

## Native Plants for Wet Soil Conditions

The plants below thrive in wet soils, absorb excess water, and reduce stormwater runoff. They look nice, are easy to care for, and need no fertilizers or pesticides. They're native to Northern Virginia and provide essential food for insects, birds, and other wildlife.

### Shrubs

Inkberry holly – *Ilex glabra*

Virginia sweetspire – *Itea virginica*

Buttonbush – *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Arrowwood viburnum – *Viburnum dentatum*

Mapleleaf viburnum – *Viburnum acerifolium*

Silky dogwood – *Cornus sericea*

Silky willow – *Salix sericea*

Winterberry holly – *Ilex verticillata* (need male and female for berries)

### Small Trees

Sweetbay magnolia – *Magnolia virginiana*

Elderberry – *Sambucus canadensis*

Hornbeam/ironwood – *Carpinus caroliniana*

Pawpaw – *Asimina triloba* (need more than one for fruit)

Fringetree – *Chionanthus virginicus*

### Large Trees

Pin oak – *Quercus palustris*

Swamp white oak – *Quercus bicolor*

River birch – *Betula nigra*

Bald cypress – *Taxodium distichum*

Sweetgum – *Nyssa Sylvatica*

Red maple – *Acer rubrum*

### Perennials

Golden ragwort – *Packera aurea*

Blue mistflower – *Conoclinium coelestinum*

Sensitive fern – *Onoclea sensibilis*

Blue flag iris – *Iris versicolor*

Hardy hibiscus – *Hibiscus moscheutos*

Common boneset – *Eupatorium perfoliatum*

Swamp milkweed – *Asclepias incarnata*

### Grasslike Plants

Lurid sedge – *Carex lurida*

Common rush – *Juncus effusus*

Seersucker sedge – *Carex plantaginea*

River oats – *Chasmanthium latifolium*

## More info

### Where can I get the plants?

Arlington's [Tree Planting Programs](#) (free!)

Native plant sales

[Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale](#), Fall sale is Sept 28, 2019

Long Branch Nature Center's annual [Native Plant Sale](#)

See the [List of Local Native Plant Sales](#) from Plant NOVA Natives

[Nature by Design](#), Alexandria

[Earth Sangha](#), Springfield

Conventional garden centers may also carry the plants, but they may have less knowledge about natives. Confirm using scientific plant names, and confirm the plants aren't treated with [neonicotinoid](#) pesticides, which are contributing to the decline in bee populations. Avoid "big box" stores, which often carry plants treated with neonicotinoids.

### Is there a guide with lists of native plants for different spots?

See the [Plant NOVA Natives](#) Guide.

### Are there financial incentives for using these plants?

Possibly: See Arlington's [StormwaterWise Landscapes](#) program.

### Where can I learn more about managing stormwater?

See Arlington County's [Managing Stormwater at Home](#)

### Where can I learn about the benefits of native plants in home landscapes?

Douglas Tallamy's books [Bringing Nature Home](#) and [The Living Landscape](#); see also [bringingnaturehome.net](#)

[Audubon at Home's](#) Wildlife Sanctuary Program