



RECOMMENDED NATIVE PLANT LIST.

Courtesy of Pepperell Invasive & Native Plant Advisory Committee
May 2024



Click to download our
Native Plant Guide

Shrubs & Vines

Evergreen

Creeping Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)
Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)
Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)

Deciduous, for Full Sun

Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*)
Carolina Rose (*Rosa carolina*)
Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*)
Witherod, or Possumhaw (*Viburnum nudum*)

Deciduous, for Sun-Part Shade

Blueberry, Highbush (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
Blueberry, Lowbush (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)
Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
Chokeberry, black (*Aronia melancarpa*)
Chokeberry, red (*Aronia arbutifolia*)
Dogwood, Gray (*Cornus racemosa*)
Dogwood, Red twig (*Cornus sericea*)
Dogwood, Silky (*Cornus amomum*)
Azeala, Early, (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*)
Azeala, Pink shell, (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)
Elderberry, Black (*Sambucus canadensis*)
Elderberry, Red (*Sambucus racemosa*)
Flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*)
Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*)
Nannyberry, (*Viburnum lentago*)
New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
Northern Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
Pussy willow (*Salix discolor*)
Steeplebush, rosy meadowsweet (*Spiraea tomentosa*)
Sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*)
Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
Viburnum, Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)
Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
Viburnum, Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* var.)
Viburnum, Mapleleaf (*Viburnum acerifolium*)
Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
White Meadowsweet, (*Spiraea alba*)
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

Trees

Conifers & Evergreens

Cedar, Eastern Red (*Juniperus virginiana*)
Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
Holly, American (*Ilex opaca*)
Pine, White (*Pinus strobus*)
Spruce, White (*Picea glauca*)
Tamarack / Larch (*Larix laricina*)

Small Trees - Up to 25' tall

Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*)
Chokeberry, Black (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
Redbud, Eastern (*Cercis canadensis*)
Serviceberry, Allegheny (*Amelanchier laevis*)

Medium-sized Trees - up to 40' tall

Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
Dogwood, Alternative-leaved (*Cornus alternifolia*)
Dogwood, Flowering (*Cornus Florida*)
Hornbeam, American (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
Serviceberry, Canadian (*Amelanchier canadensis*)

Street Trees

Planting trees along roadways or near sidewalks requires additional considerations: safety for pedestrians, overhead utilities, snow removal, and potential damage to pavement. Trees should be planted at least 10' away from light poles, driveways or fire hydrants, and at least 10-20' away from intersections. Trees that produce large, fleshy fruit should be avoided as they are messy and slippery for pedestrians.

Further, roots can damage utilities or pavement. Trees with lateral roots, which grow outwards and nearer to the surface, will eventually lift sidewalks and are more susceptible to wind damage. Sidewalks covering lateral roots make it difficult for trees to get nutrients, water and oxygen, and the roots can be damaged from compression or from road salt. All trees recommended here have deep tap roots, or, roots that grow straight down.

The following native tree species are recommended for planting along roadsides as they exhibit some tolerance to pollution, drought conditions, compacted soils and are generally easy to maintain. This plant list selection is excerpted in part, with permission, from the Town of Southborough Street Tree Guidelines, June 2019.

Large Trees - over 40' tall

Aspen, Quaking (*Populus tremuloides*)
Basswood (*Tilia americana*)
Beech, American (*Fagus grandifolia*)
Birch, Gray (*Betula populifolia*)
Birch, Paper (*Betula papyrifera*)
Birch, River (*Betula nigra*)
Birch, Sweet or Black (*Betula lenta*)
Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
Cherry, Black (*Prunus serotina*)
Hickory, Shagbark (*Carya ovata*)
Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)
Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*)
Oak, Black (*Quercis velutina*)
Oak, Pin (*Quercis palustris*)
Oak, White (*Quercis alba*)
Oak, Red (*Quercis rubra*)
Oak, Scarlet (*Quercis coccinea*)
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
Sycamore, American (*Platanus occidentalis*)
Tulip Tree / Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
Willow, Black (*Salix nigra*)

Street Trees

| Tree Species | Mature Height | Mature Spread | Minimum planting space | Notes |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Broad shade trees - recommended for unconfined spaces such as lawns, parks, yards, and wide landscape buffers. Ideal growth area is 30'x30'x3'D. | | | | |
| Red Maple, <i>Acer rubrum</i> | 40'-60' | 40' | 8' from sidewalk or concrete | Oval shape, fast-growing (12'-18"/year), prefers full or partial sun, red leaves in autumn. Lives 80-100 yrs. |
| Red Oak, <i>Quercus rubra</i> | 60'-70' | 40'-60' | 8' from sidewalk or concrete | Rounded shape, moderate growth rate, needs full sun and well-drained soil, red-scarlet autumn color. Lives 400 yrs. |
| Pin Oak, <i>Quercus palustris</i> | 60'-70' | 25'-40' | 8' from sidewalk or concrete | Pyramidal shape, fast-growing (1'-2'/yr.), full sun and average-moist, well-drained soil, russet-bronze-red autumn color. Lives about 120 yrs. |
| White Oak, <i>Quercus alba</i> | 80'-100' | 50'-80' | 8' from sidewalk or concrete | Rounded shape, sun or shade, well-drained soil, grows 1'-2'/yr., yellow autumn color. Lives up to 600 yrs. |
| Scarlet Oak, <i>Quercus coccinea</i> | 60'-80' | 40'-50' | 8' from sidewalk or concrete | Pyramidal to round shape, sun, dry-medium well-drained soil, scarlet autumn color. Lives 80-100 yrs. |
| American Elm, <i>Ulmus americana</i> | 60-100' | 40-70' | 8' from sidewalk or concrete | Vase shape, fast-growing (3'-5'/yr.), full-part sun, well-drained rich soil, yellow-gold autumn color. Lives about 200 yrs. |
| Small Trees - recommended for use under or near overhead wires, in confined spaces, or for ornamental accent. Trees that grow under 50 feet make excellent terrace trees since they have little root zones and won't obstruct overhead power lines. Ideal growth area averages 7'x7'x3'D. | | | | |
| Serviceberry, <i>Amelanchier</i> spp | 6'-25' | 15'-25' | 3'-4' from sidewalk or concrete | Can be multi- or single-stemmed, grows 1'-2'/yr., partial sun-partial shade, rich, moist, well-drained soil, white flowers in spring, purple berries, orange-red autumn color. Lives about 50 yrs. |
| Eastern Redbud, <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | 20'-30' | 25'-35' | 3-4' from sidewalks or concrete | Can be multi- or single-stemmed, grows 1'-2'/yr., full sun-partial shade, well-drained soil, purple flowers in spring, yellow autumn color. Lives about 20 yrs. |
| Specimen trees - recommended for use in lawn and park areas set well back from sidewalks and roadsides along the outside of the public right of way. | | | | |
| Sugar maple, <i>Acer saccharum</i> | 40'-80' | 30'-60' | 8' from sidewalk or concrete | Oval shape, grows 1'-2'/yr., full sun-partial shade, rich, well-drained soil, yellow-red autumn color. Lives up to 400 yrs. |
| Serviceberry, <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> | 6'-25' | 15'-25' | 3'-4' from sidewalk or concrete | Can be multi- or single-stemmed, grows 1'-2'/yr., partial sun-partial shade, rich, moist, well-drained soil, white flowers in spring, purple berries, orange-red autumn color. Lives about 50 yrs. |
| River Birch, <i>Betula Nigra</i> | 60'-80' | 40' | 8' from sidewalk or concrete | Pyramidal to upright oval shape, grows 1'-2'/yr., full-partial sun, moist, well-drained soil, attractive peeling two-toned bark, yellow autumn color. Lives 50-75 yrs. |
| Flowering Dogwood, <i>Cornus Florida</i> | 15'-30' | 15'-30' | 3-4' from sidewalk or concrete | Broad pyramidal growth form, grows 1'-2'/yr., shade, well-drained soil, white flowers, red fruit, orange-red autumn color. Lives 120 yrs. |
| Basswood, <i>Tilia americana</i> | 60'-80' | 30'-60' | 8' from sidewalk or concrete | Pyramidal-rounded growth form, grows 1'-2'/yr., full sun to dense shade, moist well drained soil, fragrant white flowers in spring, yellow autumn color. Lives 200 yrs. |

Groundcovers, Ferns & Grasses

Ferns

Broad Beech fern
 Hay-scented fern
 Christmas fern
 Maidenhair fern
 Ostrich Fern

Grasses & Sedges

Big Bluestem
 Little Bluestem
 Prairie Dropseed
 Purple Love grass
 Switchgrass

Groundcovers - for full sun

Bearberry/Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
 Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)
 Phlox, moss or rock (*Phlox subulata*)
 Pussytoes, field (*Antennaria neglecta*)
 Pussytoes, Plantain-leaved (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*)
 Three-toothed cinquefoil (*Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*)

Groundcovers - for part shade to shade

American wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
 Bunchberry, *Chamaepericlymenum canadense*
 Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*)
 Foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)
 Groundsel, Running (*Packera obovata*)
 Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
 Self-Heal/Heal All (*Prunella vulgaris*)

Bluet, little, (*Houstonia caerulea*)
 Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)
 Cranberry, American (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)
 Ginger, Canadian (*Asarum canadense*)
 Groundsel, Golden (*Packera aurea*)
 Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
 Strawberry, wild (*Fragaria virginiana*)
 Violet (*Viola sororia*)

Perennials for Full Sun

| | |
|--|--|
| Aster, New England (<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>) | Mountain mint, Virginia (<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>) |
| Aster, New York, (<i>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</i>) | Obedient plant (<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>) * |
| Aster, smooth (<i>Aster laevis</i>) | Phlox, fall or garden phlox, (<i>Phlox paniculata</i>) |
| Aster, Tall White (<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>) | Primrose/Sundrops (<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>) |
| Beardtongue, foxglove (<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>) * | Jerusalem artichoke (<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>) |
| Bee balm, red (<i>Monarda didyma</i>) | Joe Pye weed, spotted (<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>) |
| Bee balm, spotted (<i>Monarda punctata</i>) | Lily, Turk's cap (<i>Lilium superbum</i>) |
| Bee balm, wild bergamot (<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>) | Milkweed, butterfly (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>) |
| Black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>) | Milkweed, common (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>) |
| Coreopsis, lance-leaf (<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>) | Milkweed, rose (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>) |
| Everlasting, Pearly (<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>) | Mountain mint, clustered (<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>) |
| Everlasting, Sweet (<i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i>) | Mountain mint, hairy (<i>Pycnanthemum verticillatum</i>) |
| Golden Alexander (<i>Zizia aurea</i>) | Mountain mint, slender-leaf (<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>) |
| Ironweed, New York (<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>) | |

Perennials for Part Sun-Part Shade

Aster, heart-leaved, or Blue wood (*Symphotrichum cordifolium*)

Aster, New England (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)

Aster, New York, (*Symphotrichum novi-belgii*)

Aster, smooth (*Aster laevis*)

Bowmans Root, Indian physic (*Gillenia trifoliata*)

Beardtongue, foxglove (*Penstemon digitalis*) *

Bee balm, red (*Monarda didyma*)

Bee balm, spotted (*Monarda punctata*)

Bee balm, wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*)

Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Columbine, Red (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Coreopsis, lance-leaf (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*)

Goldenrod, showy (*Solidago speciosa*)

Goldenrod, wrinkle-leaved (*Solidago rugosa*)

Iris, Northern blue flag (*Iris versicolor*)

Ironweed, New York (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)

Joe Pye weed, spotted (*Eutrochium maculatum*)

Lily, Turk's cap (*Lilium superbum*)

Mallow, Rose (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)

Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)

Meadow-rue, early (*Thalictrum dioicum*)

Meadow-rue, tall (*Thalictrum pubescens*)

Mountain mint, slender-leaf (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)

Mountain mint, clustered (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)

Mountain mint, hairy (*Pycnanthemum verticillatum*)

Mountain mint, Virginia (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)

Obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) *

Phlox, fall or garden phlox, (*Phlox paniculata*) *

Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)

Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) *

Sunflower, oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) *

Sunflower, woodland, *Helianthus divaricatus*

Virginia meadow-beauty (*Rhexia virginica*)

Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

Violet (*Viola sororia*)

Perennials for Part-Full Shade

Milkweed, rose (*Asclepias incarnata*)

American spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*)

Aster, heart-leaved, or Blue wood (*Symphotrichum cordifolium*)

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Columbine, Red (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Dutchmans breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) *

Ginger, Canada (*Asarum canadense*)

Goldenrod, blue-stemmed (*Solidago caesia*)

Goldenrod, zig-zag (*Solidago flexicaulis*)

Joe Pye weed, spotted (*Eutrochium maculatum*)

Joe Pye weed, sweet (*Eutrochium purpureum*)

Jack in the pulpit (*Ariseama triphyllum*)

Meadow-rue, tall (*Thalictrum pubescens*)

Milkweed, poke (*Asclepias exalta*)

Rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*)

Solomon seal, false (*Maianthemum racemosum*)

Solomon seal, king (*Polygonatum biflorum*)

Trillium, Nodding wakerobin (*Trillium cernuum*)

Trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*)

Turtlehead, white (*Chelone glabra*)

Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

Trillium, Red or wakerobin (*Trillium erectum*)

Trillium, White or white wakerobin (*Trillium grandiflorum*)

Trillium, painted, or painted wakerobin (*Trillium undulatum*)