

What Are Native Plants?

Native plant species evolved within specific regions and dispersed throughout their range without known human involvement. These plants form the primary structure of the living landscape and provide food and shelter for native animal species.

What Makes Them Easy?

All the plants in this brochure are “perennials” – meaning that they come back every year. They are adapted to our local soils and climate. If you provide the right growing conditions in your garden, they are easy to grow and maintain.

Why Are Natives Important?

Native plants attract a variety of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife by providing diverse habitats and food sources. Native plants feed insect plant eaters that are the base of the food chain and are the food for our young birds. Native plants feed the pollinators: hummingbirds, bats, bees, beetles, butterflies, and flies that carry pollen from one plant to another as they collect nectar. These pollinators sustain wildlife by providing nutritious berries and seeds, and our many fruits, vegetables, and nut crops, like blueberries, squash, and almonds. Plant a diverse palette of native plants to invite plant eating insects, and pollinators; and also their predators, seed dispersers and recyclers that make a garden work. Because our native plants and animals have evolved together, they support each other and we can enjoy a beautiful, living landscape.

For More Information on Native Plants:
www.plantnovanatives.org

Plant NoVA Natives

This brochure was produced by the Plant NoVA Natives campaign. The goal of the campaign is to promote the use of native plants in the urban and suburban landscapes of Northern Virginia, and to increase native plant availability throughout the region. The campaign is a partnership of:

NVBA Wildlife Sanctuary Program • Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy • Mason Sustainability Institute • Nature By Design • Northern Virginia Regional Commission (*lead organization*) • Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District • Potowmack Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society • Prince William Wildflower Society Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society • Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program • Virginia Cooperative Extension • Virginia Department of Forestry • Virginia Master Gardeners • Virginia Master Naturalists



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Five Easy Plants

— For Part Shade —



Margaret Chatham/VNPS

*Native Perennials
For Your Garden*

Eastern Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*



- Mature height: 20 - 35 feet
- Blooms: Pink, purple in April - May
- Natural habitat: Moist, well drained woodlands
- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Moist, wet or dry sites on clay, sand or loam
- Fall color: Golden yellow

Maple-leaved Viburnum - *Viburnum acerifolium*



- Mature height: 6 - 15 feet shrub
- Blooms: White in May - June, dark blue berries yellow to wine-red foliage in fall
- Natural habitat: Floodplain forests, dry wooded slopes, rock outcrops
- Full sun, part shade, shade
- Tolerant of dry to wet acidic soils and sands
- High wildlife value

Wild Red Columbine - *Aquilegia canadensis*



- Mature height: 1 - 3 feet
- Blooms: Nodding, red and yellow bell-like with upward spurred petals in March- May
- Natural habitat: Dry rocky woodlands to moist, well-drained forests
- Part shade
- Sandy well-drained soils, medium loam
- Attracts many native bees, birds, butterflies

Cinnamon Fern - *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*



- Mature height: 2- 5 feet
- Fruits: Spore bearing spikes appear April- May
- Natural habitat: Boggy areas, shaded ledges
- Muddy, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils
- Full sun, part shade, shade

Virginia Bluebells - *Mertensia virginica*



- Mature height: 8 - 28 inches
- Blooms: Lavender-blue in March - May
- Natural habitat: Moist, rich well-drained flood plains, slope forests
- Part to full shade
- Ephemeral: dies back in summer

More Part Shade Loving Plants

Asarum canadense- Common Wild Ginger

Itea virginica - Virginia Sweetpire

Magnolia virginiana - Sweetbay Magnolia

Geranium maculatum - Wild Geranium

Hibiscus moscheutos - Swamp Rose-mallow

Lindera benzoin - Spicebush

Penstemon digitalis - Beardtongue

Phlox paniculata - Garden Phlox

Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas Fern

Sedum ternatum - Wild Stonecrop

Silene caroliniana - Wild Pink

Solidago flexicaulis - Zigzag Goldenrod

Sisyrinchium angustifolium - Blue-eyed Grass