

Native Plants for Shoreline Buffers

Homeowners Guide to Lake-Friendly Living Fact Sheets Series

Buffers are trees, shrubs, and groundcover that catch sediment and non-point source pollution before it enters a waterway. Buffers benefit the environment in many ways by providing food, shelter, and nesting sites for birds and other wildlife, protecting water quality by intercepting nutrients and reducing runoff and sedimentation, controlling shoreline erosion, and deterring nuisance wildlife such as Canada geese.

The following plants are native to the Adirondack Park and are good plants to use for buffer plantings. These plant species provide beneficial habitat for native wildlife, anchor shoreline soils, and enhance the beauty of shoreline property.

Herbaceous Plants (Perennials)

Herbaceous Plants (Perennials)	Soil Moisture	Light
Red Baneberry (<i>Actea rubra</i>)	moist	part sun-shade
Beardtongue (<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>)	moist	sun-part shade
Beebalm (<i>Monarda didyma</i>)	moist	full sun-part shade
Black-Eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)	moist-dry	sun-part shade
Blue Flag Iris (<i>Iris versicolor</i>)	saturated	full sun-part shade
Blue Vervain (<i>Verbena hastata</i>)	moist	sun-part shade
Boneset (<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>)	moist	sun-part shade
Butterfly Weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)	well-drained	sun
Canada Lily (<i>Lilium canadense</i>)	wet-moist	sun-part shade
Cardinal Flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>)	saturated-moist	full sun-part shade
Columbine (<i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i>)	moist-dry	sun-shade
Culver's Root (<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>)	wet-moist	sun-part shade
False Solomon's Seal (<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>)	moist	part sun-shade
Golden Alexanders (<i>Zizia aurea</i>)	wet-moist	sun-part shade
Great Blue Lobelia (<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>)	saturated-moist	sun-shade
Joe Pye Weed (<i>Eupatorium sp.</i>)	saturated-dry	sun-part shade
Meadow Rue (<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>)	moist	part sun-shade
New York Ironweed (<i>Vernonia novaboracensis</i>)	moist	sun-part shade
New York Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</i>)	moist	sun-part sun
Solomon's Seal (<i>Polygonatum commutatum</i>)	moist	part sun-shade
Swamp Milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>)	saturated-moist	full sun-part shade
Red Trillium (<i>Trillium erectum</i>)	moist	part sun
Turtlehead (<i>Chelone glabra</i>)	saturated-moist	full sun-part shade
Virginia Bluebells (<i>Mertensia virginica</i>)	moist	full sun-part shade
Wild Senna (<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>)	moist	full sun-part shade
Wild Bergamot (<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>)	moist	sun-part shade

Ferns

Ferns	Soil Moisture	Light
Christmas Fern (<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>)	moist-dry	part sun-shade
Cinnamon Fern (<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>)	moist-wet	sun-shade
Maidenhair Fern (<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>)	moist	part shade-shade
New York Fern (<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>)	moist	sun-part shade
Ostrich Fern (<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>)	moist-wet	shade- part sun
Royal Fern (<i>Osmunda regalis</i>)	moist-wet	sun-shade
Sensitive Fern (<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>)	moist-wet	sun-shade
Wood Fern (<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>)	moist-dry	shade

Groundcovers	Soil Moisture	Light
Bloodroot (<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>)	moist	part sun-shade
Bunchberry (<i>Cornus canadensis</i>)	moist	sun-shade
Canada Anemone (<i>Anemone canadensis</i>)	moist-dry	sun-shade
Canada Mayflower (<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>)	wet-dry	part sun-shade
Foamflower (<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>)	moist	sun-shade
Fragrant Sumac (<i>Rhus aromatica</i>) "Gro low" cultivar	dry-moist	sun-part shade
Marsh Marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>)	moist-wet	sun-shade
Wild Ginger (<i>Asarum canadense</i>)	moist	sun-part shade
Blue bead Lily (<i>Clintonia borealis</i>)	moist	part shade-shade
Yellow trout Lily (<i>Erythronium americanum</i>)	moist	shade
Twinleaf (<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>)	moist	shade-part shade
Marsh blue Violet (<i>Viola cucullata</i>)	moist- wet	sun-shade
Yellow Violet (<i>Viola pubescens</i>)	moist	part sun-shade

Small Trees & Shrubs	Soil Moisture	Light
American Holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>)	moist, well drained	sun-part shade
Arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>)	dry-moist	sun-part shade
Black Chokeberry (<i>Photinia melanocarpa</i>)	dry-moist	sun-part sun
Black Elderberry (<i>Sambucus Canadensis</i>)	dry-wet	sun-part sun
Buttonbush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>)	saturated-moist	sun
Carolina Rose (<i>Rosa Carolina</i>)	dry	sun
Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)	moist-dry	sun-part shade
Eastern Ninebark (<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>)	wet-dry	sun-part shade
Gray Dogwood (<i>Cornus racemosa</i>)	dry - wet	shade-sun
Highbush Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>)	moist	sun-part shade
Highbush Cranberry (<i>Viburnum opulus</i>)	moist, well drained	sun-part sun
Hobblebush (<i>Viburnum lantanoides</i>)	moist	part sun-shade
Maple Leaf Viburnum (<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>)	moist-dry	sun-shade
Meadowsweet (<i>Spiraea alba</i>)	dry-wet	sun
Mountain Laurel (<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>)	moist, well drained	sun -shade
New Jersey Tea (<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>)	dry	sun-part shade
Northern Bayberry (<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>)	dry-wet	sun-part sun
Pink Azalea (<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>)	dry-wet	sun-part shade
Red Chokeberry (<i>Photinia pyrifolia</i>)	dry-wet	sun-part sun
Red Elderberry (<i>Sambucus racemose</i>)	moist	shade
Red-osier Dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>)	moist -wet	sun -part sun
Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>)	moist	sun-part shade
Shrubby St. John's Wort (<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>)	dry-moist	sun-part sun
Silky Dogwood (<i>Cornus amomum</i>)	wet-moist	sun-part sun
Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>)	moist	sun-shade
Summersweet (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>)	moist-wet	part sun-shade
Sweetfern (<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>)	dry	sun to part-sun
Virginia Rose (<i>Rosa virginiana</i>)	dry-moist	sun

Avoid Planting These Plants

The following non-native plants may have the ability to kill or suppress the growth of surrounding plants by shading them out, chemically poisoning them, or out-competing them for food and water.

Burningbush (<i>Euonymus alatus</i>)	Japanese Spiraea (<i>Spiraea japonica</i>)
Butterfly Bush (<i>Budlia davidii</i>)	Japanese Yew (<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>)
Common Barberry (<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>)	Multiflora Rose (<i>Rosa multiflora</i>)
Common Buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>)	Myrtle, or Periwinkle (<i>Vinca minor</i> or <i>Vinca major</i>)
Cotoneaster (<i>Cononeaster</i> sp.)	Norway Maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)
Crown Vetch (<i>Coronilla varia</i>)	Oriental Bittersweet (<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>)
English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	Pachysandra (<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>)
Foxglove (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>)	Privet (<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>)
Japanese Barberry (<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>)	Purple Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)
Japanese Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera japonica</i>)	Wintercreeper (<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>)
Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>)	Yellow Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)



Illustrations provided by U. of Wisconsin-Ext & Wisconsin DNR