



WHAT ARE NATIVE PLANTS?

North American native plants are those that are indigenous to a region before the arrival of European settlers and possess traits that make them uniquely adapted to local conditions. They have evolved over time, adapting to factors specific to their region such as climate, moisture, soils and interactions with other plants, animals and insects. Many animals and insects depend on specific plants for their survival. Native plants play an important role in maintaining biodiversity and balance in the ecosystem.

Gloucester's native plants are species indigenous to Virginia's Coastal Plain, which is bordered by the Fall Line (The edge of the Piedmont/Coastal Plain, where various rivers cross from hard bedrock to soft sediments, is marked by a line of rapids and waterfalls—the Fall Line. ["Geology of the Fall Line"]) to the west and by the Atlantic Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries to the east. Many plants native to other regions such as the Piedmont and Mountain zones of Virginia, as well as those native to other states, will also perform here if used in locations that approximate their natural environments.

For the greatest ecological value, select the "true" species of local native plants, especially if planting for wildlife benefit. Cultivars are varieties that have been grown to provide plants with certain physical characteristics such as different flower color, different foliage or a compact/specific shape or size. Cultivars are suitable for gardening use, but true species provide the preferred food source for native wildlife.

"Young birds are fed native insects. Native plants support native insects that help birds feed their young."

– Felicity Ericson, GEMG Emeritus

Benefits of Native Plants

- Require little maintenance
- Add regional character and a naturalistic element to landscape
- Are better able to withstand local weather conditions such as drought, and insects and disease
- Reduce the need for chemical applications of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides
- Prevent erosion, store and filter storm water runoff through their deep root systems
- Provide food and shelter for native butterflies, songbirds, beneficial insects and small mammals
- Reduce the potential for introducing invasive exotics
- Reduce the need for fossil-fueled lawn and garden equipment

Designing and Planting with Natives

A benefit of designing with native plants is their ability to grow under a wide variety of conditions. Assess your site for sun, shade, soil type and drainage. Understand the minimum and maximum light and moisture requirements for each species and be sure to group them with plants that have similar cultural requirements. You can incorporate a few native plants into an existing garden design or you can choose to plant an all-native design. Planting species with different bloom and/or fruiting times, as well as some evergreen species, will ensure year-round interest.

Native plants are adapted to a variety of native soils. If you choose a plant that is adapted to your existing soil, little or no soil amendment is needed. If your original topsoil has been removed, purchase similar topsoil, or simulate your own native soils

by incorporating minimal amounts of manure and organic matter such as composted leaves. Native plants typically do not need fertilization and many actually prefer poor soils. They also often require less watering.

It will take time for your native plant garden to become well-established. Irrigation is critical for the first growing season, particularly the two to three weeks after planting. An inch of water a week is optimal. Pruning will be necessary for fast-growing species to maintain visual quality. Clipping spent flowers and branch tips will encourage plant fullness and longer bloom times for perennials.

“Plant an oak tree in your wildlife garden. According to Douglas Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, oaks can support over 500 species of moths and butterflies!”

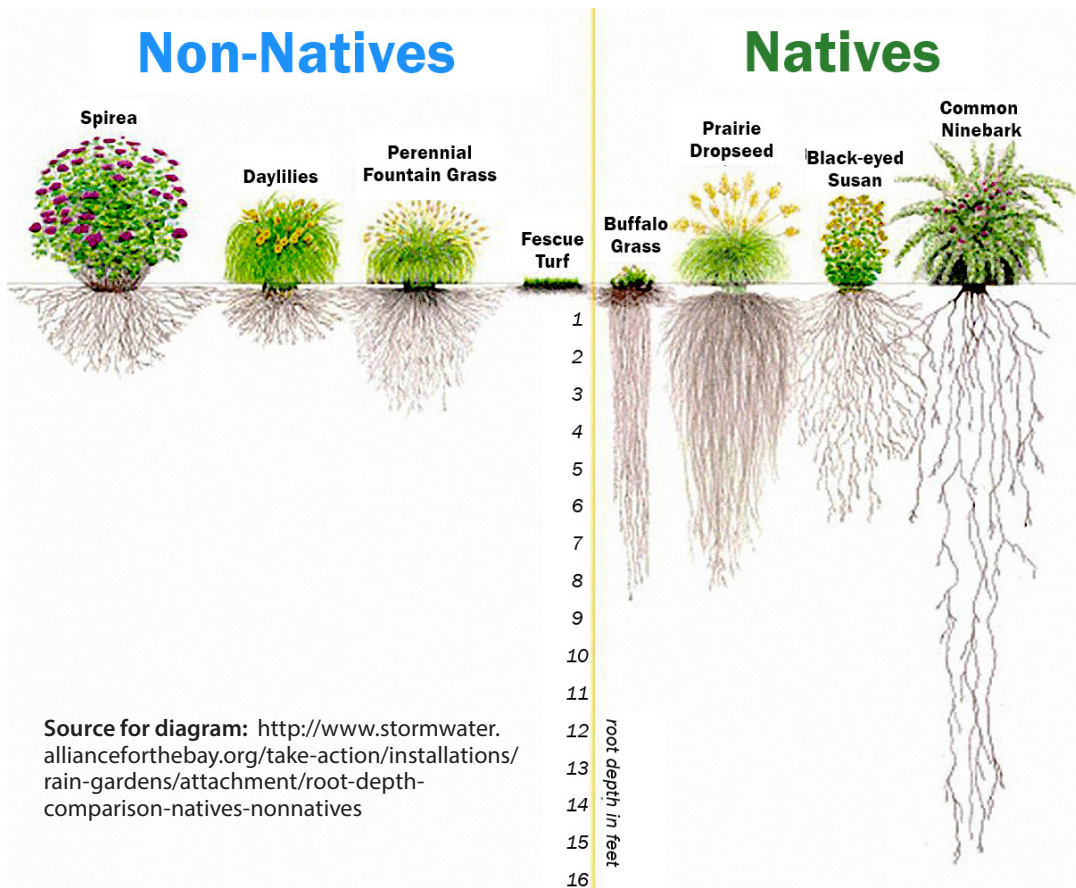
– Bill Walker, GEMG

Uses for Native Plants

- Lawn replacement
- Perennial beds
- Wildlife habitats
- Rain gardens
- Wetland plantings
- Woodland edge plantings

Native plants are particularly effective in rain gardens and wetland areas because they have deep, extensive root systems. These root systems increase soil permeability which allows for better absorption and filtration of rainwater, thereby reducing the amount of nutrients and pollutants that run off your property and into the Chesapeake Bay. The varying root lengths also provide soil stability to control erosion on slopes and in coastal areas.

Root systems of native grasses and forbs (herbaceous flowering plants that are not grasses, sedges, and rushes) can reach depths of 6 to 15 feet compared to the shallow roots of conventional blue grass turf (left of middle in diagram) which grow to only a few inches.



Source for diagram: <http://www.stormwater.allianceforthebay.org/take-action/installations/rain-gardens/attachment/root-depth-comparison-natives-nonnatives>

RECOMMENDED PLANTS FOR SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS

The following lists offer suggested plantings for various applications. Remember to consider site requirements before making your selection. Details about plants marked with an asterisk (*) can be found in their respective chapters, i.e., flowering dogwood in the Trees chapter. Further information can be obtained from references listed at the end of this chapter.

Plant Species for Birds

TREES	SHRUBS
American Beech <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	Highbush Blueberry <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
American Holly <i>Ilex opaca</i>	Hollies – both evergreen and deciduous <i>Ilex spp.*</i>
Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Black Gum <i>Nyssa sylvatica*</i>	Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>
Crabapple <i>Malus spp.</i>	Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>
Eastern Red Cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana*</i>	Sumacs <i>Rhus spp.</i>
Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida*</i>	Virburnums <i>Viburnum spp.*</i>
Hawthorns <i>Crataegus spp.*</i>	Wax Myrtle <i>Morella cerifera*</i>
Hickories <i>Carya spp.</i>	
Oaks <i>Quercus spp.*</i>	VINES
Pines <i>Pinus spp.</i>	Coral Honeysuckle, Trumpet Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>
Red Mulberry <i>Morus rubra</i>	Trumpet Creeper, Trumpet Vine <i>Campsis radicans</i>
Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Virginia Creeper <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia*</i>

Host Plants for Caterpillars

TREES	SHRUBS
Black Cherry, Wild Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	Button Bush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>
Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida*</i>	New Jersey Tea <i>Ceanothus americanus*</i>
Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>
Oaks <i>Quercus spp.*</i>	Sumacs <i>Rhus spp.</i>
Paw Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	Sweet Bay Magnolia <i>Magnolia virginiana*</i>
Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis*</i>	Viburnums <i>Viburnum spp.*</i>
Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	
Tulip Poplar <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	PERENNIALS
	Asters <i>Symphyotrichum spp.*</i>
VINES	Butterfly Weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa*</i>
Dutchman's Pipe <i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i>	Golden Alexander <i>Zizia aurea</i>
Purple Passionflower <i>Passiflora incarnata*</i>	Milkweeds, <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> , <i>A. syriaca</i>
	Violets (<i>Viola spp.</i>) - not all are natives

Nectar Plants for Hummingbirds, Butterflies and Bees

TREES	PERENNIALS (continued)
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	Common Sneezeweed <i>Helenium autumnale</i>
	Cowslip, Marsh Marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i>
SHRUBS	Cup Plant <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>
Button Bush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i> spp.
Coastal Azalea <i>Rhododendron atlanticum</i>	Great Blue Lobelia <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>
New Jersey Tea <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> *	Joe Pye Weed <i>Eutrochium</i> spp.*
Summersweet <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> *	Lyre-leaf Sage <i>Salvia lyrata</i>
Swamp Azalea <i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Maryland Golden Aster <i>Chrysopsis mariana</i>
Virginia Sweetspire <i>Itea virginica</i> *	Milkweeds <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> , <i>A. syriaca</i>
	Narrow-leaf Sundrops, Southern Sundrops <i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>
VINES	Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint <i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i> *
Coral Honeysuckle, Trumpet Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	New England Aster <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> *
Trumpet Creeper, Trumpet Vine <i>Campsis radicans</i>	New York Ironweed <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>
	Northern Blue Flag <i>Iris versicolor</i>
PERENNIALS	Phlox <i>Phlox</i> spp.* also see Groundcovers
Aster <i>Symphotrichum</i> spp.*	Pickeralweed <i>Pontederia cordata</i>
Beardtongue <i>Penstemon</i> spp.	Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> *
Beebalm <i>Monarda didyma</i> *	Rose Mallow <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>
Blue False Indigo, Wild Indigo <i>Baptisia australis</i> *	Seashore Mallow <i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>
Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.*	Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia</i> spp.
Blazing Star, Spike Gayfeather <i>Liatris spicata</i>	Tickseed <i>Coreopsis</i> spp.*
Bluestar <i>Amsonia</i> spp.*	Turk's Cap Lily <i>Lilium superbum</i>
Blue Vervain <i>Verbena hastata</i>	White Turtlehead <i>Chelone glabra</i>
Boltonia <i>Boltonia asteroides</i> *	Wild Bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
Butterfly Weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> *	Wild Columbine <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> *
Cardinal Flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Sunflower <i>Helianthus</i> spp.
Carolina Bushpea <i>Thermopsis villosa</i>	Violets (<i>Viola</i> spp.) - not all are natives
Common Sneezeweed <i>Helenium autumnale</i>	

Sources: Butterfly Species Host List—Denise Greene, Sassafras Farm
 For the Birds, Butterflies and Hummingbirds—Creating Inviting Habitats, HORT-59NP,
<https://resources.ext.vt.edu/searchresults?contentname=hort-59np>
 Wildflowers for Butterfly Gardens—Prince William Wildflower Society
 Wildlife Habitat—Wildlife Habitat | NRCS (usda.gov)

“Avoid plants with “double blooms” as the extra layer of petals can make it harder for hummingbirds, butterflies, and beneficial insects to access the nectar.”

– Rose Sullivan, GEMG



Monarda didyma

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are usually small gardens which use rainfall and stormwater runoff in their designs and plant selections. They are designed to withstand the extremes of moisture and concentrations of nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus that are found in stormwater runoff.

Rain Gardens

TREES	PERENNIALS
Atlantic White Cedar <i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Asters <i>Symphotrichum</i> spp.
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i> *	Atamasco Lily <i>Zephyranthes atamasco</i>
Black Gum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> *	Beebalm <i>Monarda didyma</i> *
Fringe Tree <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> *	Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Blazing Star, Spike Gayfeather <i>Liatris spicata</i>
Paw Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	Blue Flag Iris <i>Iris virginica</i> , <i>Iris versicolor</i>
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i> *	Cardinal Flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Common Boneset <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>
Sweetbay Magnolia <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> *	Coneflower, Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.*
Sweet Gum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> *	Cut-leaf Coneflower <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>
	Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i> spp.
SHRUBS	GRASSES
Arrowwood <i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Great Blue Lobelia <i>Cardinalis siphilitica</i>
Beautyberry <i>Callicarpa americana</i> *	Hyssop Skullcap <i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>
Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>
Carolina Allspice <i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Joe Pye Weed <i>Eutrochium dubium</i>
Common Elderberry <i>Sambucus nigra</i> spp. <i>canadensis</i> (<i>S. canadensis</i>)	Lyre-leaf Sage <i>Salvia lyrata</i>
Fetterbush <i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>	Marsh Marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i>
Groundsel Bush <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	New York Ironweed <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>
Highbush Blueberry <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Nodding Ladies' Tresses <i>Spiranthes cernua</i>
Inkberry <i>Ilex glabra</i> *	Obedient Plant <i>Physostegia virginiana</i>
Ninebark <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Pickeralweed <i>Pontederia cordata</i>
Possumhaw Holly <i>Ilex decudua</i> *	Rose Mallow <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>
Possumhaw Viburnum <i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Seashore Mallow <i>Kosteletzkya pentacarpos</i> (<i>K. virginica</i>)
Red Chokeberry <i>Aronia abutifolia</i> *	Swamp Milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
Silky Dogwood <i>Cornus amomum</i>	Swamp Sunflower <i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>
Southern Wax Myrtle <i>Morella cerifera</i> *	White Turtlehead <i>Chelone glabra</i>
Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	
Steeplebush <i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Bluejoint Grass <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>
Strawberry Bush <i>Euonymus Americanus</i>	Little Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> *
Swamp Azalea <i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	River Oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>
Swamp Rose <i>Rosa palustris</i>	Rushes <i>Juncus</i> spp.
Sweet Pepperbush <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i> *
Virginia Sweetspire <i>Itea virginica</i> *	Sedges <i>Carex</i> spp.
Winterberry Holly <i>Ilex verticillata</i> *	
Yaupon Holly <i>Ilex vomitoria</i> *	

Rain Gardens (continued)

FERNS	
Cinnamon Fern <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Royal Fern <i>Osmunda regalis</i>
Maidenhair Fern <i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Sensitive Fern <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>
New York Fern <i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	

Sources: Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads area, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e25c41e6f2e17ea4cb7766/t/5964020c099c0166cbe4f826/1499726352177/Native-Plants-for-Southeast-Virginia-Guide-reprint-July-2017.pdf>

Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed

<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/PDF/resources/Native-Plants-for-Wildlife-Habitat-and-Conservation-Landscaping.pdf>

Rain Garden Plants

<https://resources.ext.vt.edu/contentdetail?contentid=1525&contentname=Rain%20Garden%20Plants>

Waterfront Landscapes

Plants growing on coastal shores are subjected to environmental conditions much different from those planted inland. Blowing sand, poor soil, excessive drainage, high temperatures, and salt spray determine how well plants grow on coastal landscapes. Most plants will not tolerate salt spray on accumulating on their foliage. Below are plants that have been found to grow well in the Gloucester waterfront areas.

Salt-tolerant Native Plants for Waterfront Landscapes: Outer Coastal Plain

DECIDUOUS TREES	SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i> *	Beach Plum <i>Prunus maritima</i> – edible fruit
Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	Groundsel Bush <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>
Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Inkberry <i>Ilex glabra</i> *
Live Oak <i>Quercus virginiana</i> *	Marsh Elder <i>Iva frutescens</i>
Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> – edible fruit	Wax Myrtle <i>Morella</i> spp. formerly <i>Myrica</i> spp.*
Sweet Gum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> * – cultivars without seed pods, e.g. 'Rotundiloba'	Yaupon Holly <i>Ilex vomitoria</i> * – tree, dwarf & weeping varieties available
EVERGREEN TREES	VINES
American Holly <i>Ilex opaca</i> – thorny leaves shed in spring	Coral Honeysuckle, Trumpet Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>
Eastern Red Cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> *	Trumpet Creeper, Trumpet Vine <i>Campsis radicans</i>
Loblolly Pine <i>Pinus taeda</i>	Virginia Creeper <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> *
Sweetbay Magnolia <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> *	
	PERENNIALS
GRASSES	Asters <i>Symphyotrichum</i> spp. - various species*
Saltmeadow Hay, Saltmeadow Cordgrass <i>Spartina patens</i>	Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> *
Switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i> *	Blanket Flower <i>Gaillardia</i> spp.*
	Blazing Star <i>Liatris squarrosa</i>
TIDAL MARSH (regular salt water flooding)	Coneflowers <i>Echinacea</i> spp.*
Salt Marsh Cordgrass <i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	Goldenrods <i>Solidago</i> spp. – volunteers in unmowed areas
Saltmeadow Hay, Saltmeadow Cordgrass <i>Spartina patens</i>	Hibiscus <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>
	Marsh Mallow, Seashore Mallow <i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>

Source: http://ccrm.vims.edu/livingshorelines/documents/HowTo/Native_plants_shorelines.pdf

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Wildlife Habitat:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcs143_023553

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Related Topics--Books:

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Related Topics--Websites:

Andersen Horticultural Library. <https://arb.umn.edu/>

Bird Watcher's Digest. <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/>

Butterflies and Moths of North America. <https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>

Chesapeake Bay Foundation. <https://www.cbf.org/join-us/more-things-you-can-do/in-your-yard/native-plants.html>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology. <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home>

Crossley Books. <https://crossleybooks.com/>

Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora. <http://vaplantatlas.org/>

John Clayton Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society. <https://vnps.org/johnclayton/>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. <https://www.wildflower.org/>

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Native alternatives to invasive plants. <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/native-alternatives-to-invasive-plants.pdf>

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<https://www.gloucesterva.info/DocumentCenter/view3819/Habitat-Northern-Neck-Native-Plants.pdf>

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North American Butterfly Association. <https://www.naba.org/>

The Butterfly Society of Virginia, Inc. <https://www.butterflysocietyofva.org/>

USDA Home Gardening Information. <https://www.nal.usda.gov/topics/home-gardening>

USDA Plants Database. <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/home>

Virginia Native Plant Society. <https://vnps.org/>

The Xerces Society. <https://www.xerces.org/>

Where to Buy Native Plants:

Gloucester Extension Master Gardeners Plant Extravaganza,

[https://www.gloucesterva.info/639/Master-Gardeners - plant sale held every September](https://www.gloucesterva.info/639/Master-Gardeners-plant-sale-held-every-September)

Local nurseries in Gloucester

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, <https://www.lewisginter.org/>

- plant sales held spring and fall

Norfolk Botanical Garden, <https://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/>

- plant sale held Mother's Day weekend

Northern Neck Extension Master Gardeners, <https://nnmg.org/>

- check website for upcoming sales

Virginia Department of Forestry (tree seedlings only),

<https://dof.virginia.gov/forest-management-health/seedling-nurseries/>

Virginia Living Museum, Newport News, VA,

<https://thevlm.org/> - plant sales held April & September

Virginia Native Plant Society, www.vnps.org

check local John Clayton Chapter link

(<https://vnps.org/johnclayton/>) for upcoming sales

Williamsburg Botanical Garden, <https://williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org/>

- check website for upcoming sales



Aquilegia canadensis

