



Inverness Village

Transition to a Native Landscape

Planting Recommendations for Transitioning to Native Landscaping
prepared by Olivia Kirkpatrick, GreenWeaver Landscapes



GREENWEAVER
LANDSCAPES
INSPIRED BY NATURE

Dry Shade Gardens (ex. under trees)

Replacement for non-native invasive *Pachysandra terminalis*, Japanese spurge, a common groundcover perennial planted under trees.

The soil condition under trees is often relatively dry because of the high water needs of a mature tree. The roots can also contribute to compaction. Thus, plantings under trees should be perennials, tolerant of dry conditions, and with shallow, running root systems that can establish in shallow soils.

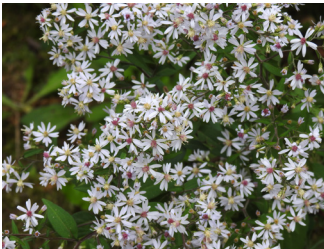
Recommended species:



— *Adiantum pedatum*
maidenhair fern
1-2.5' height
part to full shade
medium water



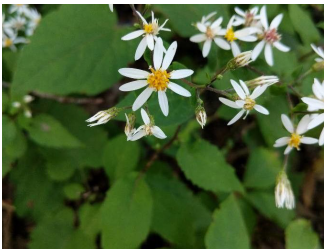
— *Geranium maculatum*
wild geranium
1.5-2' height
part shade
medium water



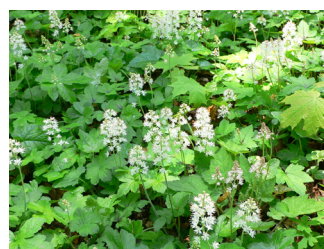
— *Symphyotrichum cordifolium*
blue wood aster
2-5' height
part shade
dry to medium water



— *Phlox divaricata* 'Blue Moon'
Blue Moon woodland phlox
0.75-1' height
part to full shade
medium water



— *Eurybia divaricata*
white wood aster
2-5' height
part to full shade
dry to medium water



— *Tiarella cordifolia*
'Brandywine'
foamflower
0.75-1' height
part to full shade
medium water



— *Dryopteris marginalis*
marginal wood fern
1.5-2' height
part to full shade
medium water



— *Carex pensylvanica*
Pennsylvania sedge
0.5-1' height
part to full shade
dry to medium water

Additional perennial species:

Actaea racemosa, black cohosh
Aquilegia canadensis, wild columbine
Eurybia macrophylla, bigleaf aster
Mertensia virginica, Virginia bluebells
Smilacina racemosa, Solomon's plume

Ornamental Trees

Replacement for declining non-native ornamental understory trees. Commonly planted species like *Cornus kousa*, kousa dogwood, provide an attractive flower in spring, but offer little to native pollinators and other fauna. Species selection for each individual site should be determined based on soil and light conditions- this selection includes a variety of trees with different cultural needs.

Recommended species:



— *Amelanchier* 'Autumn Brilliance'
serviceberry
15-30' mature height
full sun to part, medium water
white flowers in spring, berries in fall
orange-red fall color



— *Cornus florida*
flowering dogwood
15-30' mature height
full sun to part, medium water
white or pink flowers in spring
red fall color



— *Carpinus caroliniana*
American hornbeam
20-30' mature height
full sun, medium water
orange-red fall color



— *Magnolia virginiana*
sweetbay magnolia
12-35' mature height
full sun to part, medium water
white flowers spring into summer



— *Cercis canadensis*
Eastern redbud
12-25' mature height
full sun to shade, medium water
pink flowers in spring



— *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Wildfire'
blackgum
40' mature height
full sun, medium to high water
spectacular yellow to red fall color



— *Chionanthus virginicus*
fringetree
12-20' mature height
full sun to part, medium water
white flowers in spring
berries in fall

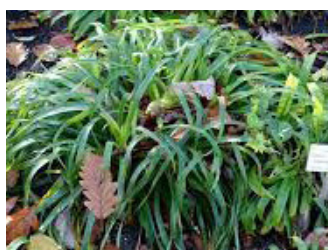
Wet Shade Gardens

Plants not suited to shady, wet environments tend to struggle with the lack of sunlight and moist soils, which can contribute to the spread of fungal diseases. However, there are plenty of species that will thrive in these conditions! Planting wet areas can help to uptake excess water, reduce ponding and slow the flow of surface water.

Recommended species:



— *Athyrium filix-femina*
lady fern
1-3' height
part sun to shade
high water



— *Carex plantaginea*
seersucker sedge
0.75-1' height
full sun to shade
medium water



— *Chrysogonum virginianum*
green-and-gold
0.5-1'
yellow flowers in summer
part sun to shade
medium to high water



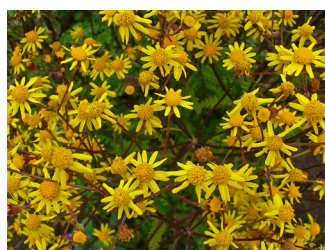
— *Dryopteris x australis*
dixie wood fern
2-3' height
shade
medium to high water



— *Heuchera americana*
'Dale's Strain'
alumroot
1-2' height
full sun to shade
medium water



— *Lobelia cardinalis*
cardinal flower
2-4' height
red flowers in summer
full sun to shade
high water



— *Packera aurea*
golden groundsel
2-3' height
yellow flowers in spring
full sun to part
medium to high water



— *Tiarella cordifolia*
foamflower
1.5' height
white flowers in spring
part sun to shade
medium to high water

Additional species:

Anemone virginiana, thimbleweed
Asarum canadense, wild ginger
Caltha palustris, marsh marigold
Carex flaccosperma, blue wood sedge
Onoclea sensibilis, sensitive fern
Polemonium reptans, Jacob's ladder

Cephalanthus occidentalis 'Sugar Shack', buttonbush
Itea virginica, Virginia sweetspire

Sunny Slopes

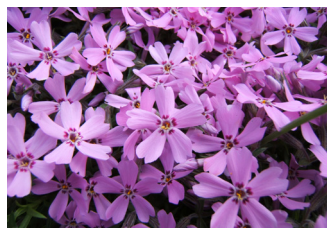
Slopes can be a challenging location for planting. Plants for slopes should be tolerant of drought, as soils on slopes tend to drain quickly during rain events. Plants that spread and colonize are beneficial in a challenging environment.

The benefits of planting a slope are many- soils are stabilized and surface water is slowed, which contributes to reducing erosion. Additionally, large plantings can provide a stunning visual feature. Planting in masses can create a more orderly look and simplify maintenance.

Recommended species:



— *Achillea millefolium*
yarrow
2-3' height
white flowers in summer
full to part sun
very low water



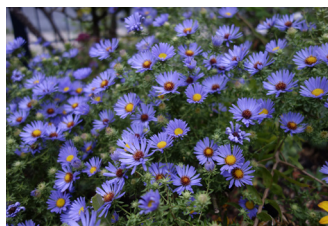
— *Phlox subulata*
creeping phlox
0.5' height
cultivars with varying colors in spring
full sun
medium water



— *Amsonia hubrichtii*
threadleaf bluestar
2-3' height
blue flowers in spring
gold fall color
full to part sun, medium water



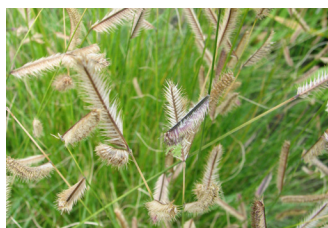
— *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*
narrow leaf mountain mint
2-3' height
white-pink flowers summer
full to part sun
medium water



— *Aster 'October Skies'*
aromatic aster
1.5-2' height
purple-blue flowers in autumn
full sun
low to medium water



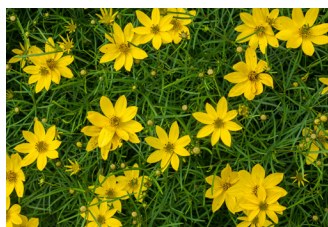
— *Schizachyrium scoparium*
little bluestem
2-4' height
full sun
very low water



— *Bouteloua gracilis*
blue grama
2.5-3' height
full sun
low water



— *Ceanothus americanus*
New Jersey tea
2-3' height
white flowers in summer
full to part sun
low water



— *Coreopsis verticillata*
thread leaf coreopsis
1-2' height
yellow flowers in summer
full sun
low to medium water



— *Rhus aromatica 'Gro Low'*
fragrant sumac
3-6' height, 6-12' spread
full sun
very low water

Additional species:

Andropogon virginicus, broomsedge
Asclepias syriaca, common milkweed
Monarda fistulosa, wild bergamot
Ratibida pinnata, prairie coneflower

Rudbeckia hirta, black-eyed Susan
Tridens flava, purpletop

Cornus racemosa, gray dogwood
Viburnum prunifolium, blackhaw
Photinia (syn. *Aronia*) *melanocarpa*, black chokeberry

Dooryard Plants

Many standard landscape plants have, over time, escaped cultivation and become invasive. There are many native alternatives that can fill the same niches as these common plants.

Standard Plantings

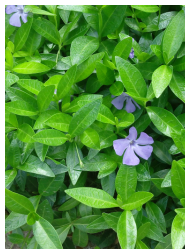
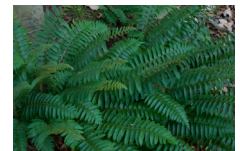
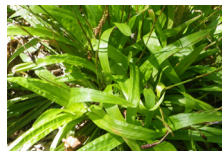


— *Hedera helix*
English ivy
A vigorous, drought tolerant evergreen groundcover. Can be destructive for both other plants and built structures.
Considered invasive by the Pennsylvania DCNR



Native alternatives

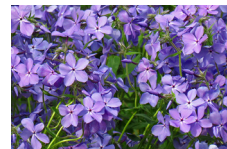
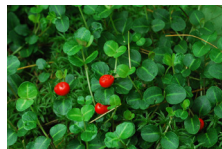
Carex plantaginea, seersucker sedge
semi-evergreen, clumping groundcover
Pachysandra procumbens, Allegheny spurge
spreads slowly by rhizomes
Polystichum acrostichoides, christmas fern
evergreen, interesting foliage



— *Vinca minor*
common periwinkle
Vigorous evergreen groundcover with small purple flowers. Grows quickly, establishing dense ground layer that can outcompete other plants.
Considered invasive by the Pennsylvania DCNR



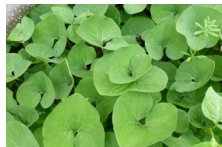
Mitchella repens, partridgeberry
trailing evergreen groundcover, red berries
Phlox divaricata 'Blue Moon', woodland phlox
spreading groundcover, delicate blue flowers in spring
Waldsteinia fragarioides, Appalachian barren strawberry
mat-forming rhizomatous groundcover, yellow flowers



— *Pachysandra terminalis*
Japanese spurge
Shrubby, shade-tolerant evergreen groundcover. Aggressively spreads by rhizomatous roots and can be difficult to remove.
Considered invasive by the Pennsylvania DCNR



Asarum canadense, wild ginger
low, colony-forming groundcover
Chrysogonum virginianum, green-and-gold
small yellow flower, spreads by rhizomes
Pachysandra procumbens, Allegheny spurge
spreads slowly by rhizomes



Standard Plantings



— *Miscanthus sinensis*
Chinese silver grass
Large clump-forming ornamental grass.
Can spread aggressively and seed into disturbed areas.
Considered invasive by the Pennsylvania DCNR



Native alternatives

Andropogon gerardii, big bluestem
tall, structural grass with attractive color variations throughout the year
Panicum virgatum, switch grass
structural, columnar grass maintains shape throughout the winter
Schizachyrium scoparium, little bluestem
smaller ornamental grass with attractive fall color



— *Acer platanoides*
Norway maple
Introduced shade tree.
Shallow rooted with weak wood.
Considered invasive by the Pennsylvania DCNR



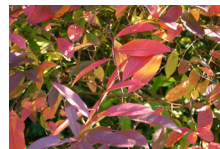
Acer rubrum, red maple
fairly fast-growing canopy tree with red fall color
Acer saccharum, sugar maple
large, stately maple with yellow-orange fall color
Nyssa sylvatica, black tupelo
slow-growing, stately tree with vibrant fall color



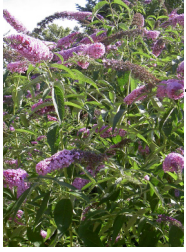
— *Berberis thunbergii*
Japanese barberry
Berberis vulgaris
European barberry
Often planted as a hedge shrub, can be fairly compact. Good fall color and interesting fruit.
Highly invasive, spreads by roots and seeding.
Class B noxious weed in Pennsylvania



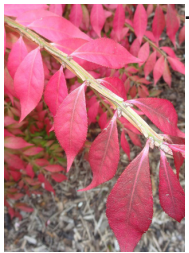
Itea virginica, Virginia sweetspire
small arching shrub with white flowers and vibrant fall color
Physocarpus opulifolius, ninebark
tall upright shrub with a full, rounded shape
Rhus aromatica, fragrant sumac
dense, spreading shrub with vibrant fall color



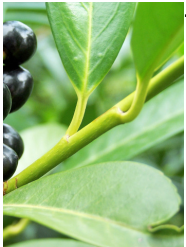
Standard Plantings



Buddleia davidii
butterfly bush
Fragrant purple flowers in summer, attracts pollinators. Nectar source but not a host for native pollinators, aggressively self-seeds.
Considered invasive by the Pennsylvania DCNR



Euonymus alatus
burning bush
Adaptable with good fall color. Highly invasive, outcompeting native woodland understory and forming dense thickets.
Class B noxious weed in Pennsylvania



Ligustrum sinense
Ligustrum vulgare
Ligustrum obtusifolium
privet species
Class B noxious weed in Pennsylvania

Ligustrum japonicum
Japanese privet
Class A noxious weed in Pennsylvania

Adaptable to many soil conditions, often used as a hedge plant as it can be pruned heavily. Spreads aggressively by self-seeding.

Native alternatives



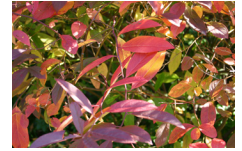
Cephalanthus occidentalis, buttonbush
open, rounded habit with rounded white flowers, attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies

Clethra alnifolia, summersweet

fragrant white flowers attract butterflies and bees, yellow fall color

Itea virginica, Virginia sweetspire

small arching shrub with white flowers held in racemes



Aronia arbutifolia, red chokeberry

suckering, vase-shaped shrub with glossy red fruits and red fall color

Euonymus atropurpureus, eastern wahoo

upright, spreading shrub with scarlet red fruits and foliage in fall

Viburnum trilobum, American cranberrybush

tall, dense, rounded shrub with red fruits and foliage in fall
syn. *Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*



Ilex glabra, inkberry

rounded, upright evergreen shrub

Juniperus virginiana, eastern red cedar

columnar evergreen tree, cultivar 'Emerald Sentinel' is more narrow and upright and can be used as a hedge

Viburnum dentatum, arrowwood viburnum

upright shrub with glossy leaves and white flowers



Standard Plantings



— *Spiraea japonica*
Japanese spiraea
Low-growing flowering shrub.
Aggressively self-seeds.
Considered invasive by the
Pennsylvania DCNR



— *Viburnum plicatum*
Japanese snowball
Viburnum dilatatum
linden viburnum
Viburnum sieboldii
Siebold's viburnum
Viburnum opulus
guelder-rose



Considered invasive by the
Pennsylvania DCNR

Native alternatives



Ceanothus americanus, New Jersey tea
dense, compact low-growing shrub with white flowers in early summer
Diervilla lonicera, northern bush honeysuckle
low-growing, suckering shrub with yellow summer blooms
Itea virginica, Virginia sweetspire
small arching shrub with white flowers held in racemes



Viburnum dentatum, arrowwood viburnum
upright shrub with glossy leaves and white flowers
Viburnum nudum, possumhaw viburnum
rounded, upright shrub with smooth, lustrous foliage and good fall color
Viburnum trilobum, American cranberrybush
tall, dense, rounded shrub with red fruits and foliage in fall
syn. *Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*



Additional Resources

To learn more about a specific species of plant:

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plant Database

information on over 13,000 vascular plants native to the U.S. and Canada

Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder

reliable source for information on over 7,500 common plant species

North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox

detailed descriptions and photographs of many U.S. east coast natives

Helpful publications:

PA DCNR, Landscaping with Native Plants

web page with resources specific to Pennsylvania native plants and landscapes

PA Enflowered, Flora of Pennsylvania

web page documenting the flora of the state of Pennsylvania, over 950 species listed with more added weekly

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, National Park Service & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

list of 80 species considered invasive, with control guidance, also includes “plants to watch” and native alternatives, available online as a PDF

Xerces Society, Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects, Mid-Atlantic

list of native plant species with details on resources they provide to pollinators
available online as a PDF

Public gardens with native plant displays:

Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek Dagsboro, Delaware

Jenkins Arboretum Devon, PA

Mt. Cuba Center Hockessin, Delaware

Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden Villanova, PA

Wildflower and Native Plant Gardens at the Brandywine Museum of Art Chadds Ford, PA

Native plant retail nurseries:

Edge of the Woods Nursery Orefield PA

Good Host Plants Philadelphia, PA

Keystone Wildflowers Robesonia, PA

Natural Landscapes Nursery West Grove, PA

Redbud Native Plant Nursery Media, PA

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education Philadelphia PA

Landscape plugs, wholesale only:

New Moon Nursery Woodstown NJ

Northcreek Nurseries Landenberg/Oxford PA