



Native Plants Recommended for Homeowners and Planners in Plymouth County, Massachusetts

Compiled by Irina Kadis and Denise Stowell
for the Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance
Illustrations from <http://www.salicicola.com/>
Photographs by Alexey Zinovjev & Irina Kadis

February 2021



Native Plants Recommended for Homeowners and Planners in Plymouth County, Massachusetts

Compiled by Irina Kadis and Denise Stowell for the Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance
Illustrations from <http://www.salicicola.com/>. Photographs by Alexey Zinovjev & Irina Kadis.

The Massachusetts County Checklist (Vascular Plants of Massachusetts: A County Checklist.

M. Dow Cullina, B. Connolly, B. Sorrie and P. Somers. 2011. NHESP, Westborough, MA)

was used as a guide describing historical background of plants and their current status in Plymouth County.

This listing does not contain any state-listed rare plants categorized as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern, whose propagation and planting can take place only by special permit and under supervision of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

INTRODUCTION

From micro-organisms to mammals, all those living beings with which we share our local part of earth have evolved in close connection to one another. Native plants constitute the basis of regional ecosystems. They provide food for pollinators at the right time. Pollinators are essential for our future. Each of many recent disappearances of local plants from our part of the state (yes, there have been many!) must be felt as a separate catastrophe by a number of members of the local ecosystem—those that used to be dependent on these plants. One disappearance triggers a chain of others. By encouraging native plants in our backyards and getting rid of aggressive alien plants, we can, to a certain extent, repair the damage made to the local nature.

By using material propagated from seed collected locally, you contribute to protection of the local genetic diversity and make sure that your plants are more resilient, better adapted to challenges in the future. The sources of plants that we recommend in this listing are exclusively those located within New England, which makes our chances of purchasing material propagated from local seed better.

This document consists of two parts. Part One contains brief illustrated descriptions of some of the recommended plants (for your convenience grouped as Grasses & Sedges, Groundcovers, Annuals, Ferns, Perennials, Shrubs, and Trees). Descriptions include references to New England nurseries where you could look for the species. At the very end of the document one can find an index of all described species. This list is very far from exhaustive. There are many more native plants available in nurseries. Therefore, we provide a different kind of help in Part Two.

Part Two lists nurseries and other companies from which you might seek help and where you can purchase plant material (plants or seeds). For a few major nurseries—those that publish catalogs online—we provide shortened pertinent lists of native plants— those suitable in particular for Plymouth County of Massachusetts.

When you compare our lists with the original nursery listings of native plants, you may question our exclusion of this or that plant. There could be a number of reasons for that. One important thing we have to keep in mind— when scientists describe geographic distribution of plants, they operate at the county level. Counties constitute convenient, small enough chunks of territory, which are totally random, not following any natural patterns. Therefore, collectively they form a perfect “grid,” against which one can show distribution of each plant. A certain plant may be native to a state as a whole, though never found in its eastern or western part, or never in a certain county. Plants native to Massachusetts though not to Plymouth Co. would not be helpful for repairs of the local natural environment and are thus excluded, even though they are labeled “native” in nursery catalogs. Some plants traditionally sold as “native” are actually invasive non-native plants for us (black-eyed Susan is one such example).

Another reason for exclusion is that there is a number of plants difficult for identification, so in some cases we cannot be confident that plants at nurseries are identified correctly. For example, instead of the native pussy willow (*Salix discolor*) you may accidentally purchase the invasive rusty willow (*Salix atrocineria*) or its hybrid with a native willow. Botanists have been confused in this case for nearly a century, let alone horticulturalists. It would be better to merely refrain from purchasing this item than install a European plant by mistake.

Also, some species have a few natural varieties or subspecies, each native to certain states, but nurseries often sell under just the species name and neglect to specify the variety/subspecies. Then finding the right plant becomes a matter of luck!

On the other hand, there are some plants that we currently don't associate with Plymouth County, as they have disappeared from here. However, old herbarium collections testify that historically they have been growing here and thus must constitute totally legitimate additions to your garden. Examples of these plants are bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*=*Chamaeperyclimenum canadensis*) or fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*=*Epilobium angustifolium*).

Finally, one more reason for exclusion of certain plants is that we merely could not point out the source nursery for you. Unfortunately, such plants as showy aster (*Eurybia spectabilis*), a signature aster of Myles Standish SF, or dwarf chestnut oak (*Quercus prinoides*), or flat-topped goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*=*Solidago tenuifolia*), which is so important as a pondshore plant, or dwarf upland willow (*Salix occidentalis*=*Salix humilis* var. *tristis*) have not been produced in any of New England nurseries. Nursery inventories constantly change, so check around for sources often.

For additional reference, here is a full listing of plants native to Plymouth County, Massachusetts derived from the *Massachusetts County Checklist* 2011, cited above,

compiled by Alexey Zinovjev and Irina Kadis, available in two versions—

<http://www.salicicola.com/plants/native/PL/alphabetic/>

<http://www.salicicola.com/plants/native/PL/taxonomic/>

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	i
PART ONE. PLANT DESCRIPTIONS	1
Grasses and Sedges	1
Dune Grass— <i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	1
Big Bluestem— <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	1
Pennsylvania Sedge— <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	2
Curly-Styled Wood Sedge, Big Star Sedge— <i>Carex rosea</i>	2
Wavy Hairgrass— <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	3
Purple Lovegrass— <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	3
Bottlebrush Grass— <i>Hystrix patula</i> = <i>Elymus hystrix</i>	4
Switch Grass— <i>Panicum virgatum</i>	4
Little Bluestem— <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	5
Groundcovers	5
Bearberry— <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	5
Common Strawberry— <i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	6
Wintergreen, Eastern Teaberry, Checkerberry— <i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	6
Canada Mayflower— <i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	7
Partridge Berry— <i>Mitchella repens</i>	7
Annuals	8
Partridge Pea— <i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	8
Ferns	8
Northern Lady Fern— <i>Athyrium angustum</i> = <i>A. filix-femina</i> var. <i>angustum</i>	8
Intermediate Wood Fern— <i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>	9
Marginal Wood Fern— <i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	9
Rock Cap Fern— <i>Polypodium virginianum</i>	10
Christmas Fern— <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	10
Perennials	11
Yarrow— <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	11
Red Columbine— <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	11
Butterfly Weed— <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	12
Yellow Wild Indigo— <i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	12
Pink Tickseed— <i>Coreopsis rosea</i>	13
Wild Geranium— <i>Geranium maculatum</i>	13
Stiff Aster— <i>Ionactis linariifolia</i>	14
Wood Lily— <i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	14
Turk’s cap lily— <i>Lilium superbum</i>	15
Cardinal Flower— <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	15

Clustered or Short-Toothed Mountain Mint— <i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	16
Narrow-Leaved Mountain Mint— <i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	16
Northern Meadowbeauty or Meadowpitchers— <i>Rhexia virginica</i>	17
Silverrod or White Goldenrod— <i>Solidago bicolor</i>	17
Wreath goldenrod, blue-stem goldenrod— <i>Solidago caesia</i>	18
Gray Goldenrod— <i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	18
Sweet or Anise Goldenrod— <i>Solidago odora</i>	19
Downy Goldenrod— <i>Solidago puberula</i>	19
Seaside Goldenrod— <i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	20
New York Ironweed— <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	20
Birdsfoot Violet— <i>Viola pedata</i>	21
Shrubs	21
Eastern Shadbush— <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	21
Black Chokeberry— <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	22
Purple Chokeberry— <i>Aronia x prunifolia</i> = <i>Aronia floribunda</i>	22
New Jersey Tea— <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	23
Sweet Pepperbush— <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	23
Sweetfern— <i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	24
American Hazelnut— <i>Corylus americana</i>	25
Beaked Hazelnut— <i>Corylus cornuta</i>	25
Low or Northern Bush-Honeysuckle— <i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	26
American Witch-Hazel— <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	26
Inkberry Holly— <i>Ilex glabra</i>	27
Winterberry Holly— <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	27
Common Juniper— <i>Juniperus communis</i> var. <i>depressa</i>	28
Mountain Laurel— <i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	28
Northern Spicebush— <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	29
Bayberry, Wax-Myrtle— <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> = <i>Morella pensylvanica</i>	29
Beach Plum— <i>Prunus maritima</i>	30
Scrub Oak, Bear Oak— <i>Quercus ilicifolia</i>	30
Flameleaf Sumac, Winged Sumac, Dwarf Sumac— <i>Rhus copallina</i>	31
Pasture Rose— <i>Rosa carolina</i>	32
Virginia Rose— <i>Rosa virginiana</i>	32
Common Elderberry, Black Elder— <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	33
White Meadowsweet— <i>Spiraea alba</i> var. <i>latifolia</i> = <i>Spiraea latifolia</i>	33
Steeplebush— <i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	34
Lowbush blueberry— <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	34
Highbush Blueberry— <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	35
Maple-Leaf Viburnum— <i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	36
Northern or Smooth Arrowwood— <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> var. <i>lucidum</i> = <i>Viburnum recognitum</i>	36
Nannyberry Viburnum— <i>Viburnum lentago</i>	37
Wild Raisin Viburnum or Witherod— <i>Viburnum nudum</i> var. <i>cassinoides</i> = <i>V. cassinoides</i>	37

Trees	38
Red Maple, Swamp Maple— <i>Acer rubrum</i>	38
Gray Birch— <i>Betula populifolia</i>	39
Common Hackberry, Sugarberry— <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	40
Atlantic White Cedar (AWC), Swamp Cedar— <i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	40
Flowering Dogwood— <i>Cornus florida</i>	41
American Holly— <i>Ilex opaca</i>	42
Eastern Red Cedar— <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	42
Black Tupelo, Black Gum, Sour Gum, Pepperidge— <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	43
Pitch Pine— <i>Pinus rigida</i>	44
Fire Cherry, Pin Cherry— <i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	44
Black Cherry— <i>Prunus serotina</i>	45
Chokecherry, Virginia Bird Cherry— <i>Prunus virginiana</i>	46
White Oak— <i>Quercus alba</i>	46
Black Willow— <i>Salix nigra</i>	47
Sassafras— <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	47
 PART TWO— SOURCES FOR NATIVE PLANTS OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA.....	 48
Bigelow Nurseries, Northborough, MA.....	48
Woody Plants	48
Herbaceous Plants	49
Grow Native Massachusetts	50
Helia Native Nursery, West Stockbridge, MA.....	50
Woody Plants	50
Herbaceous Plants	52
Grasses, Rushes, Bulrushes, and Sedges.....	53
Ferns.....	54
Kohl Gardens, Wendell, MA	54
Native Plant Trust (formerly New England Wildflower Society).....	54
New England Wetland Plants.....	54
https://newp.com/.....	54
Northeast Pollinator Plants, Fairfax, VT.....	54
Pierson Nurseries, Dayton, ME.....	54
Polly Hill Arboretum, West Tisbury, MA	55
Sylvan Nursery, Westport, MA (alphabetical by genus).....	55
Wild Seed Project, Portland, ME	57
Help with Plant ID and Info on Habitats & Geography	58
Connecticut Botanical Society	58

Flora of North America.....	58
Go Botany (Native Plant Trust)	58
iNaturalist.....	58
Salicicola Photo Gallery of Massachusetts Plants	58

PART ONE. PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Grasses and Sedges

Dune Grass—*Ammophila breviligulata*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10050/20110902ricoh4385cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10050/20120913ricoh5458cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10050/20110408ricoh0169cs>

Popular rhizomatous aggressive grass known to be responsible for holding the entire New England coast in place. Much planted for sand dune fixation along the ocean front. Stout, spectacular grass 1-3 ft tall that requires no maintenance, once established. Plant it in full sun in any disturbed areas with sandy soil, including roadsides, as it is salt tolerant. Provides habitat and food for many migratory and overwintering birds.

Sources— New England Wetland Plants, Native Plant Trust, Sylvan Nursery

Big Bluestem—*Andropogon gerardii*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/13765/20130930ricoh6869cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/13765/20150726samsu4362cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/13765/20130921olymp6260cs>

A very tall (3-6 ft) clump-forming grass best used in a native open field. Grows in prairies, meadows, and generally in dry soil. This wide-ranging species was once dominant from southern Canada to Mexico. It is frequently planted for erosion control, restoration, or as an ornamental.

Sources— Helia Native Nursery, Sylvan Nursery

Pennsylvania Sedge—*Carex pensylvanica*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1428/10013/20150425samsu0620cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1428/10013/20090502canon0098s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1428/10013/20140816samsu4983s>

Turf-forming low sedge that does well in sandy, sunny areas. Seeds are carried around by ants. Frequently establishes extensive carpets at disturbed sites (burned areas, clear-cuts, powerlines, etc.) through vigorous rhizome production. A strong competitor that can slow down appearance and establishment of woody plants. Good for no-mow areas, those with occasional mowing, or else woodland edges and hillsides.

Sources— Bigelow Nursery, Helia Native Nursery, Sylvan Nursery

Curly-Styled Wood Sedge, Big Star Sedge—*Carex rosea*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1428/13156/20090613canon0232cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1428/13156/20090525canon0030cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1428/13156/20140721olymp3656cs>

Wide-ranging sedge of eastern and central US and eastern Canada found in beech, oak, maple, and mixed moist to dry forests. It is slender-leaved, forming elegant tufts adorned with small star-shaped widely spaced spikelets. Once established, it becomes drought tolerant and requires mowing only a couple times a year, if at all. Will form groundcover; foliage may overwinter green in protected areas (it is “evergreen” in warmer climates). Deer and other herbivores would not touch it.

Source— Bigelow Nursery

Wavy Hairgrass—*Deschampsia flexuosa*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10051/20090625canon0731cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10051/20070602canon0086cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10051/20140707samsu3067cs>

Cool-season bunched grass growing 8-12” tall with soft-textured flowering plumes. Growing in sunny or shady areas, on rocks or pure sand; provides ground cover and food for winter birds and small mammals.

Source— Helia Native Nursery

Purple Lovegrass—*Eragrostis spectabilis*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/12744/20060902canon0245s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/12744/20120721ricoh0955cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/12744/20120723olymp1071s>

The inflorescence of this clumping grass forms a purple haze during late summer; breaking off and creating a tumbleweed traveling and spreading its seeds in any disturbed, sunny or rocky soil it encounters.

Source— Helia Native Nursery

Bottlebrush Grass—*Hystrix patula*=*Elymus hystrix*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10059/20140913samsu6595cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10059/20090808canon0878cs>

Long-awned spikelets of this ornamental low grass form a showy structure resembling a bottlebrush. It is a forest grass of moist to medium or even dry situations. Plant it in partial shade, especially on brook banks, in relatively rich soil. It will tolerate deep shade— this is one of the most shade-tolerant grasses. Its “bottlebrush” spikelets remain on plants from June to November.

Source— Helia Native Nursery

Switch Grass—*Panicum virgatum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/11656/20111022ricoh7236cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/11656/20060821canon0225cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/11656/20140816samsu4871cs>

Perennial late-season grass growing 3 to 6 ft tall. Adaptable to different soil types in wet or dry conditions; variably forming loose tussock or growing more diffused, from longer rhizomes. Provides good erosion control as well as natural habitat and seeds for birds and small mammals. Often used as an ornamental grass that can spread over large areas.

Sources—Wild Seed Project, Helia Native Nursery, Sylvan Nursery

Little Bluestem—*Schizachyrium scoparium*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10060/20060816fujif0632cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10060/20120310ricoh0372cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1503/10060/20061125canon0398s>

Tufted late-season grass whose picturesque clumps can be either bright green or bluish green with reddish tints, becoming bronze in the fall and persisting through the winter to the next spring. Fluffy seed arrays animate the dull December landscape and provide food for overwintering birds. One of the most common grasses of dry to moist open habitats in the county, suited to be used as foundation of seed mixes.

Sources— NE Wetland Plants, Bigelow Nursery, Wild Seed Project, Helia Native Nursery

Groundcovers

Bearberry—*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7018/20160508olymp0937cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7018/20060818fujif0012cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7018/20060819canon0121cs>

Sprawling and crawling low shrubby plant with evergreen leaves producing long shoots on open sand. Clusters of pink flowers develop in May, followed by small bright red fruit in August. Great groundcover of sandy dry soil providing good erosion control. Good for open gaps, slopes, or roadsides (though it won't cope with roadside salt). Slow-growing; needs a few years to establish.

Sources— New England Wetland Plants, Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Common Strawberry—*Fragaria virginiana*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/13223/20120511ricoh2999cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/13223/20130531olymp1925s>

Plant of forest margins and openings with edible fruits also loved by birds. Spreads by superficial runners (stolons). Can be either bisexual or unisexual, and in the latter case both sexes have to be present for production of fruits. There are 4 subspecies within this species, only one of which (ssp. *virginiana*) is native in MA, so choose carefully!

Sources— Wild Seed Project, Helia Native Nursery

Wintergreen, Eastern Teaberry, Checkerberry—*Gaultheria procumbens*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7089/20051001canon0138s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7089/20060722olymp0348cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7089/20140112ricoh0059cs>

Low-growing evergreen plant found in forests of the Northeast. Modest porcelain white flowers are produced at end of July, followed by bright red edible “berries” (fleshy capsules) in the fall. Glossy green leaves may turn shades of purple during the winter. Picturesque fruits stay on branches until spring and even into next summer and have a special wintergreen flavor when chewed; leaves give off the same aroma. Many mammals and birds enjoy this winter food. Nice addition to woodland edges in well-drained soil rich in humus.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Sylvan Nursery (cultivars)

Canada Mayflower—*Maianthemum canadense*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1467/10032/20050528canon0065s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1467/10032/20190516olymp1687cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1467/10032/20100501canon0021cs>

Forest plant sending a multitude of small upright leafy shoots from rhizomes and thus forming attractive clumps. Produces festive white flowers in May and berries maturing from green, mottled red to rich translucent red from July to October. Grows well under trees, in shady places with acidic soil. Good for woodland gardens.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Helia Native Nursery

Partridge Berry—*Mitchella repens*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1519/4130/20050625canon0017c>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1519/4130/20050630canon0093s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1519/4130/20161016olymp6492cs>

Delicate trailing plant with tiny round evergreen leaves. Elegant white paired flowers are produced during second half of June; small red berry-like fruits appear in the fall and may stay through the winter and spring, sometimes even until next-year flowering. Travels low near ground by thin vine-like stolons and establishes slowly, eventually forming a carpet. Prefers well-drained, neutral, sandy soil rich in humus with morning sun and shade later in the day. Often found growing with mosses. Not drought-tolerant. Many ground-feeding birds and mammals relish its tiny fruits.

Source— Native Plant Trust

Annuals

Partridge Pea—*Chamaecrista fasciculata*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1443/14763/20120903olymp4779cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1443/14763/20120903ricoh4770cs>

Pea family plant featuring bright, yellow flowers and fern-like foliage. Can grow to 2 ft tall. Easy to start from seed; will self-seed afterwards. Prefers sandy sunny well-drained sites. As any pea family plants, it is capable of capturing atmospheric nitrogen, hosting nitrogen-fixing bacteria in its roots and thus improving soil fertility.

Sources— Wild Seed Project, Northeast Pollinator Plants

Ferns

Northern Lady Fern—*Athyrium angustum*=*A. filix-femina* var. *angustum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6017/20080705canon0676cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6017/20100501canon0041cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6017/20050731canon0724csm>

Common rather large and somewhat bushy deciduous fern found throughout the Northeast; growing 2-5 ft tall, forming lacy fronds (leaves), often with reddish or orangish stems. Does well in moist woodland setting, in soil rich in humus.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Helia Native Nursery, Sylvan Nursery

Intermediate Wood Fern—*Dryopteris intermedia*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6031/20070704canon0254s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6031/20111111olymp3503cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6031/20131012ricoh7400cs>

The most common of wood ferns in southeastern Massachusetts. A rather large-sized bushy semi-evergreen wood fern with lacy fronds (leaves), which tend to overwinter green, flat on the ground, protected by forest litter.

Source— Helia Native Nursery

Marginal Wood Fern—*Dryopteris marginalis*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6032/20090617canon0469cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6032/20090502canon0009s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6032/20150905olymp6249cs>

Widespread fern of rocky slopes and slope bases with leathery, dark bluish-green foliage. Overwinters green, foliage spread flat on the ground.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Helia Native Nursery

Rock Cap Fern—*Polypodium virginianum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1508/6093/20170429olymp0985cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1508/6093/20150712samsu3636cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1508/6093/20050723canon0241cs>

Evergreen low-growing fern; forming attractive clumps developing from creeping stems. As its name says, it is usually found on boulders or rocks, occasionally also on tree trunks. Looks nice year round.

Source— Helia Native Nursery

Christmas Fern—*Polystichum acrostichoides*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6040/20080601canon0015cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1434/6040/20090617canon0570cs>

Bushy large fern with robust glossy fronds (leaves) remaining green in winter. Can grow 2 ft tall forming a round clump about 3 ft across. Fertile upper parts of upright central fronds wither promptly upon completing their function; sterile leaves overwinter green. Easy to grow but requires cool moist shady areas with good drainage. Good for woodland or shaded hillside.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Helia Native Nursery, Sylvan Nursery, Wild Seed Project

Perennials

Yarrow—*Achillea millefolium*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12624/20111015ricoh6651cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12624/20120629ricoh5364cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12624/20140830ricoh5764cs>

Drought-tolerant plant of fields and roadsides. Produces white, occasionally pink, compact flat-topped inflorescences on stems with fern-like foliage. Flowers last from end of June to end of August. Will flourish in dry areas, in sun to partial shade. Can be used as a component of sowing mixes.

Source— Sylvan Nursery

Red Columbine—*Aquilegia canadensis*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1515/2541/20140510samsu0633cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1515/2541/20160523olymp1600cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1515/2541/20140513olymp0783cs>

Early in spring (from last third of April to last third of May), showy, bright red to pink flowers with yellow stamens attract hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. Prefers a hillside or rocky ledge with good drainage in sun or half-shade and unamended soil.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Wild Seed Project, Helia Native Nursery, Northeast Pollinator Plants

Butterfly Weed—*Asclepias tuberosa*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1392/7025/20200710olymp2820cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1392/7025/20050701canon0108s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1392/7025/20120920olymp6403cs>

Flowers from end of June to mid-July and then sporadically to September, producing bright orange spherical clusters of small flowers and attracting a multitude of bees, beetles, and butterflies. Provides food for monarch caterpillars. Prefers well-drained sandy soil. Easy to grow from seed. Transplant seedlings when young, as it has a long taproot. Good in wildflower meadows or gardens.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Wild Seed Project, Helia Native Nursery

Yellow Wild Indigo—*Baptisia tinctoria*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1443/7036/20050715canon0511s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1443/7036/20050715canon0515cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1443/7036/20140711ricoh3267cs>

Distinctive showy legume (pea family) plant forming a new bluish-green two-foot-tall bushy mound every year, covered with bright yellow flowers in June, then producing a multitude of bluish black small pods. This is our tumbleweed— entire plants with fruits break off and roll around in the fall. Grows well in sandy open areas. Host plant for frosted elfin and rare Lycaenid butterfly. As any legume, it improves soil hosting nitrogen-fixing bacteria in its roots.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Helia Native Nursery

Pink Tickseed—*Coreopsis rosea*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/11752/20120809ricoh2234cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/11752/20120726ricoh1319cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/11752/20120809ricoh2236cs>

This rhizomatous plant from aster family produces mounding clumps that expand into colonies profusely flowering from end of July to October. Flower heads are rather large, daisy-like, pink, on tall stems. Needs full sun and medium to high moisture. Its prime habitat is pond margin, where it frequently grows together with Plymouth gentian. Provides food for butterflies and birds.

Source— Helia Native Plants

Wild Geranium—*Geranium maculatum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1447/3640/20060529canon0929c>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1447/3640/20080530canon0783cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1447/3640/20150607samsu2349cs>

Featuring beautiful bluish-purple to pink flowers with lovely dissected leaves that turn red in the fall. Can form nice patches and will spread readily, though easy to maintain. Does well in either sunny or woodland settings. Butterflies and bees find flowers attractive.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Bigelow Nurseries, Wild Seed Project, Helia Native Nursery, Pierson Nurseries

Stiff Aster—*Ionactis linariifolia*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/7161/20100919ricoh0585s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/7161/20100917ricoh0423cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/7161/20160924olymp5863cs>

Low-growing aster with narrow leaves and stiff stems, its spectacular clumps topped with groups of large lavender-colored flower heads in the fall (September to October). Easy to grow. Does well in front area of garden or at woodland edge, in sunny situations and sandy soil.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Wild Seed Project, ME, Helia Native Nursery

Wood Lily—*Lilium philadelphicum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1467/13273/20100716samsu0398cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1467/13273/20090710canon0661cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1467/13273/20100716olymp0420cs>

The striking beauty of this lily must be due to the fact that its large, bright orange flowers are erect—unlike those of other native lilies, which are nodding. According to the *Flora of North America* (FNA), this is the widest-ranging of North American lilies. Rather common in meadows of the mountainous West and prairies of the Great Plains, it is becoming rare toward the East, where it is protected by several states. According to the same source (FNA), it has rapidly declined in the northeastern US, where white-tailed deer continue to increase in number. Sadly, the most reliable habitats for this lily nowadays are powerlines maintained by brush-clearing. In SE Massachusetts, it is remaining relatively common, occasionally seen in pine barrens and at powerlines in Myles Standish SF and on the Cape. Be aware of the larger picture—appreciate, protect, and encourage this beautiful plant! With us, it is somewhat more compact than in Midwest, mostly 1-2 ft tall, unbranched, flowering during second half of July. Flowers unscented, pollinated by large butterflies, such as swallowtail, monarch, or great

spangled fritillary seeking nectar, and also by hummingbirds and some bees collecting pollen. White-tailed deer destroy the above-ground parts, while voles destroy bulbs. Warning— plant toxic to cats!

Source— Helia Native Nursery

Turk's cap lily— *Lilium superbum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1467/12662/20070726canon0878cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1467/12662/20070726canon0882cs>

The largest lily east of Rocky Mts., this spectacular plant normally reaches man's height and more—up to 7 ft! Even though we don't see much of it today, within Massachusetts it is native exclusively in the southeastern counties (Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, and Nantucket). According to the *Flora of North America*, it inhabits "gaps and openings in rich woods, swamp edges and bottoms, streamsides, moist meadows and thickets," but also "balds, pine barrens, and roadsides," flowering in July and start of August. It is difficult to save this plant from deer and voles (bulbs to be caged!). It starts flowering only when reaching the age of 7 years, then producing up to 30 showy flowers on a single plant! Flowers are pollinated by hummingbirds and large butterflies, such as swallowtails. A challenging plant to grow, but those who dare are rewarded!

Sources— Wild Seed Project, Helia Native Nursery

Cardinal Flower— *Lobelia cardinalis*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1409/7117/20150905olymp6279cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1409/7117/20090822canon0025cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1409/7117/20150905olymp6271cs>

Boasts showy crimson red flowers on erect stems with lance-shaped leaves. Will grow in sunny to shady places but can't dry out— needs moist to wet conditions to survive. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to nectariferous flowers. Good choice for rain gardens, wetlands, and pond edges. Brief flooding is all right. Would benefit from mulching over the winter.

Sources— Wild Seed Project, Sylvan Nursery, Helia Native Nursery

Clustered or Short-Toothed Mountain Mint—*Pycnanthemum muticum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1462/13966/20150728samsu4436cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1462/13966/20140719ricoh3468cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1462/13966/20101009ricoh0420cs>

Three-foot-tall prolific plant that forms dense clumps along woodland edges, in small depressions and meadows, and sometimes in disturbed areas. Bees, beetles, large wasps, and butterflies are all drawn to it, as it is very rich in nectar. All plant parts have a strong minty odor. Tiny purplish white flowers topping tall stems in flat-topped heads (July-October), which turn bluish gray in fruit and can stay on plants for the entire winter, spreading seed. Flower heads are surrounded by whitish green leaf-like bracts, which provide a stylish look to each robust clump. Easily propagated from seed.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Sylvan Nursery, Helia Native Nursery, Wild Seed Project

Narrow-Leaved Mountain Mint—*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1462/13795/20150728samsu4435cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1462/13795/20131014olymp7477cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1462/13795/20100929ricoh0821s>

Similar to previous species in many ways, but smaller (about 2 ft), with narrow (linear) leaves that remain green longer in the fall. Flowering shoots from upper leaf axils form a classic corymb (a flat-topped inflorescence), while shoots originating from lower stem leaf axils remain vegetative. Adaptable to many habitats.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Northeast Pollinator Plants

Northern Meadowbeauty or Meadowpitchers—*Rhexia virginica*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/12064/12068/20090801canon0064cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/12064/12068/20150801samsu4584s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/12064/12068/20090901canon0080c>

Inhabitant of pond perimeter, though populating relatively high-level shores somewhat away from water margin, this striking native plant belongs to otherwise tropical family. Showy when in bloom, its multiple bright purple flowers featuring large yellow stamens of bizarre shape. Peak of bloom at end of summer and early fall, during period of lowest water level. Plants can sometimes grow to 2 ft, though 2-inch-tall ones also produce flowers and fruits. Fruits are pitcher-shaped, colored rich beet-purple when fresh, remaining on dry shoots and spreading seeds over winter. Plant in wet or peaty acid soil in part shade. It grows from a small tuber and will spread rapidly. Good for rain garden.

Source— Native Plant Trust

Silverrod or White Goldenrod—*Solidago bicolor*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12070/20090918canon0042cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12070/20170926olymp7362s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12070/20090808canon0739c>

An inhabitant of dry rocky woods and open sunny habitats, silverrod is a common plant in eastern Massachusetts, attracting many native bees. The epithet *bicolor* refers to the "two-colored" heads, their disk florets yellow and ligules (ray florets) white—an unusual feature among goldenrods. Develops from a branched underground tuberous organ (caudex). More conspicuously hairy than downy goldenrod.

Source— Native Plant Trust

Wreath goldenrod, blue-stem goldenrod—*Solidago caesia*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/10121/20120920ricoh6436cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/10121/20051001canon0093cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/10121/20150922olymp7230c>

Distinctive purplish/bluish stems set this species of dry woodland apart from other local goldenrods. Inflorescence is a long series of axillary clusters of heads, each cluster in an axil of a large, rather narrow, drooping leaf. Attracts late-season pollinators.

Sources— Helia Native Plants, Wild Seed Project

Gray Goldenrod—*Solidago nemoralis*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12816/20090918canon0067cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12816/20090918canon0070s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12816/20101009ricoh0485cs>

One of our smaller goldenrods growing to 2 ft from a short-branched caudex (an underground woody organ, part stem, part root). A bushy leafy rosette produces 1-10 stems with densely gray-hairy leaves and flower heads arranged in a wand or pyramidal array. Flowering period is from August to October-November. Does well in dry sunny open places and is drought tolerant; will self-seed. Provides food for adult monarchs on their way south.

Source— Native Plant Trust

Sweet or Anise Goldenrod—*Solidago odora*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/11756/20060819canon0035cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/11756/20060812nikon0118cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/11756/20060812nikon0117cs>

Well-behaved goldenrod of dry open sandy habitats. Similarly to previously described goldenrods, develops from an underground stout woody organ called caudex and forms a leafy rosette and 1-5 erect or arching flowering stems 2-4 ft tall. Leaves when crushed smell of anise. Flowers from July to October. **Source**— Native Plant Trust

Downy Goldenrod—*Solidago puberula*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12814/20070921canon0084c>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12814/20070921canon0089cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/12814/20150922olymp7177cs>

Plant 0.5-2.5 ft tall, developing from a branched underground woody stem/root (caudex). Flowering stems developing each from its own basal leaf rosette, bearing wand-shaped narrow clusters of yellow flower heads. A typical goldenrod of open sandy habitats, flowering August to October. Does well in full sun to partial shade in sandy or rocky acidic soil. Monarch adults feed mostly on goldenrods and asters during their fall journey to Mexico.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Wild Seed Project

Seaside Goldenrod—*Solidago sempervirens*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/7141/20121005ricoh7739cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/7141/20160918olymp5744cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/7141/20140920ricoh6743cs>

This spectacular plant found on oceanfront beaches is very tolerant of salt. The tallest of our goldenrods, it can grow up to 6 ft, offering a welcome burst of bright yellow color from August to October. Its fleshy (succulent) leaves are capable of retaining water, which helps it tolerate dry seasons in sand dunes. Provides nesting sites for beach birds and serves food source for many other birds, small mammals, and insects including monarch butterflies.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Pierson Nurseries, Wild Seed Project, Helia Native Nursery

New York Ironweed—*Vernonia noveboracensis*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/14806/20140823ricoh5353cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/14806/20140825olymp5566cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1394/14806/20140823ricoh5352s>

Impressive robust clump-forming plant featuring handsome dark purple flower heads in large showy arrays on upright 4-6-foot stems. Occurs in bottomland fields, wet meadows, and along wetland borders. Tolerant of regular acid to neutral soils. Flowering August-October. Plant in back of backyard garden (as it can get quite tall), at wetland borders, in sunny areas. Flowers attract bees and butterflies, while fruiting heads attract birds.

Sources— Native Plant Trust, Wild Seed Project, Helia Native Nursery, Northeast Pollinator Plants, Sylvan Nursery

Birdsfoot Violet—*Viola pedata*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1549/11992/20130830olymp5263cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1549/11992/20100612canon0248s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1549/11992/20100430canon0600cs>

Lovely violet producing bright-colored light to dark blue flowers featuring orange centers (tips of stamens) and deeply dissected ('birdfoot-shaped') leaves, which are unusual among violets. Flowering May-June, occasionally also in September. Grows from fleshy underground rhizomes. Does well in sunny dry open disturbed habitats such as old roads, in compressed soil, or on bare sand.

Source— Native Plant Trust

Shrubs

Eastern Shadbush—*Amelanchier canadensis*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/12296/20110512ricoh1329cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/12296/20150509samsu0995cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/12296/20080508canon0077cs>

Large shrub that occasionally can reach small-tree size (1-24 ft), while always remaining multi-stemmed. Produces clouds of showy white blossoms in late April-early May, during the time when shad goes up rivers to spawn. In June-July flowers are followed by purplish black to maroon purple miniature (to 1 cm in diameter) apple-type fruits, a food source for birds and wildlife. Does well in sun to shade, occasionally even grows high up on rocks, but prefers moist, well-drained soil. Prime habitat is near water.

Sources—Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Black Chokeberry—*Aronia melanocarpa*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3227/20070528canon0605cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3227/20050725canon0098c>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3227/20060909canon0337c>

Medium-sized (3-6 ft tall) suckering shrub forming clumps, with glossy dark green foliage turning red in fall. Early in June it is frosted with showy aromatic clusters of small white flowers featuring large pink anthers and attracting a multitude of insects—bumblebees, bees, flies, wasps, etc. Apple-like miniature fruits persist on branches from early September right into winter, changing color from red to purple, then to purplish black. Fruits are astringent—probably even for birds, yet containing large amounts of anti-oxidants and thus good for mixed juices. Found in wetlands, wet thickets, at margins of ponds and lakes, in moist high-elevation forests, and on rocky outcrops. Adaptable to variable situations in cultivation—sandy, peaty, or rocky soil, average or high moisture, sun or part shade. Will make attractive border and help control erosion.

Sources—Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Note—Red Chokeberry—*Aronia arbutifolia*

Do not use! Recent research (Bryan Connolly 2014) has not confirmed the presence of red chokeberry in the wild in eastern New England (on the Atlantic Coastal Plain). Red chokeberry can be identified by its red fruit color only in November (black chokeberry fruit also turns red at some stage during ripening; however, this happens in August-September). A natural hybrid between red and black chokeberry (purple chokeberry) has been found to be most widespread in Plymouth County. The hybrid is believed to have been spreading beyond limits of at least one of its parents, red chokeberry.

Purple Chokeberry—*Aronia x prunifolia*=*Aronia floribunda*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/12318/20140524samsu1535cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/12318/20110820ricoh3938cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/12318/20130827ricoh4861cs>

The most widespread chokeberry in Plymouth County, a natural hybrid similar in many respects to black chokeberry (one of its parents). Ripe fruit color purple or purplish black; leaf undersides hairy, light-colored.

Sources— Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants

New Jersey Tea—*Ceanothus americanus*



<http://salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1517/3571/20090705canon0391s>

<http://salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1517/3571/20090705canon0370cs>

<http://salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1517/3571/20090705canon0372cs>

Attractive small deciduous woodland shrub growing 3-4(5) ft tall. Prolific white flowers in cylindrical or conic inflorescences resembling miniature lilac are a magnet for many bees and butterflies. Flowering around the Independence Day. By end of July, flowers give way to clusters of small shiny crested capsules, each containing three white nutlets. Capsules change color from green to black, and when nutlets overgrow the black capsule skin, it cracks, making fruit looking checkered black-and-white. Easy to grow from seed. Adaptable to various soil types but prefers well-drained soil. Plant to permanent spot, as it has deep roots and may be difficult to move.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Northeast Pollinator Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Sweet Pepperbush—*Clethra alnifolia*



<http://salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1419/7057/20100910ricoh0231cs>

<http://salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1419/7057/20111022ricoh7192sc>

<http://salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1419/7057/20060819canon0089s>

The most common, large, and aggressive shrub of moist forests in eastern Massachusetts growing 6-12 ft tall. Very fragrant white flowers in bottlebrush-shaped arrays open during last week of July, plant remaining in flower to about mid-August, attracting many pollinators including hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. Flowers develop into capsules, which persist until spring and into the next season, so that one can see flowers and fruits (sometimes even two generations of fruits) at the same time. Prefers shady wetland edges but tolerates drier sites too. Prune to maintain lower height. A few dwarf, longer-flowering horticultural selections (cultivars), such as ‘Sixteen Candles’ or ‘Hummingbird’ are available in the trade.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Sweetfern—*Comptonia peregrina*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1483/2649/20070623canon0170cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1483/2649/20130827ricoh4878cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1483/2649/20060205canon0337cs>

Very fragrant, smallish (2-4 ft tall) deciduous colonial flat-topped or rounded shrub with elegant fern-like leaves frequenting cranberry bog edges in sandy or peaty acidic soil. During end of April-start of May, it produces showy catkins composed of male (pollen) flowers at tips of branches and tiny dark red clusters of female (fruiting) flowers either on different plants or on same plant. Its small nuts appear at the end of June wrapped in many pointed green scales, thus looking like small hedgehogs lost among foliage. It is drought resistant, designed by nature itself for erosion control in sandy areas, spreading from rhizomes and mending disturbed steep sandy slopes and other difficult spots where not many shrubs dare to live. It rehabilitates poor soil, maintaining its association with nitrogen-fixing bacteria. Good to plant along sloped driveways or roadsides to prevent erosion (it is salt-tolerant). Does not require pruning. Crush the leaves when you walk by to smell the aroma!

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

American Hazelnut—*Corylus americana*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1398/7062/20050416canon0017cm>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1398/7062/20110827olymp1948cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1398/7062/20050731canon0557cs>

Much like next species, though larger; less widespread in southeastern Massachusetts.

Sources— Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Sylvan Nursery, Helia Native Nursery

Beaked Hazelnut—*Corylus cornuta*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1398/7063/20050521canon0013s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1398/7063/20050709canon0087cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1398/7063/20160528olymp1775cs>

A medium-sized, often low-growing clonal (from rhizomes) wind-pollinated forest shrub that blooms very early (end of March to April) producing large pendulous catkins of male (pollen) flowers and tiny bright red female flower clusters. Yields edible nuts, provides valuable wildlife habitat. Nuts dispersed mostly by jays and rodents.

Sources— Pierson Nurseries, Native Plant Trust

Low or Northern Bush-Honeysuckle—*Diervilla lonicera*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/11610/20080621canon0731s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/11610/20080621canon0736c>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/11610/20090710canon0756c>

Our only native honeysuckle forming bushy low-growing clones (spreading from rhizomes) and providing nesting sites to birds. Flowers produced at end of June through start of July, changing color from lemon yellow to pink and crimson after pollination, especially attractive to bumblebees. Easy to grow and adaptable to most soil and light conditions.

Sources— Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Sylvan Nursery, Helia Native Nursery

American Witch-Hazel—*Hamamelis virginiana*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1451/2614/20150630samsu3126s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1451/2614/20051105canon0845c>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1451/2614/20130921ricoh6185cs>

The largest of our forest shrubs occasionally forming a straight-stem tree. Its unusual time of flowering coincides with yellowing and shedding of its leaves in October. The peak of flowering occurs when all leaves are dropped at the start of November. Fragrant flowers produce shaggy clusters, as each flower has four long and narrow, ribbon-like petals. Flower color variable from lemon yellow to tan. Pollination mostly by flies and small bees. Nut-like fruits ripen for more than a year and explode when ripe, sending seed yards away. Prefers moist, well-drained, amended and yearly mulched soil in full to partial shade.

Sources— Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Sylvan Nursery, Helia Native Nursery

Inkberry Holly—*Ilex glabra*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1388/7165/20120310ricoh0213s>
<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1388/7165/20120614ricoh4655cs>
<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1388/7165/20111022ricoh7105cs>

Evergreen shrub growing 6-12 ft tall, forming naturally rounded mounds. Small flowers appear in June as bright white dots against dark foliage; berry-like fruits develop from July to November, gradually changing color from green to purple, finally becoming shiny, ink black. Both female and male plants are needed for fruit production. Prune to keep smaller size or let grow into thicket. Tolerant of a variety of soils— dry to wet, sandy to peaty. Becomes leggy and sparse when shaded.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries (cultivars), Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries

Winterberry Holly—*Ilex verticillata*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1388/7104/20120927olymp7019s>
<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1388/7104/20111105ricoh7448cs>
<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1388/7104/20131014olymp7651cs>

Attractive large deciduous wetland shrub, which does miraculously well in regular garden soil. Many dwarf (3 ft tall) cultivars are available in the trade. Male and female plants are needed for fruit production. Bright red fruits persistent on naked branches over winter (often into spring) will beautify your yard, while providing food for birds. Plant in full sun or part shade.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Common Juniper—*Juniperus communis* var. *depressa*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1426/6502/20120424olymp0953s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1426/6502/20120420ricoh2270cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1426/6502/20060204canon0216s>

This evergreen conifer with prickly foliage and berry-like blue cones is native in North America as well as in Europe; however, in Europe it produces a tree, while the American variety (or subspecies) is a low or even prostrate shrub. This is a northerner and light-loving plant. Due to advancement of forest in Massachusetts and climate change, it has been in decline in the southeast and has nearly completely disappeared (while still being common in central and western MA). It forms picturesque slow-growing mounds at exposed hillsides, in open fields, or on boulders. Male and female plants have to be present for cone production. Berry-like cones are lucrative for cedar waxwings, catbirds, cardinals, bluebirds, northern flickers, mockingbirds, brown thrashers, turkeys, robins, etc. Numerous cultivars available in nurseries. When purchasing, make sure that the cultivar you choose is derived from the American, prostrate variety (such as ‘Green Carpet’ or ‘Blueberry Delight’) and not from the European upright variety (such as ‘Gold Cone’).

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Pierson Nurseries

Mountain Laurel—*Kalmia latifolia*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7108/20080614canon0548cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7108/20160924olymp5950cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7108/20080531canon0047c>

Large and beautiful broadleaf evergreen shrub 6-9 ft tall (rarely a tree to 24 ft tall). Borne from end of May to end of June, its lush clusters of mostly pink or white, occasionally deep red flowers can well compete in beauty with those of non-native evergreen rhododendrons. Many horticultural varieties, including dwarf ones, are available in

the trade. In nature found in rocky or sandy soil, under tree canopy in hardwood forests, or forming pure thickets in ravines and along streams. Needs part shade and prefers moist sites with sandy acidic soil.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Northern Spicebush—*Lindera benzoin*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1464/2514/20080421canon0077cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1464/2514/20110421ricoh0483cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1464/2514/20050903canon0035cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1464/2514/20150912olymp6778c>

Deciduous aromatic shrub attaining 6-9 ft in height, nicknamed “forsythia of the wild,” as its tiny yellow flowers with unusually sweet fragrance produce golden haze in low moist woods or on stream banks in April, when other shrubs are still bare. Flowers attract a multitude of insects, which in turn attract insectivorous birds. Small scarlet red berry-like fruits are regarded for their high fat content. They ripen in September, serving as food resource for many birds, especially favored by veery and wood thrush. Leaves provide food for the amazing spicebush swallowtail caterpillar. Easy to grow, deer resistant. Both male and female individuals are needed for fruit production.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Bayberry, Wax-Myrtle—*Myrica pensylvanica*=*Morella pensylvanica*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1483/2651/20120719ricoh0648cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1483/2651/20140816ricoh4896cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1483/2651/20121005ricoh7774cs>

Coastal semi-evergreen colonial aromatic shrub growing to 5-7 ft (occasionally a small tree to 15 ft tall; can be pruned to needed size). Hang your feeder on it— birds will love cleaning beaks against aromatic branches and snack on small waxy berry-like fruit in winter. Some of its dark green glossy leaves may stay well into December or even throughout winter. Common in coastal dunes, pine barrens, pine-oak forests, old fields as well as in wetlands, at stream banks and pond shores. Can be used for fixation of shifting sand. Binds atmospheric nitrogen, hosting nitrogen-fixing bacteria in its root nodules and thus improving soil fertility. Flowering in May, fruiting from July; male and female plants needed for fruit production.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries

Beach Plum—*Prunus maritima*



- <http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3291/20150516samsu1284s>
- <http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3291/20080614canon0602cs>
- <http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3291/20080925kodak0324cs>

Deciduous coastal shrub of acidic, sandy or loamy soils, growing 4-12 ft tall. Suitable for mass planting as well as a specimen plant. Beautiful white blossoms on sprawling branches attract insects in May, then giving way to yummy small plums, which ripen at end of August, their color ranging from yellow to dark blue. Make preserves and leave some for birds.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Helia Native Nursery

Scrub Oak, Bear Oak—*Quercus ilicifolia*

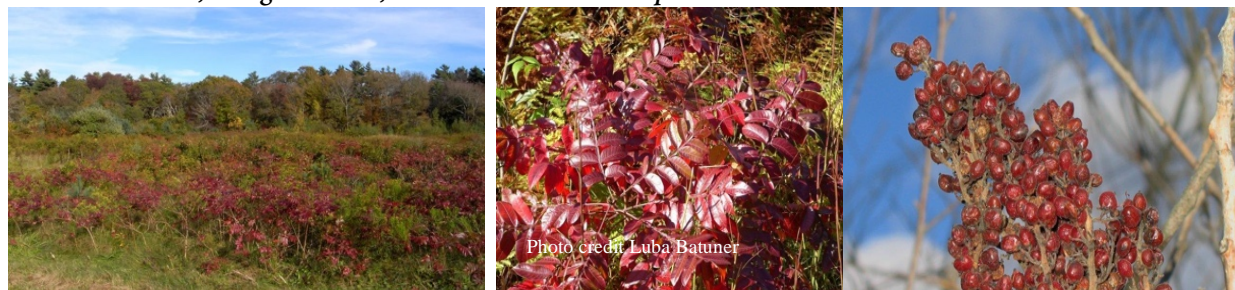


- <http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1444/2659/20140601ricoh2055cs>
- <http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1444/2659/20110603ricoh2456cs>
- <http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1444/2659/20080824canon0675s>

Low-growing clonal shrubby oak of the Coastal Plain growing 3-9 ft tall (rarely becoming a small tree to 18 ft), which stabilizes bare dry acidic soil. Due to prolific root sprouting following fire, this is an important species in early post-fire communities. Flowering during second half of April; pollination by wind. Male (pollen) and female (fruiting) flowers occur on same individual, yet the plant is not self-compatible, so more than one shrub is required for acorn production. Small acorns ripen in 2 years and serve excellent food source for many wildlife species— large and small mammals, game birds (especially turkeys), and songbirds. In pitch pine/scrub oak barrens of southeastern Massachusetts, rufous-sided towhees, common yellowthroats, and prairie warblers making up 50-70% of breeding bird population. Scrub oak thickets are of conservation concern, providing not just food, but also excellent shelter and nesting sites for birds (including a few declining species) and animals and supporting a rich insect fauna—more diverse than insect populations on any other northeastern oak. This is either the only or primary larval host for about 30% of the rare/endangered butterflies and moths in southern New England. As it is well adapted to disturbance, it can be planted wherever there is need for erosion control in open areas with well-drained nutrient-poor sandy soil or at rocky outcrops. May produce stunning orange and dark red autumn colors.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Native Plant Trust

Flameleaf Sumac, Winged Sumac, Dwarf Sumac—*Rhus copallina*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1385/10118/20131014ricoh7714cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1385/10118/20061007fujif0117s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1385/10118/20061216canon0710cs>

Similar to the other two native sumac species, this one populates areas with poor, dry, sandy or rocky soil. Comparatively to those species, this one is much more compact, very rarely exceeding 10 ft (in southeastern Massachusetts commonly 3-6 ft). Attractive glossy green foliage turns brilliant orange or reddish purple in fall—making it a good substitute for the invasive non-native burning bush (winged euonymus). Will form thickets or a native hedgerow. Flowering in August, fuzzy berry-like fruits ripening in September. They are edible, rich in vitamin A, favored by birds and mammals.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants

Pasture Rose—*Rosa carolina*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3306/20130530ricoh1678cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3306/20090625canon0725cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3306/20090625canon0718s>

The only native rose of rocky hills and outcrops, this is a low (1-3 ft), suckering thorny shrub forming nice mounds and producing pink flowers in June. It is fragrant, attracting insects (bees, bumblebees, syrphid flies, and others seeking pollen, as flowers don't produce nectar). Birds and small mammals consume the rose hips. It flourishes in well-drained rocky or sandy, dry to moist soil. Plant in sunny open areas and avoid overhead watering to prevent fungal disease. According to Missouri Bot. Gdn., this rose is more resistant to common rose diseases than any hybrid rose. Prune in late winter to early spring.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries

Virginia Rose—*Rosa virginiana*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3317/20120629ricoh5336cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3317/20110902ricoh4299cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3317/20160910olymp5546s>

Primarily coastal rose of grasslands, woods, damp shrublands, stream banks, shores, edges of salt marshes, and ditches, attaining 3-7 ft in height and capable of forming dense thorny thickets. Fragrant pink flowers with showy yellow stamens emerge mostly in June (sporadically to early August). Attracts bees and other pollinators; edible rose hips stay on plants into winter. Prefers full sun; generally, needs more moisture than the previous species, but will grow in well-drained sandy soil. Tolerant of salt and extremely winter-hardy.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries

Common Elderberry, Black Elder—*Sambucus canadensis*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/10120/20150627samsu2868s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/10120/20070710canon0340cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/10120/20150815samsu5036cs>

Large (4-12 ft tall) deciduous shrub, forming clumps or continuous thickets at forest edges, in low meadows, floodplains, along streams (often dipping its branches in water), mixing with other moisture-loving shrubs. White fragrant flowers form showy flat-topped clusters in June-July, followed by juicy purplish black berries in August-September—food for more than 50 species of birds and mammals, good for preserves. Please research the process before consuming berries, which must be fully ripe, almost black, and should not be eaten raw but cooked and properly processed to prevent upset stomach or illness. Prefers rich, moist, acidic soil and full sun but tolerant of a range of conditions and will grow in average garden soil, perhaps with some support during driest periods.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

White Meadowsweet—*Spiraea alba* var. *latifolia*=*Spiraea latifolia*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/12062/20080704canon0586cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/12062/20160820olymp4660s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/12062/20120310ricoh0453cs>

Smallish (3-5 ft tall) shrub of mostly moist and wet, but also drier open habitats (old fields, meadows, forest margins, powerlines, roadsides) with erect, scarcely branched stems and terminal loose clusters of small white nectariferous flowers attracting butterflies—a few species of hairstreak, Atlantis fritillary, and others. In Massachusetts, flowering in July-August; fruiting in September-October, its tiny seed packed in small capsules and disseminated during winter. Will tolerate average garden soil; suitable for hedgerows. Host plant for spring azure

butterfly caterpillars. Birds use meadowsweet thickets as nesting grounds. Twigs consumed by snowshoe hare and cottontail rabbit.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Steeplebush—*Spiraea tomentosa*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3351/20170722olymp4199cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3351/20070801canon0046cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3351/20110429ricoh0879cs>

Bushy small (1-5 ft) shrub, its non-branching woolly stems forming neat dense clumps. Steeple-like narrow pyramidal clusters of pink fragrant flowers are formed at tips of stems (July to September), followed by similarly shaped clusters of small capsules (September-October). Its wrinkled leaves are dark green above and white, gray, or rusty short-hairy (tomentose) on undersides. This is a plant of open wetlands, forest borders, pond margins, and sunny riverbanks—habitats with poorly drained wet soil. It generally requires more moisture than white meadowsweet, though both may occur together. Plant in a sunny moist spot, where it can attract butterflies and other nectar-feeding insects.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Lowbush blueberry—*Vaccinium angustifolium*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7149/20160508olymp0928cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7149/20140719ricoh3524cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7149/20080712canon0058c>

Dwarf deciduous shrub with green twigs cultivated for its yummy berries; harvested in New England from both cultivated and wild plants. Forms dense and low (0.3-1 ft tall) extensive colonies. Thrives on hilltops and in flat depressions, especially after fires, in dry and moist soil, in a wide range of habitats from rocky outcrops to bogs and peaty barrens. Needs full light for good crops. Pollen is self-incompatible, i.e., has to be brought by insects from a different clone of the same species. Flowers pinkish white or pure white, produced from second half of April to May; ripe berries from end of June to July.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Highbush Blueberry—*Vaccinium corymbosum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7150/20141015samsu7945s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7150/20070528canon0743cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1440/7150/20070714canon0423c>

Large deciduous non-colonial shrub 3-12 ft tall, characteristically vase- or fountain-shaped, its bark exfoliating in narrow strips. Commercially cultivated for crops of berries. Does best in sunny moist lowlands, in acidic soil (pH 4.5-5.5) rich in organic matter— at margins of ponds and lakes, along streams, in pine barrens, and on bogs. Frequently also occurs in upland forests, high up on rocks, and even at mountain summits, though not producing any good berry crops at dry sites or when shaded. Flowering from end of April to end of May, plantation plants pollinated by managed honey bees; in nature pollination by bumblebees and native non-social bees; pollen self-compatible. Berries start ripening in mid-July. Turns spectacular red and maroon colors in the fall. Birds and mammals feed on berries. A number of horticultural varieties (cultivars) are available at nurseries. When purchasing a horticultural variety, keep in mind that recently a number of hybrids between the American and Asiatic species have entered the market as “highbush blueberry,” so beware of hybrids if you aim for the native species.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Maple-Leaf Viburnum—*Viburnum acerifolium*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/7153/20050611canon0068cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/7153/20050506canon0008cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/7153/20060826canon0552cs>

The smallest, most compact of native viburnums, growing to just 3-6 ft tall and 3-4 ft across, well adapted to living under canopy of forest trees, in average-moisture conditions. White flowers forming flat-topped clusters from mid-May to mid-June are followed by dark blue or black fruits ripening August-September. Distinctive pale purple autumn foliage makes this elegant shrub stand out during fall season. Attracting nectar-feeding insects and birds feeding on fruits.

Source— Adam Kohl Naturalist & Native Plant Nursery

Northern or Smooth Arrowwood—*Viburnum dentatum* var. *lucidum*=*Viburnum recognitum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/10124/20170609olymp2400s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/10124/20050813canon0044cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/10124/20061031canon0496s>

Common large deciduous shrub of moist thickets, woods, and wetlands with arching branches and straight young vigorous stems coming from its base (said to have been used for arrow shafts by Native Americans), about 5-9 (reaching 12) ft in height. Its coarsely toothed leaves—a feature highlighted in the epithet *dentatum*—make this shrub conspicuous, showy, especially when leaves turn a rich orange red in the fall. White flowers open at start of summer, forming dense flat clusters; peak of flowering in southeastern MA—first half of June. Berry-like fruits ripen in August, their color changing to dark blue or bluish black. Fruits keep attracting birds in September and later on in the fall. You must find a moist to wet, sunny (or partially shaded) area for this shrub; otherwise, plant it on a pond shore or brook bank. It will sucker, so let it spread, use as a hedge plant, or else prune (do it after

flowering in order to keep the developing fruits intact on shoots). When purchasing, try to lean toward straight species and our native variety *lucidum* (no fancy names!), as many cultivars have been developed from other natural varieties that are not native around here.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries

Nannyberry Viburnum— *Viburnum lentago*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/12156/20100501canon0126s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/12156/20170527olymp1864s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/12156/20061018canon0153sc>

The largest of our viburnums, this deciduous shrub can reach 25-30 ft tall and may even grow as a small tree. It typically forms groves in moist forests, on steep rocky slopes, at powerlines running over depressions, etc. Small white flowers in flat-topped dense clusters open during last days of May; green berry-like fruits show up at end of June, turning bluish black later in summer. An adaptable plant, it prefers moist soil and full sun but will cope with drier sites and also is rather shade tolerant. With its attractive wine-red fall foliage, sometimes suckering, it functions well in hedges; may be pruned into a single-stem tree. Constitutes a good food source for wildlife.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Wild Raisin Viburnum or Witherod— *Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides*=*V. cassinoides*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/10125/20060816fujif0645cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/10125/20140907olymp6370cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1412/10125/20080421canon0054cs>

Most widespread of native viburnums in southeastern MA, frequently spotted in Myles Standish SF, this deciduous shrub populates dryish oak woods on sandy soil in pitch pine barren areas, but also wetlands, pond margins, and other moist habitats. The stately upright plant can attain 6-10 (up to 15) ft in height. In flower (at end of May to mid-June), it is not different from other viburnums with their white, fragrant, flat-topped inflorescences; however, during fruiting time (mid-August to September), it comes up with an entire dramatic performance, its fruit clusters changing color from lemon yellow or white to bright pink or red, then to sky blue, blue-black, and finally “wilting,” that is, becoming completely ripe. At times, a couple or even three contrasting colors show up on plants simultaneously, producing a stunning impression! During this dynamic ripening, there is a brief stage when the blue fruits just start becoming soft and wrinkled. During this short while, they are rather palatable— sweet, somewhat resembling raisins! Good food source for wildlife; colorful foliage in fall. Preferences— moist to wet conditions in full sun or shade. When purchasing, try to lean toward straight species *nudum* and our native variety *cassinoides* (no fancy names!), as cultivars have been developed from other natural varieties of this species, which may be not native around here.

Sources— Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries

Trees

Red Maple, Swamp Maple—*Acer rubrum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1378/7004/20160609olymp2178s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1378/7004/20061013fujif0226s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1378/7004/20060415canon0008c>

Rather large (40-60 ft tall) and probably the most widespread deciduous tree in Massachusetts, red maple lifts our mood at least twice a year— first in April, when gentle purple haze along highways produced by multitudes of small maple flowers provides an early sign of coming spring, promptly changing to brick-red color of ripe fruit in May; the other time in the fall, when red maples contribute a major part of the famous New England yellow, red-orange, and scarlet autumn palette. Flowering before leaves, staminate (pollen) and pistillate (fruiting) flowers on same tree; some flowers may have both stamens and pistils. Red maple is both wind- and insect-pollinated, attracting bees very early in spring. While its prime habitat is wetland, red maple is capable of growing in a wide, nearly universal range of situations, though it is not salt tolerant. This fast-growing, hardy, aggressive tree spreads mostly by seed, which readily germinate in wet areas. Abundant seed also serve food for squirrels and other

rodents as well as many birds— grosbeaks, finches, turkeys, ducks, and other game birds. A few cultivars (horticultural varieties) are available at nurseries.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Gray Birch—*Betula populifolia*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1398/7043/20140101ricoh0024cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1398/7043/20110402ricoh0076s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1398/7043/20050517canon0143s>

Important early successional tree in the Northeast, which colonizes clearcuts, burned areas, abandoned fields, often found along roads and railroads, this modest tree is very unassuming and will cope with literally anything you offer—as long as there is enough light and no standing water. Compared to other native birches, it is short-lived, frequently growing multi-stemmed, forming graceful clumps up to 30 ft tall. Its white non-peeling bark typically appears grayish due to abundant dark lenticels (tiny breathing slots) and characteristic dark triangular patches on trunk below branches; leaves wide-triangular, with long narrow tips. Flowering early in May, staminate (pollen) and pistillate (fruiting) flowers in separate catkins on same tree. Showy pendulous catkins composed of pollen flowers are pre-formed during previous fall season at twig tips, overwintering exposed, and expanding in spring with leaves. They are singular, which makes this birch different from the rest of our birches, whose catkins are in groups of two or more. Fruiting catkins are also singular, less conspicuous, upright to nearly pendulous, shattering into separate two-winged nuts (samaras) during early fall. In southeastern MA, natural hybrids of gray and paper birch are rather widespread (probably more frequent than pure paper birch, a northern species). Gray birch attracts many insects, which in turn attract backyard and migrant birds— “warblers, orioles, tanagers, vireos, cuckoos, and thrushes drop out of the sky into the birches” (testimony of a [bird watcher](#), who planted gray birches in his back yard in Ohio, where this tree is not even native).

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries (cultivars), Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Common Hackberry, Sugarberry—*Celtis occidentalis*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1545/2616/20170826olymp4973cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1545/2616/20080607canon0294s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1545/2616/20071023canon0010cs>

Depending on circumstances, this plant may form anything from a low shrub to large tree 40-60 (to 90) ft tall, or else produce multi-trunk tree clones. Stylish bark is light gray, decorated with spectacular irregular chains of “warts.” Found in a wide range of habitats from margins of salt marshes (where it occurs in Plymouth County of MA), floodplains, and stream sides with rich soil to wooded hillsides, dry rocky outcrops, and sandy barrens, where it typically becomes shrubby. Being drought, heat, wind, and salt tolerant, it is becoming popular as an ornamental street tree and also as a perfect plant for creating diverse backyard ecosystems. Small purple fruits with large stones and lean, orange, rather sweet flesh ripen in September-October and persist on leafless branches till spring, providing food to birds and animals. Flowering time is April, inconspicuous flowers expanding together with leaves, staminate and pistillate mostly in separate inflorescences on same tree (some flowers bisexual). Fall is the time when you can easily spot hackberry, as its leathery leaves with characteristically oblique base then turn unique pale lemon yellow, sometimes nearly white, standing out against surrounding plants.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Atlantic White Cedar (AWC), Swamp Cedar—*Chamaecyparis thyoides*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1426/5365/20050813canon0051s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1426/5365/20101218ricoh0549cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1426/5365/20131019olymp7965cs>

Large (to 60-90 ft) and beautiful evergreen coastal (occurring within 100 miles from coastline) coniferous tree forming its signature, impressive cedar swamps. Though called “cedar,” AWC is actually a cypress. Significant efforts have been undertaken in Plymouth County of MA for restoration of this important tree formerly exploited

by shingle and lumber industry and taken down for development of cranberry plantations or peat excavation. Existing stands are mostly younger than 200 years, though, some trees, reportedly, have attained the age of 1,000! If you deal with an appropriate open freshwater wetland area characterized by acidic soil rich in organic matter, poor drainage, and constant supply of water, you might try growing this tree. It is very sensitive to changes in water regime and needs standing water during at least part of growing season; otherwise, pretty tough and disease resistant. Seedlings may be decimated during winter by browsing deer, voles, and mice. AWC benefits from occasional surface fires, which help it win competition with red maple. Each tree develops its own tussock elevating it over water. Seed cones mature and open in one year; they are less than 1 cm in diameter, bluish purple to reddish brown.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nursery

Flowering Dogwood—*Cornus florida*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1423/7060/20170707olymp3516s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1423/7060/20161004olymp6198cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1423/7060/20050514canon0035s>

Beautiful deciduous forest understory tree to 60 ft tall (in Massachusetts mostly 12-30 ft), with distinctive “alligator skin” bark, often multi-stemmed. Spectacular blooms produced from late April to late May feature showy white bracts (modified petal-like leaves) surrounding groups of tiny greenish yellow flowers. These are followed by small groups of brilliant red berry-like fruit ripening in September-October. Unfortunately, dogwood anthracnose (a fungal disease) causes significant damage to wild populations of this tree all across its range as well as to cultivated trees. Mulching, watering during droughts, avoiding overhead watering, improving air circulation in immediate surroundings, preventing trunk injuries, raking and collecting old leaves may improve chances for survival of cultivated trees.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

American Holly—*Ilex opaca*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1388/7103/20080426canon0314s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1388/7103/20051231canon0099cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1388/7103/20080614canon0613cs>

Our only large evergreen broadleaf tree is on average 60 ft tall, but can attain nearly 100 ft! Its prickly leathery leaves and red berry-like fruit persistent over winter have become a symbol of Christmas. It is tolerant of salt spray and thus used for erosion control along the coast. As with any holly, male and female individuals both needed for fruit production. The holly provides shelter and food for many birds and some animals. Many cultivars are available at nurseries.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries (cultivars), Pierson Nurseries

Eastern Red Cedar—*Juniperus virginiana*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1426/6504/20110415ricoh0241cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1426/6504/20050528canon0078cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1426/6504/20121018ricoh9227cs>

This evergreen coniferous sun-loving adaptable tree occasionally reaches 90 ft in height, yet more frequently forms low single-trunk plants of conical shape in open sunny habitats. Found on hill tops, in sand dunes, upland or lowland woods, old fields, glades, and river swamps. May grow ragged and contorted at hilltops and on rocks. Though named ‘cedar,’ this is actually a juniper. Bark reddish brown, exfoliating in long thin strips; upright trunks of largest junipers typically composed of separate wood strands. Pollen and seed cones occur on different trees, pollen cones opening and pollination taking place very early in spring (from end of March). Ripe seed cones berry-like, bluish or bright blue. Makes a nice backyard tree, providing both great habitat and food for birds—robins, mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, juncos, and other perching birds as well as quails and turkeys. Don’t plant

near apple orchards, as this is a host for cedar/apple rust (fungus that changes hosts during life cycle, spending part of its life on juniper, part on apple tree). Red cedar is widely used in shelterbelts, windbreaks; its fragrant wood is prized for cedar chests deterring indoor moths and also for production of furniture, fence posts, and for extracting red cedarwood oil.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Black Tupelo, Black Gum, Sour Gum, Pepperidge—*Nyssa sylvatica*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1488/3526/20051105canon0808cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1488/3526/20161015olymp6410cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1488/3526/20071015canon0523cs>

Tall straight tree 15-80 (occasionally to 115) ft in height with horizontal or slightly drooping upper limbs and lustrous foliage, which turns purple, then intense scarlet, sometimes orange, the bright fall foliage colors attracting a large variety of birds to ripe fruits. In September tupelo produces blue or black berry-like edible small fruits in clusters of 2-3, lasting into October and consumed by birds and mammals. Mature bark beautifully furrowed. Tupelo is root-suckering, capable of forming small groves composed of trees of different ages, especially when the mother-tree is damaged. Its prime habitats are wet lowland woods, swamps, pond shores, and alluvial soil of river and brook banks; yet it is capable of climbing uphill and even to mountain ridges, though never attaining grand size there. Flowering during second half of May to first half of June, inconspicuous green male (pollen), female (fruiting), and bisexual flowers on same tree. Staminate (pollen) flowers contain nectariferous disks attracting pollinating insects, mostly bees. Tupelo is a major source of wild honey. It also provides nesting sites for bees as well as squirrels, raccoons, and opossums, as it frequently develops caverns in its wood. Praised for its autumn colors, it has been used in landscaping as specimen or shade tree. Remarkably long-lived (to 650 years!) and slow-growing, it does not transplant easily so plant it when young. You may need to prune suckers while it is adjusting after transplanting.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, New England Wetland Plants. Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Pitch Pine—*Pinus rigida*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1499/6519/20111022ricoh7195cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1499/6519/20110421ricoh0453cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1499/6519/20060122canon0291s>

Iconic tree of Coastal Plain pine barrens, relatively small (to 90 ft, yet often adopting a shrubby prostrate habit), very adaptable, tenacious pine, it is often crooked, with picturesque, ragged silhouette and multitudes of cones in the crown. Its needles are long and stout, grouped in bunches of three; fresh cones prickly, resinous; bark purplish, forming spectacular plates at maturity. Fire resistant and salt tolerant, pitch pine can grow in either upland or lowland, in dry, well-drained, or boggy areas. As any pine, it is a sun-loving tree. With its long tap root, it can withstand strong winds at the ocean front. Pollen cones are functional from end of April to end of May, abundant pollen spread by wind (not recommended for backyard if anyone is allergic to pollen, though pine pollen is ubiquitous and unavoidable anyway). Seed cones ripen in two years. Plant it in a sunny area, in sandy well-drained soil. Pitch pine is the official tree of Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries

Fire Cherry, Pin Cherry—*Prunus pensylvanica*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3293/20050503canon0013cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3293/20070508canon0006cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3293/20170708olymp3608a>

The only true cherry native to Massachusetts, elegant small tree or shrub (6-50 ft tall) with shiny orange bark turning dark purple, yet remaining shiny at older age, fire cherry may be spotted flowering from last week of April to mid-May along highways and at other disturbed habitats, including post-fire sites, also frequenting stream banks and pond/lake shores, rocky hilltops and outcrops, often forming small groves through suckering. As in

other true cherries, its flowers are in umbels (that is, flower clusters in which stalks of all flowers originate from a single common central point), appearing simultaneously with leaves, and followed by bright red miniature cherries in July-August. Cherries will make good preserves (warning— stones toxic, can cause respiratory failure if taken in in large amounts). The fruit certainly attract versatile wildlife (small and large birds and mammals). Plant in well-drained soil at a sunny site.

Source— Pierson Nurseries

Black Cherry—*Prunus serotina*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3297/20061027canon0363s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3297/20110520ricoh1544cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3297/20060529canon0904cs>

Differently from true cherries (such as fire cherry), black cherry (along with chokecherry) belongs to bird cherries, which have their flowers and fruits in long pendulous clusters (racemes). This impressive deciduous tree with pitch-black or dark gray bark exfoliating in tiny plates is capable of attaining 120 ft in height, yet nowadays occurring mostly in its shrubby form. Due to high value of their fine-grained wood of rich reddish color and also susceptibility to fungal disease at older age, large black cherries have become less common. Shrubby cherries are abundant along roads, at margins of old fields, in open woodlands or forests growing back after fires or clearcuts, or else along streams. While true cherries flower early in spring, prior to producing leaves, black cherry flowers much later, only when its shiny leaves are fully developed—which is depicted in its Latin epithet *serotina* (meaning ‘late’). At end of May to mid-June, black cherries manifest themselves by lush white foam of nectariferous flowers, followed by garlands of small red berry-like fruits turning black by August. They are rather palatable and have even been used for flavoring rum and brandy, though theoretically may cause cyanide poisoning if consumed in large amounts, cyanide concentrated mainly in fruit stone and leaves. A broad spectrum of birds and many mammals—from chipmunks to black bears—are attracted to these juicy fruits. Nectar for insects is provided not only during flowering, but all season long, produced by nectariferous glands positioned at the base of each leaf. It has been found that these extra-floral nectaries on black cherry commonly attract western thatching ants *Formica obscuripes*, which feed on caterpillars, thus helping trees survive defoliating attacks of notorious eastern tent caterpillar. Black cherry is larval host for many butterflies and moths. For example, larvae of eastern tiger swallowtail feeding on foliage of only a handful of woody plants favor black cherry.

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Chokecherry, Virginia Bird Cherry—*Prunus virginiana*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3300/20090808canon0873s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3300/20180516olymp1511cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1518/3300/20090808canon0828c>

One of two native bird cherries, choke-cherry is a small tree or suckering shrub (only 3 to 20 ft tall, much different in this respect from black cherry, the other bird cherry). It inhabits stream banks, hillsides, margins of woods, thickets, and roadsides. As in any bird cherry, its flowers appear after leaves, arranged in elongate pendulous clusters (racemes). Fruits ripen in August, changing color from red to black, occasionally remaining red. They constitute the most important fruit in traditional diets of many Native American tribes, also used for making wine in Dakota and Utah. Restrictions, as with other wild cherries, are in a possibility of cyanide poisoning if cherry stones are consumed in large amounts; foliage is toxic to cattle for the same reason. Chokecherry is a larval host for a number of moths and butterflies— black-waved flannel, cecropia, coral hairstreak, cynthia, hummingbird clearwing, imperial, io, polyphemus, promethea, red-spotted purple, spring azure, striped hairstreak, tiger swallowtail, Weidemeyer’s admiral as well as a few sphinxes— blinded, elm, small-eyed, twin-spotted, but also hosting the notorious tent caterpillar. Needs a sunny spot with well-drained soil.

Sources— Pierson Nurseries, Bigelow Nurseries (cultivar), Helia Native Nursery

White Oak—*Quercus alba*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1444/2656/20090523canon0899cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1444/2656/20080823canon0445cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1444/2656/20070914canon0656cs>

This slow-growing tree is the longest-living oak species here. It will grow tall (up to 100 ft!) and narrow-crowned amidst other trees or develop a short, stout trunk and crown wider than its height when growing in the open. Jack of all trades, it inhabits forests as well as open areas, upland and floodplains. It is rather frequent on sandy soil in

Plymouth; in fact, this is the most widespread of tree oaks in fire-prone pine barrens. It also climbs higher than other tree oaks up the rocky hills in the Blue Hills Reservation. All oaks are considered keystone trees; as to white oak, over 100 species of animals use it for food and habitat. Find a great spot with plenty of room and plant this awesome beautiful tree!

Sources—Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Native Plant Trust, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Black Willow—*Salix nigra*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1/11237/20150822olymp5829cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1/11237/20120506ricoh2738s>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1/11237/20070618canon0894cs>

The only native willow in Massachusetts that forms a large tree, black willow is in fact the largest of North American willows, most of which are shrubs. At maturity, black willow tends to form a picturesque silhouette, its stout dark-colored trunk with rough bark contrasting with delicate lacy foliage. In May it produces nectariferous flowers grouped in showy catkins and pollinated by insects. As any willow, it has separate male and female trees, males (those whose flowers produce pollen) having more conspicuous, bright yellow catkins. Female trees produce green-colored fruiting catkins whose small fluffy fruits float in the air when ripe. Make sure that your willow is planted close to water—on a pond shore or brook bank and has plenty of light. This willow can be easily propagated from cuttings.

Sources—Sylvan Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery, Pierson Nurseries, Helia Native Nursery

Sassafras—*Sassafras albidum*



<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1464/2515/20131111ricoh8359cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1464/2515/20111015ricoh6900cs>

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/gallery/view/1464/2515/20130504olymp0667cs>

Old sassafras trees produce spectacular furrowed bark and can reach 60 ft, but mostly remain much smaller here in Massachusetts, never attaining the grandeur of those down south. Bark on twigs and young stems is green; if scratched, it gives off a nice spicy smell reminiscent of root beer. Some leaves on each tree are mitten-shaped, others ovate, yet others feature three wide lobes. In the fall, leaves turn bright colors—yellow, orange, or dark red. Flowers appear in May, simultaneously with leaves, staminate and pistillate (pollinating and fruiting) occurring on different trees. Both sexes are required for production of fruits. Sassafras can grow as a solitary tree but may produce multiple suckers and form a grove, especially if disturbed. Attempts of cutting back suckers may result in forming dense brush-like shrubby thickets. Tree favors full sun to partial shade in acidic loamy soil but will do fine in drier sandy soil. **Warning**— safrole, a major component of sassafras oil, may cause contact dermatitis and is carcinogenic and hallucinogenic if consumed!

Sources— Sylvan Nursery, Native Plant Trust, Helia Native Nursery

PART TWO— SOURCES FOR NATIVE PLANTS OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA

Note: Some are retail, some wholesale. Inventory changes daily. Check sources for availability.

Bigelow Nurseries, Northborough, MA

<https://bigelownurseries.com/inventory/>

Woody Plants

red maple—*Acer rubrum*

sugar maple—*Acer saccharum* (cultivars)

speckled alder—*Alnus rugosa*=*Alnus incana* ssp. *rugosa*

smooth alder—*Alnus serrulata*

Canada shadbush, serviceberry—*Amelanchier canadensis*

Bearberry—*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* cultivar 'Massachusetts'

black chokeberry—*Aronia melanocarpa*

purple chokeberry—*Aronia x prunifolia*

yellow birch—*Betula alleghaniensis*

cherry or black birch—*Betula lenta*

gray birch—*Betula populifolia*

ironwood or hornbeam—*Carpinus caroliniana*

hackberry—*Celtis occidentalis*

Atlantic white cedar—*Chamaecyparis thyoides*

sweet pepperbush—*Clethra alnifolia*

sweetfern—*Comptonia peregrina*

alternate-leaved dogwood—*Cornus alternifolia*=*Swida alternifolia*

silky dogwood—*Cornus amomum*

gray dogwood—*Cornus racemosa*

flowering dogwood—*Cornus florida*=*Benthamidia florida*
 American hazelnut—*Corylus americana*
 bush-honeysuckle—*Diervilla lonicera*
 American beech—*Fagus grandifolia*
 American witch-hazel—*Hamamelis virginiana*
 inkberry holly (evergreen shrub)—*Ilex glabra*
 American holly (evergreen tree)—*Ilex opaca*
 winterberry holly (deciduous shrub)—*Ilex verticillata*
 eastern red cedar—*Juniperus virginiana*
 sweet gale (wetland shrub)—*Myrica gale*
 bayberry—*Myrica pensylvanica*=*Morella pensylvanica*
 Virginia creeper (vine)—*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
 pitch pine—*Pinus rigida*
 white pine—*Pinus strobus*
 trembling aspen—*Populus tremuloides*
 beach plum—*Prunus maritima*
 black cherry—*Prunus serotina*
 choke cherry—*Prunus virginiana* cultivar ‘Canada Red Select’
 white oak—*Quercus alba*
 swamp white oak—*Quercus bicolor*
 scarlet oak—*Quercus coccinea*
 red oak—*Quercus rubra*
 black oak—*Quercus velutina*
 winged sumac—*Rhus copallina*
 smooth sumac—*Rhus glabra*
 swamp rose—*Rosa palustris*
 low rose—*Rosa virginiana*
 black willow—*Salix nigra*
 black elderberry—*Sambucus canadensis*
 meadowsweet—*Spiraea latifolia*=*Spiraea alba* var. *latifolia*
 steeplebush—*Spiraea tomentosa*
 basswood, American linden—*Tilia americana* (cultivars)
 American elm—*Ulmus americana* (cultivars)
 lowbush blueberry—*Vaccinium angustifolium*
 highbush blueberry—*Vaccinium corymbosum* (cultivars)
 wild raisin viburnum—*Viburnum cassinoides*=*V. nudum* var. *cassinoides*

Herbaceous Plants

red columbine—*Aquilegia canadensis*
 butterfly weed—*Asclepias tuberosa*
 white wood aster—*Aster divaricatus*=*Eurybia divaricata*
 northern lady fern—*Athyrium angustum*=*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *angustum*

marsh marigold—*Caltha palustris*
Pennsylvania sedge—*Carex pensylvanica*
big star sedge—*Carex rosea*
tussock sedge—*Carex stricta*
saltmarsh spike-grass—*Distichlis spicata*
marginal wood fern—*Dryopteris marginalis*
Virginia wild rye—*Elymus virginicus*
purple lovegrass—*Eragrostis spectabilis*
boneset or thoroughwort—*Eupatorium perfoliatum*
sweet Joe-Pye-weed—*Eupatorium purpureum*=*Eutrochium purpureum*
wild geranium—*Geranium maculatum*
soft rush—*Juncus effusus*
sensitive fern—*Onoclea sensibilis*
cinnamon fern—*Osmunda cinnamomea*=*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*
royal fern—*Osmunda regalis*
witch-grass—*Panicum virgatum*
little bluestem—*Schizachyrium scoparium*
blue-eyed grass (not a grass!)—*Sisyrinchium angustifolium* (cultivars)
grassleaf flat-topped goldenrod—*Solidago graminifolia*=*Euthamia graminifolia*
seaside goldenrod—*Solidago sempervirens*
salt hay, saltmarsh grass—*Spartina patens*
New York fern—*Thelypteris noveboracensis*
blue vervain—*Verbena hastata*

Grow Native Massachusetts

- Annual Native Plant Sale in late May or early June
- Where— Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA
- Choose from approximately 100 species
- Open to the public except in years of COVID restrictions, when it is by pre-order only with scheduled pick-up.

<https://grownativemass.org/Our-Programs/plant-sale>

<https://grownativemass.org/Great-Resources/nurseries-seed>

Helia Native Nursery, West Stockbridge, MA

<https://www.helianativenursery.com/>

Woody Plants

red maple—*Acer rubrum*
Canada shadbush, serviceberry—*Amelanchier canadensis*

Bearberry—*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* cultivar 'Massachusetts'
 black chokeberry—*Aronia melanocarpa*
 yellow birch—*Betula alleghaniensis*
 cherry or black birch—*Betula lenta*
 paper birch—*Betula papyrifera*
 gray birch—*Betula populifolia*
 ironwood or hornbeam—*Carpinus caroliniana*
 shagbark hickory—*Carya ovata*
 New Jersey tea—*Ceanothus americanus*
 Hackberry—*Celtis occidentalis*
 Buttonbush—*Cephalanthus occidentalis*
 wild clematis—*Clematis virginiana*
 sweet pepperbush—*Clethra alnifolia*
 sweetfern—*Comptonia peregrina*
 pagoda or alternate-leaved dogwood—*Cornus alternifolia*=*Swida alternifolia*
 gray dogwood—*Cornus racemosa*
 flowering dogwood—*Cornus florida*=*Benthamidia florida*
 American hazelnut—*Corylus americana*
 bush-honeysuckle—*Diervilla lonicera*
 American beech—*Fagus grandifolia*
 green ash—*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
 American witch-hazel—*Hamamelis virginiana*
 winterberry holly (deciduous shrub)—*Ilex verticillata*
 eastern red cedar—*Juniperus virginiana*
 mountain laurel—*Kalmia latifolia*
 spicebush—*Lindera benzoin*
 sweet gale—*Myrica gale*
 tupelo—*Nyssa sylvatica*
 Virginia creeper—*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
 sycamore—*Platanus occidentalis*
 beach plum—*Prunus maritima*
 black cherry—*Prunus serotina*
 choke cherry—*Prunus virginiana*
 white oak—*Quercus alba*
 pinxterbloom azalea—*Rhododendron periclymenoides*
 swamp or stickybud azalea—*Rhododendron viscosum*
 staghorn sumac—*Rhus typhina*
 swamp rose—*Rosa palustris*
 black willow—*Salix nigra*
 black elderberry—*Sambucus canadensis*
 sassafras—*Sassafras albidum*
 meadowsweet—*Spiraea latifolia*=*Spiraea alba* var. *latifolia*
 steepleshrub—*S. tomentosa*

eastern hemlock—*Tsuga canadensis*
American elm—*Ulmus americana* (cultivars)
lowbush blueberry—*Vaccinium angustifolium*
highbush blueberry—*Vaccinium corymbosum* (cultivars)
nannyberry viburnum—*Viburnum lentago*

Herbaceous Plants

doll's eyes—*Actaea pachypoda*
red baneberry—*Actaea rubra*
pearly everlasting—*Anaphalis margaritacea*
tall thimbleweed—*Anemone virginiana*
purple angelica—*Angelica atropurpurea*
dogbane—*Apocynum androsaemifolium*
red columbine—*Aquilegia canadensis*
spikenard—*Aralia racemosa*
Jack-in-the-pulpit—*Arisaema triphyllum*
butterfly weed—*Asclepias tuberosa*
yellow wild indigo—*Baptisia tinctoria*
marsh marigold—*Caltha palustris*
turtlehead—*Chelone glabra*
pink tickseed—*Coreopsis rosea*
bunchberry—*Cornus canadensis*
rock harlequin—*Corydalis sempervirens*=*Capnoides sempervirens*
showy tick-trefoil—*Desmodium canadense*
trailing arbutus—*Epigaea repens*
fireweed—*Epilobium angustifolium*
boneset or thoroughwort—*Eupatorium perfoliatum*
purple or sweet Joe-Pye-weed—*Eupatorium purpureum*=*Eutrochium purpureum*
white snakeroot—*Eupatorium rugosum*=*Ageratina altissima*
bigleaf aster—*Eurybia macrophylla*=*Aster macrophyllus*
fringed gentian—*Gentiana crinita*=*Gentianopsis crinita*
wild geranium—*Geranium maculatum*
herb Robert—*Geranium robertianum*
woodland sunflower—*Helianthus divaricatus*
round-lobed or blunt-lobed hepatica—*Hepatica americana*=*Anemone americana*
rose mallow or swamp mallow—*Hibiscus moscheutos*
stiff aster—*Ionactis linariifolia*
blueflag iris—*Iris versicolor*
Canada lily—*Lilium canadensis*
wood lily—*Lilium philadelphicum*
Turk's cap lily—*Lilium superbum*

twinflower—*Linnaea borealis*
 cardinal flower—*Lobelia cardinalis*
 seedbox—*Ludwigia alternifolia*
 sundial or wild lupine—*Lupinus perennis*
 Canada mayflower—*Maianthemum canadense*
 false Solomon's seal—*Maianthemum racemosum*=*Smilacina racemosa*
 starry Solomon's seal—*Maianthemum stellatum*
 blue monkey-flower—*Mimulus ringens*
 golden groundsel—*Packera aurea*=*Senecio aureus*
 short-toothed mountain mint—*Pycnanthemum muticum*
 bloodroot—*Sanguinaria canadensis*
 mad-dog skullcap—*Scutellaria lateriflora*
 three-toothed cinquefoil—*Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*
 blue-eyed grass (not a grass!)—*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*
 wreath goldenrod—*Solidago caesia*
 zigzag or broadleaf goldenrod—*Solidago flexicaulis*
 seaside goldenrod—*Solidago sempervirens*
 nodding lady's tresses—*Spiranthes cernua*
 blue wood or blue heartleaf aster—*Symphyotricum cordifolium*=*Aster cordifolius*
 New York aster—*Symphyotricum novi-belgii*=*Aster novi-belgii*
 purple-stemmed aster—*Symphyotricum puniceum*=*Aster puniceus*
 American germander—*Teucrium canadense*
 early meadowrue—*Thalictrum dioicum*
 tall meadowrue—*Thalictrum pubescens*
 rue anemone—*Thalictrum thalictroides*=*Anemonella thalictroides*
 Tradescantia ohioensis—*bluejacket or smooth spiderwort*
 painted trillium—*Trillium undulatum*
 wild oats—*Uvularia sessilifolia*
 blue vervain—*Verbena hastata*
 New York ironweed—*Vernonia noveboracensis*

Grasses, Rushes, Bulrushes, and Sedges

big bluestem—*Andropogon gerardii*
 black sedge—*Carex nigra*
 Pennsylvania sedge—*Carex pensylvanica*
 wavy hairgrass—*Deschampsia flexuosa*
 bottlebrush grass—*Elymus hystrix*=*Hystrich patula*
 purple lovegrass—*Eragrostis spectabilis*
 vanilla sweet grass—*Hierochloa odorata*=*Anthoxanthum nitens*
 soft rush—*Juncus effusus*
 path rush—*Juncus tenuis*
 witch-grass—*Panicum virgatum*

little bluestem—*Schizachyrium scoparium*
green bulrush—*Scirpus atrovirens*
“wool grass” or common bulrush—*Scirpus cyperinus*

Ferns

maidenhair fern—*Adiantum pedatum*
northern lady fern—*Athyrium angustum*=*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *angustum*
crested wood fern—*Dryopteris cristata*
“evergreen” wood fern—*Dryopteris intermedia*
marginal wood fern—*Dryopteris marginalis*
sensitive fern—*Onoclea sensibilis*
cinnamon fern—*Osmunda cinnamomea*=*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*
interrupted fern—*Osmunda claytoniana*
royal fern—*Osmunda regalis*
rock polypody—*Polypodium virginianum*
Christmas fern—*Polystichum acrostichoides*
New York fern—*Thelypteris noveboracensis*
marsh fern—*Thelypteris palustris*
netted chain fern—*Woodwardia areolata*
Virginia chain fern—*Woodwardia virginica*

Kohl Gardens, Wendell, MA

<https://adamkohl.info/>

Native Plant Trust (formerly New England Wildflower Society)

Framingham, MA

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

Look for Nasami Farm Catalog or else visit Garden in the Woods and buy plants during your visit (no catalog available).

New England Wetland Plants

<https://newp.com/>

Northeast Pollinator Plants, Fairfax, VT

<https://www.northeastpollinator.com/collections/all>

Pierson Nurseries, Dayton, ME

<https://www.piersonnurseries.com/>

Polly Hill Arboretum, West Tisbury, MA

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

Sylvan Nursery, Westport, MA (alphabetical by genus)

<http://sylvannurseries.com/files/2020/01/Retail-2020tsp.pdf>

speckled alder—*Alnus rugosa*
dunegrass—*Ammophila breviligulata*
big bluestem (grass)—*Andropogon gerardii*
red columbine—*Aquilegia canadensis*
bearberry—*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
white wood aster—*Aster divaricatus*=*Eurybia divaricata*
New York aster—*Aster novi-belgii* =*Symphotrichum novi-belgii*
lady fern—*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *angustum*
sea-myrtle (saltmarsh shrub)—*Baccharis halimifolia*
yellow birch—*Betula alleghaniensis*
cherry birch—*Betula lenta*
gray birch—*Betula populifolia*
Pennsylvania sedge—*Carex pensylvanica*
ironwood or hornbeam (tree)—*Carpinus caroliniana*
hackberry (tree)—*Celtis occidentalis*
buttonbush (wetland shrub)—*Cephalanthus occidentalis*
New Jersey tea (forest shrub)—*Ceanothus virginicus*
Atlantic white cedar (wetland coniferous tree)—*Chamaecyparis thyoides*
sweet pepperbush (wetland shrub)—*Clethra alnifolia*
sweetfern (shrub)—*Comptonia peregrina*
alternate-leaved dogwood—*Cornus* (= *Swida*) *alternifolia*
silky dogwood—*Cornus* (= *Swida*) *amomum*
gray dogwood—*Cornus* (= *Swida*) *racemosa*
flowering dogwood—*Cornus* (= *Benthamidia*) *florida*
bunchberry (groundcover)—*Cornus canadensis* (= *Chamaepericlymenum canadense*)
American hazelnut (shrub)—*Corylus americana*
bush-honeysuckle (shrub)—*Diervilla lonicera*
American beech (tree)—*Fagus grandifolia*
teaberry (groundcover)—*Gaultheria procumbens* (cultivars)
American witch-hazel (shrub)—*Hamamelis virginiana*
marsh mallow (large wetland perennial)—*Hibiscus moscheutos*
inkberry holly (evergreen shrub)—*Ilex glabra*
American holly (evergreen tree)—*Ilex opaca*
winterberry holly (deciduous shrub)—*Ilex verticillata*
blueflag iris (wetland perennial)—*Iris versicolor*

high-tide bush (saltmarsh shrub)—*Iva frutescens*
 common juniper (prostrate conifer)—*Juniperus communis* var. *depressa*
 eastern red cedar (coniferous tree)—*Juniperus virginiana*
 sheep laurel (small evergreen wetland shrub)—*Kalmia angustifolia*
 mountain laurel (large evergreen forest shrub)—*Kalmia latifolia*
 spicebush (large wetland shrub)—*Lindera benzoin*
 cardinal flower (wetland perennial)—*Lobelia cardinalis*
 sweet gale (wetland shrub)—*Myrica gale*
 bayberry (large shrub)—*Myrica* (= *Morella*) *pennsylvanica*
 tupelo or black gum (tree)—*Nyssa sylvatica*
 cinnamon fern—*Osmunda cinnamomea*=*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*
 royal fern—*Osmunda regalis*
 hop-hornbeam (tree)—*Ostrya virginiana*
 witch-grass—*Panicum virgatum*
 pitch pine—*Pinus rigida*
 white pine—*Pinus strobus*
 sycamore or American plane (tree)—*Platanus occidentalis*
 Christmas fern—*Polystichum acrostichoides*
 trembling aspen, tree—*Populus tremuloides*
 beach plum (shrub)—*Prunus maritima*
 black cherry (tree)—*Prunus serotina*
 short-toothed mountain mint (perennial)—*Pycnanthemum muticum*
 white oak—*Quercus alba*
 swamp white oak—*Quercus bicolor*
 scarlet oak—*Quercus coccinea*
 red oak—*Quercus rubra*
 black oak—*Quercus velutina*
 scrub oak—*Quercus ilicifolia*
 winged sumac—*Rhus copallina*
 smooth sumac—*Rhus glabra*
 staghorn sumac—*Rhus typhina* = *Rhus hirta*
 pasture rose—*Rosa carolina*
 swamp rose—*Rosa palustris*
 low rose—*Rosa virginiana*
 black willow (tree)—*Salix nigra*
 seaside goldenrod—*Solidago sempervirens*
 meadowsweet—*Spiraea latifolia*=*S. alba* var. *latifolia*
 steeplebush—*Spiraea tomentosa*
 New York fern (low colonial forest fern)—*Thelypteris noveboracensis*
 basswood, American linden—*Tilia americana* (cultivars)
 eastern hemlock—*Tsuga canadensis*
 American elm—*Ulmus americana* (cultivars)
 highbush blueberry—*Vaccinium corymbosum* (cultivars)

New York ironweed—*Vernonia noveboracensis*
nannyberry viburnum—*Viburnum lentago*
fox grape (vine)—*Vitis labrusca* (cultivars)

Wild Seed Project, Portland, ME

<https://shop.wildseedproject.net/>

doll's eyes—*Actaea pachypoda*
red baneberry—*Actaea rubra*
maiden-hair fern—*Adiantum pedatum*
pearly everlasting—*Anaphalis margaritacea*
plantain-leaved pussytoes—*Antennaria plantaginifolia*
Jack-in-the-pulpit—*Arisaema triphyllum*
red columbine—*Aquilegia canadensis*
wild sarsaparilla—*Aralia nudicaulis*
tall milkweed—*Asclepias exaltata*
common milkweed—*Asclepias syriaca*
butterfly weed—*Asclepias tuberosa*
blue heartleaf aster—*Aster cordifolius*=*Symphotrichum cordifolium*
large-leaf aster—*Aster macrophyllus*=*Eurybia macrophylla*
tall flat-topped aster—*Aster umbellatus*=*Doellingeria umbellata*
northern lady fern—*Athyrium angustum*=*A. filix-femina* var. *angustum*
rock harlequin—*Capnoides sempervirens*=*Corydalis sempervirens*
partridge-pea (annual)—*Chamaecrista fasciculata*
bunchberry—*Chamaepericlymenum canadense*=*Cornus canadensis*
turtlehead—*Chelone glabra*
boneset, thoroughwort—*Eupatorium perfoliatum*
Atlantic Joe-Pye-weed—*Eutrochium* (= *Eupatorium*) *dubium*
wild strawberry—*Fragaria virginiana*
wild geranium—*Geranium maculatum*
bluets—*Houstonia caerulea*
orange jewelweed, spotted touch-me-not—*Impatiens capensis*
stiff-leaved aster—*Ionactis linariifolius*
blueflag iris (wetland)—*Iris versicolor*
yellow wild lettuce—*Lactuca canadensis*
Turk's cap lily—*Lilium superbum*
cardinal flower (wetland)—*Lobelia cardinalis*
wild lupine—*Lupinus perennis*
golden ragwort (wetland)—*Packera aurea*=*Senecio aureus*
witch grass—*Panicum virgatum*
Christmas fern—*Polystichum acrostichoides*
little bluestem (grass)—*Shizachyrium scoparium*

meadow blue-eyed grass (not grass!)—*Sisyrinchium montanum*
bluestem or wreath goldenrod—*Solidago caesia*
seaside goldenrod—*Solidago sempervirens*
blue vervain—*Verbena hastata*
New York ironweed—*Vernonia noveboracensis*
golden alexanders—*Zizia aurea*

[Help with Plant ID and Info on Habitats & Geography](#)

Connecticut Botanical Society

<http://www.ct-botanical-society.org/>

Flora of North America

http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=242417201

Go Botany (Native Plant Trust)

<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/>

iNaturalist

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Salicicola Photo Gallery of Massachusetts Plants

<http://www.salicicola.com/photos/plantgallery>