

Plant NNK Natives
Go Native—Grow Native

Salt Tolerant Northern Neck Native Plants

Northern Neck Chapter of the
Virginia Native Plant Society



Virginia Native Plant Society
NORTHERN NECK CHAPTER

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Looking for plants that will do well along your shoreline? Many Northern Neck native plants are excellent candidates. They add value to your landscape by providing diverse colors and textures. Once established, they need little maintenance. They nurture birds, butterflies and other wildlife by providing food and shelter. Most importantly for shoreline plantings, they are well adapted to the climate and ecological conditions on the Northern Neck, so many of them tolerate salt spray and being inundated by salty water.

- Intertidal Brackish Marsh—Lower salinity (less than 15 ppt) and flooded each day by the tides, typically found upriver and along protected creeks.
- Near Shore Areas—Flooded periodically and bordering dry land, e.g., from the high tide line to the upland bank.
- Upland Bank—Subject to occasional salt spray or storm surge.



Kayakers enjoy a natural shoreline bordered with salt tolerant grasses, shrubs and trees.

Plants suited for sandy beaches and dunes are highlighted with asterisks.

After you review the list, you may want to look near your property to find plants that naturally grow in your area. Those will likely be the best candidates for your shoreline, too. Be sure to check plant references to learn more about the specific characteristics and requirements of these suggested plants (e.g., size, bloom, sun, shade) and determine if they are well suited for your particular site.

Do you need more detailed information and assistance?

- The Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plants Society produced a guide to the Native Plants of the Northern Neck. It is available at local garden centers and on line at www.nnnps.org (look under the tab for the Plant Northern Neck Natives campaign).
- The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has detailed information on native plants. Visit www.wildflower.org.
- The Northern Neck Master Gardeners Shoreline Evaluation Program gives workshops and provides recommendations on preventing erosion by creating *living shorelines*. Find more information on this program at www.nnmg.org.

The Plant Northern Neck Natives: Go-Native—Grow Native campaign prepared this listing of salt tolerant plants to help you choose the native plants that might work best in your situation. The list is organized alphabetically by scientific name within each plant type: Herbaceous Plants Ferns, Grasses, Vines, Shrubs, Small and Large Trees. Following the common name, the four columns indicate the suitable location(s) for the plant:

- Intertidal Salt Marsh—Higher salinity (greater than 15 ppt) and flooded each day by the tides, typically found along the Chesapeake Bay and wide open river-front properties.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Intertidal Salt Marshes (greater than 15 ppt salinity)	Intertidal Brackish Marshes (less than 15 ppt salinity)	Near Shore Areas (periodically flooded, bordering dry land)	Upland Bank (subject to salt spray and occasional storm surge)
					*appropriate for sandy shores	* appropriate for dunes
Herbaceous Plants						
	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine, Eastern Red Columbine				x
	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly-weed, Common Butterfly-weed				x
	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp Rose-mallow, Eastern Rose-mallow, Crimson-eyed Rose-mallow		x	x	x
	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Larger Blue Flag, Northern Blue Flag		x	x	x
	<i>Iris virginica</i>	Virginia Blue Flag, Southern Blue Flag		x	x	x
	<i>Kosteletzkya pentacarpos</i>	Seashore Mallow, Salt Marsh Mallow		x	x	x
	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower		x		
	<i>Liatris pilosa</i>	Grass-leaf Blazing Star, Grass-leaf Gayfeather				x*
	<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>	Sea Lavender, Carolina Sea Lavender	x	x	x	
	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Sundial Lupine				x

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					*appropriate for sandy shores	* appropriate for dunes
	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	Eastern Prickly-pear				x*
	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	Arrow-arum, Tuckahoe		x		
	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Pickernelweed		x		
	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan				x
	<i>Sarcocornia pacifica</i>	Woody Glasswort, Perennial Glasswort			x	
	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	Seaside Goldenrod		x	x	x*
	<i>Symphyotrichum tenuifolium</i>	Perennial Salt-marsh Aster		x		
	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Common Yucca, Adam's Needle				x*
Ferns						
	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern				x
	<i>Osmunda spectabilis</i>	Royal Fern				x
Grasses						
	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	American Beach Grass			x*	x*
	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	Broomsedge, Broomstraw, Sedge Grass, Sage Grass				x
	<i>Bolboschoenus robustus</i>	Saltmarsh Bulrush		x	x	
	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Saltgrass	x	x	x	
	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Common Rush, Soft Rush		x		
	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	Black Needle Rush	x	x		
	<i>Panicum amarum</i>	Sea-beach Grass, Beach Panic Grass			x*	x*
	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass		x	x*	x*
	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	Saltmarsh Cordgrass, Smooth Cordgrass	x	x		x
	<i>Spartina patens</i>	Saltmeadow Cordgrass, Saltmeadow Hay	x	x	x	x*
	<i>Spartina cynosuroides</i>	Big Cordgrass, Giant Cordgrass		x		
	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem				x
	<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	Olney Threesquare		x		
	<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i>	Common Threesquare, Chairmaker's Rush		x		
Vines						
	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet-creeper				x
	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virgin's-bower				x
	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Trumpet Honeysuckle, Coral Honeysuckle				x
	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia-creeper				x*
	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Purple Passionflower, Maypop				x
Shrubs						
	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry				x
	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	High-tide Bush, Groundsel Tree		x	x	x*
	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American Beauty-berry, French-mulberry				x
	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet Pepperbush, Coastal White-alder			x	x
	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood				x

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					*appropriate for sandy shores	appropriate for dunes
	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry			x	x
	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry				x
	<i>Iva frutescens</i>	Marsh-elder		x	x	x
	<i>Morella caroliniensis</i>	Evergreen Bayberry, Pocosin Bayberry			x	x
	<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Southern Bayberry, Wax-Myrtle			x	x*
	<i>Morella pensylvanica</i>	Northern Bayberry			x	x*
	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac				x
	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose				x*
	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose		x		x
	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Common Elderberry				x
	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrow-wood				x
Small Trees						
	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Serviceberry			x	x*
	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Canadian Serviceberry			x	x
	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly				x
	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay, Sweetbay Magnolia, Swamp Magnolia				x
Large Trees						
	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry, Southern Hackberry				x
	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Common Persimmon, American Persimmon				x*
	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Redcedar				x*
	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum				x
	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum, Sour Gum				x
	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly Pine				x
	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry, Wild Black Cherry				x*
	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak				x
	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	Water Oak				x
	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow Oak				x
	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak				x
	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post Oak				x
	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras				x
	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Baldcypress				x

References

Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora www.vaplantatlas.org
 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center www.wildflower.org
 Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/pdf/chesapeakenatives.pdf
 Virginia Institute of Marine Science www.crm.vims.edu/livingshorelines/ls_wetland_plants_zone.html

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