

Wetland & Rain Garden Species

Woolgrass

For shoreline restoration or visual interest in a rain garden or seasonally wet area, try woolgrass. It will do well in full to part sun and provide food & cover for wildlife as well as erosion control against wind and waves.



Northern Sheep Laurel



Northern Sheep Laurel will grow in full sun to part shade and prefers wet to moist soils, including boggy areas. Can spread to form a dense 12" to 18" ground cover. Long-lasting pink flowers bloom in late spring to early summer; in warm years, plant may re-bloom in fall.

Wild Rice

Wild rice, a favorite of humans and waterfowl, grows well in standing (not stagnant) water 1- 4 feet deep in full sun. Ripened seeds attract a variety of bird species and stalks provide dense habitat for a variety of fish, especially as a nursery for juvenile fish.



In late spring/early summer, wild rice plants will lie flat on the water surface, forming leafy mats. By mid summer, the plants grow vertically out of the water column. The seeds begin to ripen by late August or early September.

Blue Flag Iris

Blue Flag Iris is our classic native beauty! It prefers seasonally wet areas, marshes, and stream banks, and can even grow in shallow water; will do best in full sun. Will spread in clumps over time. Great for pollinators!



Wild Calla

Calla is a great plant for water gardens, bogs, wet shores, and peaty, heavy soils. Its lovely white spathe grows about 6"-10" above the waterline, and produces a spike of bright red berries in fall. Plant is a valuable wildlife cover, and berries are a useful wildlife food source.



Soft Rush

Another super shoreline or wetland plant for fine-textured soils. Prefers full sun but will tolerate shade. Two to four feet at full maturity. Provides shelter & food for songbirds & small mammals; excellent for erosion control and restoration purposes.



Marsh Milkweed

Like all milkweeds, Marsh (or Swamp) Milkweed is a prime food for monarch butterfly larvae. Marsh Milkweed will grow 3'-4' tall in wetlands as well as gardens, preferring heavy, silty soils. Its sweet-scented flowers are a treat in the summer breeze. A must-have for any pollinator garden!



Pickereel Plant



Pickereel Plant grows in shallow water, with stems below and leaves & flowers above the surface. Lovely purple spikes and heart shaped leaves. Grows 1 to 3' tall in sun to part shade; suitable for water gardens, marshes and shorelines, or shallow ponds. Excellent cover for fish and waterfowl; great browse for deer as well!

White Water Lily

White Water Lily is a classic pond plant. The beautiful floating flowers will grace any pond or water garden up to 3' deep. The leaves provide shade and cover for aquatic species, and the seeds and rhizomes are a valuable source of wildlife food.



More Wetland Species

Bristly Sedge

Attractive, ornamental sedge for rain gardens, low-lying areas, or shorelines. Will grow 2-3' feet tall in full sun to light shade and muck to slightly sandy soil.

Many wetland birds eat the seeds or seed heads. These include the American Coot, Wilson Snipe, several rails, many ducks, and the Swamp Sparrow.



Hardstem Bulrush

A tall (3 to 9 foot) shore stabilizer, super for waterfowl & wetland birds! Full sun, likes water to 3 feet deep. Waterfowl will feed on the seed. The dense tules provide excellent nesting cover for numerous waterfowl and wetland birds. Muskrats and beaver will eat the rootstock and young shoots. Muskrats also use the stems for building their houses.



OTHER GREAT PLANTS for LOW-LYING AREAS!

See the **SHRUBS** photo gallery for Buttonbush, Winterberry Holly, Red-Osier Dogwood, Steeplebush Spirea, and Black Chokeberry.

Great Groundcovers

Bunchberry

This easily-recognized plant of the forest floor is the smallest member of the dogwood family. White inflorescences grace its handsome leaves in spring, followed by red berries valued by wildlife. Can spread in moist soils in shade to part shade to form a lovely ground cover.



Pennsylvania (Oak) Sedge

A native ground cover for well drained to moist (not saturated) soils in part to full shade. This grass-like sedge spreads to form a carpetlike ground cover that you never have to mow, with small red flowers in spring. Excellent cover for small birds and mammals, and great erosion control for sandy slopes.



Wintergreen (Teaberry)

Attractive evergreen groundcover with green to burgundy foliage and brilliant red berries from fall through winter. Spreads moderately in moist, acidic soils, full sun to full shade. The berries are edible with a strong flavor of wintergreen (think Teaberry brand chewing gum!) Turkeys, grouse, chipmunks, deer, and small mammals also feed on the plant.



No-Mow Grass Seed

A mix of low-growing fescues that thrive in full to part sun and dry to moist, well-drained soils. Once established, the deep roots make it highly drought tolerant; 4 to 6-inch height



requires no mowing. Great for covering slopes and hard-to-mow areas. (Does not tolerate heavy clays, deep shade, or long-term standing water.)

Ivory Sedge

Great no-mow ground cover! Will spread from clumps to form a six-inch tall grass-like 'lawn'. Drought tolerant and able to grow in poor quality or rocky soil. This plant does not need much watering and tolerates a wide variety of well drained soils, sun to full shade. As the summer progresses the tips turn a burnt yellow.



MORE GROUND COVERS!

See the **BERRIES** photo gallery for ground-cover blueberries, raspberries, and huckleberries; also check out bearberries on the **SHRUBS** photo gallery!