



# NATIVE PLANT LIST



Portland Water District

○ ~Shade, Moist to Wet Soils~ 💧

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')



**Summersweet** (*Clethra alnifolia*) Also called Hummingbird Clethra or Sweet Pepperbush. Grows 3 to 8 feet high with a 4 to 6 foot spread. Attractive, deep-green foliage and very fragrant, white or pink flowers in summer. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soil. Zones 4-9.

**Canadian Yew** (*Taxus canadensis*) Grows from 1 to 6 feet high with branches spreading to 6 feet. Grows best in moist, loamy, alkaline, well-drained soils. Prefers partial to full shade. A popular food for moose and deer. Tolerant of the cold. Zones 2-6.



**Mapleleaf Viburnum** (*Viburnum acerifolium*) Grows from 4 to 6 feet high with an equal spread. Grows best in well-drained, mildly acidic soil with average moisture but can tolerate drier soils. Prefers shade to partial shade. Similar to other viburnums, a cluster of small white flowers gives way to dark blue/black fruits that are enjoyed by birds and other wildlife. *Mapleleaf Viburnum* 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 4-8.

## TALL SHRUBS (>6')

**Allegheny Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier laevis*) Grows to approximately 25 feet high with a spread of 20 feet. Grows in shade and partial shade and prefers moist soils. A hardy serviceberry species that will tolerate more moisture and light than some other varieties. White flowers and purple/black edible berries are typical. Zones 4-8.



**Witherod** (*Viburnum cassinoides*) Also called Wild Raisin. Grows 6 to 10 feet with a lesser spread. A slender, upright shrub with glossy, green leaves. Round clusters of feathery, white to pink flowers in late spring and whitish fruit turning blue-black in the fall. Red fall color. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soil but tolerates drier conditions. Found in damp clearings, swamps and moist thickets. Good for birds. *Witherod* 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 3-8.

## TREES



**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.

**Yellow Birch** (*Betula alleghaniensis*) Can grow up to 80 feet with a 50 foot spread. Attractive golden, peeling bark on older specimens. Leaves are alternate, 3-5 inches long, turning yellow in fall. Part-sun to shade. Moist soil. Found near streams. Zones 3-7.



**Balsam Fir** (*Abies balsamea*) Grow up to 50 feet high and 20 feet wide. Narrow, pyramidal tree; typical Christmas tree shape. Needles are short, dark green, and blunt. Small, light brown cones. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soils. Zones 3-5.

## VINES AND GROUNDCOVERS

**Bunchberry** (*Cornus canadensis*) Grows to approximately 6 inches in height and spreads easily. Favors moist, rich, acidic soils. Grows best in partial to full shade. Larger white bracts surround small green flowers. A red berry is produced in the fall is attractive to birds. Zones 2-6.



**Checkerberry/Wintergreen** (*Gaultheria procumbens*) Also known as teaberry. Grows up to 6 inches high and spreads 4 to 6 inches annually. Favors well-drained, acidic soil with average moisture. Grows in partial to full shade but produces more fruit with adequate light. Leaves are evergreen and red berries remain on the plant all winter. Young leaves and berries have a wintergreen flavor. Zones 3-5.

**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.



**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

**Jack-in-the-Pulpit** (*Arisaema triphyllum*) Grows from 1 to 2 feet high with a spread of 1 to 1½ feet. Unusually shaped and striped “flower” in mid-spring; clusters of brilliant red berries in fall. Typically grows in wet woodland areas and may take 5 years to flower if grown from seed. Roots are poisonous. Prefers medium wet to wet rich organic soils and partial to full shade. Zones 3-9.



**Soloman's Seal** (*Polygonatum pubescens*) Grows from 1 to 3 feet high. Typically found in wooded areas. Leaves are slightly hairy underneath and flowers are a greenish white in color and flower in late spring to early summer. Deep blue berries in the fall. Grows best in full to partial shade with rich moist soil. Zone 3-9.



**Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) Grows from 6 to 12 inches high and is usually found in colonies. Three inch white flowers with yellow centers. Leaves and root contain an orange/red juice that is poisonous. Flowers in early spring. Grows best in part sun to shade and leaf litter. Zones 3-9.

**Marsh Blue Violet** (*Viola cucullata*) Grows from 5 to 10 inches high with a spread of less than 1 foot. Typically found in wet meadows and bogs. Foliage spreads to provide a good groundcover and attracts butterfly larvae. Blue violet flowers bloom from late spring to mid summer. Prefers moist soils and is shade tolerant. Zones 4-8.



**Round-leaved Violet** (*Viola rotundifolia*) Grows from 2 to 5 inches high. Yellow flowers bloom in late spring. Distinctive leaves are large and glossy. Typically found in wooded areas. Prefers partial shade with moist soil but will tolerate seasonal dryness. Zones 3-9.

**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>