

# Plants of the Lafayette Watershed

## Rain Gardens

Larchmont Elementary School

*Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center*

*ODU Women's Rowing Center*

*Saint Patrick Catholic School*



**CHESAPEAKE BAY  
FOUNDATION**

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*Saving a National Treasure*

### **Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana***

**Background:** The Eastern Red Cedar is a large attractive tree with a moderate rate of growth the plant ranges anywhere from 30-50 feet tall and around 8 feet wide. In the summer its needles press themselves together, showing a green color and giving the air a deep cedar smell. In the winter the needles gain a bronze color appearance. The cone like berries of the tree mature after about a year and develop a waxy blue appearance.

The Eastern Red Cedar is plant native to eastern and central North America and is usually one of the first plants to appear on old fields. Commonly seen on interstate medians the Red Cedar is a widely used landscaping plant.

**Culture:** The plant adapts well to most PH levels and is easily transplanted making it an ideal addition to many gardens and landscapes.

**Light:** The Eastern Red Cedar grows best full sunlight but does well in variable environments.

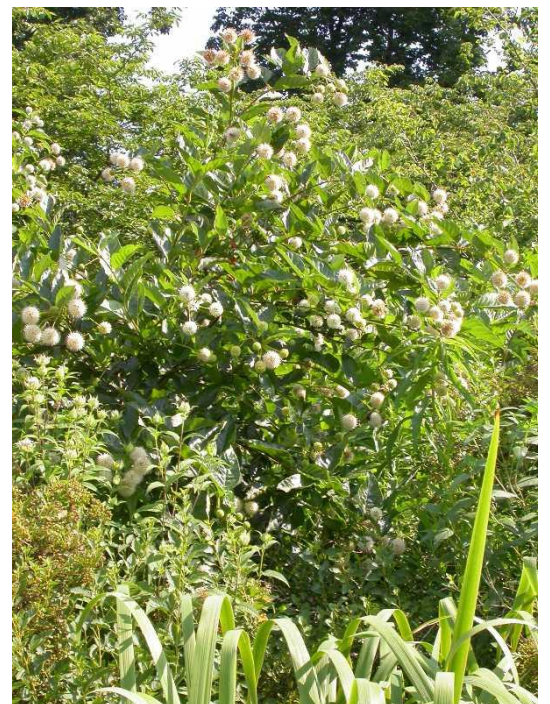


### **Buttonbush, *Cephananthus occidentalis***

**Background:** The Buttonbush is a large deciduous shrub that grows to about 6-12 feet tall and about 8 feet across. Most commonly found in swamps, thickets, low woods, and open moist land this plant attracts many types of butterflies. In the early months of summer this plant grows several 5-lobed stalks. These lobes spread out to reveal the plant's flowers. These fragrant flowers appear as a pale white color.

**Culture:** Does well in full sun or part shade, is best planted in wet soil, anywhere from a heavily watered garden to flooded area. Though adaptive to different soil types this plant does not do well in dry areas.

**Light:** Grows best in full sun to partial shade areas.





### **Sweet Coastal Pepperbush, *Clethra alnifolia***

**Background:** The Sweet Pepperbush is a midsized shrub that gets to about 6-12 feet tall and 5 feet wide. This shrub has a relatively slow rate of grow so it's leaves appear later than others. The plants leaves are a deep green color and some of them can have serrated edges. In the fall however these leaves turn a golden yellow. These plants are commonly used as landscaping border plants.



**Culture:** Growing best in wet organic soils this plant has a moderate adaptability to environmental changes.

**Light:** Sweet Coastal Pepperbush does best in a partial sunny/ partial shady placement but can live in sunny places.

### **Virginia Sweetspire, *Itea virginica***

**Background:** The Virginia Sweetspire is a widespread deciduous shrub that only gets to about 6-10 feet tall. Its leaves grow in an alternating pattern along the branches. The leaves themselves are about 4 inches long, elliptically shape, with an acute rounding at the tips. Displaying a mid to deep green color in the summer months this plant is commonly seen in masse. The flowers of the Sweetspire are thin branches called racemes which get about 6 inches long. These flowers are a snowy white color and bloom around June time



**Culture:** This plant grows best in fertile wet soils and can adapt to a moderate range of PH levels.

**Light:** The Virginia Sweetspire does its best in areas of full sun to partly shady.

**New York Ironweed, *Vernonia novaboracensis***

**Background:** Living mainly in wet thickets and stream banks, the New York Ironweed grows to around 3.5-8 feet tall and about 4 feet wide. The plant's main point of interest is its flowers. Blooming around late summer to early fall the New York ironweed displays attractive clusters of vibrant purple flowers. Used in wildflower gardens and as the back boarder in others, this plant is a favorite of many gardeners.



**Culture:** Although better grown in wet rich soils this plant has a wide soil tolerance.

**Light:** The New York Ironweed is grown best if placed in areas that receive full sunlight.

**Blazing Star, *Liatris scariosa***

**Background:** With a spread of about 2 feet and a height of around 1-3 feet, the Blazing star isn't a very big plant. But what it lacks in size it makes up for in color. In the late summer to mid fall months the Blazing star blooms vibrant red-purple flowers. The flowers appear like stringy tufts of fur on top of stalks. Because these flowers attract birds, hummingbirds, and butterflies the Blazing star is well liked among gardeners.



**Culture:** Preferring dry to moderate soils this plant does not do well in wet soil during the winter months.

**Light:** The Blazing Star grows best in full sun environments.



### **Black-Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta***

**Background:** The Black-Eyed Susan is a small easily grown perennial. Getting about 3 feet high and spreading only about 2 the plant doesn't need a lot of room. Blooming annually from around June into September the Black-Eyed Susan's flowers display a bright yellow to yellow orange color with a brown lobe in the center. Being that these plants attract butterflies the Susan is a well like flower. Because of its beautiful flowers and low maintenance needs this flower is seen anywhere from front yard gardens to corporate landscapes.



**Culture:** The Black-Eyed Susan grows its best average moisture soils but is adaptive.

**Light:** This plant is best grow in areas of full sun.

### **Southern Wax Myrtle, *Myrica cerifera***

**Background:** The Southern Wax Myrtle is a quick growing shrub that grows to around 7-15 feet tall and around 10 feet across. Forming into a large irregular rounded mass as it grows the Wax Myrtle can be trimmed or pruned as needed. The plant's leaves are about 3 inches long and give off a distinctive smell when crushed. The Wax Myrtle is a common plant in many landscapes, anywhere from hedges to screens, from a small bush the large a large border.



**Culture:** The Southern Wax Myrtle can adapt to a wide range of soil types, anything from dry and sandy to wet and slightly alkaline.

**Light:** Grows best in areas of partial to full sun.

### **Virginia Blue Flag Iris, *Iris Virginica***

**Background:** A small perennial flower, the Virginia Blue Flag Iris is well known for its natural beauty. Growing to only about 2 feet tall and having a 3 foot spread, what this plant lacks in size it makes up for in appearance. Blooming Around June time the Virginia iris' flowers bring beauty to any garden with a show of violet and yellow flowers and a white crest. Naturally found in bogged areas the iris can be a little difficult to grow to full potential. Used heavily in landscaping the Virginia Blue Flag Iris plant is enjoyed for its natural beauty.



**Culture:** The Blue Flag Iris grows best in wet swampy soils.

**Light:** Virginia Blue Flag Iris' are best grow in areas of full sunlight.

### **Panic Grass, *Panicum virtgatum***

**Background:** Panic Grass is an ornamental grass plant that grows to around 6 feet high and spreads about 3 feet out. The branches of this plant shoot straight up from the root as long green stems. In the months of July into February Panic Grass blooms fluffy pinkish looking hairs on these stems. These flowers attract different birds and are good if put into a vase or dried.

**Culture:** While adaptive to many soils the Panic Grass plant grows best if planted in moist clays or wet sandy ground.

**Light:** A Panic Grass plant will grow best if placed in areas of full sun to partial shade.





**Dwarf Yuopon Holley, *Illex vomitoria***

**Background:** A Native of Virginia the Dwarf Yuopon Holley grows about 20 feet high and spreads to around 12 feet out. This broad-leafed plant grows naturally in diverse range of environments. Anywhere from swamps and forest edges to open fields and sandy forests. The inch and half long leaves of this plant have serrated edges. Around the month of April the Dwarf Yuopon Holley blooms small white fragrant flowers. On a female tree these flowers give way to bright red berries. These berries attract many types of birds as they ripen in the fall months. It is a popular landscape plant in southeastern states.

**Culture:** The Dwarf Yuopon Holley grows best in medium to wet soils.

**Light:** Areas of full to partial sun are best for growing this plant.



**Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana***

**Background:** Normally growing to about 15 feet high but sometimes reaching almost 30 feet this multi-stemmed plant can get almost as wide as it is tall. As it grows the Witch Hazel develops a loose open look to it and a large irregular shape. The leaves are about 4 inches long, 3 inches wide, and range from a bright to deep green in color. Around October and November after the leaves fall off the Witch Hazel blooms. The flowers look like clumps of yellow tendrils attached to the branches. These flowers have a light but spiced scent to them.

**Culture:** The Witch Hazel grows in moist slightly acidic soils and can adapt to slight pollution problems.

**Light:** Full sun to partially shaded areas is best for growing Witch Hazel.





**Fothergilla, *Fothergilla gardenii***

**Background:** This small deciduous shrub grows to about 4 feet tall spreads about 4 feet out. The Fothergilla is a multi-stemmed shrub that grows into dense oval shaped mass. The leaves get about 2.5 inches long. These leaves range in color from deep green to a bluish green. Their undersides are pale green. In early to mid May the Fothergilla blooms egg shaped brush like flower clusters. These clusters are about 2 inches long, white, and have a light scent to them. Used in groupings, as foundation plants, and border shrubs, the Fothergilla is a well suited landscaping plant.

**Culture:** The Fothergilla grows better in moist slightly acidic soils.

**Light:** The plant prefers to be in places of full sun or partial shade.



**Blue Star, *Amsonia hubrectii***

**Background:** The Blue Star is a small perennial plant that grows to about 3 feet high and spreads around 2 feet out. Feathery leaves cover the branches making them look more like brushes the plants. This clump forming plant is grown mainly for its flowers. Around the month of April into May the Blue Star blooms half inched star shaped flowers. The powder blue flowers that grow in clusters on the end of each branch showy and attract many butterflies. Because of its beauty and ease of growth Blue Stars are used and many different landscaping projects and gardens.

**Culture:** Blue Stars are best grown in average moisture soils.

**Light:** These plants are best grown in areas of full sunlight or partial shade.





### **Marsh Mallow, *Hibiscus mascheutos***

**Background:** A small Shrub that grows to around 3-6 feet tall. The plant dies back on its own in winter months but grows back the next spring. Blooming from mid July to around the end of August the marsh mallows flowers are widely known for their beauty. The flowers of the Marsh Mallow are about the size of a dinner plate and range in color from anywhere between pink and red. These large flower's centers are usually a crimson color. Used as walkway and patio borders or just to add color, no matter why it was planted a Marsh Mallow adds color to any landscape.

**Culture:** Marsh Mallow plants prefer soil that is rich and moist.

**Light:** Full sunlight areas are best for growing marsh Mallows.



### **Muhly Grass, *Muhlenbergia capillaries***

**Background:** Muhly Grass is a small ornamental grass that grows to around 3 feet tall and spreads about the same. A clump forming perennial grass that know best for is fall bloom period it's used anywhere from cottage gardens to border foliage. In the spring to summer months, tall green stalks grow from the base and get about 2 feet tall. Around the time of September into November a Muhly Grass plant blooms its most know feature. Tall airy masses of pinkish-red to plain pink float over the plant. These masses generally grow to about a foot as they drift in the wind. The large masses become even more beautiful when the plant is grown in masse. Tan seeds remain on the plant through winter and are also considered attractive.



**Culture:** Muhly Grass prefers to be planted in moist sandy soils.

**Light:** The Muhly Grass plant grows best in areas of full sun to partial shade.