

Tables to Accompany the Article “Gardening with Native Plants”

Scott Knudsen

While you can find some native plants at local garden centers, the best selections are at small nurseries in our region that grow native plants exclusively. The big, semi-annual **Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale** will gather a dozen native plant vendors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. The sale will be held at the **Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane** (Alexandria, VA 22302) on **Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**










At the sale, you will be able to find beautiful and uncommon native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade, along with expert guidance on planting location and care.























“**Native Plants for Northern Virginia**” is a useful guide published by the Plant NoVA Natives Campaign. It provides handy information on the requirements of 300 species of native plants local to our region. Copies of the guide will be on sale at the Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale for \$5. **You can also download this guide for free** from www.plantnovanatives.org.

To give you a sample of the guide, I have taken the information for several native plants from its pages to make the tables below. For your reference, the plants are sorted within their categories by their light requirements. There are plants listed for both sunny and shady gardens.




I hope the tables give you some food-for-thought as you contemplate what to plant in your garden this spring, and I hope to see you at the Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale on April 29!

Perennials








Common/Latin Names	Height	Sun	Flowers/Bloom Time	Moisture/Soil Type
Turk’s-cap Lily <i>Lilium superbum</i>	4 – 8 ft		Red-orange in Jul – Sep	Moist; loamy to sandy soil
Plantain-leaved Pussytoes <i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	0.5 – 1 ft		White in Mar – Jun	Moist to dry; loamy to sandy soil
Butterfly Weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	1 – 2 ft		Bright orange in May – Sep	Moist to dry; well-drained sandy soil
Blue Wild Indigo <i>Baptisia australis</i>	up to 5 ft		Blue-purple in Apr – May	Moist; usually sandy acidic soil
Whorled Coreopsis <i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	0.5 – 3.5 ft		Yellow in May – Aug	Dry; well-drained loamy to sandy soil
Joe-pye Weed <i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	2 – 8 ft		Pinkish-lavender in Jul – Sep	Wet to moist; well-drained clay, loam, or sandy soil
Wild Geranium <i>Geranium maculatum</i>	0.5 – 2.5 ft		Lavender in Apr – Jun	Moist to dry; loamy soil
Scarlet Beebalm <i>Marrubium didyma</i>	2 – 4 ft		Scarlet-red in Jul – Sep	Wet to moist; loamy soil
Beardtongue <i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	1.5 – 4 ft		White in May – Jun	Moist to dry; clay, loam, sandy soil

Orange Coneflower <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	1 – 4 ft		Yellow in Jul – Sep	Moist to dry; clay, loam, sandy soil
Blue-eyed-grass <i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	8 – 20 in		Blue-violet in Apr – Jun	Moist to dry; clay or loamy soil
White Turtlehead <i>Chelone glabra</i>	2 – 4 ft		White in Aug – Oct	Wet to moist; rich soil
Cardinal Flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	1 – 4 ft		Bright red in Jul – Oct	Moist to wet; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Golden Ragwort <i>Packera aurea</i>	1 – 3 ft		Yellow in Mar – May	Dry or moist; loamy or sandy soil
Heart-leaved Foamflower <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	0.5 – 1 ft		White in Apr – Jul	Moist; loamy soil
Virginia Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	1 – 3 ft		Purple in Mar - Aug	Moist; clay or loamy soil
Golden-alexanders <i>Zizia aurea</i>	1 – 2 ft		Yellow in Apr – May	Moist to wet; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Wild Columbine <i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i>	1 – 3 ft		Red/yellow in Apr – May	Wet to dry; loam or sandy soil
Wild Strawberry <i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	up to 1 ft		White in Apr – Jun	Dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Wild Pink <i>Silene caroliniana</i>	1.5 – 8 in		Rose-pink in Apr – Jun	Moist to dry; loamy soil
Wild Stonecrop <i>Sedum ternatum</i>	2 – 8 in		White in Apr – Jun	Moist to dry; loam or sandy soil
Jack-in-the-pulpit <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	1 – 3 ft		Green w/ brown stripes in April	Wet to moist; loamy or sandy soil
Goatsbeard <i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	3 – 8 ft		White in May – Jun	Wet to moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i>	4 – 8 in		Brown in Apr – May	Moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Wild Bleeding Heart <i>Dicentra eximia</i>	1 – 2 ft		Deep pink in Apr – Jun	Wet to moist; loamy soil
White Wood Aster <i>Eurybia divaricate</i>	0.5 – 3.5 ft		White in Aug – Oct	Moist to dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil
American Alumroot <i>Heuchera americana</i>	1 – 2 ft		Greenish in Apr – Jun	Dry; loamy or sandy soil
Virginia Bluebells <i>Mertensia virginica</i>	0.5 – 2.5 ft		Lavender-blue in Mar – May	Moist; well-drained clay or loamy soil
Partridge-berry <i>Mitchella repens</i>	1 – 4 in		Purplish-white in May – Jul	Moist to dry; loamy or sandy soil
Wild Blue Phlox <i>Phlox divaricate</i>	5 – 18 in		Lavender in Apr – May	Moist to dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Mayapple <i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	8 in – 1.5 ft		White in Mar – May	Moist to dry; loamy soil







Grasses & Sedges

Common/Latin Names	Height	Sun	Flowers/Bloom Time	Moisture/Soil Type
Purple Love Grass <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	7 – 18 in		Purplish red panicles in Aug – Oct	Moist to dry; sandy soil
Little Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	1.5 – 4 ft		White seedhead in Aug – Oct	Dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Pennsylvania Sedge <i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	6 – 12 in			Moist to dry; sandy soil


























Ferns

Common/Latin Names	Height	Sun	Flowers/Bloom Time	Moisture/Soil Type
Cinnamon Fern <i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>	3 – 4 ft	  		Wet to moist; clay or loamy soil
Maidenhair Fern <i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	8 – 20 in	 		Moist; loamy or sandy soil
Christmas Fern <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	1 – 3 ft	 		Moist; loamy or sandy soil






Vines













Common/Latin Names	Height	Sun	Flowers/Bloom Time	Moisture/Soil Type
Purple Passionflower <i>Passiflora incarnate</i>	12 – 36 ft		Purple in Apr – Sep	Moist to dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Trumpet Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	3 – 20 ft	 	Red in Mar – Jun	Moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Virgin's Bower <i>Clematis virginiana</i>	12 – 15 ft	  	White in Jul – Sep	Wet to moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil




Shrubs

Common/Latin Names	Height	Sun	Fruit/Flowers/Fall Color	Moisture/Soil Type
Red Chokeberry <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	6 – 10 ft		Red berries that persist from Jul - Dec	Wet to dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	6 – 12 ft	 	White flowers in Jun – Sep	Wet to moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Virginia Sweetspire <i>Itea virginica</i>	3 – 8 ft	 	Leaves turn red to purple in fall	Wet to moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Wax Myrtle <i>Morella cerifera</i>	6 – 15 ft	 	Evergreen shrub good for screening	Wet to dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Carolina Rose <i>Rosa Carolina</i>	1 – 3 ft	 	Pink flowers in May – Jun	Moist to dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Strawberry-bush <i>Euonymus americanus</i>	6 – 10 ft	  	Red seed pods in Aug	Wet to moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Common Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	3 – 10 ft	  	Bright-red berries throughout winter	Wet to moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	6 – 12 ft	  	Yellow flowers in Mar – Apr	Moist; loamy or sandy soil
Ninebark <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	5 – 10 ft	  	White flowers in May – Jun	Wet to moist; clay or loamy soil
Maple-leaved Viburnum <i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	4 – 6 ft	  	White flowers in May; Yellow/red fall foliage	Wet to dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Pinxter Azalea <i>Rhododendron periclymendoides</i>	6 – 10 ft		Pink flowers in Apr – May	Moist to dry; loamy soil

Small Trees

Common/Latin Names	Height	Sun	Fruit/Flowers/Fall Color	Moisture/Soil Type
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier Canadensis</i>	15 – 30 ft	 	White flowers in Mar – May	Moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	20 – 35 ft	  	Purple-pink flowers in Mar – May	Wet to dry; clay, loam, or sandy soil

Fringe Tree Chionanthus virginicus	10 – 35 ft	  	White flowers in Apr - May	Moist to dry; loamy or sandy soil
Witch Hazel Hamamelis virginiana	10 – 15 ft	  	Yellow flowers in fall	Moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Bladdernut Staphylea trifolia	3 – 15 ft	  	White blooms in Apr – May	Wet to dry; loamy soil
Silky Dogwood Cornus amomum	6 – 12 ft		White flowers in Mar – Apr	Wet to moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil
Flowering Dogwood Cornus florida	12-36 ft		White flowers in Mar – Oct	Moist to dry; loamy soil
Sweetbay Magnolia Magnolia virginiana	12 – 30 ft		White flowers in May – Jun	Wet to moist; clay, loam, or sandy soil

Sun/day:  = 6 or more hrs of sun;  = 2 to 6 hrs of sun;  = less than 2 hrs of sun.