

PLANTS FOR MOIST TO WET SITES

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Sometimes there are areas in the landscape that drain poorly, have standing water, are stream banks or are other wetland areas. Using many common plants in these spots is doomed to failure because they need a certain amount of air space in the soil and can't tolerate "wet feet." It is sometimes possible to drain wet areas or to create berms (elevated bed areas) that raise the plants and their root systems above the water, especially while they are recovering from transplanting. However, why fight the site? Use plants that are adapted to wet sites.

The plants that follow can all tolerate some excess water in the soil. Some require boggy situations to grow well. A few aquatic plants are included. Note: Woody plants will often establish more easily from seed on wet locations. There is no transplant shock or need to re-establish a root system damaged by the ball and burlap process. If this is not possible, then the smaller the transplant, the faster the re-establishment. The comments below are brief. Be sure to consult a good reference or Internet web site for more information about these plants.

ANNUAL AND PERENNIAL PLANTS

Botanical name	Common name	comments
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Sweet flag	per, obl, 2', greenish, bog
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit	per, shade, 2', red berries
<i>Aruncus diocus</i>	Goat's beard	per, ps-sun, white, 3'-5'
<i>Asarum</i> spp.	Wild ginger	per, shade, fragrant, dense mat
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	2-4', sun, pink, decorative pods
<i>Aster nova-angliae</i>	New England aster	per, sun, pink-purple, 4'
<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	Flat-topped aster	per, 2-7', white, self sows readily
<i>Astilbe</i> spp.	False spirea	per, shade, heavy feeder, 1-3'
<i>Calla palustris</i>	Water-arum	per, bog, yellow, red berry
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	per, sun-ps, yellow, bog
<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i>	Quamash	per bulb, ps-sun, blue, moist
<i>Chelone</i> spp.	Turtlehead	per, ps, bog, 1-4'
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	Bugbane, snakeroot	per, ps, white, fragrant, to 6'
<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>	Lady slipper orchid	1 1/2', pink+white, woody loam
<i>Cleome hasslerana</i>	Spider flower	ann., sun, pink-white, 3'
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	ann-per, ps-sun, poisonous to eat
<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	Leopard's bane	per, ps, yellow, 1'
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-Pye-weed	per, obl, ps-sun, 7', bog, rose
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	per, 2-4', sun, white
<i>Euphorbia marginata</i>	Snow-on-the-mountain	ann, sun, white
<i>Ferns (many kinds)</i>	Ferns	6"-5', ps-shade
<i>Filipendula</i> spp.	Dropwort, meadowsweet	per, sun, white, moist
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Andrews' (closed) gentian	per, blue, bog
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Common sneezeweed	per, 3-5', yellow
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's rocket	per, s/ps, 2-3', white, pink, biennial
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp rose mallow	per, obl, sun, marsh, coarse, 3'
<i>Hosta</i> spp.	Plantain lily	per, shade, purple, slugs&deer
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Jewelweed	ann, sun-sh, yellow-orange, 2-3',
<i>Impatiens walleriana</i>	Impatiens	ann, ps-sun, 8" to 2', deer
<i>Iris kaempferi (ensata)</i>	Japanese iris	per, sun-ps, acid soil, blue
<i>Iris pseudoacorus</i>	Yellowflag iris	per, sun, yellow, bog, acid soil
<i>Iris sibirica</i>	Siberian iris	per, 2', acid soil, 2-3'
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue flag iris	per, obl, blue, 2-3'
<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	Twinflower	per, white, 12", rich, alkaline soil
<i>Kirengeshoma palmata</i>	Kirengeshoma	sun-ps, 3', yellow, black stem, peaty s
<i>Ligularia dentata</i>	Groundsel	per, ps-sun, coarse, slugs
<i>Lilium canadense</i>	Canada lily	per, 2-5', yellow to red, sun-ps
<i>Lilium michiganense</i>	Michigan lily	per, 2-5', orange, sun-ps

obl - obligate wetland species occurring naturally in wetlands; color name = flower color per - perennial; ann. - annual; ps - partial shade, s - sun; res. - resistant, sep - separate; dioecious= male and female flowers on separate plants

<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal flower	per, s/ps, bog, hummingbirds, 1-3'
<i>Lobelia syphilitica</i>	Great blue lobelia	per, s/ps, blue, 2-3'
<i>Lysimachia</i> spp.	Loosestrife	per, ps, moist to bog,
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	invasive - do not grow
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia bluebells	ps-sun, per., ephemeral, cool
<i>Mimulus x hybridus</i>	Monkeyflower	ann., p/s to shade, red/orange/yellow
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Allegheny monkey flower	per, blue-purple, 1-2', divide annually
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Beebalm	per, sun, pink-red,
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Forget-me-not	biennial, sun-ps, blue
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient plant	per, 3', sun-ps, pink - white,
<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	Snakeweed	per, 1-2', sun-ps, pink, moist
<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Pickerel weed	per, aquatic, blue, 2'
<i>Primula</i> spp.	Primrose	per, cool, shady, 6"-12", moist
<i>Pulmonaria saccharata</i>	Lungwort, Bethlehem sage	per, shade, blue, 9"-18"
<i>Ranunculus repens flore pleno</i>	Buttercup	per, sun, yellow, 1'
<i>Rhexia virginica</i>	Virginia meadow beauty	per, ps, reddish pink, acid bog, 1'
<i>Rodgersia</i> spp.	Rodgersia, Roger's flower	per, shade, white, 4-6', bog
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Arrowhead	per, white, 1-3', sun-ps, pond or wet s
<i>Senecio smithii</i>	White groundsel	per, sun, 2-4', white
<i>Torenia fournieri</i>	Wishbone flower	ann, 1', varied color
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Virginia spiderwort	per, sun-ps, 2', blue-purple, rampant
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower	per, shade-sun, yellow, 1'-2'
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York ironweed	per, 3-6', lavender violet, sun-ps
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's root	per, sun-ps, white, 3-6', humus soil
<i>Viola x wittrockiana</i>	Pansy	ann/biennial, ps/sun
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Calla lily	tender bulb, white-pink-yellow

GROUND COVERS

<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Bishop's weed	Invasive, white, variegated
<i>Asarum</i> spp.	Wild ginger	Shade, aromatic, satiny leaves
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	Golden star	Sun-p/s, gold
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-valley	8", poisonous, shade, white, fragrant
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper	Persistent, scale insects, weevils
<i>Galax urceolata</i>	Wandflower	Shade, white
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet woodruff, bedstraw	Shade, fragrant, white, 6"
<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>	Houttuynia	Per, sun/ps, white, bog, 1', invasive
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow archangel	Shade, 1', yellow, rampant
<i>Lamium maculatum</i> var.	Spotted dead nettle	8", p/s, pink-white
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Moneywort, creep. Charlie	Per, yellow, wet to moist
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping mahonia	Ps/shade, yellow, blue berries
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive fern	2', bead-like spores
<i>Paxistima canbyi</i>	Canby pachistima	Ps, evergreen, acid, 1'

SHRUBS

<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red chokeberry	6'-8', white, pest resist., berries
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black chokeberry	2', white, purple berries
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Carolina allspice	8', ps, red-brown, fragrant
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	5', white in Aug., coarse
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet pepperbush	6', ps, acid, white, pest res.
<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	Sweet fern	4', ps, aromatic leaves, moist
<i>Cornus alba sibirica</i>	Siberian dogwood	7', ps, white, red twigs
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky dogwood	8', blue fruit, purple twigs
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red osier dogwood	8', ps, white, red twigs
<i>Cornus sericea flaviramea</i>	Yellowtwig dogwood	8', ps, white, yellow twigs

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<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	Redvein enkianthus	15', cream, acid soil
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	Vernal witch hazel	8', ps, yellow, fragrant
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Sea-buckthorn	15', sun, shore, berries,
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry holly	6', evergreen, sun to ps, dioecious
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry holly	Decid, dioecious, 7-12', red berry
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweetspire	9', obl, white flowers
<i>Leucothoe</i> spp.	Leucothoe	5', shade, white, acid
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	10', yellow, red fruit, fragrant
<i>Myrica</i> spp.	Bayberry, wax-myrtle	Dioecious, fragrant, 3-8'
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Bush cinquefoil	1-4', yellow, sun to ps,
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Rosebay	12'-25', rose, acid
<i>Rhododendron vaseyi</i>	Pinkshell azalea	8', shade, pink, acid
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp azalea	6', pinkish, deciduous, acid
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Goat willow, pussywillow	20', fast grower
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Native elderberry	Edible fruit, 10'
<i>Spiraea</i> spp.	Spiraea	5'+, white/pink, few pests
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush blueberry	6', acid, moist, edible fruit
<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>	Cranberry	Obl, bog, creeping, edible
<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Witherod	6', white, fruit changes from green to Pink to red to blue to black
<i>Viburnum opulus 'sterile'</i>	Snowball	12', white, no berries, red fall color
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American cranberrybush	8', sun-ps, white, edible red drupe
<i>Zenobia pulverulenta</i>	Dusty zenobia	3', acid soil, white, yellow fall color

TREES (DECIDUOUS)

<i>Acer rubrum 'red sunset'</i>	'Red sunset' red maple	40-60', good fall color
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	Weak-wooded, 75'
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Downy shadblow	Edible fruit, 25', white, sun-ps
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch	40', resist borers, exfol. bark, messy
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American hornbeam	35', good screen
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	50', elm-like, tolerates dry&salt
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White fringe tree	15', blue-black fruit, sun-ps
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	Edible fruit
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green ash	60', adaptable
<i>Larix</i> spp.	Larch	70', deciduous conifer
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet gum	Good fall color, spiny balls, 50'
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay, swamp magnolia	25', fragrant, white flowers, acid soil
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn redwood	Deciduous conifer, 60', tolerates pollution
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum, tupelo	Red fall color, 50'
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	75', pests, colorful bark, anthracnose
<i>Populus</i> spp.	Poplar	Weak-wooded, short-lived, 60'
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak	80', many pests, fast growing
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow oak	50', no fall planting
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Willows	50', invasive roots, messy, pests
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald cypress	Deciduous conifer, 60', wet, acid
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American linden	80', pyramidal

TREES (EVERGREEN)

<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa nana</i>	Dwarf Hinoki false cypress	To 9', picturesque, moist areas
<i>Chamaecyparis thiodides</i>	Atlantic whitecedar	To 80'
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	60', plant on mound, leaf miner
<i>Thuja occidentalis nigra</i>	Dark American arborvitae	30', compact, bagworm & mites

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