







Caring for Streamside Buffers — What to Plant?

Often, when left to grow up on its own, a streamside buffer will contain mostly weeds and other undesirable plants. One way to make sure this doesn't happen is to plant native plants. The plants below represent just a limited selection of Pennsylvania's native species appropriate for planting throughout the state along streams and in adjacent floodplains and wetlands. Choose plants adapted for your soil conditions, and your garden will thrive with less watering and without the need for chemical fertilizers or pesticides. There are many resources to help homeowners with native plantings. For some help, contact one of the organizations on the back of this brochure, or visit one of the following websites: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - www.dcnr.state.pa.us or PA Native Plant Society - www.pawildflower.org

Illustrations by Erin Frederick, Lehigh County Conservation District

Ferns		<p>Cinnamon Fern <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> Full sun to shade Wet to moist soils Cinnamon-colored fertile fronds; moist acidic soils Photo: Robert Mohlenbrock, USDA</p>		<p>Royal Fern <i>Osmunda regalis</i> Part shade Consistently wet or saturated soils Unique form and texture Photo: Robert Mohlenbrock, USDA</p>		<p>Sensitive Fern <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> Full sun to shade Wet to moist soils Sunny or shaded swamps, marshes, moist meadows Forms colonizing masses</p>	
	Flowering Perennials		<p>Wild Bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> Blooms May to September Full sun to light shade Moist to dry soils Dry open woods, wet meadows, ditches, edge of woods and marshes</p>		<p>Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Blooms May to June Moist to dry soils Full sun to light shade Attracts birds and butterflies</p>		<p>Blue Lobelia <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> Blooms from July to October Light shade Wet to moist soils Attracts hummingbirds</p>
			<p>Blue Vervain <i>Verbena hastata</i> Blooms June to September Full sun to light shade Dry soils Bright flowers; herbal uses; streambanks and moist meadows</p>		<p>Boneset <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> Blooms July to August Light shade to full shade Wet to moist soils Wet meadow species</p>		<p>Plains Coreopsis <i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i> Blooms April to June Full sun to light shade Moist to dry soils</p>
		<p>Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Blooms April to September Full sun to light shade Moist soils Herbal uses</p>		<p>Ironweed <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i> Blooms August to September Full sun Wet to moist soils Tall plant with brilliant late summer flowers</p>		<p>Joe-Pye Weed <i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i> Blooms August to September Light shade Wet to moist soils Attracts beneficial insects; herbal uses</p>	
		<p>Blue Mist Flower <i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i> Blooms July to November Full sun to light shade Moist soils Good border plant or colonizing ground cover; attracts butterflies</p>		<p>New England Aster <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> Blooms August to October Full sun to light shade Wet to moist soils Showy and frequently cultivated; dry to moist meadows</p>		<p>Common Sneezeweed <i>Helenium autumnale</i> Blooms July to September Full sun Consistently wet to moist soils Moist open areas along streams & ponds; wet meadows</p>	

Grasses



Sedge
Carex vulpinoidea
 Blooms Summer
 Full sun
 Consistently wet or saturated soils
 Swampy areas



Switch Grass
Panicum virgatum
 Blooms August to September
 Moist soils
 Clump grass; can help to control erosion
 Sandy and river soils
 Photo: Bonnie Harper, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Virginia Wild Rye
Elymus virginicus
 Blooms June to September
 Full sun to light shade
 Wet to moist soils
 Moist woods, meadows, stream banks
 Photo: EPA

Shrubs



Arrowwood
Viburnum dentatum
 Blooms May
 Full sun to full shade
 Moist soils
 Dark blue fruits in fall; high wildlife value; streambanks, pastures
 Photo: Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis
 Blooms June to September
 Full sun
 Consistently wet or saturated soils
 Multi-stemmed; tolerates inundation
 Photo: Norman Flaigg, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Highbush Blueberry
Vaccinium corymbosum
 Blooms May to June
 Light shade
 Wet to moist soils
 Multi-stemmed; edible berries; fall color; very high wildlife value



Nine Bark
Physocarpus opulifolius
 Blooms May to July
 Full sun to part shade
 Wet to moist soils
 Wet woods, sandy or rocky stream banks
 Photo: Stefan Bloodworth, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Red Chokeberry
Aronia arbutifolia
 Blooms May
 Part shade
 Wet to moist soils
 Red berries; high value for wildlife
 Photo: Robert Mohlenbrock, USDA



Serviceberry
Amelanchier arborea
 Blooms March to April
 Part shade
 Moist soil
 Small tree with early spring flowers; delicious edible berries in summer
 Photo: Stefan Bloodworth, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Silky Dogwood
Cornus amomum
 Blooms May to July
 Full sun
 Wet to moist soils
 Flowers in summer; blue berries; multi-stemmed; very high wildlife value
 Photo: Sally & Andy Wasowski, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Spice Bush
Lindera benzoin
 Blooms March to May
 Light shade to shade
 Wet to moist soils
 Bright red berries in fall; herbal uses; wildlife value



Winterberry Holly
Ilex verticillata
 Blooms May to June
 Part shade
 Wet to moist soils
 Showy berries in winter; high wildlife value; good colonizing shrubs for stream banks
 Photo: George Brusco, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Trees



American Beech
Fagus grandifolia
 Blooms April to May
 Full sun to full shade
 Moist, but well-drained soils
 Large tree with handsome gray bark; high wildlife value
 Foliage photo: Bill Cook, Michigan State University



American Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis
 Blooms April
 Full sun
 Wet to moist soils
 Large tree with showy mottled bark; riverbanks, floodplains and alluvial soils



Black Gum
Nyssa sylvatica
 Blooms April to May
 Full sun to part shade
 Moist soils
 Tall tree with outstanding fall color; high wildlife value
 Photo: Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service



Green Ash
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
 Blooms April to May
 Part shade
 Wet to moist soils
 Fast growth; good fall color
 Photo: Robert Mohlenbrock, USDA



Pagoda Dogwood
Cornus alternifolia
 Blooms May to June
 Part shade
 Moist soils
 Small tree for moist woods and shaded ravines; dark blue fruit



Red Maple
Acer rubrum
 Blooms March to April
 Full sun to full shade
 Moist soils
 Adapts to a range of moisture conditions; good fall color
 Photo: Bill Cook, Michigan State University



River Birch
Betula nigra
 Blooms May
 Full sun to part shade
 Wet to moist soils
 Notable for its peeling bark; floodplains, streambanks, wet woods, swamps
 Photo: Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service



Shagbark Hickory
Carya ovata
 Blooms in May
 Full sun to part shade
 Moist soils
 Shaggy gray exfoliating bark; very high wildlife value
 Photo: Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service



Swamp White Oak
Quercus bicolor
 Blooms in May
 Part shade
 Wet to moist soils
 Large tree with very high wildlife value; good wetland oak
 Photo: Mark Brand, Univ. of CT