

Waterscaping: Native Plants for Wet Places

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When designing a waterscape garden it is important to determine what circumstances you must deal with: pond, marsh, wet meadow, or swamp. Is the water is deep or shallow, or is the situation simply one of poorly drained, wet soil? Is the moisture/water level constant or does it fluctuate? Is the water still or moving? And lastly, is the site is sunny or shaded?

True aquatics - with standing water above crown, sun

Nymphaea odorata - waterlily

Nuphar lutea - spatterdock

Emergents - very shallow water or muck soil, sun

Caltha palustris - marsh marigold

Iris versicolor - blue flag

Pontederia cordata - pickerel rush

Sagittaria latifolia - duck potato

Typha angustifolia - narrowleaf cattail, *T. latifolia* - broadleaf cattail

Marsh - shallow water, sun/ Wet Meadow - saturated soil, sun

Asclepias incarnata - swamp milkweed

Chelone lyonii - turtlehead

Eupatorium dubium, *E. perfoliatum*, *E. purpureum* - joe-pye weed

Hibiscus moscheutos - swamp rose mallow

Impatiens capensis, *I. pallida* - touch-me-not (self-sowing annuals)

Lobelia cardinalis, *L. siphilitica* - cardinal flower, blue lobelia

Lythrum salicaria * invasive, crowds out native species, hard to eradicate

Monarda didyma - beebalm (invasive)

Orontium aquaticum - goldenclub

Peltandra virginica - arrow arum

Peltiphyllum peltatum - umbrella plant

Ranunculus septentrionalis - swamp buttercup

Solidago canadensis, *S. graminifolia*, *S. sempervirens* - goldenrod

Verbena hastata - blue vervain

Vernonia novaboracensis - New York ironweed

Swamp - wet woods, shade

Arisaema triphyllum - jack-in-the-pulpit

Cimicifuga racemosa - bugbane

Veratrum viride - false hellebore

Ferns for Wet Places

- Athyrium filix-femina* - lady fern
- Matteuccia struthiopteris* - ostrich fern
- Onoclea sensibilis* - sensitive fern
- Osmunda cinnamomea* - cinnamon fern
- Osmunda claytonia* - interrupted fern
- Osmunda regalis* - royal fern
- Woodwardia virginica* - Virginia chain fern

Rushes and Sedges for Wet Places

- Carex crinita* - fringed sedge
- Carex pendula* - sedge
- Carex stricta* - tussock sedge
- Juncus effusus* - soft rush
- Luzula sylvatica* - rush
- Scirpus cyperinus* - woolgrass
- Scirpus lacustris* - sedge
- Scirpus pungens* - common three-square
- Sparganium americanum* - lesser burreed

Native Shrubs for Wet Places

- Alnus serrulata* - smooth alder
- Aronia arbutifolia* - red chokeberry
- Cephalanthus occidentalis* - button bush
- Clethra alnifolia* - summersweet
- Cornus amomum* - silky dogwood, *C. sericea* - red oiser dogwood
- Ilex glabra* - inkberry, *I. verticillata*- black alder, winterberry
- Lindera benzoin* - spicebush
- Rhododendron viscosum* - swamp azalea
- Rhododendron maximum*
- Rosa palustris* - swamp rose
- Salix discolor* - pussy willow
- Sambucus canadensis* - elderberry
- Viburnum dentatum* - arrowwood viburnum, *V. trilobum* - cranberrybush viburnum

Native Trees for Wet Places

- Acer rubrum* - red maple
- Amelanchier canadensis* - shadblow
- Betula nigra* - river birch
- Chamaecyparis thyoides* - Atlantic white cedar
- Fraxinus pensylvanica* - green ash
- Liquidambar styraciflua* - sweet gum
- Magnolia virginiana* - sweetbay magnolia
- Nyssa sylvatica* - black gum
- Platanus occidentalis* - sycamore
- Quercus bicolor* - swamp white oak, *Q. palustris* - pin oak
- Salix nigra* - black willow