

Tried and True Native Plants Best Bets for Wet Conditions

Best Bets: Plants
for Particular Uses
in the Mid-Atlantic

These plants help control storm water runoff and ponding by absorbing excess moisture. They are well-suited to conditions in rain gardens, in low spots that collect water, near downspouts, or along water's edge.



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
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Ferns	June, July, August, Sept. & Oct. Landscapes*
Royal Fern (Osmunda spectabilis)	
Cinnamon Fern (Osmundastrum cinnamomeum)	
Grasses, Sedges, & Rushes	
Common Rush (Juncus effusus)	
Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum)	
Perennials	
Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)	
White Turtlehead (Chelone glabra)	
Three-nerved Joe-pye-weed (Eutrochium dubium)	
Blue Flag Irises (Iris virginica & Iris versicolor)	
Lobelias (Lobelia cardinalis & Lobelia siphilitica)	
Virginia Bluebells (Mertensia virginica)	Learn More about These Plants
Scarlet Beebalm (Monarda didyma)	
Rough-stemmed Goldenrod (Solidago rugosa)	For detailed, individual plant fact sheets, use the Latin name hyperlinks in this table or visit Tried & True Native Plants: Mid-Atlantic on mgnv.org .
Blue Vervain (Verbena hastata)	
Shrubs	* <i>Iris versicolor</i> along Tantequidgeon Pond at Fort Shantok. Echinacea, common rush, switchgrass, inkberry, and river birch in Rockville, Maryland. Lobelias along Lake Lena at Meadowlark Botanical Garden. Buttonbush at Green Spring Gardens' pond. Switchgrass in a rain garden in Rockville.
Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis)	
Sweet Pepperbush (Clethra alnifolia)	developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria
Inkberry (Ilex glabra)	
Winterberry (Ilex verticillata)	Images by Mary Free (irises in Connecticut) and by Elaine Mills (landscapes in Maryland and Virginia)
Virginia Sweetspire (Itea virginica)	
Highbush Blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum)	
Possum-haw (Viburnum nudum)	
Trees	Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.
River Birch (Betula nigra)	
Sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua)	
Sweetbay Magnolia (Magnolia virginiana)	
Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum)	