



GREEN SPRING GARDENS

4603 GREEN SPRING RD • ALEXANDRIA • VA 22312

PHONE: 703-642-5173 • TTY: 703-803-3354

WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/PARKS/GREENSPRING

NON-NATIVE HARDY PERENNIALS, FERNS, - ORNAMENTAL GRASSES, AND SEDGES FOR THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA -

Hardy herbaceous perennials are a group of plants that gardeners are passionate about because of their colorful flowers and foliage and wide variety of textures, forms, and heights. These plants are commonly called perennials. Ferns and ornamental grasses and sedges are grouped with them as well. They are easily moved to create new design combinations and provide an ever-changing scene in the garden. A wide variety of non-native perennials are excellent garden plants.

Hardy herbaceous plants usually form little or no woody tissue. Most of these plants are deciduous and die back to the ground in the winter, although some species are semi-evergreen or evergreen, such as most hellebores. Some perennials may only live three years, such as rose campion, so it is best to allow them to reseed. Other perennials can live for decades, such as peonies.

The following are useful definitions:

- **Cultivar (cv.)** – a cultivated variety designated by single quotes, such as ‘Virginia’s Sunshine’. A **variety (var.)** or **subspecies (subsp.)**, in contrast, is found in nature and is a subdivision of a species.
- **Full Shade** – the amount of light under a dense deciduous tree canopy or beneath evergreens. Few plants perform well in full shade.
- **Part Shade** – the amount of light in an area shaded part of the day, among deciduous trees with high branches, among deciduous trees with foliage that is not heavy, or among thinned deciduous woods.
- **Full Sun** – six hours or more of sunlight daily.

The following is a list of hardy, non-native herbaceous plants that perform well in the Washington, D.C. area. Some perennials prefer sun and others prefer shade. Most ornamental grasses prefer to bask in full sun, but a few are shade-loving. Most ferns and ornamental sedges prefer light shade to part shade. Most of these plants prefer a moist, well-drained site. Light requirements and special cultural requirements or tolerances are noted in the comments column. Herbaceous plants that are reliably evergreen are noted. Perennials that need to grow in wet sites, and perennials solely for rock gardens, are not included.

Invasive non-native herbaceous plants are a threat to natural areas and native plant communities and should not be grown in gardens. Below the ornamental sedge section there are lists of invasive plants that are still sold in the nursery trade: these plants should not be grown and should be removed whenever possible.

Non-Native Hardy Perennials For Gardens

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<p><i>Achillea</i> 'Coronation Gold'</p> <p><i>A. millefolium</i> cultivars: 'Ortel's Rose' ('1869') has performed well for years.</p> <p>'Apricot Delight' looks promising (in the Tutti Frutti series). Cultivars given 4 stars by the Chicago Botanic Garden in this series are 'Pomegranate' & 'Pink Grapefruit'.</p>	Yarrow	<p>Full sun; tolerate dry sites</p> <p>Note: white-flowered <i>A. millefolium</i> has native & non-native forms: the wild type is generally not grown in gardens. Some of the older colorful cultivars did not perform well over time, but the newer 'Apricot Delight' is doing well so far.</p>
<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i>	Monkshood, Aconitum	Prefers moist soil in light shade
<i>Agapanthus campanulatus</i>	Bell Agapanthus	Full sun; can mulch in late November/ early December in less protected sites for winter protection (not an issue with established plants). The best performer in our area.
<i>Agastache rupestris</i>	Sunset Agastache, Anise Hyssop	Full sun & well-drained soil; tolerate dry sites. The longest lived of the western U.S. species & hybrids (even this species tends to be a short-live perennial but lovely apricot flowers). Connoisseur plant.
<p><i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i></p> <p>(Native to Ark. & Okla.)</p>	Hubricht's Bluestar, Amsonia	Full sun to light shade; reseeds in moist sites & hybridizes with other <i>Amsonia</i> species.
<p>Anemone cultivars such as 'Honorine Jobert', 'Margarete', & 'Whirlwind' (<i>A. hybrida</i>) - cross of <i>A. hupehensis</i> (native to China & Taiwan) & <i>A. vitifolia</i> (Himalayan species)</p>	Asian Anemone Cultivars (commonly called Japanese Anemone since they have done breeding work & cultivar selection)	Full sun (moist site) to part shade. Eaten by deer (doesn't kill it but greatly reduces the number of blooms).
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> & hybrids	Garden Columbine	Full sun to light shade for best flowering; allow to reseed: individual plants short-lived perennials.
<p><i>Asarum europaeum</i></p> <p><i>A. splendens</i> ('Quicksilver')</p> <p>Note: <i>A. takaoi</i> is not as ornamental but has performed well in moist sites</p>	<p>European Wild Ginger</p> <p>Chinese Wild Ginger</p>	<p>Light shade to full shade; best in moist sites</p> <p>Native evergreen species are classified as <i>Asarum</i> or <i>Hexastylis</i>.</p>
<p><i>Aster tataricus</i></p> <p>('Jindai' is shorter than the species & spreads more slowly)</p> <p>Note: Asian asters retain the <i>Aster</i> scientific name (native species now several different genera)</p>	Tatarian Aster	Full sun to light shade; tolerates dry sites but doesn't look good if very dry; naturalized in several states including Virginia; spreads a bit in moist sites but have not seen reseeding at Green Spring
<p><i>Astilbe chinensis</i> cultivars such as 'Visions' & 'Visions in Red'.</p> <p>Many <i>Astilbe</i> cultivars are hybrids – many selections are available.</p>		<p>Light shade to part shade in consistently moist sites (does not like to dry out)</p> <p>Note: the Virginia native <i>A. biternata</i> needs consistently moist sites to bloom; damaged by deer & crowding by other plants – harder to grow than the non-natives</p>

<p><i>Baptisia sphaerocarpa</i> (native to south central U.S. including Ark. MO, & TX),</p> <p>'Screaming Yellow' & the hybrid 'Carolina Moonlight' (cross between this species & the Virginia native <i>B. alba</i>)</p>	Yellow Wild Indigo	<p>Full sun; tolerant of dry sites</p> <p>'Lemon Meringue' looks promising – parentage not given but appears to have some <i>B. sphaerocarpa</i> parentage</p> <p>'Twilite' – flower is purple with yellow keel. Cross of <i>B. australis</i> (Virginia native) & <i>B. sphaerocarpa</i> - see more <i>Baptisia</i> in Native Herbaceous Perennials for Sunny Gardens in the Washington, D.C. Area</p>
<i>Begonia grandis</i>	Hardy Begonia	Light shade to part shade; reseeds readily; a tuberous root but behaves like a perennial – foliage persists the entire growing season
<i>Bouvardia ternifolia</i> (‘Scarlet Hummer’ is being evaluated) (native to AZ, NM, & TX)	Bouvardia, Firecrackerbush	Full sun; tolerant of dry sites - good for waterwise gardens; some reseeding. Can be borderline hardy in some sites – likes good drainage.
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i> (variegated cultivars - 'Jack Frost' is harder to grow than 'Langtrees')	Heartleaf Brunnera	Light shade to part shade in moist sites; some reseeding if gets enough moisture
<i>Callirhoe bushii</i> (has been the easiest species to grow; native to Ark., Kan., Mo., & Okla.). Others include <i>C. involucrata</i> (naturalized in VA but native to Midwest) & <i>C. digitata</i> (the most difficult to grow; native to Ark., IL, Ind., Kan., La., MO, & Okla.)	Poppy Mallow	<p>Full sun; tolerate dry sites once established. Do not like crowding. Grown for unusual magenta flower color. Eaten by deer &/ or rabbits.</p> <p>Connoisseur plants</p>
<i>Campanula poscharskyana</i>	Serbian Campanula	<p>Full sun to light shade. Needs attention to watering during dry periods until established.</p> <p>Note: <i>C. punctata</i> & <i>C. takesimana</i> can spread excessively in gardens (especially under moist growing conditions). <i>C. latifolia</i> reseeds excessively & is hard to kill. <i>C. persicifolia</i> is beautiful in flower but usually only lives 2 or 3 years in our climate. <i>C. carpatica</i> is also short lived.</p>
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Leadwort, Ceratostigma	Full sun to light shade; moist sites best
<i>Chrysanthemum</i> hybrids such as: 'Country Girl' 'Single Apricot' 'Venus' 'Virginia's Sunshine'	Hardy Chrysanthemum, Korean Hybrid Mum	Full sun; tolerate dry sites; some reseeding

<p><i>Epimedium</i> 'Frohnleiten' (parents are <i>E. perralderianum</i> & <i>E. pinnatum</i> – less showy than the cultivar.) <i>E. pinnatum</i> 'Thunderbolt' was formerly called 'Black Sea' - less vigorous than the type sold as subsp. <i>colchicum</i> & <i>E.</i> 'Frohnleiten' but attractive dark, evergreen winter foliage)</p> <p><i>E. davidii</i></p> <p><i>E. grandiflorum</i>, hybrids, & cultivars including: 'Cherry Blossom' 'Dark Beauty' 'Lilafee' 'Orion' 'Pretty in Pink' 'Queen Esta' 'Red Queen' 'Saxton's Purple' 'Tama no Genpei' 'White Queen' 'Yubae' ('Rose Queen')</p> <p><i>E. leptorrhizum</i> (low growing species – does not like very dry sites)</p> <p><i>E. rubrum</i> ('Sweetheart')</p> <p><i>E. sagittatum</i> - grown for large leaves relative to other species. 'Mini Pearl' is probably a hybrid of this.</p> <p><i>E. versicolor</i> 'Cherry Tart' & 'Sulphureum'</p> <p><i>E. warleyense</i> & 'Orangekonigin' ('Orange Queen')</p> <p>Other hybrids: 'Amber Queen' 'Domino' 'Flamingo Dancer' 'Pink Champagne' 'Pink Elf'</p>	<p>Epimedium, Fairy Wings</p>	<p>Light shade to part shade best but some will grow in full sun if watered well during dry periods; most species & cultivars tolerate dry sites but prefer moist sites</p> <p>Note: many species & cultivars are semi-evergreen or evergreen but best to cut off all <i>Epimedium</i> foliage by mid March so can see blooms well.</p> <p>Selections that are good groundcover since spreading types: <i>E.</i> 'Frohnleiten', <i>E. pinnatum</i> (often sold as subsp. <i>colchicum</i>), <i>E. versicolor</i> 'Sulphureum', <i>E. warleyense</i> & the cultivar 'Orangekonigin' ('Orange Queen')</p> <p>The purple-flowered cultivars of <i>E. grandiflorum</i> such as 'Dark Beauty' & 'Saxton's Purple' have lower vigor than other types & grow more slowly. <i>E. youngianum</i> cultivars including 'Niveum' & 'Yenomoto Form' ('Yenomoto') also want more moisture. It is best not to crowd the clumping types.</p> <p><i>E. dolichostemon</i> is also more of a connoisseur plant in our area - likes lime (add agricultural lime when planting in acid soils in our region, & scatter more lime on top of the soil over time). Some species that like more lime in the soil are hard to grow in our area (they like the higher pH & they need more calcium). In most situations it is best to use calcium carbonate lime (calcite lime) – pelletized lime is the easiest to use.</p>
<p><i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> 'Aurea'</p>	<p>Golden Meadowsweet</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; need consistently moist sites; grown for golden foliage.</p> <p>Note: the pink flowered Asian species have performed fine but not as showy as the Virginia native <i>F. rubra</i></p>

<p><i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> – pink selections are showiest like Belleza Dark Pink ('Cynthia') & Stratosphere Pink Picotee ('Gaudpin') – they also sport to new forms & sometimes reseed. Species native to La., Tx., & Mexico</p>	<p>Gaura, Beeblossom</p>	<p>Full sun. More of a connoisseur plant because longer lived in some sites & in other sites may only live one year – likes sloping sites. The species type has white flowers.</p>
<p><i>Geranium</i> 'Biokova' & other selections of <i>G. cantabrigiense</i></p> <p><i>G. macrorrhizum</i> & cultivars</p> <p><i>G. 'Orion'</i></p> <p><i>G. sanguineum</i> ('Elsbeth' & others)</p>	<p>Hardy Geranium</p>	<p>Full sun (moist site) to light shade for most. Deer eat many plants in this genus – Green Spring used to grow more species & cultivars. The selections that remain are more unpalatable.</p> <p><i>G. sanguineum</i> is the most tolerant of dry sites.</p>
<p><i>Helenium</i> cultivars like 'Feuersiegel' & 'Ruby Tuesday'</p>	<p>Helen's Flower</p>	<p>Full sun in consistently moist sites; one parent of these hybrids is a Virginia native (other parents native to western U.S.); do not crowd. Connoisseur plants.</p>
<p><i>Helianthus</i> 'Lemon Queen' (hybrid of species native to Virginia & the Midwest)</p>	<p>Lemon Queen Sunflower</p>	<p>Full sun; tolerates dry sites but foliage does not look as good & less bloom</p>
<p><i>Helleborus foetidus</i> & cultivars</p> <p><i>H. orientalis</i> & hybrids (<i>H. x hybridus</i>) – many bloom colors as well as single & double forms (can buy seed-grown strains or tissue cultured cultivars).</p> <p>Other Hybrid Cultivars (blooms tend to be white, shades of white, pale yellow, pale pink, or green, with different foliage than the above) - These selections do not seed around. Add agricultural lime to the soil at planting: Cinnamon Snow ('COSEH 700') (sold under <i>H. x ballardiae</i>: parents are <i>H. niger</i> & <i>H. lividus</i>; 'Pink Frost' has been harder to grow well). Another cultivar being tested is 'Raulston Remembered'.</p> <p>Ivory Prince ('Walhelivor') & 'Silvermoon' (sold under <i>H. x ericsmithii</i> – parents are <i>H. niger</i>, <i>H. argutifolius</i>, & <i>H. lividus</i>). Other cultivars being tested as well.</p> <p>'Honeyhill Joy', 'Northern Beauty' (the earliest to bloom), & 'White Beauty' (sold as <i>H. x nigercors</i> – parents are <i>H. niger</i> & <i>H. argutifolius</i>)</p>	<p>Bearsfoot Hellebore</p> <p>Hellebore</p>	<p>Light shade to part shade; most are evergreen but can have lots of damage to foliage in cold winters (just cut off the brown foliage)</p> <p>Ones that reseed: <i>H. foetidus</i> & cultivars, & <i>H. orientalis</i> hybrids</p> <p>For the collector of species-types: <i>H. odorus</i> (green blooms) & <i>H. purpurascens</i> (dark purple blooms; goes dormant in the summer) - have been easy to grow but not as showy</p>

<p><i>Hemerocallis</i> cultivars</p> <p>Species: the showiest is <i>H. lilioasphodelus</i> (tall flower stalks). The earliest bloomer is <i>H. minor</i>.</p>	<p>Daylily</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; tolerate dry sites. Eaten by deer and/or rabbits but they don't kill it.</p> <p>Large number of cultivars are available.</p>
<p><i>Heuchera</i> cultivars with <i>H. villosa</i> parentage (native to Virginia) tend to perform the best ('Georgia Peach' & 'Mocha' are examples)</p> <p>A long-lived cultivar (but not as showy as some of the newer cultivars) is <i>H. micrantha</i> var. <i>diversifolia</i> 'Palace Purple' – the species is native to western U.S. but it may be a hybrid. This cultivar is commonly grown from seed so some forms better than others.</p>	<p>Alumroot, Heuchera</p>	<p>Light shade to part shade best; tolerant of dry sites; roots eaten by black vine weevil so many cultivars are short-lived (especially if don't have <i>H. villosa</i> parentage)</p> <p>Large numbers of cultivars are available. Connoisseur plants.</p> <p>Note: cultivars with colorful flowers have <i>H. sanguinea</i> parentage (coral bells, coral flower) are not as durable in our region. However, 'Harmonic Convergence' has performed well for several years.</p>
<p><i>Hibiscus coccineus</i> (naturalized in Virginia - native from FL to MS)</p> <p><i>H. dasycalyx</i> (native to Texas – a short species – good for small gardens)</p> <p><i>Hibiscus</i> hybrids & cultivars are available (parents include <i>H. coccineus</i> & Virginia native <i>H. moscheutos</i>). Cultivars bred for large, showy flowers & a few have purple foliage.</p>	<p>Scarlet Hibiscus</p> <p>Neches River Rosemallow</p> <p>Hardy Hibiscus, Rosemallow</p>	<p>Full sun in moist to wet sites; some reseeding. All the herbaceous hibiscus listed here are for garden settings – not for naturalistic use.</p>
<p><i>Hosta</i> species & hybrids</p>	<p>Hosta</p>	<p>Light shade to part shade best; some plants that are not variegated will take full shade; eaten by deer (<i>H. ventricosa</i> is one of the most resistant to deer)</p>
<p>Iris - for moist or wet sites: Hybrids of iris species native to the southeastern U.S. – cultivars include 'Black Gamecock' & 'Hurricane Party'</p> <p><i>I. ensata</i> cultivars ('Variegata')</p> <p><i>I. sibirica</i>, hybrids, & cultivars ('Caesar's Brother' & 'Tropic Night' are some of the most vigorous performers in our area; lighter-flowered cultivars like 'Butter and Sugar' & 'White Swirl' bloom well but have less vigor than the above purple-flowered plants)</p>	<p>Louisiana Iris</p> <p>Japanese Iris</p> <p>Siberian Iris</p>	<p>Full sun; blooms in consistently moist sites but wet sites best. Foliage is less upright than the following so messier looking.</p> <p>Full sun best for flowering; consistently moist or wet sites</p> <p><i>I. sibirica</i> is more tolerant of occasional dry periods but some cultivars do not like dry conditions.</p>

<p><i>Iris</i> - for dry or moist sites: Bearded Iris: Bearded iris hybrids & cultivars - range from dwarf to tall forms</p> <p>Green Spring has a <i>I. subbiflora</i> hybrid (a dwarf bearded iris)</p> <p><i>I. variegata</i> (wild species) & hybrids</p> <p>Beardless Iris: <i>I. graminea</i></p>	<p>Iris</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; tolerant of dry sites.</p>
<p><i>Kniphofia</i> hybrids & cultivars - cultivars include 'Echo Mango', 'Little Maid', 'Pineapple Popsicle', & 'Primrose Beauty'. 'Reddy Maid' is a Green Spring selection.</p>	<p>Kniphofia, Torchlily, or Red Hot Poker</p>	<p>Full sun; most prefer moist sites but most are tolerant of dry sites as well</p>
<p><i>Lavandula stoechas</i></p> <p>Note: <i>L. intermedia</i> 'Phenomenal' is reported to perform better than other cultivars of this species - being tested at Green Spring.</p>	<p>Spanish Lavender, French Lavender</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade in well drained sites – likes dry sites. Evergreen but not necessarily great looking foliage by late winter. Has performed well in sunny sites under & near trees ('Kew Red' is not hardy). A short-lived perennial & can be marginally hardy in very cold winters.</p>
<p><i>Leucanthemum</i> × <i>superbum</i> 'Becky' (<i>Chrysanthemum</i> × <i>superbum</i>)</p>	<p>Becky Shasta Daisy</p>	<p>Full sun; tolerant of dry sites; the most heat-tolerant cultivar. Plant breeder Luther Burbank created this hybrid from 4 species. One of its parents is grown at Green Spring: <i>Nipponanthemum nipponicum</i> (Nippon Daisy) is fall bloomer that needs excellent drainage (plant is not nearly as nice as Shasta Daisy).</p>
<p><i>Liriope muscari</i> & cultivars (a clumping species) – primarily for groundcover use</p>	<p>Liriope, Lilyturf</p>	<p>Full sun to full shade; tolerates dry sites; semi-evergreen to evergreen foliage (looks best if cut back at the end of winter). Do not plant in or by natural areas. Often used as a groundcover under shrubs or trees.</p> <p>Note: Do not grow <i>L. spicata</i> – invasive that spreads too fast & naturalized in MD & other states</p>
<p><i>Lychnis coronaria</i></p>	<p>Rose Champion</p>	<p>Full sun; tolerates dry sites; short-lived perennial but reseeds readily</p>
<p><i>Nepeta</i> × <i>faassenii</i> & <i>N. racemosa</i> cultivars including 'Blue Wonder', 'Dropmore', 'Six Hills Giant', & 'Walker's Low'</p>	<p>Catmint</p>	<p>Full sun in well-drained sites; tolerate dry sites</p>
<p><i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i> ('Gyoku-Ryu' - dwarf cultivar)</p> <p><i>O. planiscapus</i> 'Nigrescens' (groundcover use in gardens only)</p>	<p>Mondo Grass</p> <p>Black Mondo Grass</p>	<p>Full sun (moist site) to full shade; tolerates dry sites (dwarf cultivars prefer moist sites); evergreen. Do not plant in or by natural areas. Often used as a groundcover under shrubs or trees.</p> <p>Full sun to light shade (to retain dark leaf color); evergreen. Not as dense as above. Used as a color contrast.</p>

<p><i>Paeonia</i> hybrids & cultivars – herbaceous selections</p> <p>Note: Intersectional hybrid or Itoh peonies are produced by crossing herbaceous peonies with tree peonies – under evaluation - yellow selections are reported to perform the best.</p>	Herbaceous Peony Cultivars	Full sun; tolerate dry sites (go dormant early); early to midseason bloomers best for our area so flowers last longer (many cultivars perform well in our area)
<p><i>Papaver atlanticum</i></p> <p><i>P. orientale</i> 'Turkenlouis' & other cultivars (some pink & lavender selections have also done well)</p>	Atlas Poppy, Moroccan Poppy Oriental Poppy	Full sun; biennial to short-lived perennial but reseeds readily Full sun; summer dormant & foliage comes up again in the fall
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> & cultivars	Russian Sage	Full sun; a subshrub (short, woody perennial – cut back in March)
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> & 'Miss Grace' ('Compact Grey') <i>P. tuberosa</i> (tall with green foliage)	Phlomis	Full sun; <i>P. fruticosa</i> tolerates dry sites & is evergreen in warmer winters
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i> 'Variegatum'	Variegated Japanese Solomon's Seal	Light shade to part shade; tolerates dry sites
<i>Polygonum amplexicaule</i> 'Fire Tail' <i>P. microcephalum</i> 'Red Dragon'	Fire Tail Mountain Fleeceflower Red Dragon Fleeceflower	Full sun to light shade in moist or periodically wet sites. 'Fire Tail' is grown for its flowers & 'Red Dragon' for its foliage.
<i>Primula sieboldii</i> <i>P. polyantha</i> - these hybrids have complex parentage (<i>P. elatior</i> , <i>P. juliae</i> , <i>P. veris</i> and/ or <i>P. vulgaris</i>) – some of these forms have performed well over time (they tend to look like one parent more – such as yellow flowers for some with <i>P. elatior</i> parentage, & magenta flowers for some with <i>P. juliae</i> parentage such as 'Lois Lutz') <i>P. vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>sibthorpii</i> – pink flowers (can grow for several years when have right site conditions)	Siebold Primrose Primrose	Light shade to part shade; spring ephemeral (goes dormant in summer – the longest lived species) Light shade to part shade; moist sites preferred; foliage persists all growing season. Connoisseur plants since performance is variable & often short-lived if conditions not perfect. Note: <i>P. japonica</i> (Japanese Primrose) performs best in light shade in wet sites.
<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i> & cultivars ('Bertram Anderson' & 'Cevennensis') <i>P. saccharata</i> & hybrids including 'Roy Davidson'	Lungwort	Light shade to part shade – best in moist sites; light reseeding (that is how most of them survive over time) Note: pink- & raspberry-flowered cultivars have not been long lived.
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Arp' & 'Madalene Hill' ('Hill Hardy') Note: 'Prostratus' is less winter hardy but good for small gardens	Hardy Rosemary	Full sun in well-drained sites; tolerates dry sites; evergreen – but can get damaged in very cold winters (even more of a problem on less cold hardy forms like 'Prostratus' & 'Tuscan Blue')

<p>Salvia that are best described as marginally winter hardy in our area (will overwinter in at least some years):</p> <p><i>S. chamaedryoides</i> (Green Spring also grows a hybrid with this species)</p> <p><i>S. coahuilensis</i> (a subshrub)</p> <p><i>S. darcyi</i></p> <p><i>S. elegans</i> ('Golden Delicious')</p> <p><i>S. 'Indigo Spires'</i></p> <p><i>S. involucrata</i> 'Bethellii' & <i>S. puberula</i> 'El Butano' (<i>S. involucrata</i> according to some authorities)</p>	<p>Mexican Blue Salvia</p> <p>Coahuila Salvia Darcy's Salvia Pineapple Salvia Indigo Spires Salvia</p> <p>Roseleaf Salvia</p>	<p>Full sun in well-drained sites. indigo spires salvia looks its best in moist sites – other species are tolerant of dry sites</p>
<p><i>Sedum</i> or <i>Hylotelephium</i> – cultivars with purplish or purple foliage: Matrona' – tall; 'Black Jack' is a sport of 'Matrona' 'Purple Emperor' 'Vera Jameson' – personal favorite of the group ('Bertram Anderson' is reported to be an improvement)</p>	<p>Sedum</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade in well-drained sites; tolerate dry sites.</p> <p>A functional genus – drought tolerant</p> <p>Many groundcover types with green foliage are aggressive spreaders in gardens – some now are reclassified as <i>Phedimus</i>.</p>
<p><i>Symphytum</i> 'Axminster Gold'</p>	<p>Axminster Gold Comfrey</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; best in moist sites</p>
<p><i>Tanacetum parthenium</i> 'Aureum' (<i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i>)</p>	<p>Golden Feverfew</p>	<p>Full sun; tolerates dry sites; short-lived perennial that often reseeds; green-foliaged forms are less showy</p>
<p><i>Tricyrtis formosana</i> & hybrids</p> <p><i>T. hirta</i> cultivars & hybrids: favorite is 'Sinonome' but 'Variegata' has also performed well (flowers less showy)</p>	<p>Toad Lily</p>	<p>Light shade to part shade; moist sites preferred; some reseeding</p> <p>Yellow-foliaged selections have less vigor (all forms eaten by deer, so this makes golden forms even harder to grow)</p>
<p><i>Vernonia lettermannii</i> 'Iron Butterfly' (native to Ark. & Okla.)</p>	<p>Iron Butterfly Ironweed</p>	<p>Full sun; drought tolerant species. Seedlings are taller than the cultivar & are not like the cultivar.</p>
<p><i>Veronica</i> 'Goodness Grows'</p>	<p>Veronica</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade. <i>V. spicata</i> cultivars & other selections often survive (especially taller forms) but look scorched in the summer.</p>

NON-NATIVE FERNS FOR GARDENS -

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<p><i>Athyrium niponicum</i> 'Pictum' & other colorful cultivars (some botanists are classifying as <i>Anisocampium niponicum</i> or <i>Athyrium brevisorum</i>). A. 'Ghost' (a hybrid with the above species & Virginia native <i>A. felix femina</i> - Lady Fern)</p>	<p>Japanese Painted Fern</p> <p>Ghost Fern</p>	<p>Deciduous; tolerates alkaline soil; prefer moist sites. A. 'Ghost' is a clumping type & Japanese painted fern spreads slowly.</p>
<p><i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i> ('Brilliance')</p>	<p>Japanese Shield Fern</p>	<p>Evergreen; tolerates dry sites</p>

NON-NATIVE ORNAMENTAL GRASSES FOR GARDENS -

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> 'Blonde Ambition' (species is native to the Midwest & the western U.S.)	Blonde Ambition Grama Grass	Full sun; very drought tolerant; the cultivar has chartreuse flowers (blue-green for the species)
<i>Hakonechloa macra</i> 'Aureola' & 'Albovariegata'	Golden-variegated Hakone Grass White-variegated Hakone Grass	Best in light shade to part shade in moist soil (dies out in dry sites); 'Albovariegata' is more tolerant of sunny sites
<i>Molinia caerulea</i> cultivars such as 'Skyracer' & 'Transparent'	Purple Moor Grass	Full sun in moist sites; do not crowd - far less impact from blooms
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> ('Cassian' & 'Hameln') (some botanists have reclassified to <i>Cenchrus compressus</i>) <i>P. orientale</i> 'Karley Rose' (some botanists have reclassified to <i>Cenchrus orientalis</i>) (the cultivar is more vigorous & showier than the species type)	Hardy Fountain Grass Hardy Oriental Fountain Grass	Full sun. Black-flowered cultivars like 'Moudry' & 'National Arboretum' reseed too readily & should not be grown (have not tested 'Red Head' to see if it seeds around – a seedling of 'National Arboretum')

NON-NATIVE ORNAMENTAL SEDGES FOR GARDENS -

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Carex morrowii</i> cultivars – the best cultivars are the clumping forms including: 'Goldband' 'Silk Tassel' (also see as var. <i>temnolepsis</i> but not recognized by botanists) 'Variegata'	Morrow Sedge	Best in light shade to part shade; evergreen. Prefer over <i>Liriope muscari</i> : Morrow sedge is a better accent plant & grows more slowly (with the exception of 'Ice Dance' – this cultivar spreads & has a coarse look) 'Silk Tassel' is a fine-textured sedge with narrow white variegation; the other two cultivars have a coarser texture

Invasive Non-Native Herbaceous Plants In The Nursery Trade

Spread excessively and/ or reseed abundantly – especially a problem in natural areas. Marked with (VA List) if on the Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia list (http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/invlist.pdf). If not on the official list then other information is given.

Invasive Non-Native Herbaceous Plants in our Region but Less of a Problem than Species in the Final Section (Best to Remove & Do Not Purchase):

- Arum italicum* (Italian Arum) (tuberous roots so bulb-like) - naturalized in Va., NC & other states; abundant reseeding
- Arundo donax* and cultivars (Giant Reed) (VA List) - a tall grass; species is invasive in Virginia by wetlands
- Chelidonium majus* (Celandine, Greater Celandine) – seeds excessively in gardens
- Eomecon chionantha* (Snow Poppy) - Aggressive spreader in gardens
- Liriope spicata* (Creeping Liriope) - Aggressive spreader in gardens; naturalized in Va., MD, & other states
- Miscanthus sinensis* (Miscanthus) (VA List) - a medium-sized grass; invasive in moist natural areas – if want to

grow in gardens select variegated cultivars with low seed viability ('Morning Light' & 'Strictus')
Oenothera speciosa (Pink Sundrop) - aggressive spreader in gardens; native to south central U.S. & naturalized in Va. & many states. *O. berlandieri* 'Siskiyou' is similar but reported to be less invasive.
Phalaris arundinacea 'Feesey' (feesey ribbon grass – white variegation) – aggressive spreader in gardens; reed canary grass is the common name of the species-type. Introduced forms of the species have mostly crowded out the native form in the U.S.
Saccharum ravennae or *Tripidium ravennae* (Ravenna Grass) – a tall grass; naturalized in Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, & many states
Verbena bonariensis (Verbena, Purpletop Vervain) - Naturalized in Va., & other southern states. Invasive in gardens – need to keep away from natural areas.

The Most Invasive Non-Native Herbaceous Plants in our Region in the Nursery Trade (Remove & Do Not Purchase): -

Aegopodium podagraria (Goutweed; 'Variegatum' is the form in the nursery trade) – naturalized in VA & many states, as well as being aggressive spreader in gardens.
Ajuga reptans & cultivars (Bugleweed) (VA List)
Fallopia japonica or *Polygonum cuspidatum* (Japanese Knotweed) (VA List) - variegated cultivars in the nursery trade sometimes sold under other scientific names like *Persicaria japonica* & *Polygonum japonicum*
Ficaria verna (*Ranunculus ficaria*) & cultivars (Lesser Celadine – a type of buttercup) (VA List)
Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel; 'Purpureum' is mostly commonly sold - Bronze Fennel) (VA List)
Hemerocallis fulva (Orange Daylily) – naturalized in VA & numerous states; hard to kill; a common pass-along plant.
Houttuynia cordata (Chameleon Plant) – a problem in gardens – very difficult to kill
Iris pseudacorus (Yellow Flag Iris) (VA List)
Lysimachia clethroides (Gooseneck Loosestrife) - invasive in gardens & has naturalized in TN, KY, NC, & other states
Lysimachia nummularia (Moneywort; 'Aurea' is most commonly sold – Golden Creeping Jenny) (VA List)
Lythrum salicaria, hybrids, & cultivars (Purple Loosestrife) (VA List)
Pinellia ternata, *P. pedatisecta*, & possibly other species (Crowdipper or Pinellia) – first species is naturalized in MD, WV, & other states; seeds excessively in gardens & hard to kill

Technically Invasive Non-Native Woody Plants But Low Growing Like Herbaceous Perennials:

Vinca minor & *V. major* 'Variegata' (Periwinkle) (VA List)

Scientific Names Of Plants - current names are from:

- **Encyclopedia of Life** (<http://eol.org/>) – institutional partners include Harvard University, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Smithsonian Institution, and The Field Museum.
- **Tropicos** from the Missouri Botanical Garden (<http://tropicos.org/>)

If a second scientific name is given, it is usually an old name that is still seen in some references or used by some nurseries. However, the above databases do not always agree on names and the second name may be a new name.

Other References: -

Flora of Virginia. Alan Weakley, J. Christopher Ludwig, and John Townsend. 2012. BRIT Press. Botanical Research Institute of Texas. In addition to natives, it lists invasives and their distribution in Virginia.

The **Kemper Center for Home Gardening Plantfinder** at the Missouri Botanical Garden is an excellent reference for plant names, gardening information, and photographs

(<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>)

It features plants in their Kemper Center display gardens and is an excellent website about ornamental plants.

The Lady Bird Wildflower Center at the University of Texas in Austin has developed the **Native Plant Information Network** for native plants (www.wildflower.org/explore/).

USDA PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov/>; this database focuses on plants native to the U.S. and to U.S. Territories and Protectorates, as well as naturalized non-natives and invasives. It is also used to determine distribution within Virginia by county.

Developed by Brenda Skarphol, Curatorial Horticulturist at Green Spring Gardens.

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