

RECOMMENDED BUFFER ZONE PLANTINGS **SPECIES NATIVE TO EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

TREES (Drier Areas)

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

- seed, sap and buds serve as food for wildlife
- fast growing, vibrant red fall foliage

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

- important source of browse and seeds for wildlife
- sap used in syrup production

Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*)

- smallish tree, good for poor soils
- grows quickly

White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

- provides food and cover for wildlife
- fast growing

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

- provides cover for many species of wildlife
- very tall tree which does well in sandy soils

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

- important food source for beaver and deer
- medium, fast growing pioneer tree

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

- cherries provide food for many wildlife species
- tree can grow to 60-80 feet; often seen smaller

Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)

- dark red fruit provides food for wildlife
- smallish (25') drought tolerant tree with white flowers in the spring

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

- acorns provide food for wildlife
- tall, common tree

SHRUBS (Drier areas)

Serviceberry/Shadblow (*Amelanchier canadensis*)

- berries eaten by birds
- tall shrub with attractive white flowers

Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)

- berries eaten by birds
- medium sized shrub with white or pinkish flowers

Sweet Fern (*Comptonia peregrina*)

- low shrub (2-5') good for sandy or gravelly sites
- spreads by sending out horizontal root systems

Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)

- medium shrub; fruit eaten by birds in the fall
- shade tolerant; does well in variety of soil conditions

American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

- excellent wildlife cover and food source (small edible nut)
- medium shrub; very shade tolerant (good for understory)

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

- seeds, buds and twigs are food for wildlife
- tall shrub or small tree; yellow flowers in fall; good for shade to partial sun

Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*)

- berries important source of winter food for songbirds
- medium sized shrub; good choice for coastal areas (salt spray tolerant)

Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

- provides dense cover and food for wildlife (excellent berries)
- low, dense growing shrub

Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)

- berries in late summer-early fall
- tall, clump forming shrub with white flowers in late spring

HERBACEOUS PLANTS (Drier areas)

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

- The fragrant blooms June to September produce tons of nectar for butterflies and other beneficial. Planting in groups will help the butterflies to find them.
- The seed produced by the spent flowers attracts finches and other songbirds.

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

- Attracts butterflies and other beneficial insects. Seeds attract finches and other birds.
- Easy to grow and drought tolerant once established.

Sky Blue Aster / *Symphotrichum oolentangiense* (*Aster azureus*)

- hardy native plant with pale blue blooms attractive to butterflies and other nectar-loving insects.
- adapted to a wide variety of locations from wet meadows to dry gravel outcrops, as long as it's sunny.

Wild Columbine / Eastern Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

- native columbine grows 10" tall, and has deep red and yellow for many weeks in spring.
- good for shade gardens, woodland gardens, rock gardens and naturalized areas.

GRASSES (Drier Areas)

Pixie Fountain Tufted Hair Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Pixie Fountain')

- easy to grow and maintain this fine-textured, evergreen grass for shady gardens
- plume of seeds in late summer that birds love.

Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Prairie Blues')

- gray-blue foliage and strong upright stems are perfect for bird nesting and cover
- seeds are enjoyed by song birds in the fall and winter.
- Striking rosy orange fall color.

TREES (Moist areas/wetland edges)

Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*)

- provides winter cover for birds and small mammals
- medium sized (40-60') evergreen

Box Elder Maple (*Acer negundo*)

- seeds provide food for song birds and squirrels
- medium height, fast growing, with compound leaves (like an Ash)

Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

- seeds eaten by birds in spring
- rapid growing; tolerates wide range of soil conditions

Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)

- beautiful yellow bark, naturally peels at maturity
- medium to tall tree

River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

- fast growing, medium height; copper or bronze bark

- good for stream banks

Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)

- provides food and cover for birds
- fast growing, tall tree; tolerates partial shade, variety of soil conditions

American Larch (*Larix laricina*)

- needles and seeds used as food for wildlife
- medium to tall tree; only deciduous conifer native to the northeast

Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

- fruit provides food for wildlife
- medium to tall tree; tolerates partial shade to full sun

Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)

- buds and catkins are an important food source for birds
- fast growing, tall tree; expansive root system good for soil stabilization

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

- important food source for wildlife
- helps to stabilize soils

SHRUBS (Moist areas/wetland edges)

Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)

- persistent red berries are an important winter food source
- medium sized shrub with small white or pinkish flowers in spring

Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)

- provides food and cover for wildlife; salt spray tolerant
- medium sized shrub with sweet smelling white flowers in summer
- salt tolerant

Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)

- provides food for animals and nesting and cover for birds
- fast growing, clump forming shrub with red color on young stems

Meadowsweet (*Spiraea latifolia*)

- low shrub, good for fields
- white to pinkish flowers in summer

Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

- berries excellent food source (for animals and people)
- aromatic white flowers in spring; brilliant red fall color (acid soil)

Northern Arrowwood (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

- medium shrub; tolerates partial shade
- common species of northeast wetlands and wetland edges

American Cranberrybush (*Viburnum trilobum*)

- red berries important wildlife food source in fall and winter
- white umbel flowers in late spring; maple like leaves

WETLAND SPECIES:

TREES (Wet areas)

Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*)

- cones provide food for wildlife
- bog species (acid soil)

Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

- acorns are food source for birds and animals
- tolerates wide range of conditions; large crown

Black Willow (*Salix nigra*)

- food source for song birds
- wide spreading root system good for soil stabilization

SHRUBS (Wet areas)

Speckled Alder (*Alnus rugosa*)

- good wildlife cover; root systems fix nitrogen (nourishes soil)
- excellent for soil stabilization for banks

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

- nuts provide food for ducks and other birds
- medium sized shrub; white globular flowers (“buttons”) in summer
- likes very wet (inundated) soils

Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

- berries and twigs provide food for wildlife
- medium sized, rapidly growing shrub; showy red stems in winter
- good for stream bank stabilization

Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*)

- persistent red berries important winter food source
- tall shrub, tolerates wide range of sunlight

HERBACEOUS PLANTS (Wet areas)

Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)

- It has stiff, pencil-like spikes of numerous small, tubular, blue-violet flowers at the top of a square, grooved stem.

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

- erect leafy stems topped with clusters of bright red flowers resembling flaming red spires.
- often found along moist shady slopes, sunny stream banks and other damp sites.