



# NATIVE PLANT LIST



Portland Water District

☀ ~Sun, Dry Soil~ ☹

Although this is not an exhaustive list, the following native plants are carried at local nurseries. If a particular plant is not available at your nursery, ASK for it by name. The more demand there is for native plants, the more likely a nursery is to carry it. Additionally, nursery staff may be able to recommend a suitable, NON-INVASIVE substitute.

- ☀ **Full Sun** – more than 5 hours of direct sun a day
- ☽ **Part-Sun** – 2 to 5 hours of direct sun or full day of dappled sun a day
- ☾ **Full Shade** – less than 2 hours of direct sun a day

## SMALL SHRUBS (<6')



**Sweetfern** (*Comptonia peregrina*) Grows 2 to 4 feet high with similar spread. Not a true fern but has somewhat leathery fern-like foliage which has a nice, pungent, spicy smell. Brown catkins in early spring and a bur-like nut in the fall. Full sun. Moist to dry soil. Grows well on poor, sandy, rocky soil. Deep, good root system. Good for roadbanks and steep, dry areas. Zones 2-6.

**Bush Honeysuckle** (*Diervilla lonicera*) Also called American Fly Honeysuckle. (Do not confuse with European Fly Honeysuckle which is invasive.) Grows 2 to 5 feet high. A straggling shrub with handsome red berries. Sun to shade. Sandy, dry soil. Drought tolerant. Found in cool, rocky woods. Zones 3-7.



**Common Juniper** (*Juniperus communis*) Grows to a height of 3-10 feet with an equal spread. Form can be variable from low and spreading to an erect shrub. Cones are berry-like. Leaves are evergreen needles but can turn light brown during the winter. Tolerant of a wide variety of soils. Grows best with full sun. Zones 2-6.

**Sheep Laurel/Lambkill** (*Kalmia angustifolia*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high with a greater spread. Grows best in moist, organic, cool, acidic soils but can tolerate a variety of soil types. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Bright pink flowers bloom in early summer. As the name suggests it is poisonous to livestock. Zones 1-6.



**Fragrant Sumac** (*Rhus aromatica*) Available in standard and 'Gro-Low' varieties. Dwarf grows 2 to 3 feet with a 6 to 8 foot spread. A low shrub with compound leaves and small, fragrant, yellow flowers in spring, followed by red fruit. Excellent orange to red fall color. Leaves are aromatic when crushed. Sun to part shade. Dry, sandy to rocky soil. Good as bank covers and in mass plantings. Dwarf variety used as a ground cover. Found in dry, rocky, open woods. Zones 3-9.

**Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos alba*) Grows 3 to 6 feet high with similar spread. Spreads by suckering so will form thickets, if allowed. Good for erosion control. Blue-green foliage, pink spring flowers and ornamental, white berries in fall. Rapid growth. Sun to part-sun. Moist to dry soil. Adaptable to a variety of soil conditions. Good for birds. Zones 3-7.



**Highbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) Grows from 6 to 8 feet in height with a spread of 8 to 12 feet. Typically found near bogs and marshes. Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil. Sun to partial shade. White bell-shaped flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by edible dark blue berries. Leaves turn red in the fall. Berries are attractive to birds and other wildlife. Zones 5-7.



## **TALL SHRUBS (>6')**



**Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*) Grows from 25 to 30 feet tall with a spread of 20 feet. Grows best in moist soil but will tolerate drier conditions. Partial to full sun. White flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by bright red berries. Flowers have a strong sweet fragrance. The fruit has an astringent taste but does attract birds. Zones 2-6.

**Northern Bayberry** (*Myrica pennsylvanica*) Typically grows from 5 to 6 feet high but can reach 10 feet. Spreads easily and forms colonies. Often found in coastal areas. Foliage is semievergreen aromatic. Will grow well in dry, infertile, sandy, acidic soils. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Zones 2-6.



**Beach Plum** (*Prunus maritima*) Grows from 6 to 8 feet high with a spread of 6 feet. Grows best in well-drained soil but is adaptable to a range of soil types. Prefers full sun. White flowers bloom in the spring and are followed by purple fruits which are edible. Typically found along the coast and tolerant of salt. Zones 3-7.

**Black Chokeberry** (*Aronia melanocarpa*) Can grow up to 8 feet high with a spread of 8 feet. Grows best in moist, well-drained, acidic soils but will tolerate drier sandy soils or wet clayey ones. Particularly good for soil stabilization. Prefers full to partial sun. White flowers bloom in the spring with black berries appearing in the fall and lasting through the winter. Zones 3-8.



**Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*) Grows from 14 to 16 feet with a spread of 6 to 12 feet. Grows well in medium wet to average soil but is tolerant of drier soils. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Clusters of white flowers give way to blue/black berry like fruit. Supposedly the fruit is particularly attractive to nanny goats, hence it's common name. *Nannyberry is susceptible to attack from the Viburnum Leaf Beetle. Check with your local nursery to see if the Beetle is a problem in your area.* Zones 2-8.

**Shadblow Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier canadensis*) Grows from 25 to 30 feet high with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. Grows best in medium wet, well-drained soil but will tolerate a wide range. Prefers partial shade to full sun. Clusters of white flowers are followed by edible red/purple berries in late summer. Zones 4-8.



**Staghorn Sumac** (*Rhus typhina*) Grows from 10 to 25 feet tall with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. Tolerates a wide range of soils as long as they are well-drained. Grows best in full sun to partial shade. Clusters of fuzzy berry-like fruits are produced in the fall. A popular ornamental shrub due to its showy autumn colors. Zones 3-8.

## TREES



**Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*) Grows up to 75 feet with a 40 foot spread. Stunning orange- red fall color. Full sun, but tolerates some shade. Moist, well-drained soil. Does not tolerate wet or compacted soil. Zones 3-8.



**Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) Grows up to 75 feet. Rapid growth. An impressive shade tree, with reddish-brown bark and dark green leaves. Leaves turn red in fall. Moist, well drained soil. Sun. Zones 3-7.



**Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*) Can grow up to 80 feet with a 30 foot spread in ideal conditions. Large, irregular, pyramidal tree. Small, deep-green needles with a loose, feathery appearance. Small, interesting cones. Also available in dwarf forms. Sun to shade. Does best in cool, moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates shade and some flooding. Zones 3-7.



**Red Pine** (*Pinus resinosa*) Also called Norway Pine. Can reach 80 feet. Rapid growth. Large, handsome, straight tree. Long, dark green, stiff needles. Reddish bark. Makes an excellent windbreak. Full sun. Bet in dry, sandy soil. First discovered near Norway, Maine. Zones 2-5.



**Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*) Can grow to 100 feet with a 40 foot spread. Large, open tree with horizontal branching. Long, soft, blue-green needles. Can be pruned to hedges or windbreaks. Rapid growth. Sun to partial shade. Moist soil best, but tolerates dry soil. Does not tolerate salt or flooding. Zones 3-7.

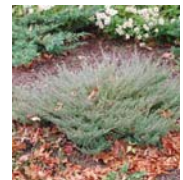
## VINES AND GROUNDCOVERS

**Bearberry** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) Grows from 4 to 6 inches with a spread of 3 feet. Spreads easily to form a mat. Grows best in moist, well-drained, rich, acidic soil. Full sun to partial shade. Light pink, cup-shaped flowers give way to a bright red berry in the fall. It is a useful in preventing erosion and is commonly planted along banks. Zones 2-6.



**Virgin's Bower** (*Clematis virginiana*) A climbing vine that can grow up to 20 feet high. Grows best in soil with average to medium moisture and full sun to partial shade. Attractive clusters of silky seeds follow showy white flowers. Grows best on a trellis or fence. Zones 2-10.

**Creeping Juniper** (*Juniperus horizontalis*) Grows approximately 2 feet high with a spread of 8 feet. Tolerates a wide range of soil as long as it is well drained. Grows best in full sun. Foliage is often a silvery blue color. Small, blue, berry-like fruit. Zones 3-9.



**Woodbine/Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) A climbing vine that can reach heights of up to 40 feet. Grows easily. Will tolerate a range of soil types and a variety of light conditions. Drought tolerant. Small white flowers in spring. Foliage turns bright red in the fall and small purple berries are produced. When not in a position to climb it is an excellent ground cover and will put down more roots. Zones 3-9.





**Lowbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) Grows from 2 to 24 inches and spreads to form colonies. Prefers an acidic, well-drained soil that has previously been untilled. A popular ground cover. Blueberries are attractive to wildlife and humans. Grows well in partial shade to full sun. Zones 2-6.

**Lingonberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) Also called Crowberry or Mountain Cranberry. Grows to 7 inches and spreads. Small, glossy-green, leathery foliage and small pink or white flowers, followed by small, red fruit, sour but edible. Found in bogs and wet or dry, rocky, mossy slopes. Sun to shade. Dry to moist, well-drained soil. Zones 2-6.



## **PERENNIALS**



**Milkweed** (*Asclepias syriaca*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of approximately 1 foot. Clusters of pink flowers bloom in the late spring into the summer and are attractive to butterflies, particularly Monarch larvae. Very adaptable. Can grow in average, dry to medium wet soils that are well drained. Prefers full sun. Zones 3-9.

**New England Aster** (*Aster novae-angliae*) Grows from 1½ to 2 feet high with a spread of 2 to 3 feet. It grows best in average to wet, well-drained soil with full sun. Blooms in late summer to early fall with dark purple flowers that are attractive to butterflies. Zones 3-9.



**New York Aster** (*Aster novi-belgii*) Grows to a height of 1 to 3 feet. Found in meadows, along stream banks and in thickets. Flowers are found from August to October. Optimal growth is encouraged by average to moist soil and full sun. Zones 3-9.

**Harebell** (*Campanula rotundifolia*) Grows from 1 to 2 feet high with a spread of 6 inches. Flowers are deep blue and bell shaped. Blooms from June to September often until the first hard frost. Full to partial sun. Prefers dry to medium sand or gravel soils. Zones 3-8.



**Echinacea** (*Echinacea purpurea*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high with a spread of 1 to 2 feet depending on variety. Large, daisy-like flowers can be red, white or light purple. Tends to form clumps. Full sun. Prefers moist, well-drained, neutral to slightly alkaline soil. Heat and drought tolerant. Attracts birds and butterflies. Zones 3-10.

**Moss Phlox** (*Phlox subulata*) Grows to about 6 inches high and spreads to form an attractive groundcover. Often grown on rock walls. Flowers are typically varying shades of pink but different varieties can be found in purple and white. Easily grown in full sun in almost any type of well-drained soil. Zones 3-8.



**Obedient Plant** (*Physostegia virginiana*) Grows to a height of 3 to 4 feet with a spread of 2 to 3 feet. Pink or white flowers bloom late in the season. Should be divided every 2-3 years to prevent aggressive spreading. Prefers average to wet, well-drained soil with full sun. Zones 3-9.

**Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*) Grows from 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of 1 to 2 feet. Leaves are rough, hairy, and lance shaped. Flowers are yellow to orange-yellow with a dark brown center. Full sun to part shade. Prefers dry to medium wet, well-drained soil but is tolerant of heat, drought and a wide range of soils. Low maintenance. Zones 3-9.



**Tall Meadow Rue** (*Thalictrum polygamum*) Grows from 3 to 8 feet high. Typically found in swampy areas and near water bodies. Small white inflorescences bloom in mid summer. Often recommended for the back border of gardens due to its large size. Prefers average to moist soil with light shade to full sun. Zones 3-8.

**Appalachian Barren Strawberry** (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) Grows from 3 to 8 inches high with a ½ to 1 foot spread. A low, mat-forming, strawberry-like plant with evergreen, basal leaves and several yellow flowers on a leafless stalk. Fruit is not fleshy or edible. Sun to shade. Prefers medium wet, well-drained, organic, slightly acidic soil, but tolerates a wide range. Flowers from April to June. Zones 3-9.



### USEFUL LINKS:

The following publications can be found at: <http://extensionpubs.umext.maine.edu/>

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2502 “*Native Plants: A 2002 Maine Source List.*”

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2500 “*Gardening to Conserve Maine's Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid.*”

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2701 “*Designing Your Landscape for Maine.*”

Part of the **Conservation Practices for Homeowners** Factsheet Series, available at:  
Maine DEP (800.452.1942); <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/materials.htm>  
Portland Water District (207.774.5961); <http://www.pwd.org/news/publications.php>