

What are Native Plants?

Native plant species evolved within specific regions and dispersed throughout their range without known human involvement. These plants form the primary structure of the living landscape and provide food and shelter for native animal species.

What Makes Them Easy?

All the plants in this brochure are “perennials” – meaning that they come back every year. They are also naturally adapted to our local soils and climate. If you provide the right growing conditions in your garden, they are easy to grow and maintain.

Why Are Natives Important?

Native plants attract a variety of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife by providing diverse habitats and food sources. Native plants feed the small, squishy plant eaters that are the base of the food chain and are the food for our young birds. Native plants feed the pollinators. Often we may not notice the hummingbirds, bees, beetles, butterflies, and flies that carry pollen from one plant to another as they collect nectar. Yet without them, wildlife would have fewer nutritious berries and seeds, and we would miss many fruits, vegetables, and nuts such as blueberries, squash, and almonds. By planting a diverse pallet of native plants we invite not only the plant eating insects, but also their predators, pollinators, seed dispersers and recyclers that make a garden work. In short, because our native plants and animals have evolved together, they support each other and we enjoy the beauty and fruits of their labor.

For More Information on Native Plants:
www.plantnovanatives.org

What is Part Shade?

Part shade is usually defined as receiving at least two hours of sun, but less than six. Partial shade plants may also be referred to as those that need filtered or dappled light. They do well under a tree canopy with gaps that let in light for at least part of the day. Plants that prefer part shade usually do not do well in hot afternoon sun, although there are some exceptions. In addition to the plants listed in this brochure, there are many more natives that do well in part shade.

Although not as numerous, there are also native species that will grow in dense shade.

For More Information:

www.plantnovanatives.org/shade-gardens

Plant NOVA Natives

This brochure was produced by the Plant NOVA Natives campaign. The goal of the campaign is to promote the use of native plants in the urban and suburban landscapes of Northern Virginia, and to increase their availability in retail nurseries throughout the region.



Five Easy Plants

— For Part Shade —



Margaret Chapman/VNPS

*Native Perennials
For Your Garden*

Golden Ragwort - *Packera aurea*



- Mature height: 1 - 3 feet
- Blooms: Golden yellow in March - May
- Natural habitat: floodplain forests
- Full sun to full shade
- Dry or moist, loam, sandy, rich acidic soils
- Fragrant, evergreen groundcover

Garden Phlox - *Phlox paniculata*



- Mature height: 2 - 4 feet
- Blooms: white, pink or lavender flowers from late May to October
- Natural habitat: rich, open woods; thickets; meadows; moist roadsides
- Full sun to part shade
- Loam soil, tolerates clay

Wild Red Columbine - *Aquilegia canadensis*



- Mature height: 1 -3 feet
- Blooms: red and yellow bell-like flower in April-May, occasionally June
- Natural habitat: dry rocky woodlands to moist, well-drained forests
- Sun to part shade
- Sandy, well-drained soils, medium loam, sandy loam rocky outcrops

Virginia Bluebell - *Mertensia virginica*



- Mature height: 8 - 28 inches
- Blooms: lavender-blue, bell-shaped in March-May
- Natural habitat: floodplains, slope forests
- Part shade to full shade
- Well-drained moist soils

Cinnamon Fern - *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*



- Mature height: 3 - 4 feet
- Fruits: spore-bearing spikes appear April-June
- Natural habitat: boggy areas, shaded ledges
- Full sun to full shade
- Muddy, sandy, clay or loam, acidic soils

More Part Shade Loving Plants

Actaea racemosa - Common Black Cohosh

Asarum canadense - Common Wild Ginger

Carex platyphylla - Broad-leaved Sedge
and many other sedges

Dicentra eximia - Wild Bleeding Heart

Eurybia divaricata - White Wood Aster

Geranium maculatum - Wild Geranium

Heuchera americana - American Alumroot

Iris cristata - Dwarf Crested Iris

Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal Flower

Phlox divaricata - Woodland Phlox

Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas Fern
and other ferns

Sedum ternatum - Wild Stonecrop

Sisyrinchium angustifolium - Blue-eyed Grass

Solidago flexicaulis - Zigzag Goldenrod

Tiarella cordifolia - Heart-leaved Foamflower

Zizia aurea - Golden-alexanders