garden Phlox

- **Perennial**
- **1.5 - 6.5 ft.**
- **Pink, purple; Jun - Oct**
- **Open woods; thickets; meadows; moist roadsides**
- **Full sun**
- **Moist, organic, loam soils**

*Fall Phlox needs at least 6 hours of sun in order to prevent powdery mildew. The very similar species - Large-leaved Phlox (P. amplifolia) - has a hairy stem, only 6-15 leaf pairs below the flower cluster, and a hairless corolla tube and is found in the southern Appalachian Mountains.*

Beautiful ornamental flower that attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. A showy clump-former.

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**Pontederia cordata** • Pickerelweed

- **Perennial**
- **3 - 3.5 ft.**
- **Deep blue; Jun - Nov**
- **Shallow, quiet water; freshwater marshes, up to a foot under water**
- **Full sun, part shade**
- **Wet or moist, sandy, loam or clay soils**

The flowers bloom in succession from the bottom up. The seeds can be eaten like nuts and the young leaf-stalks cooked as greens.


---

ES Native Alternative to: *Eichhornia crassipes* (common water hyacinth)
**Rudbeckia hirta ● Black-eyed Susan**

- Perennial
- 1 - 3.5 ft.
- Bright-yellow; Jun - Oct
- Meadows; pastures; woodland edges
- Full sun, part shade, shade (may bloom longer with some afternoon shade)
- Moist to dry, well-drained acidic soils (drought tolerant)

Black-eyed Susan forms mature seed cones about three to four weeks after flowering. (Check by breaking a cone open and if the seeds are dark, they are mature.) This plant is easy to grow and tolerant of most soils. It reseeds and establishes clumps.

Cheerful blossoms liven up bouquets. Birds, especially goldfinches and chickadees, enjoy the ripe seeds. Nectar attracts bees, butterflies.

**Solidago sempervirens ● Seaside Goldenrod**

- Perennial
- 2 - 8 ft.
- Deep-yellow; Jul - Nov
- Saline places along the coast (resistant to salt spray)
- Full sun
- Moist, sandy soils

Goldenrod is often mistakenly believed to cause hayfever; the real offender is ragweed, which blooms at the same time. The heavy pollen of goldenrods can only be transported by insects while the tiny molecules of ragweed pollen is transported by wind and aggravates allergies.

Attracts birds and migrating Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*). The "Solidago" genus supports the greatest number of caterpillars of any of the wildflowers -112 caterpillars, an important staple in a bird's diet!

**Saururus cernuus ● Lizard’s Tail, Water-dragon**

- Perennial
- 1.5 - 4 ft.
- White; May - Sep
- Still water; wet lowlands; stream edges
- Part shade, shade
- Wet, moist, muddy soils (aquatic - up to 4 in. inundation)

The common name and the genus name, from the Greek “sauros” (lizard) and “oura” (tail), depict the shape of the drooping flower cluster. Crushed foliage has a pleasant, sassafras aroma.

Great spreading groundcover for moist soils, shallow water, and containers. Good for wetland gardens and habitat. Colonizes large areas. Attracts birds.

**Symphyotrichum novi-belgii ● New York Aster**

- Perennial
- 1 - 4.5 ft.
- Purple, blue-violet; Jul - Oct
- Meadow; field
- Full sun
- Moist, loam soil

Showy ornamental flower that attracts butterflies. A larval host to the Pearl Crescent butterfly (*Phyciodes tharos*).
**Grasses**

**Ammophila breviligulata ● American Beach Grass**

- Perennial
- 1.5 - 5 ft.
- Yellow; Jul - Sep
- Back beaches; sand dunes
- Full sun
- Dry, sandy

*Important dune stabilizer. It can withstand burial within a shifting dune by sending up vertical rhizomes that produce new emerging stems. Ammophila means sand lover.*

Most common dune plant along much of the Atlantic Coast. Instrumental in building dunes. Very salt tolerant.

**Andropogon glomeratus ● Bushy Bluestem**

- Perennial
- 2 - 5 ft.
- White, brown; Aug - Nov
- Low, moist grassland areas (poor drainage okay, even preferred)
- Full sun
- Wet or moist, relatively sterile, sandy, clay or loam soils (tolerates salinity)

Bushy Bluestem’s foliage is blue-green in summer and coppery in winter. Perhaps best for large-scale gardens and landscapes as it seeds out heavily and may fall over as it reaches maximum height.

**Andropogon virginicus ● Broomsedge**

- Perennial
- 1 - 3 ft.
- Yellow, reddish-brown; Aug - Nov
- Dry fields; thin woods; upper shores of ponds
- Part shade
- Moist or dry, sandy soils

*Broomsedge’s seeds are striking in fall and winter when the fine hairs of the expanded racemes catch the sunlight. The attractive clump-forming, perennial grass turns a tawny brown in fall.*

Helps control erosion on disturbed lands and provides cover, nesting material, and seeds food for birds.

**Carex stricta ● Tussock Sedge, Upright Sedge**

- Perennial
- 1 - 3 ft., 3 ft. wide
- Greenish/brownish spikes; Apr - Aug
- Acid or neutral swamps; low woods; seasonally flooded sites
- Full sun
- Wet, moist soil

*This sedge has a distinctive, elevated tussock (dense tuft).*

Excellent nesting habitat for rails, snipes. Larval host of the Black Dash Butterfly (*Euphyes conspicua*)

Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton
**Juncus effusus** ● **Common Rush, Soft Rush**

- Perennial
- 1 - 4 ft.
- Small, greenish-brown; Jun - Sep
- Swamps; damp open ground
- Full sun
- Wet or moist, clay, sandy or loam soils

*The soft, grass-like stems of Common Rush, a strictly wetland plant, grow in clumps.*

Birds find shelter among the stems. Can provide very good shoreline protection.

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**Panicum amarum** ● **Bitter Seabeach Grass**

- Perennial
- 1 - 3 ft.
- Aug - Oct
- Coastal shores and dunes
- Full sun
- Dry or moist, loam, sandy soil

*Very salt tolerant. Adapted to very dry sterile sites. It can withstand periods of extended drought and is somewhat winter hardy.*

Attracts birds.

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**Panicum virgatum** ● **Switchgrass**

- Perennial
- 3 - 6 ft.
- Red-purple seedhead; Aug - Oct
- Open areas; stream banks
- Full sun, part shade
- Dry to moist, sandy, clay or loam soils (poor drainage okay)

*Switchgrass is a clump-forming, warm-season grass with bright green leaves up and down the stem, turning bright yellow in fall. Grows in large clumps, with many persistent, curly leaves. It is pollinated by wind. It has become of major interest as a source of biofuels and to revegetate surfaces such as mined land.*

ES Native Alternative to: *Schedonorus phoenix* (tall fescue)

Attracts birds and butterflies. Host plant for the Delaware Skipper (*Anatrytone logan*) and the Dotted Skipper (*Hespera attalus*). Can also provide garden accent.

---

**Schizachyrium scoparium** ● **Little Bluestem**

- Perennial
- Very dense mounds at 1.5 - 4 ft.
- White seedhead; Aug - Oct
- Woodland edges; hillsides; slopes; open areas
- Full sun, part shade
- Dry, well-drained, sandy, clay or loam soils

*Wonderful planted en masse, Little Bluestem provides a changing visual dynamic that ranges from blue-green stems in late summer to radiant mahogany-red, white-tufted seed heads in fall. A reddish-tan color persists during winter. It is an excellent plant in inhospitable conditions.*

In winter, fuzzy white seeds of particular value to small birds. Provides nesting material. Of value to native bees. Host to six species of native caterpillars.
**Ferns**

**Athyrium asplenoides ● Southern Lady Fern**

- Perennial (deciduous)
- 1 - 3 ft.
- Non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- Forest; woodland; wet meadow; swamp; marsh
- Part shade, shade
- Wet, moist, humus-rich, sandy, loam, soils

*Southern Lady fern has beautiful upright feathery fronds which give the illusion of a dainty fern. Protect it from wind.*

Hosts three species of native caterpillars. It can be used as a groundcover plant on the northeast side of buildings.

**Dryopteris intermedia ● Evergreen Wood Fern**

- Perennial (evergreen)
- Up to 10 inches, lacy foliage
- Forest; woodland; swamp
- Shade
- Moist, organic, humus enriched soils

*Good choice for deep shade.*

**Onoclea sensibilis ● Sensitive Fern, Bead Fern**

- Perennial (deciduous)
- Few inches to more than 3 ft.
- Non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- Woodlands; floodplains; stream banks; swamps; marshes
- Part shade, shade
- Moist to wet, loose, sandy, loam, acidic soils

*Fiddleheads appear in the spring in shades of pale red. The roots colonize but are usually shallow, though hefty. The stalks of this fern are said to have a decorative, beaded appearance, lending the plant one of its common names.*

Shelters salamanders and frogs and attracts birds. Cut fronds good for dried flower arrangements.

**Osmundastrum cinnamomeum ● Cinnamon Fern**

- Perennial (deciduous)
- 6 ft.
- Non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- Boggy areas; shaded ledges
- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Muddy, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils

*The fronds of Cinnamon Fern occur in groups, rising from a shallow, black rootstock. Fertile fronds appear first as silvery, furry fiddleheads, and become stiff and erect creating a dramatic feature in the landscape with the infertile fronds bending outwards in a vase-shaped circle enclosing the fertile fronds.*

Fuzz that covers the young fiddleheads is a favorite nesting material for birds. Hosts three species of native caterpillars, including the Osmunda Borer moth (*Papaipema speciosissima*).
**Osmunda spectabilis • Royal Fern**

- Perennial (deciduous)
- 2 - 5 ft. high, 18 in. wide
- Non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- Freshwater wetlands; stream banks
- Part shade, shade
- Wet, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils (tolerates year-round shallow water)

The form and texture of Royal Fern are unique. The fronds are cut twice into large rounded leaflets, resulting in foliage that resembles that of the pea family. One of the most widespread of all living species; it is found on every continent except Australia.

Foliage can provide cover for wildlife when grown en mass. Hosts six species of native caterpillars, including the Osmunda Borer moth (*Poppaipea speciosissima*). Can spread to be a groundcover.

**Polystichum acrostichoides • Christmas Fern**

- Perennial (evergreen)
- Fronds 1 - 3 ft., taller when fertile
- Non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- Rocky woods; stream banks; swamps; thickets
- Part shade, shade
- Moist, well-drained, humus-rich, sandy, acidic soils (does not tolerate standing water)

Christmas fern got its name because it stays green right through the holiday season. Good, evergreen border or accent plant.

**Thelypteris palustris Schott • Eastern Marsh Fern**

- Perennial (deciduous)
- Non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- Swamps; wet fields or thickets; wooded streambanks
- Full sun
- Wet, clay, loam, sandy soils

Attracts birds. Attracts birds.

**Woodwardia virginica • Virginia Chain Fern**

- Perennial (deciduous)
- 2 - 3 ft.
- Non-flowering/reproduces by spores
- Swamps; still water; waterway banks
- Part shade
- Moist to wet, sandy, medium or clay loam, acidic soils

The frond turns bronze in the fall. This fern will quickly take over a small garden. It is best planted in large, water-logged areas where little else will grow.
**Bignonia capreolata ● Cross-vine**

- **Perennial (evergreen)**
- 36 - 50 ft.
- Red, yellow; Mar - May
- Full sun, part shade (best flowers in sun)
- Moist, well-drained, acidic or calcareous, sandy or clay soils (cold tolerant, tolerates brief flooding)

*Crossvine, an evergreen perennial, has claws at the end of its tendrils allowing Crossvine to cling to stone, brick, pergolas, and fences without support. In fall the green leaves become purple until spring.*

**ES Native alternative to:**

*Hedera helix (English ivy)*

*Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)*

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**Clematis virginiana ● Virgin’s-bower**

- **Perennial (deciduous)**
- 12-15 ft.
- White; Jul - Sep
- Woods; thickets; stream banks
- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist to dry, rich soils

*Clematis virginiana has clusters of creamy white flowers turning into showy clusters of silky seeds that glisten with backlighting. Lacking tendrils, the vine supports itself by means of twisted stems, or petioles, that wrap around other plants. These fast-growing stems can grow 20 ft. in one year. They may be pruned at any time during the growing season.*

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**CAMPIS radicans ● Trumpet-creeper**

- **Perennial (deciduous)**
- Up to 35 ft.
- Red, orange; Jun - Sep
- Full sun
- Well-drained, sandy, loam, clay soils (high drought tolerance)

*A high-climbing, aggressively colonizing woody vine, climbing or scrambling over everything in its path by aerial rootlets. It is a good soil stabilizer. Cut back branches to two buds in the winter to encourage bushier growth and more blooms.*

**ES Native alternative to:**

*Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)*

*Melia azedarach (Chinaberry tree)*

*Wisteria sinensis (Chinese wisteria)*

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**Gelsemium sempervirens ● Yellow Jessamine**

- **Perennial (evergreen)**
- 10 - 20 ft.
- Yellow; Jan - May, Dec
- Dry to wet thickets; woods; fence rows or hammocks
- Full sun, part shade (best in sun)
- Moist, well-drained, humus-rich, sandy or clay soils (pH adaptable, heat/cold tolerant)

*Yellow Jessamine is an adaptable and tenacious evergreen that will climb trees, scramble over fences and structures, or will develop a mound of tangled stems if left to its own devices.*

**ES Native alternative to:**

*Hedera helix (English ivy)*

*Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)*

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**Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton**
**Lonicera sempervirens** • Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle

- Perennial (semi-evergreen)
- 3 - 20 ft.
- Red outer, sometimes yellow inner, Mar - Jun followed by bright-red berries
- Full sun (best), part shade
- Sandy and clay, but rich, moist soils preferred, lime and acidic soil okay (tolerates poor drainage for short periods)

Great for arbors, and valued for its evergreen habit.


**Parthenocissus quinquefolia** • Virginia-creeper

- Perennial (deciduous)
- 3 - 40 ft.
- Yellowish-green; May - Jun
- Open woodlands, shaded woods, stream, riverbanks
- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist, well-drained, sand, loam, clay soils

Virginia Creeper has brilliant fall color. It tolerates pollution and can be pruned to control its growth. A vigorous grower it adheres to walls, arbors etc. via adhesive discs.

Birds eat fruit through the winter. Leaves turn brilliant mauve, red and purple and provides attractive early fall color. Berries turn from red to blue to black. May be used as a ground cover for erosion control.

ES Native alternative to:
*Hedera helix* (English ivy)

**Passiflora incarnata** • Purple Passionflower, Maypop

- Perennial
- Up to 25 ft., with sprawls on ground
- Lavender; Apr - Sep; large orange-yellow berry
- Roadside, meadows, woodland edges/opens, streams, riverbanks
- Full sun, part shade
- Moist, rich, clay and sandy, non-saline soils

This vine is excellent for use on arbors, fences, walls and columns. The name Maypop comes from the hollow, yellow fruits that pop loudly when crushed. Maypop spreads easily by root suckers that can be contained by removing suckers or mowing.

ES Native alternative to:
*Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle)

Flowers attract native bees and the plant hosts 5 species of caterpillars including Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) and Variegated Fritillary (*Euptoieta claudia*). Birds eat fruit.

**Wisteria frutescens** • American Wisteria

- Perennial (deciduous)
- 25 - 30 ft.
- Lilac or bluish purple; May - Jun
- Woods; river banks; upland thickets
- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist, rich, sandy, loam or clay, neutral to slightly acid soils (prefers a good loamy soil in a sunny south or southwest facing position)

American Wisteria’s large, fragrant, drooping clusters of flowers—6–9 inches long—appear only on new wood and after the plant has leafed out, a difference from the popular Asian species. Less aggressive than the similar Asian wisteria species.

Attracts butterflies. Larval host to Zarucco duskywing skipper (*Erynnis zarucco*) and several other skipper species. It is deer resistant.

ES Native alternative to:
*Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle)
**Shrubs**

**Alnus serrulata ● Smooth or Hazel Alder**

A 12 - 20 ft., multiple-trunked, **deciduous** shrub with a shiny gray-brown bark. Summer foliage is dark green and glossy, becoming yellow, tinged with **red**, in **fall**. Flowers are **purple catkins**; males in drooping clusters, females in upright clusters (**Mar - Apr**). The fruit resembles a small, woody cone and persists Aug - Feb. Commonly found at edge of water - very flood tolerant.

- **Full sun, part shade, shade**
- **Wet or moist, fine sandy loams, and mucks**

Smooth Alder is the only alder native to the southeastern United States. Space 5-10 ft. apart to allow for crown development and to optimize seed production.

**Baccharis halimifolia ● High-tide Bush, Groundsel Tree**

A 6 - 12 ft. **deciduous** shrub bearing gray-green oval leaves. Numerous branches from short trunks are covered densely with branchlets. **White to green flowers** (**Aug - Oct**) occur in small, dense, terminal clusters. **Silvery, plume-like achenes resembling silvery paintbrushes appear in the fall on female plants.**

- **Full sun, part shade**
- **Wet to dry, sandy, loam soils**

Baccharis is the ancient Greek name (the god Bacchus) of a plant with fragrant roots. One of the few eastern shrubs suitable for planting near the ocean.

**Elaeagnus umbellata** (autumn olive)

**Aronia arbutifolia ● Red Chokeberry, Red Chokecherry**

A 1.5 - 12 ft., multi-stemmed shrub with **four-season interest**. Beginning in March, flat-topped clusters of **white, five-petaled flowers** with red anthers appear in profusion and give way to dark green, glossy leaves that consistently turn a **rich, orange-red in fall**. **Bright red berries** appear in fall and remain **until December or January** and along with a reddish-brown, exfoliating bark add color to the winter landscape.

- **Full sun**
- **Moist, acidic, rich soils**

Red Chokeberry is one of the best shrubs for brilliant fall color—intense, shiny, raspberry to crimson, with purplish highlights. Can also have some orange mixed in, especially in shady sites.

**Callicarpa americana ● American Beauty-berry**

A 3 - 6 ft. **deciduous** understory shrub with a loose and graceful arching form and small and **pink flowers** (**Jun - Aug**) in dense clusters at the bases of the leaves. In fall and early winter, branches are laden with **magenta purple berry clusters** (**Sep - Mar**) that look spectacular as the leaves drop in autumn. Useful as a screen in wet or wooded locations or under shade trees in a garden setting.

- **Part shade**
- **Moist, rich, sandy and clay, acidic soils** (cold and heat tolerant)

Genus name comes from Greek “Callicarpa” meaning beautiful fruit.

**ES Native Alternative to:**
- **Ligustrum sinense** (Chinese privet)
- **Elaeagnus umbellata** (autumn olive)

Use to improve wildlife habitat. Its flexible stems and fibrous root system make it very suitable for streambank stabilization.

**Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton**
**Cephalanthus occidentalis** • *Buttonbush, Button Willow*

A 6 - 12 ft. spreading, multi-branched evergreen shrub or sometimes small tree with many branches (often crooked and leaning), irregular crown, balls of long-lasting (Jun - Sep), **white or pale-pink flowers** resembling pincushions, and button-like balls of fruit - rounded masses of nutlets that persist through the winter.

- Part shade, shade
- Wet, sandy and clay soils (poor drainage or standing water okay)

Pruning *Buttonbush* is usually not necessary, but may be done in early spring to shape. If plants become unmanageable, they may be cut back near to the ground in early spring to revitalize.

Ducks and other water birds and shorebirds consume the seeds and its nectar attracts bees and butterflies.

**Hamamelis virginiana** • *Witch Hazel*

This 10 - 15 ft., up to 30 ft., shrub is often multi-trunked. Its large, crooked, spreading branches form an irregular, open crown. The floral display of witch hazel is unique. Its **fragrant, yellow flowers** with strap-like, crumpled petals appear in the fall, persisting for some time after leaf drop (Sep – Dec). Lettuce-green, **deciduous leaves** maintain a rich consistency into fall when they turn brilliant gold. Bark is smooth and gray.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist, sandy, clay, acidic and calcareous soils

Commercial witch-hazel is an alcohol extract of witch-hazel bark.

Birds eat the fruits (small brown capsules). Has brilliant fall color and flowering.

**ES Native Alternative to:** *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian olive)

**Clethra alnifolia** • *Coastal White-alder, Pepperbush*

A narrow, 6 - 12 ft., **deciduous** shrub, which often spreads into mounded clumps and has spike-like, upright clusters of **fragrant white flowers** (Jul - Aug). The shrub’s leaves turn dull yellow to orange in fall. This shrub forms sizable patches. Its dry fruiting capsules remain long after flowering and help identify this plant in winter.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Wet to moist, acidic soils (salt-spray tolerant)

Coastal White-alder forms sizable patches. Promptly remove root suckers unless naturalized look is desired. Propagate by cuttings and prune if needed in late winter. Its dry fruiting capsules remain long after flowering and help identify this plant in winter.

**Ilex glabra** • *Inkberry, Gallberry*

A 6 - 12 ft. mound-shaped, colony-forming shrub. Lance-shaped, glossy, leathery leaves vary in color from dark-to light-green both in summer and fall. Inconspicuous **white flowers** (May – Jul) are followed by **black berries** which persist well into winter.

- Part shade
- Wet, moist, sandy to peaty, acid soils (flood tolerant)

You must have both a male and female plant to have berries. The male must be the same species as the female and bloom at the same time.

**ES Native Alternative to:** *Ligustrum sinense* (Chinese privet)
**Ilex verticillata • Common Winterberry**

A 3 - 10 ft. globular, upright, medium-sized shrub. Its leaves are not shaped with sharp teeth like other hollies and are **not evergreen**. The **purplish-green foliage** turns black, in fact, with the first frost. The inconspicuous flowers (Apr - Jul) are followed by **dense clusters of bright red berries** that remain on the branches throughout winter.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist, sandy, clay, acidic soils

**The leaves of Common winterberry are not shaped with sharp teeth like other hollies and are not evergreen.** Like Ilex glabra, Ilex verticillata are **either male or female**—a trait typical of the holly family.

Attracts birds and butterflies and other nectar consuming insects. Extremely showy in late fall and early winter when covered by bright red fruit.

**Ilex vomitoria • Yaupon**

A 12 - 25 ft., upright, single- or multi-trunked **evergreen** shrub. Female plants produce very large amounts of **bright red berries**. The leaves are small, dark-green, usually less than 1 1/2 in. **Flowers are white** (Apr - May). The pale gray bark is marked with white patches.

- Part shade
- Various sandy, clay and limestone soils (tolerates drought and poor drainage, best production of fruit with half day of sun or more)

Shiny green leaves and red berries are a favorite Christmas decoration.

**Itea virginica • Virginia-willow, Virginia Sweetspire**

A 6 - 10 ft. mound-shaped, slender-branched, deciduous shrub. Small, **white flowers** bloom (Apr - Jun) in 4 in. spires that droop with the arching branches. Flowers open from base to tip so that the plant appears to bloom for a long time. **Leaves turn red to purple in fall** and persist well into the winter.

- Full sun, part shade
- Moist, sandy, loam, clay, acidic soils (blooms best, better fall color if it receives full sun at least part of the day; can grow in areas of poor drainage)

**Virginia Sweetspire is a versatile shrub for sunny to shady areas and tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Can grow in swamps and other areas of poor drainage.**

Attracts birds, butterflies and other nectar consuming insects. Provides a long period of fall color often into early winter.

**Iva frutescens • Marsh-elder**

A 2 - 10 ft. succulent, bushy-branched shrub, with opposite, pubescent, narrowly lance-shaped leaves. **Greenish-white flowers** occur singly in upper leaf axils (Aug - Oct). Naturally grows in the mid to high salt marsh-estuarine area and back dunes, and commonly occurs with groundsel tree to form the salt bush community.

- Full sun
- Moist to wet, saline soils

**Often confused with Baccharis halimifolia whose leaves are alternately arranged on the stem rather than oppositely arranged. Both species are in the aster family and can reach tree size.**
**Lindera benzoin** • Northern spicebush, Spicebush

A 6 - 16 ft., single- or few-stemmed, fast-growing, **deciduous** shrub, with glossy leaves and graceful, slender, light green branches. Dense clusters of **tiny, pale yellow flowers** bloom in April before the leaves form globose (spherical) buds along the twigs. Flowers occur in umbel-like clusters and are followed by **glossy red fruit** (Sept-Oct). Fruit and foliage are aromatic. **Leaves** turn a **golden-yellow in fall** with some sun.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist, sandy, well-drained soils (better form, more berries with sun)

*Northern Spicebush is a fast-growing shrub for moist, shady places. This species has separate male and female plants.*

Larval host for the Eastern Tiger (*Papilio glaucus*) and Spicebush (*Papilio troilus*) swallowtail butterflies. Fruits are a special favorite of wood thrushes. Deer avoid it.

**ES Native Alternative to:**
- *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian olive)
- *Ligustrum sinense* (Chinese privet)

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**Persea palustris** • Swamp Bay or Red Bay

A **15 - 25 ft. evergreen** shrub with a round-topped to cylindrical crown, 6-18 in. trunk (often leaning), reddish-brown bark, and lance-shaped leaves - dark green on the top and pale green and pubescent (hairy) on the underside. Small, **light yellow-green flowers** occur in small, clusters in leaf axils (spring-early summer). Oblong **dark blue fruit** mature in early fall.

- Full sun
- Seasonally wet, moderately well-drained to poorly-drained organic soils (low salt tolerance)

*Leaves have an aroma like that of European true laurel (*Laurus nobilis*), and can be used for similar purposes.*

A larval host plant for Palamedes swallowtail (*Papilio palamedes*) and Spicebush swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) butterflies.

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**Morella cerifera** • Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry

A wispy, 6 - 15 ft., multi-trunked, **evergreen** shrub that can reach 20 ft. in height. Light olive-green foliage has **spicy fragrance**. Flowers in March and April. **Pale blue berries** occur on female plants in winter. Handsome gray bark is almost white on some plants.

- Full sun, part shade
- Wet, sandy, slightly acidic soils (fast-growing, tolerates poor drainage and drought)

*Leaves are aromatic, with an appealing, piquant fragrance when crushed. If you want berries you must have male plants close enough to the berry-producing female plants for pollination to occur.*

**ES Native Alternative to:**
- *Irvine Wilson/DCR*

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**Rhododendron atlanticum** • Dwarf Azalea

A 1-3 ft. colony-forming shrub, sending up short-lived flowering branches, high. White to pinkish, funnel-shaped flowers with protruding stamens occur in long-stalked clusters before or with the leaves in April to May. Leaves are distinctly blue-green.

- Part shade
- Well-drained, sandy soil

*Special note about Rhododendrons: These species contain poisonous substances and should not be ingested by humans or animals.*

**Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton**
**Rhododendron viscosum ● Swamp Azalea or Honeysuckle**

A 5 - 10 ft., loose, open, deciduous shrub growing to 12 ft. in width. One of the last azaleas to bloom. **White flowers** with a pleasantly sweet, spicy fragrance and a long, slender lavender-colored **corolla tube**, appear after the leaves in May – August. Fall foliage is orange to maroon.

- Sun to part shade
- Wet, acidic soil (flood tolerant)

*The fragrant flowers with their sticky corolla have given this shrub the names Clammy azalea and Swamp honeysuckle, although it is unrelated to honeysuckles. Viscosum means sticky in Latin.*

**Sambucus canadensis ● Common Elderberry**

A 6 - 12 ft., loose, graceful, deciduous shrub with both woody and herbaceous branches. Many long stems arise from the base, arching at the top. **White flowers (May to July)** in broad, flat, conspicuous clusters up to 10 inches or more in diameter. **Berrylike fruit is dark purple when ripe (Jul - Sept).**

- Part shade
- Tolerates a wide variety of wet to dry soils but prefers rich, moist, slightly acid soil.

*Prune heavily in winter to maintain thick form. Individual plants are very short-lived, however root masses produce new shoots. The genus name comes from Greek “sambuce”, an ancient musical instrument.*

**Rosa palustris ● Swamp Rose**

A 6 - 8 ft. upright shrub with numerous, bushy-branched, thorny stems and dark-green foliage. Produces showy, but short-lived, **dark rose-pink flowers in Jun - Aug**, which give way to smooth, red **hips** (fruit).

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Wet, moist, rich soils (salt tolerant and perfect for poorly-drained sites)

*Swamp Rose as a good selection for wet soils, flowers are followed by pea-sized red hips and leaves turn shades of red in fall.*

Member of the family Rosaceae which includes about 2,000 species of trees, shrubs, and herbs worldwide, including service-berries (Amelanchier), in addition to the many wild and cultivated types of roses. “Palustris” is Latin for “of marshes.”

**Stewartia malacodendron ● Silky Camellia**

Up to 10 ft., open-branched, deciduous shrub. Leaves are silky below and distinctly veined. **Flowers (Apr - Jun)** are white to cream-colored, 2–3 in. across, and saucer-shaped with crimped petals and numerous, conspicuous dark-purple stamen filaments and bluish anthers.

- Shade
- Acid, humus-rich, well-drained soils (prefers deep shade during heat of day, thrives on early morning sun)

*Genus honors John Stuart (1713-92), the Earl of Bute, a patron of botany. “Malacodendron” is Greek for soft tree, referring to the silky hairs on lower leaf surface.*
**Vaccinium corymbosum** • Highbush Blueberry

A 6 - 12 ft. deciduous shrub with numerous upright stems and twiggy branches forming a rounded, compact outline. Reddish-green spring leaves turn blue-green in summer and red, yellow, orange and purple in fall. **White or pink, bell-shaped flowers** in drooping clusters (Apr - Jun) are followed by edible, blue fruit.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Wet to dry, acid, rocky soils to organic peats (benefits from mulch; prune after fruiting)

Berries are relished by many birds and songbirds, including the Scarlet Tanager.

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**Vaccinium pallidum** • Early Lowbush Blueberry

A 1.5 - 2 ft. shrub with green bark, light to dark brown twigs, alternate, elliptic leaves dark green above, paler beneath. **Green-white to pink flowers** (March to May). Berries are dark blue to black and mature June to July.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist or dry, loam, sandy soils

Blueberries prefer acidic soils with sandy or rocky material.

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**Viburnum dentatum** • Arrow-wood

A 6 - 15 ft. deciduous shrub, sometimes taller, with multiple, erect-arching stems in a loose, round habit. **White, flat-topped flower** clusters in May – Jul are followed by **dark blue berries**. Lustrous, dark-green foliage turns yellow to wine-red in fall.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Dry to wet, acidic soils and sands

Flood, insect and disease tolerant. Attracts Eastern bluebird, Northern flicker, Gray catbird, and American robin. Larval host for Spring Azure butterfly (Celastrina ladon).

**ES Native Alternative to:**

*Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian olive)

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**Viburnum prunifolium** • Black Haw

A 12 - 15 ft., up tp 24 ft, sturdy, shapely deciduous shrub, rounded in outline, which bears many **white flower** clusters in Apr and May followed by **yellow berries turning blue-black**. Attractive, dark-green foliage becomes reddish-purple in fall.

- Part shade
- Moist to dry, well-drained soils (for best flowers and fruit, be sure blackhaw gets 4-5 hrs of sun/day)

The Latin “prunifolium” refers to the leaves’ plum-color in fall. For best flowers and fruit, give black haw at least one-half day of sunlight.

**ES Native Alternative to:**

*Ligustrum sinense* (Chinese privet)
Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton

**Amelanchier arborea • Downy Serviceberry, Shadbush**

A 15 - 30 ft with multiple, upright stems forming a dense shrub with a narrow crown and many small-diameter branches or, if properly pruned, a small tree. Trees can be trained to have, and are offered by nurseries, with one trunk. Ornamental white flowers (Mar - May) followed by red to purple fruit (Jun - Aug). Fruits are quickly eaten by birds. Brilliant fall color display ranging from yellow and orange to red.

- Full sun, part shade
- Moist, well-drained acidic soils

Serviceberry is good for multi-season interest and smaller gardens.

At least 40 bird species (e.g. Cardinals, Cedar Waxwing and Towhees) eat the fruit of Amelanchier species. It is beneficial to native bees.

**Betula nigra • River Birch**

This 30 - 75 ft gracefully branched tree, usually multi-trunked tree can reach 90 ft. It is an often slightly leaning and forked tree with irregular, spreading crown of several large, ascending limbs supporting slightly weeping branches. Produces a cone fruit. The tree’s selling point is its satiny, silver bark that peels to reveal a cinnamon-brown trunk beneath. Fall foliage is yellow.

- Sun to part shade
- Sandy or clay, moist, acidic soils (well-suited to areas that are periodically wet)

River Birch may grow with multiple trunks, adding interest in the garden. It is fast growing and long-lived.

**Celtis occidentalis • Common Hackberry**

A 30 - 100 ft deciduous tree, varying greatly in response to habitat. The broad crown is often erratic in shape with spreading or slightly drooping branches, often deformed as bushy growths called witches’-brooms. Older bark is covered with conspicuous, corky projections. Foliage is dull-green and rough. Orange-brown to dark-purple berries are arranged in clusters.

- Full sun, part shade
- Rich, moist soils. pH adaptable (drought tolerant)

Common name apparently derived from hagberry, meaning marsh berry, a name used in Scotland for a cherry.

Hackberries are among the best food and shelter plants for wildlife. The sweetish fruit is relished by birds, including woodpeckers and the Cedar Waxwing.

**Cercis canadensis • Eastern Redbud**

A 15 - 40 ft deciduous tree with one to several picturesque, maroon-purple trunks and a wide, umbrella-like crown. Its pink flowers (Apr - May), borne in tight clusters along the stems and branches before new leaves appear, create a showy spring display. Smooth, heart-shaped, deciduous foliage is golden yellow in autumn.

- Part shade, shade
- Moist, fertile, well-drained soils

ES Native Alternative to: Ailanthus altissima (tree of heaven)

Stunning ornamental. Attracts native bees, and tolerates deer browsing.
**Chionanthus virginicus • White Fringetree**

A 15 - 35 ft deciduous tree with short trunk, narrow, oblong crown and showy, drooping clusters of delicate, fragrant, white blossoms in May - Jun. Dark-blue, grape-like clusters of fruits are produced from female blossoms. Dark-green, glossy foliage and a pale-gray trunk with bands of white.

- Sun to part sun/shade
- Loose, moist, sandy soils

Fringetree is one of the last trees to bear new leaves in spring. It is a slow grower. The genus name “Chionanthus”, meaning snow and flower, describes the blossoms.

Hosts 8 species of native caterpillars and attracts bees, native bees, bumblebees and butterflies. It tolerates pollution.

**Diospyros virginiana • Common Persimmon**

This deciduous tree can grow 50 up to 100 ft in moist, rich soil and has a spreading crown and pendulous branches. Bell-shaped, yellow flowers (Apr - Jun). Large, oval, mature leaves usually become yellow-green in fall. On old trunks the bark is thick and dark-gray to almost black and broken into scaly, squarish blocks. Best-known by its large, sweet, orange fruit in autumn.

- Part shade
- Moist, rich, sandy, loam or clay, acidic or calcareous soils

Attracts wildlife and is larval host to the Luna Moth (Actias luna). This tree can be used for erosion control. Usually free of disease or insect problems.

**Cornus amomum • Red Willow, Silky Dogwood**

A 6 - 10 ft small tree or a multi-stemmed shrub with an upright rounded growth habit however, where stems are in contact with the ground, roots are formed. This behavior creates thickets. Young dogwoods have bright red stems in the fall, winter and early spring, which turn reddish-brown in the summer. As the shrub matures, the stems turn reddish-brown year-round and later gray. Yellowish-white flowers (Mar - Apr) and bluish colored fruit (Sept).

- Part shade, shade
- Moist, clay, loam, sandy soils

Attracts birds and is a beautiful ornamental that can help stabilize soil and provide a wildlife border.

**Ilex opaca • American Holly, Christmas Holly**

This evergreen tree ranges from 25 ft to as tall as 60 ft. Its stout, stiff branches form a pyramidal shape and bear dark-green, non-glossy, spine-tipped leaves. New growth pushes off the old leaves in spring. Bright red berries occur on female plants. Shorter, multi-trunked form may grow in lower-light situations. The bark is a light-gray color.

- Part shade
- Moist, well-drained, sandy, acidic soils

Many kinds of songbirds eat the bitter berries of this slow-growing but long-lived tree.

**Ailanthus altissima (tree of heaven)**

ES Native Alternative to: Ailanthus altissima (tree of heaven)
**Juniperus virginiana** • Eastern Redcedar

A 30 - 40 ft (can reach 90 ft) evergreen, aromatic tree with trunk often angled and buttressed at base. Pyramidal when young, mature form is quite variable. Fragrant, scale-like foliage can be coarse or fine-cut, and varies in color from gray, blue-, to dark-green. All colors tend to brown in winter. Pale blue fruits occur on female plants. Soft, silvery bark covers the single trunk.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Dry, limestone soils (adaptable)

Juicy berries consumed by wildlife, including the Cedar waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum), named for this tree.

**Liriodendron tulipifera** • Tuliptree, Tulip Poplar

One of the tallest - up to 150 ft - deciduous eastern hardwoods, with a long, straight trunk; a narrow crown that spreads with age; large showy, yellow-orange, flowers resembling tulips or lilies (Apr - Jun); and, distinctive, waxy, star-shaped foliage that turns bright gold in fall. Flowers are up 50 ft or higher. Cone-shaped seedheads remain after leaves have fallen.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Rich, moist acidic soils

Insect and disease free. Favorite nesting tree, flowers attract hummingbirds and larval host to the Eastern tiger swallowtail (Papilio glaucus). One of the most beautiful hardwood forest trees.

**Magnolia virginiana** • Sweetbay Magnolia

A slender, 12 - 30 ft (occasionally growing to 50 ft) evergreen tree with pale grey bark and multiple, slender, upright trunks bearing horizontal branches. Aromatic, spicy foliage semi-evergreen to evergreen and dark green in the South. Solitary, velvety-white, fragrant flowers (May - Jul) followed by dark red aggregate fruits exposing bright red seeds.

- Part shade
- Moist, rich, sandy, loam, acidic soils

Sweetbay Magnolia was introduced into European gardens as early as 1688. Called “Beavertree” by colonists who caught beavers in traps baited with the fleshy roots.

**Nyssa sylvatica** • Blackgum

A 30 - 75 ft variable-shaped, deciduous tree with horizontally spreading branches. A bottle-shaped trunk forms if grown in shallow standing water. Smooth, waxy, dark-green summer foliage changes to fluorescent yellow, orange, scarlet and purple in fall. (Trees in warmer climates may not be as colorful.) Berries are small and blue.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Various moist, acidic, gravelly soils (species tolerates drier sites and tolerates poor drainage)

Nectar used by bees to make highly-prized tupelo honey. Juicy fruit is consumed by many birds and mammals. Hosts 25 species of native caterpillars.

**Nyssa sylvatica** • Blackgum

Blackgum is one of the first plants to color in fall.
**Prunus serotina** • Black Cherry

A 40 - 75 ft deciduous tree, distinctly conical in youth. When open-grown it becomes oval-headed with spreading, pendulous limbs and arching branches. Crowded trees grow tall and slender. Oblong leaves shiny on the upper surface. **Drooping white flowers (May-Jun)** appear after leaves emerge. **Dark red fruit changes to black from Aug-Oct.** Crushed foliage and bark have distinctive cherry-like odor and bitter taste. Fall foliage is yellow.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist to dry, well-drained soils

Largest, most important native cherry, known for the beauty and quality of its wood. Easy to grow. When crushed, leaves and bark have a cherry-like odor.

Wildlife eat the fruit. Larval host to many moths and butterflies, including the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio glaucus*). Fruit is relished by birds. All other parts are are poisonous.

**Salix nigra** • Black Willow

A 10 - 60 ft tree with an open crown often with several trunks growing out at angles from one root. Leaf blades up to 5 inches long, narrow and tapering. Bright yellow-green twigs bear **yellow-green catkins**. Flowers inconspicuous, arranged in elongate clusters which appear in **March and April**; male and female flowers on separate trees. Seeds wind-borne on silky hairs. The bark is deeply furrowed.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Wet, moist, clay or sandy soils (fast-growing but short-lived)

ES Native Alternative to: *Salix sepulcralis* (Weeping willow)

Shade tree. Early season harvest for songbirds. A larval host for the Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*).

**Quercus falcata** • Southern Red Oak

An up tp 70 ft tree, although it is usually somewhat shorter, Straight-trunked. In time, develops long, spreading branches, giving the top an even, well-formed appearance. Its smooth gray bark becomes dark and furrowed, eventually becoming black. **Yellow flowers** appear in **Apr - May**. Papery leaves turn reddish-brown in fall. Acorns appear biennially.

- Part shade
- Dry, sandy, loamy or clay acid-based soils

Southern Red Oak grows relatively quickly, for an oak, and it is long-lived. It is often called Spanish Oak, possibly because it commonly occurs in areas of the early Spanish colonies, yet it is unlike any oaks native to Spain.

Provides shade and a nesting site for birds.

**Sassafras albidum** • Sassafras

A 35 - 50 ft deciduous tree with horizontal branching in cloud-like tiers. Mahogany-brown bark deeply ridged and furrowed. Little bunches of **yellow-green flower balls (Mar-May)** scattered profusely over the female tree; more sparsely on the male. **Dark-blue fruits** on scarlet stalks appear on female plants in late summer. Bright-green, mitten-shaped, oval, or three-lobed leaves have outstanding fall color.

- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist but well-drained, rich, sandy, acidic soils

Although Sassafras grows most quickly in fertile soil, it is an appropriate tree to introduce into disturbed sites.

Flowers attract native bees, pollinators. Fruit attracts songbirds. Hosts 36 species of native caterpillars, including Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio Troilus*) and Promethea Silkmoth (*Callosamia promethean*).
Get a closer look at the natives featured in this guide!

Plant ID markers in the demo gardens identify each native plant species by Latin and common name, and provide a line drawing, description, and characteristics of the plant, its growing requirements, and interesting facts and history.

**Demonstration Gardens**

Visit the Plant ES Natives demonstration garden webpage for more detail - [www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/NativePlants.aspx](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/NativePlants.aspx).

1. Chincoteague Island Nature Trail Shady Landscaping
2. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Bird and Butterfly Gardens
3. Onancock School Nature Trail
4. Onley Community Health Center Healing Garden
5. Wachapreague Seaside Park Shoreline Garden
6. Willis Wharf Shoreline Landscape
7. UVA Anheuser Busch Coastal Research Center Maritime Forest Landscaping and Butterfly Garden
8. Kiptopeke State Park Habitat Garden
9. Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge Pollinator Gardens
1. Chincoteague Island Nature Trail Shady Landscape

The landscaping of this demonstration site was kept as natural as possible and includes Eastern Shore natives that do well in shady moist conditions. The plants were covered with pinestraw and blend beautifully into the existing native vegetation.

Designed by Kim Owen, a local landscaper, this site was funded by the Virginia CZM Program and is being maintained by Eastern Shore Master Gardeners.

ES native plants of note at the site include:

- Amelanchier arborea – Downy Serviceberry
- Clethera alnifolia – Coastal White-alder, Pepperbush
- Osmunda cinnamomea – Cinnamon Fern
- Osmunda regalis – Royal Fern
- Polystichum acrostichoides – Christmas Fern

2. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Bird and Butterfly Gardens

This site includes two demonstration gardens, one with species that attract butterflies and another that demonstrates how to create backyard bird habitat by providing food (native plants & bird feeders), water and cover (native plants & brush pile). The Visitor Center installed an interpretive display inside the center in front of a very large window that overlooks the garden. Parachute cord hangs in front of the window to prevent birds from striking the window and hurting themselves (photo at left). The display area includes binoculars, bird books, a wildlife sighting recording binder, and outreach material on how to create a backyard wildlife habitat, along with chairs so that visitors can sit back and relax as they gaze out on the garden.

The project was a cooperative effort among the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists with many volunteers from each organization.

Top - view of bird garden from inside visitor center. Middle - Black Cherry. Bottom - American Holly.

ES native plants of note at the site include:

- Juniperus virginiana – Eastern Redcedar
- Ilex opaca – American Holly
- Morella Pensylvanica – Northern Bayberry
- Prunus serotina – Black Cherry
- Solidago sempervirens – Seaside Goldenrod
3. Onancock School Nature Trail

This native landscape is along a trail and branch of Onancock Creek at the Onancock School. The first major planting in 2010 was funded by a Chesapeake Bay License Plate grant. Many local groups and businesses partnered in installation of the site including: Friends of Onancock School, T & W Block, Tidewater Growers, B.S. Troop 313, Garden Club of the Eastern Shore and S & T Construction. In the fall of 2013, a riparian buffer of native trees was installed through a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and a raingarden will be installed with natives donated by Debedeavon Garden Club.

ES native plants of note at the site include:

- Acer Rubrum – Red Maple
- Fagus Grandifolia – American Beech
- Liriodendron Tulipifera – Tuliptree
- Nyssa Sylvetica – Blackgum
- Platanus occidentalis – Sycamore

4. Onley Community Health Center Healing Garden

This garden highlights the therapeutic power of Eastern Shore native plants, and was installed in 2011 as part of a sustainable landscape. Signage will highlight the link between healthy landscapes and healthy people. Installation of this site was a partnership between the Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Council.

ES native plants of note at the site include:

- Asclepias tuberosa – Butterflyweed
- Baccharis halimifolia – Groundsel Tree
- Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe-pye weed
- Itea virginica – Virginia Sweetspire
- Viburnum dentatum – Arrowwood
5. Wachapreague Seaside Park Seaside Garden

This approximately 12,000 sq ft garden is located within Seaside Park at the edge of an Atlantic coastal marsh in the heart of Wachapreague. It showcases a diverse array of Eastern Shore native plants that are especially tolerant of salt water intrusion. The garden is a living testimony to the resilience of native plants having been flooded twice since installation! This site, maintained by the town, was funded by the Virginia CZM Program and designed and installed by Kim Owen, a local landscape designer. The town has installed benches, donated by citizens in dedication to loved ones, and is considering the addition of a pergola for native vines and interpretive signage to highlight native plant benefits.

ES native plants of note at the site include:

- *Baccharis halimifolia* - High-tide Bush (Groundsel Tree)
- *Hibiscus moscheutos* - Eastern Rosemallow
- *Morella cerifera* - Wax Myrtle
- *Platanus occidentalis* - Sycamore
- *Solidago sempervirens* - Seaside Goldenrod

6. Willis Wharf Shoreline Landscaping

The Eastern Shore natives planted at this demonstration site can tolerate bright sun and salt spray. The site was designed by Appleseed Nurseries, Inc, a local landscaper, and installed with assistance from Eastern Shore Master Naturalists. The observation platform and native landscaping, funded by the Virginia CZM Program, served as a backdrop for the launch of the “Plant ES Natives” campaign on April 24, 2009.

ES native plants of note at the site include:

- *Diospyros virginiana* – Common Persimmon
- *Juniperus virginiana* – Eastern Redcedar
- *sempervirens* – Coral or Trumpet Honeysuckle
- *Morella pennsylvanica* – Northern Bayberry
- *Panicum virgatum* – Switch Grass
ES native plants of note at the site include:

- Callicarpa Americana – Beautyberry
- Cercis Canadensis – Redbud
- Parthenocissus quinquefolia – Virginia Creeper
- Quercus stellata – Post Oak
- Sassafras albidum – Sassafras

Eastern Shore Master Gardeners designed and installed this garden in Kiptopeke State Park on the 26-acre CZM/ Taylor Tract. Over 900 native forbs, shrubs, vines and small trees (17 species) were planted along the garden’s walkway as part of a Virginia CZM Program grant to the park to restore habitat on the property and provide public access amenities. Native vines cling to a pergola arching over a bench in the garden inviting visitors to relax and enjoy the garden and a view of a pond. Signage highlights the value of natives. Master Gardeners work with Park staff to maintain the garden.

ES native plants of note at the site include:

- Amelanchier arborea – Downy Serviceberry
- Bignonia capreolata – Crossvine
- Coreopsis lanceolata – Lanceleaf Coreopsis
- Sisyrinchium angustifolium – Blue-eyed grass
- Wisteria frutescens – Atlantic wisteria
A wide variety of Virginia native plants attract pollinators to three gardens at the Refuge, installed in partnership with Refuge volunteers, the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, Eastern Shore SWCD, The Nature Conservancy, Virginia CZM Program, Virginia Field Office Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and Youth Conservation Corps - front of visitor center (top image), next to office (bottom left) and behind visitor center (bottom right). Bring your camera and binoculars, and surround yourself with the gardens’ many floral colors and smells as you stroll along pathways in and around the gardens.

**ES native plants of note at the site include:**

Asclepias tuberosa – Butterfly-weed  
Asimina triloba – Pawpaw  
Helianthus angustifolius – Narrow-leaved Sunflower  
Lobelia cardinalis – Cardinal Flower  
Monarda fistulosa - Bergamot

Downy Serviceberry is the symbol of the “Plant ES Natives” campaign and featured in the campaign logo. It attracts over 40 species of bird. See page 28.
About Native Plants *

Online:
- Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora
  http://vaplantatlas.org/
- Field Guide to Virginia Salt and Brackish Marsh Plants, William & Mary Virginia Institute of Marine Science
  www.ccrm.vims.edu/wetlands/wetland_plants/8x11brochureannotated2rh.pdf
- Flora of Virginia Project
  http://www.floraofvirginia.org
- Flora of North America
  www.fna.org/
- Virginia Native Plant Society
  www.vnps.org/
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center of the University of Texas at Austin
  www.wildflower.org/
- Native Plant Center: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Native Plants for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
  http://nativeplantcenter.net/
- Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping, VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage
  www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml
- Native Gardening with Wildflowers, U. S. Forest Service
  www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/NativePlant_Materials/Native_Gardening/index.shtml
- USDA Plants Database
  http://plants.usda.gov/

Print:
- The American Woodland Garden, Rick Darke, 2002
- Common Native Trees of Virginia and Common Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of Virginia, Virginia Department of Forestry
  www.dof.virginia.gov
- Ferns and Mosses of Virginia’s Coastal Plain, Helen Hamilton, 2016
- Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses, William Cullina, 2008
- Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, US Fish and Wildlife Service (also available online), 2003
- Teaming with Microbes, Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis, 2010
- Wildflowers and Grasses of Virginia’s Coastal Plain, Helen Hamilton and Gustavus Hall, 2013

About Landscaping with Natives *

Online:
- Audubon Guide to a Healthy Yard and Beyond
  www.audubon.org/bird/pesticide.html
- Backyard Habitat, National Wildlife Federation
  www.nwf.org/In-Your-Backyard.aspx
- Better Backyard—A Citizen’s Resource Guide to Beneficial Landscaping and Habitat Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay
  Chesapeake Bay Program, (61-page downloadable booklet)
  www.chesapeakebay.net/content/publications/cbp_12259.pdf
- Conservation Landscaping Guidelines-The Eight Essential Elements, Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council (33-pg downloadable booklet)
  www.chesapeakelandscape.org
- Habitat at Home (basic overview), Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

* Please cross-reference the plants referenced in these resources with this guide and the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora to determine whether they are native to Accomack and Northampton counties.
Habitat Gardening for Wildlife (34 pg guide), Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Hometown Habitat (film), by Catherine Zimmerman in partnership with Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Council
http://themeadowproject.com/hometown-habitat/

Living Shoreline Design
http://ccrm.vims.edu/livingshores/index.html (go to “Plants and Vendors”)

Audubon Plants for Birds Campaign
www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds

Pollinator Partnership
www.pollinator.org/

Pollinators, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov/pollinators/Index.html

U.S.D.A. Forest Service: Pollinators
www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators

Wild Ones Handbook Online-Landscaping with Native Plants
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/greenacres/wildones

WINGS: Essays on Invertebrate Conservation, Xerces Society
www.xerces.org/wings-magazine/

Planning to hire a landscaper?
Find out more about this new certification program at cblpro.org.

Print:
Armitage’s Native Plants for North American Gardens, 2006, Allan M. Armitage
Attracting Birds, Butterflies & Other Winged Wonders to Your Backyard, Kris Wetherbee, 2004
Attracting Butterflies & Hummingbirds to Your Backyard, Sally Roth, 2001

Virginia Native Plant Marketing Partnership
Learn more about how partners in Virginia are collaborating to market and increase the supply and use of Virginia native plants - www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/NativePlants.aspx


http://bringingnaturehome.net/nativegardening/gardening-for-life


Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes, Thomas Rainer & Claudia West


Pollinators of Native Plants, Heather Holm, Pollination Press LLC, 2014

The Forgotten Pollinators, Stephen L. Buchmann and Gary Paul Nabhan, 1997

The Xerces Society Guide to Attracting Native Pollinators, Eric Mader, et al., 2011


The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden, Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy, 2014
Shade Tolerant Species:

Forbs
- Chelone glabra - White Turtlehead (p.11)
- Mitchella repens - Partridge-berry (p.13)
- Saururus cernuus - Lizard’s Tail (p.15)

Ferns
- Athyrium asplenoides - Southern Lady Fern (p.18)
- Dryopteris intermedia - Evergreen Wood Fern (p.18)
- Onoclea sensibilis - Sensitive Fern (p.18)
- Osmunda spectabilis - Royal Fern (p.19)
- Osmundastrum cinnamomeum - Cinnamon Fern (p.18)
- Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas Fern (p.19)
- Woodwardia virginica - Virginia Chain Fern (p.19)

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- Athyrium asplenoides - Southern Lady Fern (p.18)
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- Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas Fern (p.19)
- Woodwardia virginica - Virginia Chain Fern (p.19)

Vines
- Clematis virginiana - Virgin’s-bower (p.20)
- Parthenocissus quinquefolia - Virginia Creeper (p.21)
- Wisteria frutescens - American Wisteria (p.21)

Shrubs
- Alnus serrulata - Smooth Alder (p.22)
- Cephalanthus occidentalis - Buttonbush (p.23)
- Hamamelis virginiana - Witch Hazel (p.23)
- Ilex verticillata - Winterberry (p.24)
- Linderia benzoin - Spicebush (p.25)
- Sambucus canadensis - Common Elderberry (p.26)
- Stewartia malacodendron - Silky Camellia (p.26)
- Vaccinium corymbosum - Highbush Blueberry (p.27)
- Vaccinium pallidum - Early Lowbush Blueberry (p.27)
- Viburnum dentatum - Arrow-wood (p.27)

Trees
- Celtis occidentalis - Common Hackberry (p.28)
- Cercis canadensis - Redbud (p.28)
- Cornus amomum - Silky Dogwood (p.29)
- Liriodendron tulipifera - Tulip-tree (p.30)
- Nyssa sylvatica - Black Gum (p.30)
- Prunus serotina - Wild Black Cherry (p.31)
- Sassafras albidum - Sassafras (p.31)

High Moisture Tolerant Species (Freshwater):

Forbs
- Asclepias incarnata - Swamp milkweed (p.10)
- Arisaema triphyllum - Jack in the pulpit
- Chelone glabra - White Turtlehead (p.11)
- Hibiscus moscheutos - Swamp rose-mallow (p.12)
- Impatiens capensis - Orange jewelweed
- Iris versicolor - Larger Blue Flag (p.12)
- Iris virginica - Virginia Blue Flag
- Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal flower (p.13)
- Nymphaea odorata - White water lily
- Pontederia cordata - Pickerelweed (p.14)

Grasses
- Juncus effusus - Common Rush (p.17)
- Spartina cynosuroides - Big Cordgrass
- Zizania aquatica - Southern Wild Rice

Shrubs
- Alnus serrulata - Smooth Alder (p.22)
- Cephalanthus occidentalis - Buttonbush (p.23)
- Hamamelis virginiana - Witch Hazel (p.23)
- Rhododendron viscosum - Swamp Azalea (p.26)
- Rosa palustris - Swamp Rose (p.26)

Trees
- Betula nigra - River Birch (p.28)
- Salix nigra - Black Willow (p.31)
- Acer rubrum - Red Maple
- Magnolia virginiana - Sweetbay Magnolia (p.30)
- Nyssa aquatica - Water Tupelo
- Nyssa sylvatica - Black Gum (p.30)
- Quercus michauxii - Swamp Chestnut Oak
- Taxodium distichum - Baldcypress
Sand Tolerant Species:

Forbs
- **Baptisia tinctoria** - Yellow Wild Indigo (p.10)
- **Oenothera fruticosa** - Narrow-leaf Sundrops (p.14)
- **Solidago sempervirens** - Seaside Goldenrod (p.15)

Grasses
- **Ammophila breviligulata** - American Beach Grass (p.16)
- **Andropogon glomeratus** - Bushy Bluestem (p.16)
- **Andropogon virginicus** - Broomsedge (p.16)
- **Panicum amarum** - Coastal panic grass (p.17)
- **Panicum virgatum** - Switchgrass (p.17)
- **Schizachyrium scoparium** - Little Bluestem (p.17)

Vines
- **Campsis radicans** - Trumpet-creeper (p.20)
- **Lonicera sempervirens** - Coral Honeysuckle (p.21)
- **Parthenocissus quinquefolia** - Virginia-creeper (p.21)

Shrubs
- **Baccharis halimifolia** - High-tide Bush, Groundsel (p.22)
- **Callicarpa americana** - American Beauty-berry (p.22)
- **Ilex verticillata** - Winterberry (p.24)
- **Ilex vomitoria** - Yaupon (p.24)
- **Morella cerifera** - Wax Myrtle (p.25)
- **Rhododendron atlanticum** - Dwarf Azalea (p.25)
- **Rosa palustris** - Swamp Rose (p.26)
- **Vaccinium pallidum** - Early Lowbush Blueberry (p.27)

Trees
- **Celtis occidentalis** - Common Hackberry (p.28)
- **Chionanthus virginicus** - Fringetree (p.29)
- **Diospyros virginiana** - Common Persimmon (p.29)
- **Ilex opaca** - American Holly (p.29)
- **Juniperus virginiana** - Eastern Redcedar (p.30)
- **Prunus serotina** - Wild Black Cherry (p.31)
- **Quercus falcata** - Southern Red Oak (p.31)
- **Sassafras albidum** - Sassafras (p.31)

Salt Tolerant Species:

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- **Kosteletzkyana pentacarpos** - Seashore Mallow (p.13)
- **Oenothera fruticosa** - Narrow-leaf Sundrops (p.14)
- **Solidago sempervirens** - Seaside Goldenrod (p.15)

Grasses
- **Ammophila breviligulata** - American Beach Grass (p.16)
- **Panicum amarum** - Switchgrass (p.17)

Shrubs
- **Baccharis halimifolia** - High-tide Bush, Groundsel (p.22)
- **Morella cerifera** - Wax Myrtle (p.25)
- **Iva frutescens** - Marsh-elder (p.24)

Forbs
- **Campsis radicans** - Trumpet-creeper (p.20)
- **Lonicera sempervirens** - Coral Honeysuckle (p.21)
- **Parthenocissus quinquefolia** - Virginia-creeper (p.21)
Plant & S Natives
They’re Shore Beautiful!