- **Do not collect plants from the wild**
- **Buy nursery-propageted plant material**
- **Help prevent establishment of non-native species in natural communities**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NATIVE PLANTS:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Natural Heritage Program
217 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-7951
www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/

For a list of nurseries that propagate native plants:
Virginia Native Plant Society
400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit 2
Boyce, VA 22620
(540) 568-8679
vnpsofc@shentel.net
www.vnps.org

For a list of nurseries in a particular region of Virginia contact:
The Virginia Nurseryman's Association*
383 Coal Hollow Road
Christiansburg, VA 24062-0278
(540) 382-0943
vna@swva.net
*List includes association members only.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project is the result of a collaboration between the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Native Plant Society and was made possible by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Funds were also contributed by the Virginia Nurseryman's Association, the Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. In addition to those three organizations, the sponsors extend their considerable appreciation to the other collaborators who provided valuable advice and assistance throughout the life of the project:

The Nature Conservancy-Virginia Chapter
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Department of Horticulture
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Department of Transportation

Project participants share a commitment to protect native plant habitats, especially those that support rare, threatened or endangered species. The use of native plant species, especially plants propagated from local populations, in land management, conservation, restoration and horticultural projects will help maintain the ecological integrity of natural areas and preserve native biodiversity.

12/01

DCR
Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Virginia Native Plant Society
Conserving Wildflowers and Wild Places
Education-Research-Advocacy-Protection-Rescue-Propagation

Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping

Celebrate and Preserve Our Natural Heritage

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Piedmont Plateau

OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

Native wildflowers, shrubs and trees are natural heirlooms, handed down to us from a time before recorded history. Using native plants in even the smallest garden can create miniature landscapes possessing the charm and character unique to a region's natural history. With some simple changes, our traditional lawns and gardens can expand to include these local heirlooms, providing us with beauty, solace and conversation, as well as contributing to the conservation of native species.

Indeed, landscaping with native plants, whether in a private garden, on commercial property or in public parks, will help to preserve species. Natural habitats for some of our native plants are rapidly being lost. But there are other reasons for planting native wildflowers, grasses, ferns, shrubs and trees: They can match the finest cultivated plants in beauty and may surpass them in ruggedness and resistance to insects and diseases.

Native: species naturally occurring in the region in which they evolved (indigenous)

Alien: species introduced to a new region by humans, either deliberately or accidentally (exotic, non-native)

WHAT ARE NATIVES?

Native species are those that occur in the region in which they have evolved. Plants and animals evolve in specific habitats over extended periods of time in response to physical and biotic processes that are characteristic of that place: the climate; the soils; the seasonal rainfall, drought, and frost; and interactions with other species occupying those habitats. They thus possess certain traits that make them uniquely adapted to local conditions.

In North America, plants are considered to be native if they occurred here prior to European settlement. This distinction is made because of the many changes in the flora that have occurred since the arrival of European settlers. Since then many more plants have been deliberately and accidentally introduced to North America from distant shores.

But alien species do not come only from distant countries. They may be introduced from a different region of the same country. For instance, a species native to the forests of the west coast of North America would be considered alien if found on the east coast where it was not a constituent of the regional flora.

NATIVES VS. ALIENS

While many alien plants are beneficial and have little or no effect on the natural environment, a few invasive alien species pose serious threats to both natural communities and rare species. Because of a lack of natural controls like insect pests and competitors, some alien plants are able to escape our gardens, establish in a new area, then displace the native plant species growing there. What was a finely woven and diverse natural community may become a monoculture dominated by the invasive alien plant. Along with the displacement of native plant species from these natural habitats comes the loss of many flying, crawling and burrowing creatures that relied on native plants for food, cover and shelter.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Uses				Light			Moisture		
		W	H	C	D	S	P	F	L	M	H
Castanea pumila	Allegheny chinkapin	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		
Ceanothus americanus	New Jersey tea	•	•	•			•	•	•		
Cephalanthus occidentalis	buttonbush		•	•			•	•			•
Gaultheria procumbens	wintergreen	•	•			•	•		•	•	
Gaylussacia baccata	black huckleberry	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	
Hamamelis virginiana	witch hazel		•	•		•	•		•	•	
Ilex decidua	deciduous holly	•	•	•		•	•			•	
Ilex verticillata	winterberry	•	•	•			•	•		•	•
Kalmia latifolia	mountain laurel	•	•	•		•	•			•	
Leucothoe racemosa	fetterbush, sweetbells		•	•			•	•		•	
Lindera benzoin	spicebush	•	•	•		•				•	
Rhododendron maximum	great rhododendron	•	•	•		•	•			•	•
Rhododendron periclymenoides	pinxter flower		•	•		•	•			•	•
Rhododendron viscosum	swamp azalea		•	•			•	•		•	•
Rhus copallinum	winged sumac	•	•	•		•	•		•		
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
Salix humilis	prairie willow		•	•				•	•		
Salix sericea	silky willow		•	•			•	•		•	
Sambucus canadensis	common elderberry	•	•	•				•		•	•
Vaccinium corymbosum	highbush blueberry	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Viburnum dentatum	arrow-wood viburnum	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
Viburnum prunifolium	black-haw viburnum	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Small trees											
Amelanchier arborea	downy serviceberry	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Amelanchier canadensis	Canada serviceberry	•	•	•				•		•	•
Asimina triloba	paw paw	•	•	•		•	•			•	
Cercis canadensis	redbud (Eastern)		•	•		•	•			•	
Chionanthus virginicus	fringetree		•				•	•		•	
Cornus alternifolia	alternate-leaf dogwood	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	
Cornus amomum	silky dogwood	•		•		•	•			•	•
Cornus florida	flowering dogwood	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	
Crataegus crus-galli	cockspur hawthorn	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
Euonymus atropurpureus	wahoo		•	•		•	•			•	
Ilex opaca	American holly	•	•	•		•				•	
Magnolia virginiana	sweetbay magnolia		•	•		•	•			•	•
Morus rubra	red mulberry	•	•	•		•	•			•	
Ostrya virginiana	Eastern hop-hornbeam		•			•	•			•	
Rhus glabra	smooth sumac	•	•	•				•	•	•	
Rhus hirta (R. typhina)	staghorn sumac	•	•	•				•	•		
Salix nigra	black willow			•			•	•		•	•
Medium to Large Trees											
Acer rubrum	red maple		•	•				•		•	•
Betula nigra	river birch	•	•	•				•		•	•
Carya glabra	pignut hickory	•	•	•		•	•		•		
Diospyros virginiana	persimmon	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	
Fagus grandifolia	American beech	•	•			•	•	•		•	
Fraxinus americana	white ash	•	•				•	•		•	
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Juglans nigra	black walnut	•		•			•	•		•	
Juniperus virginiana	red cedar (Eastern)	•	•				•	•	•	•	
Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum		•	•		•	•	•		•	•
Liriodendron tulipifera	tulip-tree	•	•	•				•		•	
Nyssa sylvatica	black gum	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Oxydendrum arboreum	sourwood		•				•			•	
Pinus echinata	shortleaf pine		•				•	•	•		
Pinus virginiana	Virginia pine			•				•	•		
Platanus occidentalis	sycamore			•			•	•		•	•
Prunus serotina	wild black cherry	•		•			•	•	•		
Quercus alba	white oak	•	•	•			•	•	•		
Quercus bicolor	swamp white oak	•	•	•		•	•				•
Quercus coccinea	scarlet oak	•	•				•	•	•		
Quercus falcata	Southern red oak	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	
Quercus montana	chestnut oak	•		•		•	•		•		
Quercus palustris	pin oak	•	•	•		•	•			•	•
Quercus phellos	willow oak	•	•	•			•	•		•	•
Quercus rubra	Northern red oak	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
Quercus stellata	post oak	•	•	•				•	•		
Quercus velutina	black oak	•		•		•	•		•		
Sassafras albidum	sassafras			•			•	•	•	•	
Tilia americana	American basswood			•			•			•	
Tsuga canadensis	Eastern hemlock	•	•	•			•	•		•	

+ May be aggressive in garden setting.

* Due to the rarity and sensitivity of habitat in Virginia, these species are recommended for horticultural use only. Planting these species in natural areas could be detrimental to the survival of native populations.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Uses				Light			Moisture		
		W	H	C	D	S	P	F	L	M	H
Pycnanthemum incanum	hoary mountain mint	•		•		•			•		
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium	narrow-leaved mtn. mint	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
Rhexia virginica	Virginia meadow-beauty	•		•				•			•
Rudbeckia fulgida	early coneflower		•	•			•	•	•	•	
Sagittaria latifolia	broadleaf arrowhead	•	•	•				•			•
Sanguinaria canadensis	bloodroot		•			•				•	
Saururus cernuus	lizard's tail		•	•			•	•			•
Saxifraga virginiensis	early saxifrage		•			•	•	•	•	•	
Sedum ternatum	wild stonecrop		•			•	•			•	
Silene virginica	fire pink		•				•	•	•	•	
Solidago caesia	bluestem goldenrod	•	•	•		•	•			•	
Solidago odora	sweet goldenrod	•	•	•			•	•	•		
Solidago pinetorum+	pineywoods goldenrod	•		•			•	•	•		
Solidago puberula	downy goldenrod	•	•	•				•	•		
Solidago rugosa+	rough-stemmed goldenrod	•		•			•	•		•	
Tiarella cordifolia var. collina	clumping foamflower		•			•				•	
Tradescantia virginiana	Virginia spiderwort		•	•		•	•	•		•	
Trillium grandiflorum	white trillium		•			•				•	
Verbena hastata	blue vervain	•		•			•	•		•	•
Vernonia noveboracensis	New York ironweed	•	•	•			•	•			•
Viola pedata	bird's foot violet	•	•				•	•	•		
Viola pubescens	yellow violet	•	•	•		•	•			•	
Yucca filamentosa	common yucca	•	•					•	•		
Ferns and fern allies											
Adiantum pedatum	maidenhair fern		•	•		•				•	
Asplenium platyneuron	ebony spleenwort		•			•	•			•	
Athyrium asplenioides	Southern ladyfern		•	•		•				•	•
Dryopteris intermedia	evergreen wood-fern		•	•		•	•		•	•	•
Dryopteris marginalis	marginal shield-fern		•	•		•	•			•	
Onoclea sensibilis+	sensitive fern		•	•			•	•		•	•
Osmunda cinnamomea	cinnamon fern		•	•		•	•			•	•
Osmunda regalis	royal fern		•	•			•			•	•
Polystichum acrostichoides	Christmas fern		•	•		•				•	
Grasses, sedges, & rushes											
Agrostis perennans	autumn bentgrass			•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
Andropogon glomeratus	bushy bluestem		•	•			•	•		•	•
Andropogon virginicus	broomsedge		•	•			•	•	•	•	•
Carex crinita var. crinita	long hair sedge	•	•	•			•	•		•	•
Carex lurida	sallow sedge	•		•			•	•		•	•
Carex pensylvanica	Pennsylvania sedge	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	
Carex stricta	tussock sedge	•		•			•	•		•	•
Chasmanthium latifolium	river oats		•	•		•	•	•		•	
Danthonia sericea	silky oatgrass	•		•			•	•	•	•	
Danthonia spicata	poverty oatgrass	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	
Dichanthelium clandestinum	deer-tongue	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Dichanthelium commutatum	variable panicgrass	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
Dulichium arundinaceum	dwarf bamboo	•		•	•		•	•			•
Elymus hystrix (Hystrix patula)	bottlebrush grass	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	
Elymus virginicus	Virginia wild rye	•		•		•	•		•	•	
Juncus canadensis	Canada rush	•		•			•	•		•	•
Juncus effusus	soft rush	•		•			•	•		•	•
Leersia oryzoides	rice cutgrass	•		•			•	•		•	•
Panicum virgatum	switch grass	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
Saccharum giganteum	giant plumegrass	•	•	•			•	•		•	•
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
Scirpus cyperinus	woolgrass bulrush	•	•	•			•	•		•	•
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
Sparganium americanum	American bur-reed	•		•			•	•			•
Tridens flavus	redtop	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
Tripsacum dactyloides	gama grass	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•
Typha latifolia	broad-leaved cattail	•		•				•		•	•
Vines											
Celastrus scandens	climbing bittersweet	•	•			•	•	•		•	
Lonicera sempervirens	trumpet honeysuckle		•	•			•			•	
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia creeper	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Shrubs											
Alnus serrulata	common alder	•	•	•		•	•	•			•
Aronia arbutifolia	red chokeberry		•	•		•	•			•	•

In contrast to invasive alien species, other non-native plants are unable to thrive without extra effort by gardeners. For instance, they may originate in regions with abundant rainfall and soils rich in nutrients. If then introduced into a drier region with less fertile soils, they may require additional watering and fertilizer. The natural defenses that plants evolve in their original habitats may not protect them in a new environment, requiring the application of pesticides to aid their growth. The benefit of growing plants within the region in which they evolved is that they are more likely to thrive under the local conditions requiring less attention, labor and expensive additives.

BASICS ABOUT LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVES

When landscaping with natives, match the plants to the correct region, moisture and light conditions. Start with this brochure and study the names of the plants native to your region, and the sunlight and moisture regimes they prefer. Refer to field guides and books of natural history to learn which plants will fit within your planting scheme and provide specific benefits to the wildlife in your area. Plan to texture your landscape with a combination of flowers, shrubs and trees that would occur together naturally. Visit a natural area in your region and observe common plant associations, spatial groupings and habitat conditions. Whether you start small or go all out, always purchase your native plants and seeds from reputable sources that propagate their own plants, preferably from local sources.

NATIVES FOR WILDLIFE

Plants and animals evolve together to create unique natural communities, weaving a complex web of interrelationships. Flowers often bloom and fruits ripen in synchrony with the needs of the animals that pollinate the flowers and disperse the seeds. A butterfly feeds on the nectar of a certain flower and in turn pollinates the plant. To reap the greatest benefit, the flower must bloom and the butterfly emerge simultaneously. Later the flower goes to seed, coincidentally when songbirds are fattening for the autumn migration. Gorging themselves, the birds scatter much of what they fail to eat, thus helping disperse the plant's seed.

Alien plant species rarely keep time according to the internal clocks of our native wildlife. Their flowers may bloom too early or late, their fruits grow too large for resident birds to carry, their petals too long for a local nectar feeder to probe, and their smell and texture unrecognizable to a butterfly in search of a host plant on which to lay her eggs.

The greater the variety of plants, the more likely uncommon species will be attracted to your yard. Certain butterflies will hatch and feed only on one type of host plant. When you plant a variety of host and nectar plants, you may see the entire life cycle of several species of butterflies. Keep in mind butterflies and hummingbirds prefer different flowers. Songbirds, too, will visit wildflowers during the spring and summer nesting season to feed on insects and spiders and carry them back to their young. Later they will visit for the dried seeds to fuel them for long journeys to

southern wintering grounds. Trees for nesting, shrubs for shelter and water for bathing will further enhance a backyard wildlife preserve.

PIEDMONT

Virginia is divided into several physiographic provinces based on geologic history. Each province has characteristic topography, soil pH, soil depth, elevation and hydrology. These characteristics combine to influence the species of plants and animals found there. Virginia is unique, encompassing parts of five of these provinces, and thus has a greater variety of natural landscapes than any other eastern state.

Virginia's Piedmont province is a gently rolling upland bounded on the east by the fall line and the on west by the Blue Ridge Mountains. The western boundary of the Piedmont is characterized by low peaks and ridges, comprising the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. To the east, the Piedmont continues to slope more gently toward the fall line. The fall line marks the zone of transition from the hard, resistant bedrock underlying the Piedmont to the softer sediments of the Coastal Plain and is sharply delineated by falls and rapids in rivers crossing the boundary. Streams are able to cut more easily through the sands, gravels and clays of the Coastal Plain, and rivers widen as the topography flattens. From foothills to river rapids, varying Piedmont site conditions support a mosaic of plant communities.

Recommended Uses
W = wildlife
H = horticulture
C = conservation
D = domestic livestock forage

Minimum Light Requirments
S = shade
P = partial sun
F = full sun

Native Regions
C = Coastal Plain
P = Piedmont
M = Mountains and Valley

Moisture Requirements
L = low
M = medium
H = high

Scientific Name	Common Name	Uses				Light			Moisture		
		W	H	C	D	S	P	F	L	M	H
Forbs											
Acorus americanus	sweet flag		•	•			•	•			•
Amsonia tabernaemontana	blue star		•			•	•			•	•
Anemone quinquefolia	wood anemone		•			•	•	•		•	
Antennaria neglecta	field pussytoes		•	•			•	•	•	•	
Aquilegia canadensis	wild columbine	•	•				•	•	•	•	
Arisaema triphyllum	Jack-in-the-pulpit		•			•				•	
Aruncus dioicus	goatsbeard		•			•	•			•	
Asclepias incarnata	swamp milkweed	•	•	•			•	•			•
Asclepias tuberosa	butterfly weed	•	•	•				•	•		
Aster concolor	Eastern silvery aster	•	•	•				•	•		
Aster divaricatus	white wood aster	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster		•	•			•	•	•	•	
Aster pilosus	white heath aster	•	•	•				•	•		
Aster umbellatus	flat-top white aster		•	•			•	•		•	•
Baptisia tinctoria	yellow wild-indigo	•	•				•	•	•		
Chamaecrista fasciculata+	partridge pea			•				•	•	•	
Chelone glabra	white turtlehead		•	•		•	•				•
Chrysogonum virginianum	green and gold		•	•		•				•	
Chrysopsis mariana	Maryland golden aster	•	•	•			•	•	•		
Cimicifuga racemosa	black snakeroot		•			•	•			•	
Coreopsis tripteris	tall coreopsis		•	•			•	•		•	
Coreopsis verticillata	threadleaf coreopsis		•	•			•	•	•		
Delphinium tricorne	dwarf larkspur		•			•	•			•	
Desmodium paniculatum	narrow-leaf tick trefoil	•		•		•			•		
Dicentra cucullaria	Dutchman's breeches		•			•				•	
Dicentra eximia	wild bleeding heart		•				•	•	•		
Eupatorium coelestinum	mistflower	•	•	•		•	•	•		•	
Eupatorium fistulosum	Joe Pye weed	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Eupatorium perfoliatum	common boneset			•			•	•		•	•
Geranium maculatum	wild geranium		•			•	•	•		•	
Helenium autumnale	sneezeweed	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Helianthus angustifolius	narrow-leaf sunflower	•	•	•			•	•		•	•
Helianthus decapetalus	ten-petaled sunflower	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Helianthus divaricatus	woodland sunflower	•	•	•			•		•		
Heliopsis helianthoides	oxeye sunflower	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
Hepatica acutiloba	sharp-lobed hepatica		•			•			•	•	
Hibiscus moscheutos	Eastern rosemallow	•	•	•				•			•
Iris cristata	dwarf crested iris		•			•	•			•	
Iris virginica	Virginia blue flag		•	•			•	•			•
Lespedeza capitata	round-head bush clover	•		•				•	•		
Liatris squarrosa	plains blazing star	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Lilium canadense	Canada lily		•				•	•		•	•
Lilium superbum	Turk's cap lily		•				•	•		•	•
Lobelia cardinalis	cardinal flower	•	•	•			•	•			•
Lobelia siphilitica	great blue lobelia	•	•	•		•	•				•
Maianthemum racemosa	false Solomon's seal		•	•		•	•			•	
Mertensia virginica	Virginia bluebells		•	•		•	•			•	•
Mimulus ringens	monkeyflower		•	•				•			•
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
Nymphaea odorata	American water lily	•	•	•				•			•
Oenothera fruticosa	sundrops	•	•	•				•		•	•
Opuntia humifusa	Eastern prickly-pear	•	•	•				•	•		
Peltandra virginica	arrow arum	•	•	•			•	•			•
Phlox carolina	thick-leaved phlox	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
Phlox divaricata	woodland phlox		•	•			•		•	•	
Phlox subulata	moss phlox		•	•				•	•		
Physostegia virginiana	obedient plant		•	•			•	•		•	
Podophyllum peltatum+	mayapple	•	•	•			•	•		•	
Polygonatum biflorum	Solomon's seal		•			•	•		•	•	
Pontederia cordata	pickerel weed	•	•	•				•			•
Porteranthus trifoliatus	Bowman's root		•			•	•			•	