



PLANTS FOR GARDENING IN WET AND WOODED AREAS



Environmental Protection Board

Summer/Fall 2007

This guide is intended to aid homeowners in choosing plants that will “naturalize” in areas around their properties such as wetlands, woodlands, and along streams and pond edges. These plantings will enhance the conservation value of the property while saving energy and reducing care and maintenance costs. Although there are many to choose from, the plants we selected will grow well under the conditions most likely to be encountered in the Stamford area. For this brochure we include only native species, plants endemic to a particular area without having been introduced by humans. Native species may not always stand out as much as some of the more “ornamental” selections available commercially but they often have hidden attributes. For example, because these plants have evolved in a particular region and ecological niche, they are usually important sources of food for local wildlife and they tend to thrive without the use of chemicals due to their inherent disease and pest resistance. Also, in most cases we have included those species that local nurseries have found to be readily available and proven pleasers.

Non-native varieties may be acceptable substitutes. In fact, since they have usually been bred for certain characteristics such as vibrant color or size, quantity, and duration of blooms, they will probably be showier than their native counterparts. Whichever you choose, make sure that your selection will perform well under the expected conditions. Check with a professional or do your own research. Several good websites are referenced at the end of this section. Also, if you are selecting plants of unknown origin, please consult the last section of this brochure for a list of plants known as invasive species, which should be avoided.

Size of plants is an important consideration, especially if you don’t expect to carefully maintain the planting area. The larger, more mature a plant is when it is planted, the greater potential for success it will have when left unattended. Plants that are too small have a harder time competing with weeds for nutrients and sunlight and will more easily succumb to disease and browsing by deer and other wildlife. Nursery grown plants are usually sold either in sized containers noted in “gallons” or as “ball and burlap” (B&B).

This brochure is organized by the following categories: shrubs, herbaceous perennials, ferns and groundcovers. We suggest that you include a variety of plants based on the growing conditions to be found, especially when it comes to soil, moisture, and light requirements. For wetland locations, do not place plants that have been grown in a nursery directly into standing water, as they have not been raised under these conditions. It is best to plant them within the buffer area, and then as they become naturalized they may spread into the wetter areas over time.

In Stamford, as in most other places, the pressure of development is having a profound impact on the remaining natural resources. Arguably, the most essential of these resources are wetlands and watercourses, both of which play an important role in maintaining good water quality, controlling flooding during heavy storms, and providing food and shelter for wildlife. Wetlands are areas that contain soils which drain very slowly and therefore are able to filter out sediments and pollutants that would otherwise end up in drinking water. The natural buffer of vegetation that occurs within undisturbed wetland areas and along the edges of watercourses (known as a riparian area) traps and filters sediments carried by storm water runoff. When this vegetation is removed and replaced by manicured lawn, as is often the case in our backyards, sediments and pollutants are carried directly into wetlands and watercourses. When filled in by these sediments, wetlands lose their filtering ability and both wetlands and watercourses lose their capacity to hold excess water during heavy rains resulting in worsened flooding conditions. In addition, local wildlife suffers due to the loss of a diversity of plant communities comprising their habitat.

Although many people prefer to have a clear view to ponds and streams around their homes, it is important to keep in mind that we have an important role as stewards of these resources. The health of the natural communities these resources support, and on which we ourselves are dependant, is greatly impacted by the way we maintain the home grounds. This brochure is intended to offer ideas for naturalized gardening around your home. Afterwards, while you sit back and enjoy the fruits of your labor, take heart in the contribution that you are making as guardians of Stamford's natural places.

Credit Notes: This guide has been compiled by EPB Environmental Analyst Pamela Fausty.

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USDA, NRCS. - (PLANTS Database).
National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.
21 August 2007

Resources:

<http://www.ct-botanical-society.org/index.html> Images © 2000, 2001 Janet Novak.

<http://www.wildflower.org/gallery/>

<http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/serviceplantfinder.shtml> Courtesy Missouri Botanical PlantFinder (Kemper Center for Home Gardening).

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<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/>

<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/index.htm>

<http://plants.usda.gov> (21 August 2007 USDA, NRCS. The PLANTS Database). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

<http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/VascularPlants.html>

<http://www.newfs.org/>

<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/images.asp?plantID=3467>

SHRUBS

Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*, syn. *Myrica pensylvanica*) Native, semi evergreen to deciduous shrub primarily found growing along the eastern coast. Typically grows 6-10' tall but coastal plants are low-growing. Prefers moist, peaty or sandy, acidic soils but tolerant of nearly any soil and growing conditions, including drought, poor soils, wet soils, high winds and salt spray (seashore or road salt conditions). Flowers not showy but leaves and berries are aromatic. The gray, waxy berries (used in bayberry candles) are attractive in winter and provide food for birds. About 20% of plants should be male to achieve good fruit set on female plants.



Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) Native, deciduous shrub with dense foliage. Grows 6' to 12' tall. Prefers moist soil in woods, bogs, swamps and low areas. Ideal soil is sandy, moist, very acidic (4.5 to 5.5), high in organic matter and well-drained. Mulch around roots. Full sun to partial shade. Dainty, waxy, bell-shaped, white to very light pink flowers appear in May. Flowers are followed by medium blue blueberries which ripen July through August. Dark green leaves turn attractive shades of red and purple in fall. Reddish stems can be attractive in winter.

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) Native, deciduous shrub which may exceed 10' in height. Grows beside lakes, streams, sinkholes and swamps and provides good cover for nesting. Showy, white flower clusters, shaped like spherical pincushions. Fragrant flowers draw numerous butterflies, bees, and other insects. The seeds are eaten by waterfowl and other birds. Shrub needs periodic pruning to maintain form and vigor. A member of the Quinine family whose inner bark was once used as a quinine substitute.



Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) Native, deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub, upright branching, forms broad-spreading clump, typically grows 10' to 15' tall. Leaves develop a rich, reddish purple in autumn with full exposure. Small, numerous creamy white flowers bloom early to mid-June. Produces white fruit, readily eaten by birds. Pedicels develop a vivid reddish pink color and are affective into winter. Bark and winter branch pattern are ornamental. Tolerant of sun or shade, dry or wet soils, benefits from periodic rejuvenation pruning. Useful for soil stabilization and wildlife food and shelter.

Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Native, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub. Best grown in organically rich, wet soils in full sun to part shade but tolerant of a wide range of soils, including swampy or boggy conditions. Works well along streams or ponds where spreading roots help combat soil erosion. Bright red winter stems are particularly showy against a snowy backdrop. Periodic removal of old stems produces vigorous new shoots with vivid stem color. Tiny white flowers appear in flat-topped clusters in late spring. Flowers give way to clusters of blue-white drupes in summer. Fruit is attractive to birds.



Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) Zone 5

Native, evergreen shrub, typically found in large suckering colonies in swamps and wet areas. Grows 4' to 8' tall. Young plants are dense and compact. Dioecious (separate male and female plants) therefore female plants need a male pollinator in order to produce fruit. Blooms in June with male flowers in clusters and female flowers with solitary, small, dull white flowers. Black fruits in September. Prefers adequate soil moisture and acidic pH, full sun or partial shade and relatively tolerant of salt. Tolerates periodic rejuvenation pruning to lower the height. Protect from harsh winter exposure.

Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba* (*Spiraea latifolia*))

Native, woody, upright deciduous shrub that grows up to 4' tall. Cone-shaped clusters (3-4" long) of tiny, white flowers bloom in summer. Grows in average, medium wet to wet, well-drained soil. Prefers full sun but tolerates part shade. Needs constant moisture and soil must not be allowed to dry out. Remove spent flower clusters to promote additional bloom. Effective along streams or ponds, in low spots or boggy areas, or, with regular watering, in a border or cottage garden.



Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)

Native evergreen, small tree/shrub with slow growth rate reaching 6' mature height. Common understory component of northern hardwood forests and facultative wetland species which is listed as vulnerable in NY. Best grown in moist, acidic, humusy, well-drained soils. Drought and shade tolerant. Purple flowers bloom April to June from buds that form during the previous growing season. Mulch to retain moisture and keep root one cool. Deer do not browse.

Lambkill Kalmia, Sheep Laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*)

Native of Michigan down through Georgia. An evergreen shrub that grows 1' to 3' tall. Growth is wider than tall and has a spreading habit and slow-growth rate. Rose-pink flowers borne in corymbs bloom in late June. Prefers partial shade to full sun and requires a cool, moist, acidic, organic soil for best performance. Avoid windswept sites. Blue-green leaves are poisonous.



Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*, *Photinia pyrifolia*) Zone 4

A native shrub, 5-10' tall, found in various conditions from dry hillsides to wet, almost swampy areas. Clusters of white flowers bloom in the spring followed by bright red berries that attract birds and persist through fall and well into winter. Brilliant red autumn foliage. Full sun is needed for strong flowering, fruiting and intense red foliage color but tolerant of partial shade. Remove root suckers to prevent colonial spread.

Rosebay, Great Laurel (*Rhododendron maximum*) zones 4-9, Native, large, multi-stemmed, evergreen shrub, which grows 6-15'. Tolerates relatively dense shade. Prefers moist, cool, acidic, well drained, organic soil, and areas with morning sun and afternoon shade. Large clusters of rose-pink, pink margined, or nearly white flowers bloom in late June. Avoid windswept, exposed or hot locations, remove flower clusters following bloom to stimulate new growth and flower bud set. The twisty branches provide another ornamental feature.



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Shadblow Serviceberry (*Amelanchier Canadensis*) Zone 3 Native, deciduous, suckering, large shrub or small tree, which typically grows 15-30' tall. Features showy, 5-petaled, slightly fragrant, white flowers in drooping clusters that appear before the leaves emerge in early spring. Naturally occurs in wet sites, bogs, and swamps, leaves (1-3" long) change to orange-red in autumn. Flowers give way to small, round, green berries which turn red and finally mature to a dark purplish-black in early summer. Edible berries resemble blueberries in size and color.

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) zone 4

Native, deciduous shrub, grows 6-12' high in woodlands and along stream or ponds edges. Prefers average, medium wet, well-drained soils, full sun to part shade but best yellow autumn color when grown in full sun. Clusters of tiny aromatic, greenish-yellow flowers bloom along the branches in early spring before the foliage emerges. Dioecious (male and female flowers on separate plants) with male flowers larger. Female plants produce bright red drupes which are attractive to birds. The spicebush swallowtail butterfly larva (caterpillar) feeds on the leaves of this shrub.



Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*) Zone 4

Native, deciduous shrub that grows 5' to 8' tall. Most commonly found in moist woodlands, especially near water. Grow in average, medium wet to wet, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Can form colonies with dense foliage in exposed locations. Late to leaf out in spring, leaves turn yellow-green to golden brown in fall. Numerous, small white nicely fragrant flowers bloom in July and August on current season's growth. Prefers moist, acidic soil with organic matter and full sun to partial shade. Avoid hot, dry sites. Tolerant of ocean plantings.

Swamp Azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*)

Native shrub which grows 3-8 feet high that is usually found in swamps and thickets. White fragrant flowers flower with sticky, reddish hairs bloom from June to July and attract hummingbirds. Prefers soggy conditions and tolerates shade.



American Cranberrybush Viburnum (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Native, deciduous shrub, which is easy-to-grow and decorative for most of the year. Flat clusters of white flowers bloom in late spring, Red berries appear in late summer and persist through the winter. The berries are edible to birds and humans. The fall foliage is yellow, red, or red-purple. Prefers well-drained, moist soil and sun to partial shade and grows in wet woods, along streams, and on moist wooded hillsides.

Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) Zone 2 Native, deciduous shrub, which typically grows 5' to 9' tall (native plants can be as tall as 15'). Branching is upright and spreading, eventually arching over at the tips and overall rounded shape. Suckers profusely from the base. Small creamy white flowers held in flattened clusters bloom from late May to early June. Blue-black fruit held in flattened clusters is enjoyed by birds. Full sun to partial shade, soil adaptable from dry to fairly wet.



Mapleleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) Native to eastern North America, a relatively small, rounded, suckering, deciduous, woodland shrub that typically grows to 3-6' tall and 2-4' wide. Easily grown in average, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade and prefers moist loams. Prune as needed immediately after flowering. Tiny white flowers in long-stalked, flat-topped cymes bloom in mid to late spring. Pea-sized bluish-black drupes ripen to red in late summer and leaves produce excellent reddish-purple to magenta fall color.

Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) Native, erect, rounded, deciduous shrub which typically grows 3-5' tall in cultivation (to 10' in the wild). Easily grown in average, medium to wet, well-drained soil, in full sun to part shade. Adaptable to shade and tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Can form dense colonies by root suckering if left unchecked. Naturally occurs in swamps, low wet woods and along spring branches. Features fragrant, tiny white flowers borne in cylindrical, drooping racemes (2-5" long) which cover the shrub with bloom in early summer. Oval, dark green leaves (1-4" long) turn an attractive red in autumn, sometimes persisting on the shrub until December.



Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

Common witch hazel (also called Eastern or American witch hazel) is a fall-blooming, deciduous shrub or small tree that is native to woodlands, forest margins and stream banks in eastern North America. Prefers medium wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best flowering in full sun. Tolerates heavy clay soils. Promptly remove suckers to prevent colonial spread. Little pruning is required. Prune in early spring if necessary.

**Winterberry, Black Alder, Coralberry,
Michigan Holly (*Ilex verticillata*)** Zone 3 to 4.

A deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub, 6' to 10' tall, tends to sucker and form large clumps. Good tolerance for poorly drained soils including wet boggy or swampy conditions, prefers moist, acidic soils, grows in full sun to partial shade, dioecious (separate male and female plants), red berries eaten by birds, hold well into winter, only fertilized female flowers will produce fruit, one male winterberry should be sufficient for pollinating 9-10 female plants.



HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Broadleaf Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*) Zones 5-10

A native deciduous, marginal aquatic perennial, typically grows 1-4' tall submerged in shallow water or out of water on wet muddy banks and is commonly used in pond restorations.. Produces leaves and flowers on separate stalks. Three-petaled white flowers bloom freely from July to September. Needs full sun for best flowering. Set out in mud at the margins of a pond or in containers in a water garden, either along the shore or in up to 6-12" of water. The tubers are also an important food source for waterfowl, hence the name duck potato. Seeds are attractive to many water birds.



Photo by Mark Mittelstadt
University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point

Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*)

A clump-forming iris that is native to marshes, swamps, wet meadows, ditches and shorelines. Grows in medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. May be grown in up to 2-4" of shallow standing water (muddy bottom or containers), or in moist shoreline soils or in constantly moist humusy soils. Propagate by division after bloom. Wear gloves when dividing the rhizomes. After fall frost, plant leaves may be trimmed back to about 1" above the crown.



Nature Center of Charleston,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) Zones 4-9

Herb, also known as Bergamot, Oswego tea. Native to rich, moist woodlands. Attracts bees, hummingbirds and beneficial insects, blooms mid to late summer. Prefers full sun but very adaptable to part shade. Tolerates low fertility, needs continuous moisture in summer, but protection from excessive moisture in winter. Grows 2 to 4 feet, will grow in heavy clay soils.



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Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) Zone: 3 to 9.

Grows in moist locations along streams, sloughs, springs, swamps, and in low wooded areas. A somewhat short-lived, clump-forming perennial with erect spikes of large, cardinal red flowers rising typically to a height of 2-3' (infrequently to 4'). Late summer bloom period. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds, but not cardinals. Prefers wet soils in full sun to part shade. Needs constant moisture. Divide clumps in spring as needed.

Fringed bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*)

Zones 3 to 9

Native, herbaceous perennial, also known as turkey corn and typically occurs in forests, rocky woods, and on ledges. Prefers moist but well-drained soil with high fertility and part shade but will tolerate full sun if soil is kept moist. Blooms late spring to early summer. Naturalizes by self-seeding in favorable environments. Grows 1 to 2 feet in height.



Photo by Bransford, W.D. Mrs.,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Vick, Photo by Albert F. W.,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*)

Prefers wooded slopes, wet meadows, thickets and stream margins. An erect, clump-forming perennial which typically grows 4-7' tall. Tiny, vanilla-scented, dull pinkish-purple flowers in large, compound blooms from mid-summer to early fall. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies. Flowers give way to attractive seed heads which persist well into winter.

Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) zones 2-7

Native plant, found in swamps and along stream edges, Grows in shallow water or marshy soil, but will grow in moist garden soil. Height averages 8-24 inches, glossy, bright yellow, 1 to 1-1/2 inch flowers in mid-spring, Best flowering usually occurs in full sun, but plants appreciate some part shade in the heat of the summer. The plant goes dormant by mid-summer, so it makes a good companion for late-emerging plants, such as ferns.



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Photo by Clarence A. Rechenbach
@ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) Zones 3-10.

Grows 2-4' tall. Set plant roots in spring into mud at the margins of pond or stream or in containers (rich organic loams) in a water garden under 3- 5" of water. Rhizomes can spread rapidly to form colonies under optimum growing conditions. Blue flower spikes atop flower stalks typically rising 1-2' above the water surface from June to October. Dragonflies and damselflies commonly lay their eggs on plant stems and fish seek shelter.

Purple Coneflower
(*Echinacea purpurea*)

Grows 3 – 5 feet, in medium wet, well-drained soil, in full sun to part shade. An adaptable plant that is tolerant of drought, heat, humidity and poor soil. Divide clumps when they become overcrowded (about every 4 years). Blooms best with prompt removal of spent flowers. Freely self-seeds if at least some of the seed heads are left in place. Long summer bloom period. Best flower display is late June to late July



Photo by Cox, Paul
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Photo by Bransford, W.D. Mrs
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Swamp Rose-mallow
(*Hibiscus moscheutos*)

Grows 4-7 feet tall in moist soil and sun to part shade along stream and pond edges and also near the coast in salt or brackish marshes. Forms clumps that start to grow late in the season and 4-7 inch wide pink or white flowers, sometimes with a red center, bloom over a long period from July to September. The form with all-pink flowers is sometimes classified as a separate species, *Hibiscus palustris*.

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

Native, stiffly erect, clump-forming, leafy-stemmed perennial which typically grows 2-3' tall and occurs in moist woods, swampy areas and along streams. Prefers moist to wet, rich, humusy soils in part shade. Appreciates a good composted leaf mulch, particularly in sunny areas.



Photo by Mark Mittelstadt
University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point

FERNS



Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

Prefers rich, open woods. Grows 2-3' tall and forms asymmetric clumps. Leaflets are dark, shiny green with spores on underside. Stays green all winter. Fronds were used for Christmas decorations. Very useful in plantings beneath trees, as it tolerates root competition and more tolerant of dry soil than are most ferns

Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)

Deciduous, prefers swamps, streambanks, and shores. Grows 2-5 feet tall and forms symmetric clumps. Grows best with constantly wet soil and full sun conditions but tolerates shade. Separate fertile fronds are cinnamon-colored, narrow and erect.



Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*) Deciduous, prefers rich, mesic woods, open woods; and shaded roadsides. Grows to 2-4 feet tall with spores located in the middle of fronds symmetric clumps.

Marginal Woodfern (*Dryopteris marginalis*)

Evergreen fern, prefers rich woodland habitat, especially rocky slopes or outcroppings. Fronds grow 1-2 feet long. Newly-emerged leaves are light green, but they turn dark green by summer. Mature dark green, leathery fronds stay green all winter.



Ostrich Fern

(*Matteuccia struthiopteris*, *Pteretis pensylvanica*)

Deciduous, prefers moist thickets, especially along streams, and in the flood plain of rivers. Grows 3-5 feet tall and forms symmetrical, vase-shaped clumps.



Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)

Prefers moist, rich, humusy, acidic soils but adapts to lesser conditions. Grows in clumps 2-3' tall, but with constant moisture can reach 6' in height. Fronds typically turn yellow to brown in autumn. Spores are located in brown, tassel-like, fertile clusters at the tips of the fronds. Easily grown in medium wet to wet soils and in part shade to full shade.



Photo by Kenneth J. Sytsma
University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

Grows to a height of about 24" and does well in moist soil conditions. The spores are located on separate fertile fronds. Propagate by division.

GROUNDCOVERS

Groundcovers can present a bit of a challenge. The most common ones, *pachysandra* and *vinca*, also called *periwinkle*, are introduced species that grow easily in a wide range of conditions and spread aggressively. Another aggressive plant, *Virginia creeper*, is actually a native vine that will also spread along the ground if there is nothing to climb. The problem arises when these plants crowd out other low-growing species through their aggressive spreading and create an area of low diversity and little ecological value.

There are other less aggressive low-growing native species that will spread like groundcovers and naturalize in wet and woodland areas. The following are some examples but be aware that their availability as nursery stock and the success rate of some of these plants are not certain:

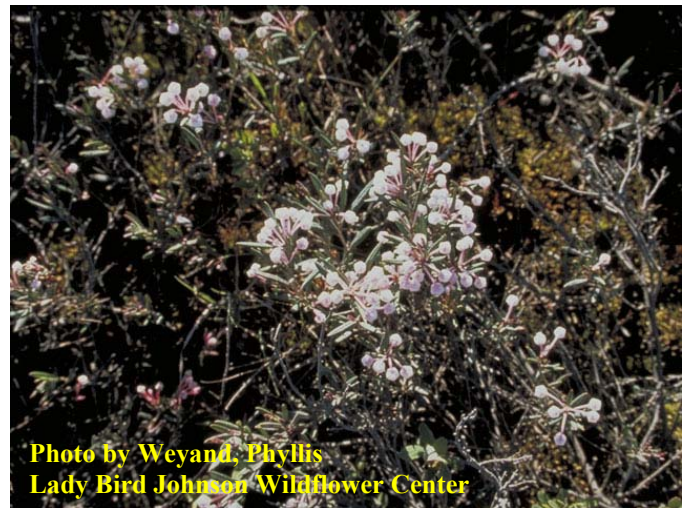


Barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*)

Grows 4-8 inches tall in dry to moist soil. The leaves are evergreen, at least during Connecticut's milder winters and looks similar to strawberry plants, but with showy yellow flowers and no edible fruit. Spreads quickly by runners, making it a good ground cover. Yellow flowers in spring and summer.

Bog-Rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*)

Evergreen, small subshrub or groundcover growing from 8 in to 3 ft. in height. Forms clumps in boggy areas but dislikes heat/humidity. Requires peaty, sandy soil that is cool and remains constantly moist. Several small, bell-shaped, pink or white flowers occur together in a curved umbel at the tip of a branch. Blooms from May to June.



Bunchberry dogwood (*Cornus canadensis* L.)

Grows 3-8 inches and prefers moist, well-drained sites. Good ground cover for cool, moist woodland locations. Clusters of white to greenish, dogwood blossom bloom from May to July followed by clusters of bright red berries which it should be noted are enjoyed by mice and deer.

Canadian wild ginger (*Asarum canadense L.*)

Easily grown in average, medium wet to wet, well-drained soil, in part shade to full shade. Prefers constantly moist, acidic soils in heavy shade such as occurs in rich woods and on wooded slopes. Spreads slowly by rhizomes to form an attractive ground cover. Purplish brown flowers appear in spring but bloom on or near the ground and are usually hidden from view by the foliage. Fresh or dried roots were used by early Americans as a ginger substitute, but the plant is not normally used today for culinary purposes.



Photo by Vick, Albert F. W.
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



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Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)

One of the best choices for a shade-loving evergreen ground cover. Partridgeberry spreads across the ground by vining stems, growing only two inches high. Prefers average to moist soil. Its leaves are small and dark green, often with light-colored veins. Partridgeberry has white flowers in early summer; in fall and winter it is ornamented by bright red fruits.

Creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera Sims*)

Creeping phlox is a mat-forming perennial with loose mats of semi-evergreen foliage and erect clusters of large flowers. The showy blossoms are lavender, blue or white with an eye of purple-red tinged in white. The leaves of this 6-10 in. plant are round or spoon-shaped.



Photo by Bransford, W.D. Mrs
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*)

Deciduous shrub that typically grows in a bushy mound 2-4' tall. Prefers moderately fertile, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun but is tolerant of part shade and poor soils. Saucer-shaped, five-petaled, bright yellow flowers appear over a long late spring through summer bloom period. Established plants grow well in a wide range of conditions and have respectable drought tolerance and winter hardiness. Prune if needed in late winter. This is a dioecious shrub (separate male and female plants).

Trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*)

Native, evergreen, forms a creeping mat, commonly only 4-6 in. high. The broad, oval, leathery leaves are aromatic. Sweet-scented pink or white trumpet-shaped flowers on hairy stems bloom in April, which are followed by a whitish berry, resembling a raspberry in appearance. Found among the fallen leaves in early spring. It favors exposed sites where the plants are not smothered by leaf litter.



Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum L.*)

Clump-forming, woodland perennial which forms a mound of foliage that grows to 24" tall and 18" wide. Prefers average, medium wet, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade and moist, humusy soils, but tolerates poor soils. Will naturalize in optimum growing conditions. Pink to lilac, flowers bloom in spring for a period of 6-7 week. White-tailed deer eat the flowers of wild geranium. Birds eat the maturing fruits.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive plants are non-native plants that are disruptive in a way that causes environmental or economic harm, or harm to human health. In minimally-managed areas, invasive plants crowd out native plants. The presence of invasive plants alters the way plants, animals, soil, and water interact within native ecosystems, often causing harm to other species in addition to the plants that have been crowded out.

An invasive plant has the ability to thrive and spread aggressively outside its natural range. A naturally aggressive plant may be especially invasive when it is introduced to a new habitat where the insects, diseases, and foraging animals that naturally keep its growth in check in its native range are not present in its new habitat.

In Connecticut, the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council has developed a list of non-native plants that cause (or have the potential to cause) environmental harm in minimally-managed areas. The most common known invasive plants are shown in the table below (see link to website for complete list).



Autumn Olive *Elaeagnus umbellata*



Multiflora Rose *Rosa multiflora*



Common Reed *Phragmites australis*



Japanese Knotweed *Polygonum cuspidatum* or *Fallopia japonica*





Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*



Japanese Barberry *Barberis thunbergii*



Asiatic Bittersweet
Celastrus orbiculatus



**Winged Euonymus or
Burning Bush**
Euonymus alatus



Japanese Honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica



Morrow's Honeysuckle
Lonicera morrowii



Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria



Porcelain Berry *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*



For a complete list of plants considered invasive in Connecticut go to the website:

http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/ctcouncil/CT_Invasive_Plant_List.htm