



NATIVE PLANTS & SHRUBS SPECIES

List Category

- Plant type: Fern
- Plant type: Rush
- Plant type: Grass
- Plant type: Sedge
- Plant type: Perennial
- Plant type: Shrub

Light Exposure

- Sun
- Partial shade
- Shade

Bloom Period

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

NAME FEATURES GROWTH NEEDS SUGGESTED SPECIES

Plant Type: Fern

| Common | Botanical | Mature Height (m) | Mature Width (m) | Spacing (m) | Hardiness Zones | Light Exposure | Soil Preference | Tolerances | Location | Usage | Bloom Period | Suggested Species | Notes |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|---|------------|-----------------|--------------|---|---|
| Bulblet Fern | Cystopteris bulbifera | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.60 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, wet soil | Understory | Woodland | N/A | | Good in woodland settings or along ponds and streams. |
| Christmas Fern | Polystichum acrostichoides | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.60 | Zones 3-8 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil, rabbit, rocky soil | Understory | Erosion control | N/A | | Great for dry shade, underplanting. Good on slopes for erosion. |
| Hart's Tongue Fern | Asplenium scolopendrium | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.50 | Zones 5-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, rabbit | Understory | Woodland | N/A | | Clump forming. |
| Hay-scented Fern | Dennstaedtia punctilobula | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.60 – 0.90 | Zones 3-8 | | Moist, well drained | Rabbit | Understory | Woodland | N/A | | Fast growing, will form colonies. Useful as ground cover. |
| Interrupted Fern | Osmunda spp. | 0.60 – 1.80 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.90 | Zones 3-10 | | Moist, well drained | Clay soil, deer, rabbit, wet soil | Understory | Woodland | N/A | O. claytoniana (Interrupted Fern), O. regalis (Royal Fern), O. cinnamomea (Cinnamon Fern) | Underplanting in wet conditions. Clump forming. |
| Lady Fern | Athrium filix-femina | 0.30 – 0.90 | 0.30 – 0.90 | 0.60 | Zones 4-8 | | Moist, well drained | N/A | Understory | Woodland | N/A | | Good in moist woods, thickets and ravines. |
| Northern Maidenhair Fern | Adiantum pedatum | 0.30 – 0.90 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.60 | Zones 3-8 | | Moist, well drained | N/A | Understory | Woodland | N/A | | Grow in wet to moist conditions. |
| Ostrich Fern | Matteuccia struthiopteris | 1.20 – 1.80 | 0.90 – 1.20 | 0.90 – 1.20 | Zones 3-7 | | Moist, well drained | Clay soil, deer, rabbit, wet soil | Understory | Naturalizing | N/A | | Clump forming, good for naturalization. |
| Polypod, Rock Fern | Polypodium spp. | 0.15 – 0.30 | 0.15 – 0.30 | 0.30 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Dry soil, rabbit, rocky soil | Understory | Spreading | N/A | P. virginianum (Rock Fern), P. glycyrrhiza (Licorice Fern) | Spreads easily and will form colonies on rocks and trunks. |
| Sensitive Fern | Onoclea sensibilis | 0.90 – 1.20 | 0.90 – 1.20 | 1.20 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Clay soil, deer, rabbit, wet soil | Understory | Woodland | N/A | | Underplanting in wet conditions. Clump forming. Streams, ponds, bog garden. |
| Wood Fern | Dryopteris spp. | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.60 | Zones 3-8 | | Moist, well drained | Rabbit | Understory | Woodland | N/A | D. marginalis (Marginal Wood Fern), D. cristata (Crested Wood Fern), D. carthusiana (Sprunlose Wood Fern), D. goldiana (Golden Wood Fern), D. filix-mas (Male Fern) | Prefers location sheltered from the wind. |

Plant Type: Grass

| Common | Botanical | Mature Height (m) | Mature Width (m) | Spacing (m) | Hardiness Zones | Light Exposure | Soil Preference | Tolerances | Location | Usage | Bloom Period | Suggested Species | Notes |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---|---|
| Big Bluestem | Andropogon gerardi | 1.20 – 1.80 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.90 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil | Open field | Erosion control | | | Excellent for drought-prone locations, on slopes and erosion control. |
| Canada Blue-Joint | Calamagrostis canadensis | 0.90 – 1.50 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.90 | Zones 2-6 | | Moist, well drained | Wet soil | Groundcover | Erosion control | | | Shallow roots and rapid spread form good sod on wet sites. Provides bank stabilization. |
| Canada Wild Rye | Elymus spp. | 0.60 – 1.50 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.90 | Zones 3-8 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil | Open field | Erosion control | | E. canadensis (Canada Wild Rye), E. virginicus (Virginia Rye), E. hystrix (Bottlebrush grass) | Fast growing, good on banks and slopes for erosion control. |
| Cordgrass | Spartina pectinata | 1.00 – 1.20 | 1.00 – 1.20 | 1.00 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Drought | Open field | Spreading | | | Spreads by rhizomes to form large colonies. |
| Gramma | Bouteloua spp. | 0.20 – 0.75 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.25 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil, rocky soil | Open field | Adaptable | | B. curtipendula (Side Oats Gramma), B. gracilis (Blue Gramma) | Grows well in wide range of soil conditions. |
| Hairgrass | Deschampsia cespitosa | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.60 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, salt, rabbit | Open field | Spreading | | | Drought tolerant once established. Self-seeds freely. |
| Indiangrass | Sorghastrum nutans | 0.90 – 1.50 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.50 – 0.60 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil, rocky soil | Open field | Erosion control | | E. canadensis (Élyme du Canada), E. virginicus (Élyme de Virginie), E. hystrix (Élyme étalé) | Excellent for drought-prone locations, naturalizing and on slopes for erosion control. |
| Little Bluestem | Schizachyrium scoparium (formally Andropogon scoparius) | 0.60 – 1.20 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.50 – 0.60 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil, rocky soil | Open field | Erosion control | | | Natural landscaping, erosion control on banks and slopes. |
| Northern Sea Oats | Chasmanthium latifolium | 0.60 – 1.50 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.50 | Zones 3-8 | | Moist, well drained | Deer | Understory | Spreading | | | A shade-tolerant grass. Robust spreading growth. |
| Prairie Dropseed | Sporobolus heterolepis | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.60 – 0.90 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil, rocky soil | Open field | Adaptable | | | Can be grown in various soil conditions. |
| Sweetgrass | Anthoxanthum hitum | 0.90 – 1.20 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.90 | | | Moist, well drained | Wet soil | Groundcover | Spreading | | | Grows well in marshes and wet conditions. It spreads by rhizomes and can be aggressive in moist conditions. |
| Switchgrass | Panicum virgatum | 0.90 – 1.80 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.60 – 0.90 | Zones 5-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil, wet soil | Open field | Spreading | | | Will spread underground through rhizomes and seeds. |

Plant Type: Perennial

| Common | Botanical | Mature Height (m) | Mature Width (m) | Spacing (m) | Hardiness Zones | Light Exposure | Soil Preference | Tolerances | Location | Usage | Bloom Period | Suggested Species | Notes |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|--|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---|---|
| Anemone | Anemone spp. | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.20 – 0.90 | 0.80 – 0.90 | Zones 3-8 | | Moist, acidic | Clay soil, deer, wet soil | Groundcover | Spreading | | A. cylindrica (Long Fruited Anemone), A. canadensis (Meadow Anemone) | Spreads by rhizomes to form dense clumps. Good groundcover for wet locations. |
| Aster | Aster | 0.30 – 0.90 | 0.30 – 0.45 | 0.30 – 0.45 | Zones 3-10 | | Moist, well drained | Clay soil, drought, dry soil, rocky soil | Open field | Spreading | | A. symphyotrichum novae-angliae (New England Aster), A. symphyotrichum ericoides (White Heath Aster), A. laevis (Smooth Aster), A. alpinus (Alpine Aster) | Great source of pollen in fall. Spreading root growth will form ground cover. |
| Baneberry | Actaea spp. | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.25 – 0.30 | 0.30 | Zones 4-8 | | Moist, well drained | Wet soil | Understory | Naturalizing | | A. racemosa (Black Snakeroot), A. pachyoda (White Baneberry), A. rubra (Red Baneberry) | Naturalized areas. |
| Bergamot / Bee Balm | Monarda spp. | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.30 – 0.90 | 0.60 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, rabbit | Open field | Spreading | | M. fistulosa (Wild Bergamot), M. didyma (Bee Balm) | Spreads easily to form clumps. Great pollinator. |
| Bleeding Heart | Dicentra spp. | 0.15 – 0.30 | 0.15 – 0.30 | 0.30 | Zones 3-8 | | Moist, well drained | Clay soil, rabbit | Understory | Woodland | | D. formosa (Pacific Bleeding Heart), D. cucullaria (Dutchman's Breeches), D. eximia (Fringed Bleeding Heart), D. canadensis (Squirrel Corn) | Early spring pollinators, may die back after flowering. |
| Bunch Berry | Cornus spp. | 0.10 – 0.25 | 0.15 – 0.30 | 0.30 | Zones 2-7 | | Moist, acidic | Deer, rabbit | Groundcover | Spreading | | C. canadensis (Bunchberry), C. unalaschcensis (Western Bunchberry) | Excellent as ground cover in wet conditions |
| Canadian Columbine | Aquilegia spp. | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.30 – 0.60 | Zones 3-8 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, dry soil, rabbit | Understory | Adaptable | | A. canadensis (Canadian Columbine), A. formosa (Red Columbine) | Will reseed easily to form large clumps. |
| Coneflower | Rudbeckia spp./Echinacea spp. | 0.60 – 1.50 | 0.60 – 1.20 | 0.60 – 1.00 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, well drained | Dry soil | Open field | Disturbed Sites | | R. hirta (Black Eyed Susan), R. laciniata (Tall Coneflower), E. angustifolia (Purple Coneflower) | Spreads easily. |
| Fireweed | Chamerion angustifolium | 0.90 – 1.50 | 0.30 – 0.90 | 0.90 | Zones 2-7 | | Moist, well drained | Dry soil, rocky soil | Open field | Disturbed Sites | | | Spreads easily by seed and roots. Pioneer plant that is short-lived. |
| Goldenrod | Solidago spp. | 1.20 – 1.50 | 1.20 – 1.50 | 1.50 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, poor soil | Open field | Spreading | | S. canadensis (Canada Goldenrod), S. missouriensis (Low Goldenrod), S. nemoralis (Snowy Goldenrod), S. ptarmicoides (Upland White Aster) | Spreads by rhizomes and self-seeds to form dense clumps. Excellent pollinator in fall. |
| Iris | Iris spp. | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.60 – 0.80 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, acidic | Deer, wet soil | Understory | Spreading | | I. versicolor (Blue Flag Iris), I. missouriensis (Western Blue Iris), I. tenax (Oregon Iris) | Will spread to form clumps over time. |
| Milkweed / Butterfly Bush | Asclepias spp. | 0.90 – 1.20 | 0.20 – 0.30 | 0.30 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil, wet soil | Open field | Adaptable | | A. syriaca (Common Milkweed), A. ovalifolia (Swamp Milkweed), A. incarnata (Swamp Milkweed), A. verticillata (Whorled Milkweed) | Will spread rapidly by rhizomes to form large colonies. Critical to monarch butterfly life cycle. |
| Solomon's Seal | Polygonatum biflorum (formally Solomon's Seal) | 0.20 – 0.60 | 0.3 – 0.60 | 0.40 | Zones 3-7 | | Moist, well drained | N/A | Understory | Erosion control | | Maianthemum stellatum (Star flowered Solomon's Seal), Maianthemum canadense (Canada Mayflower) | Long-lived. Good for banks and slopes. |
| Spotted Cranebill | Geranium maculatum | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.50 | Zones 3-8 | | Dry | Deer, drought, dry soil, rocky soil | Groundcover | Naturalizing | | | Free seeds easily, will naturalize an area and form a ground cover. |
| Wild Ginger | Asarum spp. | 0.05 – 0.20 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.50 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, rabbit, wet soil | Understory | Adaptable | | A. caudatum (Western Wild Ginger), A. canadense (Canada Wild Ginger) | Ground cover, shady and woodland areas. Adaptable to many soils. |
| Wild Onion | Allium spp. | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.25 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil, wet soil | Open field | Spreading | | A. cernuum (Nodding Wild Onion), A. stellatum (Pink Onion) | |
| Yarrow | Achillea millefolium | 0.30 – 0.90 | 0.30 – 0.60 | 0.30 – 0.50 | Zones 3-9 | | Dry | Deer, drought | Open field | Erosion control | | | Spreads by roots. Useful in poor soils, slopes, erosion control. |

Plant Type: Rush

| Common | Botanical | Mature Height (m) | Mature Width (m) | Spacing (m) | Hardiness Zones | Light Exposure | Soil Preference | Tolerances | Location | Usage | Bloom Period | Suggested Species | Notes |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Common Rush | Juncus effusus | 0.60 – 1.20 | 0.60 – 1.20 | 0.60 – 1.20 | Zones 4-10 | | Moist, acidic | Wet soil | Understory | Erosion control | | | Erosion control on moist banks. |

Plant Type: Sedge

| Common | Botanical | Mature Height (m) | Mature Width (m) | Spacing (m) | Hardiness Zones | Light Exposure | Soil Preference | Tolerances | Location | Usage | Bloom Period | Suggested Species | Notes |
|--------|------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--|--|
| Sedges | Carex spp. | 0.30 – 1.00 | 0.60 – 0.90 | 0.60 – 0.90 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, acidic | Deer, wet soil | Groundcover | Erosion control | | C. aurea (Golden Sedge), C. muskingameensis (Palm Sedge), C. sprengei (Sprenge's Sedge), C. vulpinoidea (Fox Sedge) | Excellent for rain gardens, ponds, streams, bog gardens. Forms dense clumps. |
| Sedges | Carex spp. | 0.30 – 1.00 | 0.30 – 1.00 | 0.60 – 0.90 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Dry soil | Groundcover | Erosion control | | C. eburnea (Ebony Sedge), C. grayi (Mace Sedge), C. pensylvanica (Oak Sedge), C. plantaginifolia (Beersucker Sedge), C. rosea (Rosy Sedge) | Excellent for erosion control. Dry woodland environment. |

Plant Type: Shrub

| Common | Botanical | Mature Height (m) | Mature Width (m) | Spacing (m) | Hardiness Zones | Light Exposure | Soil Preference | Tolerances | Location | Usage | Bloom Period | Suggested Species | Notes |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|---|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---|---|
| American Elder | Sambucus spp. | 1.50 – 3.60 | 1.50 – 3.60 | 1.50 – 3.60 | Zones 3-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, wet soil | Open field | Erosion control | | S. racemosa var. arborescens (Coastal Red Elderberry), S. canadensis (Elderberry) | Suckering spread. Thicket forming. |
| Bearberry / Kinnikinnick | Arctostaphylos uva-ursi | 0.15 – 0.30 | 0.90 – 1.80 | 0.60 | Zones 2-6 | | Moist, well drained | Drought, dry soil, rocky soil, salt | Groundcover | Erosion control | | | Spreads by surface rhizomes to form a mat. Erosion control on banks. |
| Blueberry / Cranberry / Huckleberry | Vaccinium spp. | 0.30 – 2.40 | 0.30 – 3.00 | 1.50 | Zones 1-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought | Groundcover | Adaptable | | V. ovatum (Evergreen Blueberry), V. angustifolium (Lowbush Huckleberry), V. vitifolium (Red Huckleberry), V. macrocarpon (Cranberry) | Border plant, ground cover, can handle wide range of conditions. |
| Canada Plum | Prunus spp. | 3.00 – 5.00 | 3.00 – 5.00 | 2.00 – 3.00 | Zones 2-7 | | Moist, well drained | Drought, dry soil | Midstory | Erosion control | | P. nigra (Cherry Plum), P. americana (Wild Plum), P. americana (Bitter Cherry), P. pensylvanica (Pin Cherry), P. virginiana (Choke Cherry) | Suckering growth. Good for erosion control. Susceptible to Black Knot Fungus. |
| Canadian Buffalo-Berry | Shepherdia canadensis | 1.00 – 2.00 | 1.00 – 1.50 | 1.20 | Zones 2-6 | | Moist, well drained | Drought, dry soil, rocky soil, salt | Open field | Erosion control | | | Stabilizing banks, wooded, rocky slopes. |
| Cinquefoil | Potentilla spp. | 0.60 – 1.20 | 0.90 – 1.50 | 1.20 – 1.50 | Zones 3-7 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, dry soil, rocky soil, salt | Open field | Erosion control | | P. pensylvanica (Prairie Cinquefoil), P. fruticosa (Shrubby Cinquefoil), P. gracilis (Western Cinquefoil) | Prune out deadwood as needed. |
| Dogwood | Cornus spp. | 1.50 – 2.00 | 1.50 – 2.00 | 1.00 | Zones 2-7 | | Moist, well drained | N/A | Open field | Disturbed sites | | C. alba (White Dogwood), C. sericea (Red Osier Dogwood), C. racemosa (Gray Dogwood) | Will form dense thickets. |
| Honeysuckle | Lonicera spp. | 0.90 – 3.00 | 1.00 – 5.00 | 0.90 – 1.80 | Zones 3-10 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, wet soil | Understory | Erosion control | | L. canadensis (Northern Fly Honeysuckle), L. ciliosa (Western Honeysuckle), L. sempervirens (Coral Honeysuckle), L. dioica (Wild Honeysuckle), L. caerulea (Haskap) | Prune after blooming period. Excellent pollinator. |
| New Jersey Tea | Ceanothus americanus | 0.90 – 1.20 | 0.90 – 1.50 | 1.20 – 1.50 | Zones 4-8 | | Moist, well drained | Drought, dry soil, rocky soil | Open field | Erosion control | | | Great for stabilizing banks and slopes. |
| Ninebark | Physocarpus spp. | 1.50 – 2.40 | 1.20 – 1.80 | 1.20 – 1.80 | Zones 2-8 | | Moist, well drained | Drought, dry soil, rabbit, wet soil | Open field | Erosion control | | P. opulifolius (Common Ninebark), P. capitatus (Pacific Ninebark) | Prune after blooming period. |
| Raspberry | Rubus spp. | 1.00 – 2.00 | 1.00 – 2.00 | 0.60 | Zones 3-10 | | Moist, well drained | Dry soil | Midstory | Erosion control | | R. odoratus (Purple Flowering Raspberry), R. spectabilis (Salmonberry), R. parviflorus (Thimbleberry), R. idaeus (Wild Raspberry) | Will form dense thickets. |
| Salal | Gaultheria shallon | 1.20 – 3.00 | 1.20 – 3.00 | 1.20 – 3.00 | Zones 6-8 | | Moist, well drained | Drought, salt | Understory | Adaptable | | | Root suckers, will form thicket over time. |
| Spicebush | Lindera bizoin | 1.80 – 3.70 | 1.80 – 3.70 | 1.80 – 3.70 | Zones 4-9 | | Moist, well drained | Deer, drought, shadow, wet soil | Midstory | Naturalizing | | | Highly fragrant! |
| Spiraea | Spiraea spp. | 0.60 – 1.20 | 0.60 – 1.20 | 0.60 – 1.20 | Zones 3-7 | | Moist, well drained | Drought, dry soil, rabbit, wet soil | Open field | Disturbed sites | | S. douglasii (Hardhack), S. betulifolia (Birchleaf Spiraea), S. alba (White Meadowsweet), S. densiflora ssp. splendens (Rose Meadowsweet) | Found in wet prairies and along the edge of streams, marshes, etc. |
| Sumac | Rhus spp. | 2.0 | | | | | | | | | | | |