Caring for Streamside Buffers — What to Plant?

Often, when left to grow up on its own, a streamside buffer will contain mostly weeds and other undesireable plants. One way to make sure this doesn't happen is to plant native plants. The plants below represent just a limited selection of Pennsylvania's native species appropriate for planting throughout the state along streams and in adjacent floodplains and wetlands. Choose plants adapted for your soil conditions, and your garden will thrive with less watering and without the need for chemical fertilizers or pesticides. There are many resources to help homeowners with native plantings. For some help, contact one of the organizations on the back of this brochure, or visit one of the following websites: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources www.dcnr.state.pa.us or PA Native Plant Society - www.pawildflower.org

Illustrations by Erin Frederick, Lehigh County Conservation District



Cinnamon Fern Osumnda cinnamomea Full sun to shade Wet to moist soils Cinnamon-colored fertile fronds; moist acidic soils Photo: Robert Mohlenbrock, USDA



Royal Fern Osmunda regalis Part shade Consistently wet or saturated soils Unique form and texture Photo: Robert Mohlenbrock, USDA



Sensitive Fern Onoclea sensibilis Full sun to shade Wet to moist soils Sunny or shaded swamps, marshes, moist meadows Forms colonizing masses



Wild Bergamot Monarda fistulosa **Blooms May to September** Full sun to light shade Moist to dry soils Dry open woods, wet meadows, ditches, edge of woods and marshes



Black-eved Susan Rudbeckia hirta Blooms May to June Moist to dry soils Full sun to light shade Attracts birds and butterflies



Blue Lobelia Lobelia siphilitica Blooms from July to October Light shade Wet to moist soils Attracts hummingbirds



Blue Vervain Verbena hastata Blooms June to September Full sun to light shade Dry soils Bright flowers; herbal uses;



Boneset Eupatorium perfoliatum Blooms July to August Light shade to full shade Wet to moist soils Wet meadow species



Plains Coreopsis Coreopsis tinctoria Blooms April to June Full sun to light shade Moist to dry soils



Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea **Blooms April to September** Full sun to light shade Moist soils Herbal uses



Ironweed

Vernonia noveboracensis **Blooms August to September** Full sun Wet to moist soils Tall plant with brilliant late summer flowers



Joe-Pye Weed

Eupatorium fistulosum **Blooms August to September** Light shade Wet to moist soils Attracts beneficial insects: herbal uses



Blue Mist Flower

Conoclinium coelestinum Blooms July to November Full sun to light shade Moist soils Good border plant or colonizing ground cover; attracts butterflies



New England Aster

Aster novae-analiae **Blooms August to October** Full sun to light shade Wet to moist soils Showy and frequently cultivated; dry to moist meadows



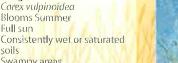
Common Sneezeweed

Helenium autumnale Blooms July to September Full sun Consistently wet to moist soils Moist open areas along streams & ponds; wet meadows





Sedge Carex vulpinoidea Blooms Summer Full sun





Switch Grass

Panicum virgatum Blooms August to September Moist soils Clump grass; can help to control erosion Sandy and river soils Photo: Bonnie Harper, Lariv Birci Johnson Wildflower Center



Virginia Wild Rye

Elymus virginicus Blooms June to September Full sun to light shade Wet to moist soils Moist woods, meadows, stream banks
Photo-EPA



Arrowwood

Viburnum dentatum Blooms May Full sun to full shade Moist soils Dark blue fruits in fall; high wildlife value: streambanks. pastures Photo: Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis Blooms June to September Full sun Consistently wet or saturated soils Multi-stemmed; tolerates inundation Photo: Norman Flaigg, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Highbush Blueberry

Vaccinium corymbosum Blooms May to June Light shade Wet to moist soils Multi-stemmed: edible berries; fall color; very high wildlife value



Nine Bark

Physocarpus opulifolius Blooms May to July Full sun to part shade Wet to maist sails Wet woods, sandy or rocky stream banks Photo: Stefan Bloodworth, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Red Chokeberry

Aronia arbutifolia **Blooms May** Part shade Wet to moist soils Red berries; high value for wildlife Photo Robert Mohlenbreck, USDA



Serviceberry

Amelanchier arborea Blooms March to April Part shade Moist soil Small tree with early spring flowers; delicious edible berries in summer Photo-Stefan Bloodworth, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Silky Dogwood

Cornus amomum Blooms May to July Full sun Wet to moist soils Flowers in summer: blue berries; multi-stemmed; very high wildlife value Photo: Sally & Andy Wasowski. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Spice Bush

Lindera benzoin Blooms March to May Light shade to shade Wet to moist soils Bright red berries in fall; herbal uses; wildlife value



Winterberry Holly

llex verticillata Blooms May to June Part shade Wet to moist soils Showy berries in winter; high wildlife value; good colonizing shrubs for stream banks Photo: George Bruso, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



American Beech

Fagus grandifolia Blooms April to May Full sun to full shade Moist, but well-drained soils Large tree with handsome gray bark; high wildlife value Foliage photo: Bill Cook, Michigan State University



American Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis Blooms April Wet to moist soils Large tree with showy mottled bark; riverbanks, floodplains and alluvial soils



Black Gum

Nyssa sylvatica Blooms April to May Full sun to part shade Moist soils Tall tree with outstanding fall color; high wildlife value Photo Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service



Green Ash

Fraxinus pennsylvanica Blooms April to May Part shade Wet to moist soils Fast growth; good fall color. Photo: Robert Mohlenbrock, USDA



Pagoda Dogwood

Cornus alternifolia Blooms May to June Part shade Moist soils Small tree for moist woods and shaded ravines; dark blue fruit



Red Maple

Acer rubrum Blooms March to April Full sun to full shade Moist soils Adapts to a range of moisture conditions; good fall color Photo Bill Cook Michigan State University



River Birch

Betula Nigra Blooms May Full sun to part shade Wet to moist soils Notable for its peeling bark; floodplains, streambanks, wet woods, swamps Photo: Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Svc.



Shagbark Hickory

Carya ovata Blooms in May Full sun to part shade Moist soils Shaggy gray exfoliating bark; very high wildlife value Photo Keith Kanori, Maine Forest.



Swamp White Oak

Querus bicolor Blooms in May Part shade Wet to moist soils Large tree with very high wildlife value; good wetland oak Photo: Mark Brand, Univ. of CT