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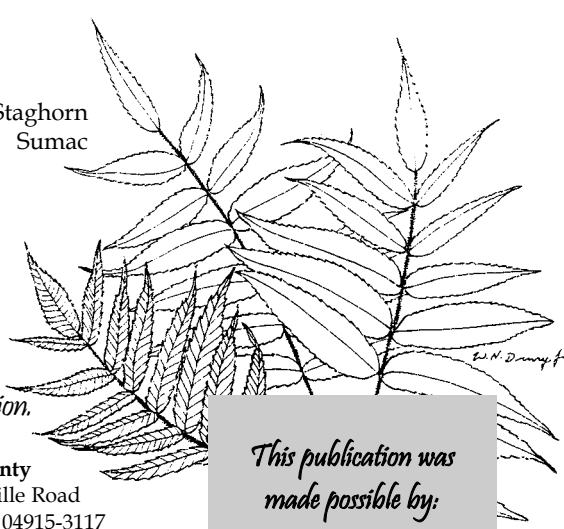
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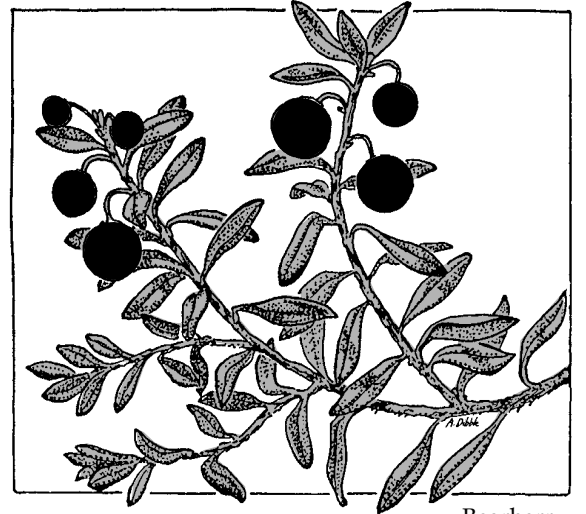


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Gardening to Conserve Maine's Native Landscape:

Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid



Bearberry

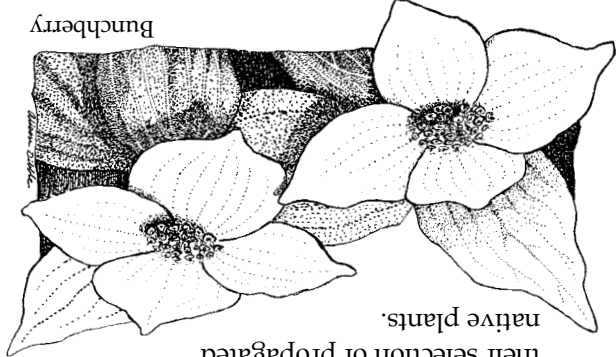


For more information about Maine native plants, see Bulletin #2502, "Native Plants: A Maine Source List." "Gardening to Conserve Maine's Landscape," "Native Plants: A Maine Source List," and the Maine Invasive Plants fact sheet series are also available online at www.umext.maine.edu/publications/homegardening.htm

Native plants are well adapted to Maine's climate and are therefore hardy. Most plants in the Native Plant Recommendations table (over) are available at local garden centers, where the staff can usually help customers with plant selection. Ask if their native plants are nursery-propagated. Collecting plants, cuttings, seeds, or sods from the wild can devastate natural populations. If the nursery cannot guarantee that its native plants are nursery-propagated, purchase your plants elsewhere.

Garden Center

Looking for Native Plants at Your



Bunchberry

- You can promote native plants by refusing to purchase or transplant purple loosestrife and other invasive plants.
- Grow plants that do not "jump the fence" or escape from the garden.
- Try growing some native species as ornamentals and as food for birds and pollinators.
- Eliminate invasive non-natives from your yard and garden. Remove the plant, including all roots, from the soil.
- Urge your garden center managers to expand their selection of propagated native plants.

What Can You Do to Help?

Most familiar nursery plants are not invasive and are appropriate for planting. However, a few popular species, including purple loosestrife and Japanese barberry, are highly invasive. A single purple loosestrife plant can produce three million seeds in a single season! Even the tiniest root fragments can grow into new plants. Japanese barberry is invading Maine's forests and wetlands because birds disperse its seeds over long distances. Both species are very difficult to eradicate once they become established.

Plants to Avoid and Why

One long-term effect of invasive non-native species is to degrade habitat for native plants and animals. These plants choke out native vegetation, diminish the availability of food plants for wildlife, and alter the behavior of native animals such as pollinators, plant-eating insects and fruit-eating birds. Unchecked, invasion by non-natives could drive some species to extinction. This is why non-native plants are a major concern to people who want to protect native species and natural areas.

Non-native plants considered most invasive in Maine include:

- purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
- Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
- Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)
- smooth and common buckthorn (*Frangula alnus* and *Rhamnus cathartica*)
- non-native honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.)
- garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
- small-flowered tickle-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa* ssp. *parviflora*)
- common reed (*Phragmites australis*)

What are Native Versus Non-native Plant Species, and Why Should I Care? Native plants are those species that either arrived in Maine without human intervention, perhaps thousands of years ago, or originated here. Non-native species were brought intentionally for horticultural or other uses, or came accidentally in ships' ballasts, crop seed or in soil. Some non-native plants continue to escape from cultivation and become naturalized in wetlands, lakes, woods, fields or roadsides. Natural predators and diseases are left behind when non-native plants are introduced here. Therefore, their spread is uncontrolled and such non-native species as purple loosesstrife, Japanese barberry and Asian honeysuckle can become serious pests.

Maine's Native Landscape
 Maine's landscape is famous for its variety. Within the state one can find ocean beaches, lakes, rivers, mountains and forests. Maine is locally influenced by both coastal and inland weather patterns. This creates relatively mild areas, and areas that are almost arctic within the state's 300 mile length and 200 mile width. Maine rises from sea level to over 5,000 feet in elevation at the top of Mount Katahdin. This wide range of elevation results in a diversity of habitats including flat sandy plains, rolling hills, rounded summits and craggy mountains with shear cliffs. Maine's forests vary from spruce and fir near the coast, to hardwoods in the western and northern hills. More than 100 types of habitats have been identified with about 1500 native plant species spread across the state's varied landscape.

Native Plant Recommendations



Swallowtail butterfly

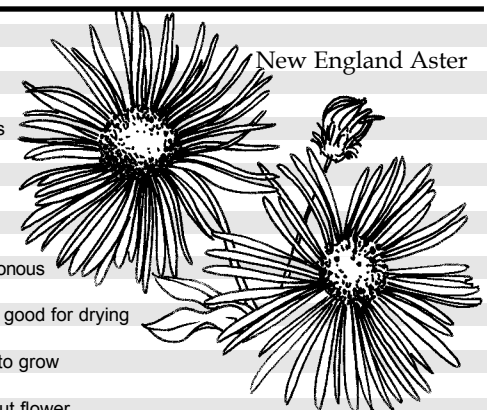
☀ Light: F=full sunlight P=partial shade S=shade	💧 Moisture: H=hydric; wet, periodically or often inundated by water M=mesic; moist, adequate soil moisture retention all year S=sub-xeric; moist to dry, seasonally moist, periodically dry X=xeric; dry and drought resistant, little moisture retention, excessively drained
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Common name	Scientific name	☀	💧	Height	Comments	
Trees	Balsam fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	F,P	M	75'	Open growth in hot, dry locations; evergreen
	Red maple, Swamp maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	F,P	M	60'	Excellent fall color; tolerates wet spring soils
	Sugar maple, Rock maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	F,P	M	75'	Excellent orange-red fall color; beautiful large shade tree
	Mountain maple	<i>Acer spicatum</i>	F,P	M	30'	Useful in naturalizing
	Yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	F,P	M	100'	Does best in cool soils and cool summers; beautiful bark; long lived
	Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	F	M	70'	Beautiful white bark year-round; tolerates poor, dry soils
	Gray birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i>	F	M	40'	Does well in poor soils; good for naturalizing
	American hornbeam, Blue-beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> spp. <i>virginiana</i>	F	M	30'	Good for naturalizing; tolerates periodic flooding
	Pagoda dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	F,P	M	25'	Moist soil is important; white flowers in early June
	Cockspur thorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	F	M	30'	Glossy green leaves; 2" thorns; persistent dark red fruits
	White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	F	M	80'	Handsome large tree; good fall leaf color; tolerates alkaline soil
	Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	F,P	M	60'	Faster-growing than white ash; tolerates salty, dry and alkaline soil
	Larch, Hackmatack, Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>	F	H,M	80"	Good in well-drained and moist-to-wet naturalized sites
	Black gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	F,P	M	50'	Excellent yellow-orange fall leaf color
	American hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	F,P	M,S	40'	Slow to establish after transplanting; good medium-sized tree
	White spruce, Cat spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	F,P	M	60'	Good specimen or windbreak; evergreen
	Black spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>	F,P	M	40'	Tolerates wet sites; evergreen
	Jack pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	F	S,X	50'	Useful for windbreaks or mass plantings in sandy soil; evergreen
	Red pine, Norway pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	F	S,X	80'	Good windbreak; tolerates dry soils well; evergreen
	White pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	F	M,S	80'	Handsome specimen; not tolerant of salt; evergreen
	Bigtooth aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	F	M,S	70'	Fast growing, short lived; good yellow fall leaf color
	Quaking aspen, Trembling aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	F	M	50'	Fast growing, short lived; good yellow fall leaf color
	Pin cherry, fire cherry, bird cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	F	M	35'	Adaptable; fast growing; tolerates poor soil
	Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	F	M	60'	Interesting black bark; white flowers in spring; wildlife food source
	White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	F	M	80'	Large tree; transplant when young
	Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	F	M	75'	Transplants readily; good fall red leaf color
	Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	F	H,M	35'	Tolerates wet soils; twigs can cause lawn litter
	American mountainash	<i>Sorbus americana</i>	F	M	30'	Fruits good in wildlife landscape
	Northern white-cedar, Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	F,P	M	60'	Useful hedge or specimen plant; tolerates alkaline soil
	Basswood, American linden	<i>Tilia americana</i>	F,P	M	80'	Large tree; tolerates alkaline soil; good for urban landscape
	Eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	F,P,S	M	70'	Graceful evergreen; does not tolerate drought or windy sites

Shrubs	Downy serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	F,P	M	25'	Useful in edible and wildlife landscapes; excellent orange fall color
	Eastern serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	F,P	M	20'	Useful in edible and wildlife landscapes; yellow-gold fall color
	Smooth serviceberry, Allegheny serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	F,P	M	25'	Useful in edible and wildlife landscapes; spring leaves are bronze
	Bog rosemary	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i> var. <i>glaucophylla</i>	F,P	H	1'	Leathery evergreen leaves; requires very moist acid soil
	Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	F	H	6'	Good for wetland plantings
	Sweetfern	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	F,P	S,X	3'	Aromatic foliage; interesting texture; good in dry sandy soil
	Gray dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	F,P,S	M	15'	Suckering; white fall fruits eaten by many birds
	Redosier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	F	H,M	6'	Red stems attractive in winter; suckering; tolerates wet soil
	American hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	F,P	M	15'	Good for naturalizing; fruit eaten by wildlife; tolerates alkaline soil
	Bush-honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	S,P	M	5'	Suckering plant, very hardy, adaptable
	Leatherwood	<i>Dirca palustris</i>	S	M	4'	Yellow fall color; thrives in moist, shady sites
	Common witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	F,P	M	15'	Avoid droughty sites; yellow flowers in October; yellow fall leaf color
	Winterberry, Black-alders	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	F,P	H,M	10'	Bright red fruits persist into midwinter; excellent wetland plant
	Common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i> var. <i>depressa</i>	F	M,S,X	3'	Tolerates drought, wind, sterile or alkaline soils; evergreen
	Sheep, laurel, Lambkill	<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>	F,P	M,S	3'	Adaptable to many soils; best in very acid soil; good for naturalizing
	Sweetgale	<i>Myrica gale</i>	F	S,X	4'	Bushy plant; dark green foliage; aromatic foliage
	Northern bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	F,P	S,X	6'	Good for massing; useful in poor soil sites; aromatic foliage
	Bush cinquefoil	<i>Pentaphylloides floribunda</i> (<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>)	F	M,S,X	4'	Good summer-flowering shrub; tolerates alkaline soil
	Black chokeberry	<i>Photinia (Aronia) melanocarpa</i>	F,P	H,M,S	6'	Suckers; wine-red fall color; good wildlife plant in wet or dry soils
	Beach plum	<i>Prunus maritima</i>	F	M,S	6'	Good for edible landscape; salt-tolerant
	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	F	M	30'	Suckering shrub; white flowers in spring; wildlife food source
	Rhodora	<i>Rhododendron canadense</i>	F,P	H,M	3'	Magenta flowers in spring; best in very acid soil
	Labrador tea	<i>Rhododendron (Ledum) groenlandicum</i>	F,P	H,M	3'	Transplants well; good for moist-to-wet naturalized sites
	Staghorn sumac	<i>Rhus hirta</i> (<i>R. typhina</i>)	P	M,S,X	25'	Spreads by suckers; good mass plant for dry slopes
	Meadow rose	<i>Rosa blanda</i>	F	M	5'	Suckers; single light pink flowers; red hips in fall and winter
	Pasture rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	F	M	5'	Pink single flowers in midsummer; small red hips persist into winter
	Virginia rose	<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	F	M,S	5'	Suckers; good in dry and seaside sites; good barrier/hedge
	Pussy willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	S	H,M	15'	Fuzzy flowers in early spring; good for naturalizing
	American elder	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	F	M	12'	Useful in edible landscape; tolerates alkaline soil
	Scarlet elder	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> spp. <i>pubens</i> (<i>S. pubens</i>)	F	M	20'	Flowers in mid to late July; handsome red fruit in midsummer
	Canadian yew	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	P,S	M	6'	Hardest yew; good for naturalized shady landscape; evergreen
	Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	F	M	8'	Good for edible or wildlife landscapes; best in very acid soil
	Mapleleaf viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	P,S	M,S	6'	Suckering; good for mass plantings in shady sites
	Hobblebush	<i>Viburnum lantanoides</i> (<i>V. alnifolium</i>)	P,S	M	8'	Open shrub; good for naturalized landscape
	Arrowwood viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> var. <i>lucidum</i>	F,P	M	15'	Durable; good for hedges; tolerates alkaline soil
	Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	F,P	M,S	15'	Good for wildlife and naturalized landscapes
	Witherod, Wild-raisin	<i>Viburnum nudum</i> var. <i>cassinoides</i>	S,P	M	10'	Excellent fall foliage and fruit color
	Highbush cranberry	<i>V. opulus</i> var. <i>americanum</i> (<i>V. o.</i> var. <i>trilobum</i>)	F,P	M	12'	Excellent for screening; good for wildlife landscapes

Vines and Ground Covers	Running serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier stolonifera</i>	F,P	M	2'	Stoloniferous groundcover; forms thickets
	Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	F,P	S,X	6"	Best in poor, sandy, very acid soils; salt-tolerant; groundcover
	American bittersweet	<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	F,P	M,S	--	Climbing vine; separate male and female plants; tolerates alkaline soil
	Virgin's bower	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	F	M	--	Climbing vine; white flowers in late summer; best in alkaline soil
	Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	P,S	M	6"	Spreading groundcover; white flowers in spring; red fruit in fall
	Checkerberry, Wintergreen	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	P,S	M	6"	Evergreen groundcover; leaves fragrant when crushed; reddish in fall
	Creeping juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	F	M,S,X	1'	Adaptable; tolerates hot, dry sites and alkaline soil; evergreen
	Partridgeberry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	S	M	2"	Delicate plant; red fruits persist into winter
	Woodbine, Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	F,P,S	M,S,X	--	Vigorous vine; tough; maroon fall color; tolerates alkaline soil
	Lowbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	F	M	2'	Slow; good for edible or wildlife landscapes; requires acid soil
	Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>	F	H,M	6"	Slow; good for edible or wildlife landscapes; requires acid soil
	Fox grape	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	F	M	--	Handsome foliage; good vine for arbors and fences

Perennials: Flowering Plants	White baneberry; Red baneberry	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i> , <i>A. rubra</i>	P,S	M	24"	Attractive, but poisonous fruits
	Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	F,P,S	M,S	12"	Early spring flowers
	Spikenard	<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	P,S	M,S	36"	Good for back of border
	Silverweed	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	F	S,X	6"	Yellow flowers, silvery leaves
	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	P,S	H,M	12"	Flower green and brown; bright red fruits
	Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	F	S,X	36"	Attracts butterflies
	Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	F,P	H,M	12"	Showy yellow flowers in early spring
	Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	F,P	M,S,X	12"	Delicate blue-purple flowers
	Blue Cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	P,S	M,S	36"	Blue fruits; back of border
	White turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	P,S	H,M	24"	Interesting white flowers in midsummer
	Bluebead-lily	<i>Clintonia borealis</i>	P,S	M,S	12"	Pale yellow ball-shaped flowers; fruits poisonous
	Trout-lily, Dog's-tooth-violet	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	P,S	M	6"	Flowers early spring
	Joe-pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	F	H,M	48"	Purple flowers in fall; attracts butterflies; good for drying
	Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	F	H,M	24"	Green flowers; good for drying
	Blue Flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	F,P	H,M	24"	Elegant form; blue-purple flowers; easy to grow
	Indian Cucumber-root	<i>Medeola virginiana</i>	P,S	M	12"	Interesting magenta floral bracts
	Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	F,P,S	M,S,X	24"	Flowers pink, leaves dark green; good cut flower
	Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	P,S	M	18"	Arching stems; white flowers in early spring; tall groundcover for shade
	Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	P,S	M	12"	Showy white flowers in early spring
	New England Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum (Aster) novae-angliae</i>	F,P	M,S,X	24"	Fall flowering; deep purple
New York Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum (Aster) novi-belgii</i>	F,P	M,S,X	24"	Fall flowering; purple	
Foam Flower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	P	M	6"	Delicate white flowers in early spring	
Wild-oats	<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i>	P,S	M	6"	Creamy, bell-shaped flowers in early spring	
Violet	<i>Viola</i> species	P	M	2-6"	Various species and colors; most self-sow to form groundcovers	



New England Aster

Perennials: Ferns	Maidenhair Fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	P,S	M	18"	Graceful black stem; nearly circular fronds; tolerates alkaline soil
	Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> var. <i>angustum</i>	P,S	H,M	18"	Lacey fronds; reddish in spring
	Hay-scented Fern	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	F,P	S,X	12"	Fragrant lacey fronds; tolerates hot, dry sites; spreading
	Spinulose Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	P,S	M,S	24"	Lacey fronds; reddish in spring
	Marginal Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	F,P	S,X	24"	Easy to grow; fronds blue-green; tolerates rocky sites
	Ostrich Fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> var. <i>pennsylvanica</i>	P,S	M	36"	Edible fiddleheads; beautiful green fronds; plume-like fertile fronds
	Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	F,P	H,M	12"	Easy to grow; spreads; persistent bead-like fertile fronds in winter
	Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	P,S	H,M	36"	Easy to grow; attractive cinnamon-colored fertile frond in spring
	Interrupted Fern	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	F,P,S	H,M,S,X	36"	Easy to grow; spreads well; luxuriant spring growth
	Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i> var. <i>spectabilis</i>	F,P,S	H,M,S	36"	Vase-shaped; interesting fertile fronds; sterile fronds finely dissected
	Long Beech Fern	<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	P,S	M	6"	Smaller size fern, low growing; spreads well
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	P,S	M	12"	Leathery, evergreen fronds	

The botanical names in this plant list are consistent with those found in:

Haines, A. and T.F. Vining. 1998. *Flora of Maine: a Manual for Identification of Native and Naturalized Vascular Plants of Maine*. Bar Harbor, ME: V.F. Thomas Co.