

**RECOMMENDED TREE AND SHRUB SPECIES FOR REFORESTATION OF  
RESOURCE PROTECTION AREAS  
June 4, 2008**

The following tree and shrub species are recommended for planting in Resource Protection Areas (RPA) in Fairfax County, VA. These recommended plants are consistent with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Section 118-3-3 criteria for the establishment or reforestation of RPA forested buffers.

**This list is only a guide. Not all the plants on this list are appropriate in all locations for all purposes. Reforestation and aforesation plans should only be prepared by landscape and arboricultural professionals such as certified arborists, horticulturists, landscape architects, and landscape designers. Some of these native plants are not readily available in local nurseries, and should only be specified on plans if a source has been identified. All reforestation and aforesation plans submitted to meet the requirements of Section 118-3-3 should be submitted for review by the Urban Forest Management Division to determine the appropriateness of the proposed plantings.**

This plant list is divided into three sections: overstory trees, understory trees, and shrubs, as required in Section 118-3-3. These species are considered native to Fairfax County. Not all the tree species listed are contained in Table 12.7 of the Public Facilities Manual (PFM), but the overstory trees generally correspond to Category 3 or 4 evergreen or deciduous trees, and understory trees generally correspond to Category 1 or 2 evergreen or deciduous trees in PFM Table 12.7.

Two planting zones are listed to ensure that the plants are properly placed in the RPA: Floodplain, and the Upland Interface. The Upland Interface includes the slightly higher elevation, dryer, but still generally moist, locations adjacent to the floodplain.

**Overstory Trees**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Floodplain	Upland Interface
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	x	x
<i>Betula nigra</i>	river birch	x	
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	bitternut hickory	x	x
<i>Carya glabra</i>	pignut hickory	x	x
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	mockernut hickory		x
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	hackberry		x
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	persimmon	x	x
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American beech		x
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	black walnut	x	x
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	sweetgum	x	x
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	yellow (tulip) poplar	x	x

## Overstory Trees con't.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Floodplain	Upland Interface
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	black gum	x	x
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Eastern hophornbeam		x
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	loblolly pine	x	x
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	sycamore	x	x
<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak	x	x
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak	x	
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern red oak		x
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	swamp chestnut oak	x	
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	x	x
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	willow oak	x	x
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	bald cypress	x	x
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American basswood	x	x
<i>Ulmus americana*</i>	American elm	x	x

\* Use cultivars resistant to Dutch elm disease

## Understory Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Floodplain	Upland Interface
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	serviceberry	x	x
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American hornbeam (ironwood)	x	x
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud		x
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	fringetree	x	x
<i>Cornus florida*</i>	flowering dogwood	x	x
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly		x
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern redcedar		x
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	sweetbay magnolia	x	
<i>Salix nigra</i>	black willow	x	
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	sassafras		x

\* Use cultivars resistant to *Discula anthracnose*

## Shrubs

Scientific Name	Common Name	Floodplain	Upland Interface
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	smooth alder	x	
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	red chokecherry	x	
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	paw-paw	x	x
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American beautyberry		x
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	buttonbush	x	
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	silky dogwood	x	

Recommended RPA species

Prepared and updated by the Forest Conservation Branch, Urban Forest Management Division,  
LDS, DPWES.

## Shrubs con't.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Floodplain	Upland Interface
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	red twig dogwood	x	x
<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	strawberry bush	x	x
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	witch hazel		x
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	possumhaw		x
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	inkberry holly	x	x
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	winterberry holly	x	x
<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>	sweetbells	x	x
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spicebush	x	x
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	common ninebark	x	
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	pinxter azalea	x	
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	swamp azalea	x	
<i>Salix discolor</i>	pussy willow	x	
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	common elderberry	x	
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	highbush blueberry	x	x
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	arrowwood	x	x
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	swamp haw	x	
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	black haw	x	x

## Groundcovers and Seed Mixes

Native groundcovers, including herbaceous plants, vines, and grasses, can be utilized in RPA reforestation and aforestation plans as described in Section 188-3-3. Individual plants and seed mixes are commercially available, however, the County cannot endorse specific commercial mixes. The best source of information on native groundcovers is the Commonwealth Of Virginia, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) publication *Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration, and Landscaping: Riparian Forest Buffers*. This publication is available from DCR.

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