



# NATIVE PLANT LIST



Portland Water District

☀ ~Part Sun, Dry 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')



**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.

**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.



**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')



**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 clay 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.

**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 semi-evergreen aromatic. Will grow well in dry, infertile, sandy, acidic soils. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Zones 2-6.



**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.

**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.



**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 part shade. Clusters of white flowers turn into blue/black berry like fruit. Supposedly the fruit is attractive to nanny goats, hence its name. *Nannyberry is susceptible to attack from the Viburnum Leaf Beetle. Check with your local nursery to see if it is a problem in your area.* Zones 2-8.

## 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.



**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.

**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.



## 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 bright red berries 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.



**Hay-scented Fern** (*Dennstaedtia punctiloba*) Vigorously spreading fern grows to 12 inches with light-green, finely-divided fronds. Foliage is sweet-scented when crushed. Versatile fern grows in many soils and tolerates drought. Found in clearings and on rocky slopes. Part-sun to shade. Moist, well-drained soil. Drought tolerant. Zones 3-8.

**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.

**Lowbush Blueberry** 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

**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.



**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>