

Choosing Native Plants

Now that you've designed your garden, it's time to choose the plants that will work best with your design.



Gardening
with **WILDLIFE**
in Mind

Shrubs

Common Name

Scientific Name

Light Conditions

Water Use



**American
Witch Hazel**

*Hamamelis
virginiana*

**Sun/part. sun
/shade**

**Wet/
average**



**Mountain
Laurel**

*Kalmia
latifolia*

**Sun/part. sun
/shade**

**Wet/
average**



**Flowering
Dogwood**

*Benthamidia
florida*

Sun/part. sun

Average



**Common
Juniper**

*Juniperus
communis*

Sun

**Dry/
average**



**Lowbush
Blueberry**

*Vaccinium
angustifolium*

Sun/part. sun

**Dry/
average**



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Flowers

Common Name

Scientific Name

Light Conditions

Water Use



Goldenrod

Solidago spp.

Sun/part. sun

**Dry/
average**



Aster

*Symphyotrichum
spp.*

Sun/part. sun

**Wet/average/
dry**



**Black-Eyed
Susan**

*Rudbeckia
hirta*

Sun/part. sun

**Dry/
average**



**Cardinal
Flower**

*Lobelia
cardinalis*

Sun/part. sun

**Wet/
average**



**Joe Pye
Weed**

*Eutrochium
spp.*

Sun/part. sun

**Wet/
average**



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Trees

Common Name

Scientific Name

Light Conditions

Water Use



Sweetgum

*Liquidambar
styraciflua*

Sun/part. sun

**Wet/
average**



Redbud

*Cercis
canadensis*

Sun/part. sun

**Wet/
average**



River Birch

Betula nigra

Sun/part. sun

**Wet/
average**



**American
Pussy Willow**

Salix discolor

Sun/part. sun

**Wet/
average**



**Southern
Magnolia**

*Magnolia
grandiflora*

Sun/part. sun

Average



Smart Substitutes

Consider replacing invasive and ornamental plants with native alternatives like those below:



Bigleaf Hydrangea
Hydrangea macrophylla



Smooth Hydrangea
Hydrangea arborescens



Japanese Holly
Ilex crenata



American Holly
Ilex opaca



Boxwood
Buxus sempervirens



Inkberry
Ilex glabra



Flowering Pear
Pyrus calleryana



Redbud
Cercis canadensis



Sweet Autumn Clematis
Clematis terniflora









Virgin's Bower Clematis
Clematis virginiana

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Host Plants*

Common Name Scientific Name Light Conditions Water Use

	White Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Sun/part. sun	Wet/average
	Milkweed	<i>Asclepias spp.</i>	Sun	Wet/average
	Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Sun/part. sun /shade	Wet/average
	Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sun/part. sun	Wet/average/dry
	Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Sun/part. sun	Average
	Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Sun/part. sun	Average

*Plants that provide shelter, habitat, breeding sites, or serve as a food source for an organism at some point during their life cycle.



Grasses/Ferns

Common Name Scientific Name Light Conditions Water Use



**Little
Bluestem**

*Schizachyrium
scoparium*

Sun/part. sun

**Dry/
average**



**Prairie
Dropseed**

*Sporobolus
heterolepis*

Sun/part. sun

**Dry/
average**



Wood Fern

*Dryopteris
spp.*

**Part. shade/
shade**

Average



**Long Beech
Fern**

*Phegopteris
connectilis*

**Part. shade/
shade**

Average



**Christmas
Fern**

*Polystichum
acrostichoides*

**Part. shade/
shade**

Average





Extra Resources

Below are some resources we recommend for further reading on native plants and wildlife-friendly gardens. Happy planting!

- **Wild Plant Society**
<https://riwpz.org>
- **URI Master Gardeners**
<https://web.uri.edu/coopext>
- **Native Plant Trust**
<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search>
- **Roger Williams Park Botanical Center**
<https://www.providenceri.gov/botanical-center/>
- **Milkweed and Wildflower Vendor Map**
<https://monarchjointventure.org/mjvprograms/habitat/milkweed-and-wildflower-vendor-map>
- **Pollinator Partnership Planting Guides**
<https://www.pollinator.org/guides>
- **Northeast Pollinator Conservation Resources**
<https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/northeast>