

Choosing Native Plants

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



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**



Flowers



Common Name	Scientific Name	Light Conditions	Water Use
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Sun/part. sun	Dry/ average
Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum spp.</i>	Sun/part. sun	Wet/average/ dry
Black-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Sun/part. sun	Dry/ average
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Sun/part. sun	Wet/ average
Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eutrochium spp.</i>	Sun/part. sun	Wet/ average



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:



Bignone Hydrangea
Hydrangea macrophylla



Smooth Hydrangea
Hydrangea arborescens



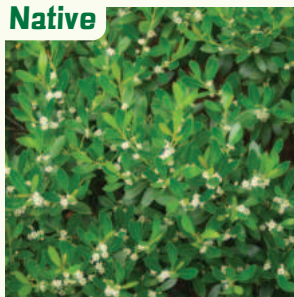
Japanese Holly
Ilex crenata



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



Gardening with WILDLIFE in Mind

Host Plants*

Common Name

Scientific Name

Light Conditions

Water Use

**White
Turtlehead**

*Chelone
glabra*

Sun/part. sun

**Wet/
average**

Milkweed

*Asclepias
spp.*

Sun

**Wet/
average**

Spicebush

*Lindera
benzoin*

**Sun/part. sun
/shade**

**Wet/
average**

Sassafras

*Sassafras
albidum*

Sun/part. sun

**Wet/average/
dry**

Parsley

*Petroselinum
crispum*

Sun/part. sun

Average

Dill

*Anethum
graveolens*

Sun/part. sun

Average



Baltimore
Checkerspot



Monarch
butterfly



Swallowtail
butterfly



Swallowtail
butterfly



Swallowtail
butterfly



Swallowtail
butterfly

*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**
- **URI Master Gardeners**
- **Native Plant Trust**
- **Roger Williams Park Botanical Center**
- **Monarch Joint Venture**
- **Pollinator Partnership Planting Guides**
- **Xerces Society**