

Native Plants for Watershed Buffer Zones

Created by NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association, Brunswick County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Upland Zone	Sunny Bank	Muddy Zone	Water Zone	Evergreen, Herbaceous or Deciduous	Size Height X Width	Season	Habit Clumping or Spreading	Moisture	Exposure	Attracts Wildlife
Perennial Grasses, Sedges & Rushes												
River Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>		X				2-3 x	Warm	Spreading	Moist to Dry	Sun to Part Shade	Yes
Pink Muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaries</i>	X	X				1-3 x	Warm	Clumping	Moist to Dry	Full Sun to Part Shade	Yes
White Muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> 'White Cloud'	X	X				1-3 x	Warm	Clumping	Medium-Dry	Full Sun	Yes
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scorparium</i> (includes 'Blaze', 'Carousel', 'Prairie Blues', 'Smoke Signal', 'Standing Ovation', 'The Blues' & 'Twilight Zone' varieties)	X	X				2-3 x	Warm	Clumping	Moist to Dry	Full Sun	Birds
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> (including 'Cape Breeze', 'Cloud Nine', 'Dallas Blues', 'Heavy Metal', 'Hot Rod', 'Northwind', 'Prairie Sky', 'Shenandoah', 'Ruby Ribbons', & 'Squaw')	X	X				2-3 x	Warm	Clumping	Wet to Dry	Full sun	Yes
Blue Wood Sedge	<i>Carex flaccosperma</i>	X	X				1 x	Cool	Clumping	Dry	Shade to Part Shade	
Blue Bunny Sedge	<i>Carex laxiculmis</i> 'Hobb'	X	X				1 x	Cool	Clumping	Wet to Dry	Part Sun to Shade	Yes
Southern Waxy Sedge	<i>Carex glaucescens</i>			X			3 x	Cool	Clumping	Wet	Part Shade	Yes
White-Topped Sedge	<i>Rhynchospora latifolia</i>			X			1-2 x	Cool	Clumping	Wet	Sun to Part Shade	Yes
Hop sedge	<i>Carex lupulina</i>			X			1-2 x	Cool	Clumping	Wet	Sun to Part Shade	Yes
Purple Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	X	X				1 - 1 x	Warm	Clumping	Dry to Medium	Sun to Part Shade	Yes
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>			X			1-2 x	Warm	Clumping	Wet	Sun to Part Shade	Yes
Perennials, Herbs & Ferns										Bloom Color		
Carolina Redroot	<i>Lachnanthes caroliana</i>			X		Herbaceous	1 - 2 x	Summer	White/Yellow	Wet to Moist	Sun to Part Shade	Birds
Aromatic Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</i>	X	X			Herbaceous	1 - 2 x	Fall	Blue	Med to Moist	Sun to Part Shade	Pollinators
Black Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	X	X			Herbaceous	2 x 2	Aug/Sept	Yellow	Moist to Dry	Full sun to Light Shade	Pollinators
Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>			X	X	Herbaceous	3 - 4 x	Spring		Wet	Sun to Part Shade	Birds
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>			X		Herbaceous	1 - 2 x	Summer	Red	Moist to Wet	Sun to Part Shade	Hummingbirds
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda didyma, fistulosa & punctata</i>	X	X			Herbaceous	2 - 3 x	Summer	Red/Pink	Dry to Wet	Sun	Pollinators
Golden Canna	<i>Canna flaccida</i>			X	X	Herbaceous	3 - 4 x	Summer	Yellow	Wet	Sun	Butterflies
Southern Blue Flag Iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>			X	X	Herbaceous	1 - 2 x	Spring	Blue	Wet	Sun to Part Shade	Birds
Lizard's Tail	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>			X	X	Herbaceous	2 - 3 x	Summer	White/Yellow	Wet	Shade to Part Shade	Birds
Rose Mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>			X		Herbaceous	3 - 5 x	Summer	Pink	Wet	Sun to Part Sun	Hummingbirds
Pickeral Weed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>			X	X	Herbaceous	3 - 4 x	Summer	Blue	Wet	Sun to Part Sun	Pollinators
Duck Potato	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>				X	Herbaceous	1 - 2 x	Summer	White/Yellow	Wet	Sun to Part Sun	Birds
Arrow Arum	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>			X	X	Herbaceous	1 - 2 x	Summer	Yellow/White	Moist to Wet	Sun to Shade	Birds

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Alligator Flag	<i>Thalia dealbata</i>			X	X	Herbaceous	3 - 6 x	Summer	Purple	Moist to Wet	Sun	Pollinators
Goldenrod 'Fireworks'	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>		X	X		Herbaceous	3 x3	Sept /Oct	Yellow	Moist to Dry	Full sun	Pollinators
Coastal Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eutrochium dubium</i>		X	X		Herbaceous	3 x2	July/Aug	Pink	Moist to Dry	Partial to Full Ssun	Butterflies
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>		X	X		Herbaceous	2 x 2	July/Aug	Orange	Moist to Dry	Full sun	Butterflies
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>		X	X		Herbaceous	2 x 2	July/Aug	Dark Pink	Moist to Dry	Full sun	Butterflies
Sweet Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eutrochium purpurea</i>	X	X			Herbaceous	2 - 3 x	Summer	Dark Pink	Medium to Dry	Full sun	Butterflies
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> (includes other <i>Enchinaenia</i>)	X	X			Herbaceous	2 - 3 x	Summer	Purple	Moist to Dry	Sun to Part Sun	Pollinators
Honestead Purple Verben	<i>Glandularia canadensis</i>	X	X			Herbaceous	1 - 1 x	Summer	Purple	Moist to Dry	Sun to Part Sun	Pollinators
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	X	X			Herbaceous	1 - 1 x	Summer	Yellow/Red	Dry	Full Sun	Pollinators
Turtle Head	<i>Chelone galbra</i>			X		Herbaceous	1 - 2 x	June	White/Pink	Moist	Full to Part Sun	Butterflies
Dwarf Crested Iris	<i>Iris cristata</i>			X		Herbaceous	1 - 1 x	May/June	Blue	Moist	Shade to Part Shade	Birds
Shrubs												
American Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>		X	X		Deciduous	3-5 x 6	June/July	Pink/Purple Berries	Moist to Dry	Sun to Part Shade	Birds
Dwarf fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>		X	X		Deciduous	4 x 4	Apr/May	White	Moist to Dry	Sun to Part Shade	
Dog Hobble	<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>		X	X		Evergreen	3x6	Apr/May	White	Moist	Part Shade to Shade	
Southern Waxmyrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>		X	X		Evergreen	15 x 15	Mar/Apr	Green/Blue Berries	No Pref.	Sun to Part Shade	Birds
Coastal Azalea	<i>Rhododendron alaticum</i>		X	X		Deciduous	5x5	July/Aug	Pink	Moist to Wet	Part Shade	
Virginia Sweet Spire	<i>Itea virginica</i>	X	X			Deciduous	6-May	May	White	Moist to Dry	Part Sun to Shade	Pollinators
St Johns Wort	<i>Hpericum prolificum</i>	X	X			Herbaceous	1 - 4 x	Summer	Yellow	Moist	Sun to Part Sun	
Dwarf Sabel Palm	<i>Sabal minor</i>			X		Evergreen	4 - 5 x		Green	Moist	Sun to Shade	
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>		X	X		Deciduous	8 - 10 x	Summer/Fal	White	Moist	Sun to Part Sun	Wildlife
Small trees												
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	X				Deciduous	20 x 10	Mar/Apr	White/ Pink/ Red	Moist to Dry	Part Shade	Birds
Bigleaf Magnolia	<i>Magnolia pyramidata</i>	X				Deciduous	15 x 10	Apr/May	White/ Pink/ Red	Moist to Dry	Sun to Part Shade	
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	X				Deciduous	30 x 15	Apr/Jun	Greenish yellow	Moist to Dry	Sun to Part Shade	Birds
Carolina Willow	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	X				Deciduous	35 x 25	Mar/Apr	Pale yellow	Moist to Wet	Sun to Part Shade	
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	X				Deciduous	20 x 25	Apr	White	Moist to Dry	Part Sun to Part Shade	
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginica</i>	X				Evergreen	20 x 25	Summer	White	Moist	Sun to Part Sun	
Red Buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	X	X			Deciduous	20 x 25	May	Red	Moist	Sun to Part Shade	Birds
Large Trees												
Southern Sugar Maple	<i>Acer barbatum</i>	X				Deciduous	50 x 25	Mar	Yellow	Moist to Wet	Sun to Part Shade	Mammals
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	X				Deciduous	40 x 25	Mar	Brown	Moist to Wet	Sun to Part Shade	
Winged Elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	X				Deciduous	45 x 30	Mar/Apr	Greenish red	Dry to Wet	Sun to Part Shade	
Willow Oak	<i>Quercus plellos</i>	X				Deciduous	100			Dry to Moist	Sun to Part Shade	
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	X				Deciduous	50			Dry to Moist	Sun to Part Shade	Wildlife