

NATIVE PLANTS

Perennials for average or dry soils

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), smooth aster (*Aster laevis*), boltonia (*Boltonia asteroides*), coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*), fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*), joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*), wood geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*), black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), wild senna (*Senna marilandica*)

Perennials for moist soils

Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), spotted joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), swamp rose-mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), bee balm (*Monarda didyma*), garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)

Shrubs that tolerates dry soils

Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), black chokecherry (*Photinia melanocarpa*), American currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), staghorn sumac (*Rhus hirta*), fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*)

Shrubs for moist soils

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), southern arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)

Trees (*tolerates dry soil)

River birch (*Betula nigra*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), *hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), *yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), *eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar stynnaeflora*), sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), *American mountain ash (*Sorbus Americana*), *oak (*Quercus* spp.), *pine (*Pinus* spp.), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*)

INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANTS

Invasive exotic plants are pests because they displace native species once they escape into the wild, and some can become severe threats to plant communities. Invasive aliens are very difficult to control.

Species that should NOT be planted:

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)
Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)
Climbing euonymus (*Euonymus fortunei*)
English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)
Mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)
Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)
Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
Devils' tearthumb (*Tracaulon perfoliatum*)

Species of concern that should be avoided:

Crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*)
Tall K31 fescue (*Festuca elatior*)
Wisteria (*Wisteria* spp.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Maryland Native Plant Society, www.mdflora.org

Maryland Department of Natural Resources,
www.dnr.state.md.us

Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council,
www.invasive.org
www.wsscwater.com



WSSCWater



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WSSC



WSSC provides life-sustaining water and wastewater services that are critical to public health. Our work makes it possible for individuals, families, and businesses to enjoy quality of life. For nearly 100 years, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week, we have served the people of Prince George's and Montgomery counties. WSSC drinking water has always met or surpassed federal standards. We are WSSC, Where Water Matters.



Water Wise Landscaping



Putting the right plants in the right places can protect natural resources, bring butterflies and birds to your yard AND save money on your water bill



Planting gardens helps to protect the Chesapeake Bay, especially if you use a method of landscaping that promotes water conservation and prevents soil and nutrient runoff.

By applying basic concepts, you will help protect natural resources in the Chesapeake watershed, provide food and shelter for beneficial wildlife such as butterflies and birds, and save on your water bill.

Plan your landscape and gardens

A plan helps ensure that water-conserving techniques are coordinated and implemented in the landscape. It helps you choose appropriate plants for the right places, and allows for installation in phases. It also groups plants with similar water needs together. Some considerations in a plan include light exposure, location of water sources (spigots, downspouts, streams) and current landscape elements (trees, existing lawn, fences, patios).



Group according to water needs

Pay attention to your soil

Soil texture directly affects two vital requirements for plant growth: water and air. You need to know whether your soil tends to be clay or sandy. Sandy soil can't hold water and must be irrigated frequently. Clay soil is slow to absorb water, and overwatering can drown plants.

You can tell if you have clay soil by trying to create a ball with the soil with your fingers. If the soil keeps crumbling, then you have sandy soil.

Most soils benefit from 1 to 2 inches of organic matter — such as leaves, compost or aged manure — tilled into the soil at least 6 inches. However, if you are landscaping with native plants, soil amendments may not be necessary, as they prefer soil that is not too rich. For many native plants, the only soil preparation necessary is to loosen the soil.

Irrigate efficiently

A water-wise landscape can be irrigated efficiently by hand or with an automatic sprinkler system. If you're installing a sprinkler system, the most efficient types for watering plants are drip, spray or bubbler emitters. Adjust your controller regularly to meet seasonal needs and weather conditions, and install a rain shut-off device.

If you water manually, try to avoid oscillating sprinklers and other sprinklers that throw water high in the air or put out a fine mist. The most efficient sprinklers put out big drops and keep them close to the ground.

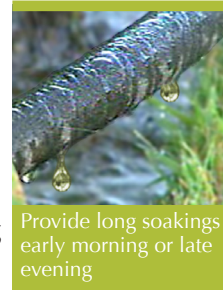
No matter which system you use, water deeply and infrequently to develop deep roots. The best time to water is early in the morning, before 9 a.m., to reduce water loss due to evaporation.

“Zone” your plants

Different areas in your yard get different amounts of light, wind and moisture. To minimize water waste, group plants according to common water needs. A good rule of thumb is to put high water-use plantings in low lying drainage areas, near downspouts, or in the shade of other plants. It's also helpful to put higher water-use plants where it is easy to water.

Mulch

In the fall and spring, put a total of 2 to 3 inches of mulch to keep plants' roots cool, prevents soil from crusting,



Provide long soakings early morning or late evening

minimizes evaporation and reduce weed growth. Mulch can include leaves or grass clippings. Do not pile mulch against tree trunks!

If possible, don't disturb the natural mulch during the spring and summer. The dead leaves, twigs, fallen branches and other plant debris can create habitat for some caterpillars and birds. To add mulch, try to use native materials collected in your area, but avoid having more than 2" to 3" of material. Good organic mulches are made by combining shredded branches from tree trimmings, bark, leaves, and grass clippings.

Inorganic mulches include rocks and gravel. Inorganic mulch may be applied over a landscape fabric, as long as the fabric allows air and water to reach plant roots.



Reduce lawn area

Try alternatives to turf

One way to reduce watering requirements is to reduce the amount of grass in your landscape. Native or low water-use plantings, patios, decks or mulches can beautify your landscape while saving water.

Maintain your yard

Regular maintenance preserves the beauty of your landscape and conserves water. Maintenance time will decrease as plants mature and crowd out weeds, as long as you pay attention to proper irrigation, pruning, fertilizing and pest control.

The right plant in the right place

People plant gardens and install landscapes for all sorts of excellent reasons. An explosive trend is native-plant gardening, which helps restore ecological balance. By gardening with native plants that are adapted to the natural water regimes in our area, you use less water — especially if you match the natives to the conditions on your property. Plants that are native to the Mid-Atlantic region have the added benefit of offering food and shelter to the birds and butterflies that bring land to your garden.