

Species Recommended for Use in Maryland Coastal Plain Meadow Projects

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family Name	Scientific	Southeastern Plains (65)	Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain (63)	Bloom Season	Bloom Color	Height (in)	Wet	Moist	Average	Dry	Extra Dry	Full Shd	More Shd	More Sun	Full Sun	Timid	Moderate	Aggressive	Notes
American Yarrow	<i>Achillea borealis</i>	Aster	Asteraceae	✓	✓	Jun-Aug	White	18-32	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	Attracts the tiny pollinators that tend to be beneficial insects.
White Snakeroot	<i>Ageratina altissima</i> var. <i>altissima</i>	Aster	Asteraceae	✓	✓	Sep-Oct	White	24	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	Deer resistant. Toxic to cattle, do not use near pastures. Tolerant of clay soils and compaction.
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardi</i>	Grass	Poaceae	NR	—	Sep-Jan	NA	100	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	Not recommended for use in Maryland meadow plantings. Native to a few very rare habitats here, but not appropriate for other meadows. Cultivars and possibly straight species infamously ruin meadow projects by virtue of their competitiveness.
Splitbeard Bluestem	<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Sep-Jan	NA	36-42	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	WSG for dry sandy sites, grass with gray/green and red stems, bright white seeds.
Broomsedge	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Sep-Jan	NA	36-48	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Common, wispy brown WSG, gives tidy appearance to meadows in winter.
Indian Hemp (Dogbane)	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	Dogbane	Apocynaceae	✓	✓	May-Jul	White	30-48	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	Stands are attractive in fall, host plant to the beautiful dogbane beetle.
Lyre-leaf Rock Cress	<i>Arabidopsis lyrata</i>	Mustard	Brassicaceae	✓	✓	Apr-May	White	10-18	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	Excellent nectar plant for early-emerging butterflies. Good for dry to extremely dry rocky, gravelly or sandy soil.
Prairie Three-awn	<i>Aristida oligantha</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Jul-Sep	NA	10-24	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	u	-	Native grass with wispy plumes. Good for extremely dry rocky, gravelly or sandy soils.
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> ssp. <i>pulchra</i>	Dogbane	Apocynaceae	✓	✓	Jul	Pink	48-54	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Excellent nectar plant, Monarch host plant.
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Dogbane	Apocynaceae	✓	✓	May-Jun	Lavender	36-48	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	Excellent nectar plant, best Monarch host plant, very showy, fragrant.
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> ssp. <i>tuberosa</i>	Dogbane	Apocynaceae	✓	✓	Jul-Aug	Orange	18-32	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Requires excellent drainage. Excellent nectar plant, Monarch host plant.
Pennsylvania Sedge	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Sedge	Cyperaceae	✓	✓	Apr-Jun	—	6-18	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Tuft-forming and moderately spreading by rhizomes. Good for dry rocky, gravelly or sandy soils.
Shaved Sedge	<i>Carex tonsa</i>	Sedge	Cyperaceae	✓	✓	Mar-Jun	—	3-6	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Evergreen, narrow-leaved, tuft forming, nice border plant for very dry, sunny sites.
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	Buckthorn	Rhamnaceae	✓	✓	Jun	White	18-30	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	Small shrub with plumes of small white to pinkish flowers. Commonly found on barrens and road cuts in w. Maryland, much less frequent on coastal barrens.
Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Pea	Fabaceae	✓	✓	Jun-Aug	Yellow	12-36	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	Annual, with large yellow petals. Reliable from seed.
White Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Plantain	Plantaginaceae	✓	✓	Sep-Oct	White	36	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	In more sun requires more water, hostplant for Baltimore checkerspot. Deer love it.
Maryland Goldenaster	<i>Chrysopsis mariana</i>	Aster	Asteraceae	✓	✓	Aug-Sep	Yellow	18-24	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	For dry, coarse soils. Pairs beautifully w shaggy blazingstars, dried stems attractive after seed.
Wild Marjoram	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Mint	Lamiaceae	✓	✓	May-Jul	Lavender	9-12	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	Not currently in horticultural use, could be seeded or plugged. Pretty with Black-eyed Susans.
Beaked Panicgrass	<i>Coleataenia anceps</i> ssp. <i>anceps</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Jul-Oct	Brown	30-48	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	Bunchgrass. Seeds consumed by birds, ideal for meadows and formal gardens.
Beaked Panicgrass	<i>Coleataenia anceps</i> ssp. <i>rhizomat</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Jul-Oct	Purple	30-48	u	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	Rhizomatous grass. Seeds consumed by birds, does not block view of flowers.
Mistflower	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Aster	Asteraceae	✓	✓	Aug-Sep	Blue	24-30	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Rhizomatous. Pair with NY Ironweed, Hyssop Thoroughwort.
Whorled Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Aster	Asteraceae	✓	NR	Jun	Yellow	30-36	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	Excellent nectar plant for butterflies, flies and bees. Attractive foliage, similar to Zagrev cultivar.
Silky Oatgrass	<i>Danthonia sericea</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	May	NA	18-30	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	Short, tufted grass excellent for dry sandy meadows.
Poverty Oats	<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Jun	NA	18-24	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	For poor soils, tiny bunchgrass, curly blades in winter.
Hay-scented Fern	<i>Dennstaedtia punctiloba</i>	Fern	Dennstaedtiaceae	✓	✓	May-Nov	NA	18-32	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	Strongly rhizomatous fern that typically forms large patches in the wild.
Dillenioid Tick-trefoil	<i>Desmodium perplexum</i>	Pea	Fabaceae	✓	✓	Aug-Sep	Purple	18-32	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	Common and highly variable. Occurs in a variety of habitats but does best in full sun and sandy soils.
Panicled Tick-trefoil	<i>Desmodium paniculatum</i>	Pea	Fabaceae	✓	✓	Aug-Sep	Purple	32-48	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	Hundreds of tiny purple flowers, host plant, seed for birds (but sticks to clothing).
Round-leaved Tick Trefoil	<i>Desmodium rotundifolium</i>	Pea	Fabaceae	✓	✓	Aug-Sep	Lavender	6-12	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	Prostrate stems will clamber over borders. Excellent source of seed for birds and mammals.
Deertongue	<i>Dichanthelium clandestinum</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Jun-Aug	NA	30-48	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	u	Cultivars may be too aggressive. Good for stream sides and low wet borders.
Starved Panicgrass	<i>Dichanthelium depauperatum</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Jun-Nov	u	12	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	Low, tufted grass for dry, poor, acidic soils including sandy soil or rock outcrops.
Fall Witch-grass	<i>Digitaria cognata</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Sep-Oct	Pink	24	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	Low tufted grass for dry, poor, acidic soils including sandy soil or rock outcrops. Produces billowy masses of
Southeastern Wildrye	<i>Elymus glaberrimus</i> var. <i>glaberrimus</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Jun	Green	36-50	u	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	CSG. Assertive and possibly allelopathic to some species, possible deterrent to Canada thistle. Wheat-like.
Purple Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Sep	Purple	24	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	WSG for very sandy, xeric sites, beautiful in bloom.
Sugarcane Plumegrass	<i>Erianthus giganteus</i>	Grass	Poaceae	✓	✓	Sep-Feb	Brown	72-84	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	Very ornamental WSG. For use in wet meadows, freshwater tidal areas, and gardens.
Annual Fleabane	<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	Aster	Asteraceae	✓	✓	May-Jun	White	12-30	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	Annual or biennial, source of 1st year flowers for the meadow project. Tiny pollinators, beneficial insects.
Philadelphia Fleabane	<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	Aster	Asteraceae	✓	✓	Mar-Apr	Wht/Pnk	20	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	Mildly fragrant, early nectar source. Surface sow all fleabane seeds.
Daisy Fleabane	<i>Erigeron strigosus</i> var. <i>strigosus</i>	Aster	Asteraceae	✓	✓	Apr-Jul	White	36-48	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	Biennial, self sows aggressively. All fleabanes are great pollinator/beneficial insect plants.
Coastal Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eutrochium dubium</i>	Aster	Asteraceae	✓	✓	Jul-Sep	Lavender	36-60	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	u	A particularly colorful Joe pye that is unique to the Coastal Plain.

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				(65)	Plain (63)				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cut-leaf Coneflower	Rudbeckia laciniata var. laciniata	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Aug-Sep	Yellow	60-80	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	√	√	-	u	-	Shade and moisture must be balanced. Also in shady mesic soil in mountains. Var. bipinnata is less common.
Lyre Leaf Sage	Salvia lyrata	Mint	Lamiaceae	√	√	Apr-May	Blue	9-18	-	√	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	Has flat-lying, variegated, basal foliage; seeds attract goldfinches.
Elderberry	Sambucus canadensis	Moschatel	Adoxaceae	√	√	May-Jun	White	80-120	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	√	Clonal. Deer resistant. Pollen source for bees, stems provide insect nests. Berries for birds and mammals.
Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium var. scoparium	Grass	Poaceae	√	√	Jul-Oct	NA	36	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	WSG. Bunchgrass with fluffy seed, a key meadow grass. Competes best in poor soil.
Hyssop Skullcap	Scutellaria integrifolia	Mint	Lamiaceae	√	√	June	Blue	12	-	√	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	Typically sets seed 1st w/o blooming. In later years it blooms for only 3 wks but very showy then.
Wild Senna	Senna hebecarpa	Pea	Fabaceae	√	√	Jun-Jul	Yellow	48-60	-	√	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	u	u	Shrub-like stature; unusual, tropical habit. A legume and important butterfly hostplant. Bees love the flowers.
Blue Eyed Grass	Sisyrinchium angustifolium	Iris	Iridaceae	√	√	May	Blue	8-12	-	√	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	Evergreen, miniature member of the iris family.
Silverrod	Solidago bicolor	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Jul-Oct	White	18	-	-	√	√	√	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	For acidic, poor, sandy or rocky soils. Attracts tiny pollinators many of which are beneficial insects.
Blue Stem Goldenrod	Solidago caesia	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Aug-Sep	Yellow	12-20	-	-	√	√	-	√	√	-	√	-	√	-	Shade loving, flowers axillary, pretty blue/purple stems, quite unlike other goldenrods. Deer resistant.
Early Goldenrod	Solidago juncea	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Jul-Aug	Yellow	36-50	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	u	-	Earliest blooming goldenrod, pollinator magnet. Deer resistant.
Gray Goldenrod	Solidago nemoralis var. nemoralis	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Aug-Sep	Yellow	24-30	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	One of our shortest and showiest goldenrods. Especially important not to purchase from western sources.
Sweet Goldenrod	Solidago odora	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Jul-Aug	Yellow	24-42	-	√	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	For acidic, sandy soils. Crushed leaves smell like licorice. Deer resistant.
Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod	Solidago rugosa	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Aug-Sep	Yellow	30-60	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	√	Fragrant, showy; 4 geographic varieties, local mapping is far from complete.
Indian Grass	Sorghastrum nutans	Grass	Poaceae	√	√	Sep-Nov	Brown	60-72	-	√	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	WSG with beautiful flowers and plumes, great fall and winter interest. Host plant.
Pink Fuzzy Bean	Strophostyles umbellata	Pea	Fabaceae	√	√	Jul-Aug	Pink	2-4	-	√	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	Delicate herbaceous vine, twines up stems of taller plants. Important hostplant and food source for wildlife.
Tall White Aster	Symphotrichum lanceolatum	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Sep-Nov	White	36-72	-	√	√	√	-	-	√	√	√	-	-	√	Deer grazing helps keep it shorter; compaction & salt ok; monarch preferred nectar source during fall migration.
Calico Aster	Symphotrichum lateriflorum	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Sep-Oct	White	12-36	√	√	√	√	-	u	√	√	√	-	√	-	Pollinators are literally insane for this aster. Performs well in urban areas.
New York Aster	Symphotrichum novi-belgii	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Aug-Sep	Lt. Blue	12-48	√	√	-	-	-	-	√	√	√	-	√	-	Excellent for wet spots in meadows.
Heath Aster	Symphotrichum pilosum	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Sep-Oct	White	12-36	-	-	u	√	√	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	Common, downy, white aster of old fields. Tolerates extremely dry conditions. Buckeye butterfly favorite.
Purple-Stemmed Aster	Symphotrichum puniceum	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Sep	Lavender	30-60	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	u	-	The common lavender aster of moist ditches. Good for wet areas, floodplain soils.
Smooth White Oldfield Aster	Symphotrichum racemosum	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Aug-Sep	White	10-30	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	u	u	Tolerant of wet to fairly dry clearings.
American Germander	Teucrium canadense	Mint	Lamiaceae	√	√	Jun-Jul	Wht/Pnk	30-40	√	√	u	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	√	Early successional. Deer resistant.
Forked Bluecurls	Trichostema dichotomum	Mint	Lamiaceae	√	√	Aug-Sep	dark blue	12-18	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	Lovely herb with interesting shape to flowers. adaptable to many dry sites.
Purpletop	Tridens flavus	Grass	Poaceae	√	√	Aug-Sep	Purple	30-36	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	WSG. Somewhat salt and compaction tolerant. Beautiful blooming en masse.
Clasping Venus Looking-glass	Triodanis perfoliata	Bellflower	Campanulaceae	√	√	Apr-Jun	Pnk/Purple	9-12	-	√	√	√	√	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	Sandy soils. Tolerant of a wide variety of habitat conditions. Often occurs in disturbed sites like roadsides.
Blue Vervain	Verbena hastata	Vervain	Verbenaceae	√	√	Jul-Aug	Blue	24-60	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	Excellent for wet meadows, seeps, or stream margins.
Broad-leaved Ironweed	Vernonia glauca	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Aug-Sep	Purple	24-36	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	Dry-mesic to dry clearings. Beautiful late summer/fall color. Attracts a variety of pollinators.
New York Ironweed	Vernonia noveboracensis	Aster	Asteraceae	√	√	Jul-Aug	Purple	48-84	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	Excellent nectar plant. Cut back in summer for shorter growth and better view of flowers and butterflies.
Primrose-leaf Violet	Viola primulifolia	Violet	Violaceae	√	√	Apr-May	White	2-3	-	√	√	√	-	-	√	√	√	-	√	-	Miniature white violets spread by rhizomes. Fritillary hostplant. Common in the Coastal Regions, infrequent
Common Blue Violet	Viola sororia	Violet	Violaceae	√	√	Mar-Apr	Purple	5	-	√	√	-	-	-	√	√	√	-	√	-	Use as woodland groundcover, self sows aggressively. Fritillary host plant.

Abbreviations:

bold font = workhorse species, √ = yes, 'dashes' = no, u = unknown, CSG = cool season grass, WSG = warm season grass