



## GREEN SPRING GARDENS

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### 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, as well as their wide variety of textures, foliage colors, forms, and heights. **These plants are commonly called perennials.** Ferns, ornamental grasses, and ornamental sedges are grouped with them. Perennials are easily moved to create new design combinations and provide an ever-changing scene in the garden.

Hardy perennials usually form little or no woody tissue. Most perennials are deciduous and die back to the ground in the winter, although some are semi-evergreen or evergreen, such as most hellebores. Some perennials may only live three years, such as rose campion, so 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 'Visions'.  
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 non-native perennials that perform well in the Washington, D.C. area. Some perennials prefer sun and others prefer shade. Most ornamental grasses prefer full sun, but a few are shade-loving. Most ferns and ornamental sedges prefer light shade to part shade. Most perennials prefer a moist, well-drained site. Light requirements and special cultural requirements or tolerances are noted in the comments column. Plants that are reliably evergreen are noted. Perennials that need to grow in wet sites, and perennials solely for rock gardens, are not included.

**Non-native herbaceous plants that are invasive are a threat to natural areas: these plants should not be grown in gardens.** Invasive plants that are sold in the nursery trade are listed near the end of this information sheet: 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' &amp; 'Pomegranate' (Tutti Frutti Series).</p> <p>The Chicago Botanic Garden also gave 'Pink Grapefruit' one of the highest ratings. This public garden has evaluated a wide variety of cultivars.</p>	Yarrow	<p>Full sun; tolerate dry sites</p> <p><b>Note:</b> white-flowered <i>A. millefolium</i> has native &amp; non-native forms: the wild type is generally not grown in gardens.</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.
<p><i>Agastache</i> 'Black Adder'</p> <p>('Blue Boa' is a smaller plant &amp; not as showy.)</p>	Black Adder Agastache	Full sun & well-drained soil; tolerate dry sites. These cultivars have been longer lived than most – most species & cultivars are short lived in our area. Longer lived plants tend to have some <i>A. rugosa</i> parentage.
<i>Alstroemeria</i> 'Patricia Lynn' & other hardier cultivars such as 'Casablanca' & 'Sweet Laura'	Alstroemeria	Full sun; tolerant of dry sites when established. Can be marginally hardy in some locations.
<i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i> (native to Ark. & Okla.)	Hubricht's Bluestar, Amsonia	Full sun to light shade; reseeds in moist sites & hybridizes with other <i>Amsonia</i> species.
<i>Anemone</i> 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)	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><b>Note:</b> <i>A. takaoi</i> (Japanese Wild Ginger) 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 &amp; spreads more slowly; personally prefer the species type)</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 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. Over time 'Jindai' often becomes a mix of the cultivar & the species type of flower.

<i>Astilbe chinensis</i> cultivars such as 'Visions' & 'Visions in Red'.  Many <i>Astilbe</i> cultivars are hybrids.		Light shade to part shade in consistently moist sites (does not like to dry out)
<i>Baptisia sphaerocarpa</i> (native to south central U.S. including Ark. MO, & TX)  'Screaming Yellow' & the hybrid 'Carolina Moonlight' (cross between this species & the Virginia native <i>B. alba</i> ).  'Lemon Meringue' also performs well.	Yellow Wild Indigo	Full sun; tolerant of dry sites  'Twilite' – unusual flowers purple with yellow keel – tough but not as showy as some of the other cultivars. Cross of <i>B. australis</i> (Virginia native) & <i>B. sphaerocarpa</i> .  <b>More <i>Baptisia</i> in Native Herbaceous Perennials for Sunny Gardens in the Washington, D.C. Area.</b>
<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> (native to AZ, NM, & TX; 'Scarlet Hummer' has not been cold hardy in our region)	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 are available. The more variegated '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> (native to Ark., Kan., Mo., & Okla.).  <i>C. involucrata</i> (naturalized in VA but native to Midwest)	Poppy Mallow	Full sun; tolerate dry sites like the Green Spring Rock Garden once established. Do not crowd. Grown for unusual magenta flower color. Eaten by deer &/ or rabbits. A genus of connoisseur plants. <i>C. digitata</i> is the most difficult to grow (native to Ark., IL, Ind., Kan., La., MO, & Okla.)
<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
<i>Clematis integrifolia</i>  Its short, woody hybrid <i>C. x durandii</i> is grown for its larger flowers.  <i>C. 'Rooguchi'</i> ('Roguchi') has both of the above as parents - floppy plant but gorgeous flowers –some would call it a short vine.  <i>C. recta</i> Serious Black ('Lime Close') ('Purpurea' is dull in comparison)	Clematis	Full sun to light shade; tolerant of dry sites; sprawling perennials except <i>C. integrifolia</i> ('Rooguchi' is the tallest)  Green Spring is testing 'Arabella' – reported to be a good performer.
<i>Crococsmia</i> 'Lucifer'	Lucifer Crocosmia	Full sun; other cultivars have not had as reliable bloom & hardiness over time in our area

<p><i>Dianthus</i> 'Bath's Pink' &amp; other hybrids of <i>D. gratianopolitanus</i></p>	<p>Dianthus, Cheddar Pink</p>	<p>Full sun; tolerate dry sites; for rock gardens &amp; waterwise gardens; some reseeding (parent plant often dies)</p>
<p><i>Dicentra spectabilis</i> &amp; 'Alba'  <b>(correct scientific name is now <i>Lamprocapnos spectabilis</i>)</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> American natives retained the <i>Dicentra</i> name – short hybrids between the Virginia native <i>D. eximia</i> &amp; the western U.S. native <i>D. formosa</i> are available: white-flowered &amp; pink-flowered forms. The parents eventually die &amp; seedlings may survive (especially the white-flowered or light pink forms).</p>	<p>Asian Bleeding Heart</p>	<p>Light shade to part shade; often goes dormant after dry, hot periods in the summer; light reseeding.</p> <p>Golden cultivars have lower vigor &amp; are harder to grow well in our climate.</p>
<p><i>Disporum uniflorum</i> (formerly <i>D. flavens</i>)</p>	<p>Yellow Fairy Bells</p>	<p>Light shade to part shade; moist sites best.</p> <p><i>D. sessile</i> 'Variegatum' (Variegated Fairy Bells) spreads readily &amp; needs a dry site to control it – personally prefer the other showier species.</p>
<p><i>Echinacea paradoxa</i> (native to Ark. MO , Okla. , &amp; TX)</p> <p>Used to create garden hybrids with <i>E. purpurea</i> (Purple Coneflower; naturalized in Virginia; native to NC &amp; other states), <i>E. pallida</i> (Pale Purple Coneflower; naturalized in Virginia &amp; native further west), &amp; other species. Cultivars are beautiful but most live 1 - 3 years (a few plants have lived longer – allow reseeding).</p>	<p>Yellow Coneflower</p> <p>Hybrid Coneflower Cultivars</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade in well-drained sites; tolerant of dry sites</p>

<p><i>Epimedium</i> 'Frohnleiten' (parents are <i>E. perralderianum</i> &amp; <i>E. pinnatum</i> – less showy than the cultivar) <i>E. pinnatum</i> 'Thunderbolt' (formerly called 'Black Sea') - less vigorous than the type sold as <i>E. pinnatum</i> (subsp. <i>colchicum</i>), but attractive dark, evergreen winter foliage.</p> <p><i>E. grandiflorum</i>, hybrids, &amp; cultivars including: 'Cherry Blossom' 'Dark Beauty' 'Lilafee' 'Orion' 'Pretty in Pink' (a hybrid) 'Queen Esta' 'Red Queen' 'Saxton's Purple' 'Tama no Genpei' 'Yubae' ('Rose Queen')</p> <p><i>E. leptorrhizum</i> (low growing species)</p> <p><i>E. rubrum</i> ('Sweetheart')</p> <p><i>E. sagittatum</i> - grown for large evergreen leaves (don't need to cut off the leaves in March since flowers are tiny &amp; held above the foliage). 'Mini Pearl' is probably a hybrid of this.</p> <p><i>E. versicolor</i> 'Cherry Tart' &amp; 'Sulphureum'</p> <p><i>E. warleyense</i> &amp; 'Orangekonigin' ('Orange Queen')</p> <p>Other hybrids: 'Amber Queen' 'Domino' '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 &amp; cultivars tolerate dry sites but prefer moist sites</p> <p><b>Note:</b> many species &amp; cultivars are semi-evergreen or evergreen but best to cut off the foliage of most <i>Epimedium</i> by the middle of March so can see the blooms well later.</p> <p>Selections that are good groundcovers since spreading types: <i>E. 'Frohnleiten'</i> <i>E. pinnatum</i> (often sold as subsp. <i>colchicum</i>) <i>E. versicolor</i> 'Sulphureum' <i>E. warleyense</i> &amp; the cultivar 'Orangekonigin' ('Orange Queen') To a lesser extent: <i>E. rubrum</i> ('Sweetheart')</p> <p>The clumping types like more moisture than the groundcover 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, &amp; scatter lime on top of the soil over time).</p> <p>Some species that like more lime (for calcium) in the soil are hard to grow in our area (they like a higher pH). 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 tall Virginia native <i>F. rubra</i> (Queen of the Prairie).</p>

<p><i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> – pink selections are showiest like Belleza Dark Pink ('Cynthia') &amp; Stratosphere Pink Picotee ('Gaudpin') – they also sport to new forms &amp; sometimes reseed. (Species native to Louisiana, Texas, &amp; Mexico)</p>	<p>Gaura, Beeblossom</p>	<p>Full sun. More of a connoisseur plant because longer lived in some sites &amp; in other sites may only live one year – likes sloping sites. The species type has white flowers.</p>
<p><i>Geranium</i> 'Biokova' &amp; other selections of <i>G. cantabrigiense</i></p> <p><i>G. macrorrhizum</i> &amp; cultivars</p> <p><i>G.</i> 'Orion'</p> <p><i>G. sanguineum</i> ('Elsbeth' &amp; 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 &amp; 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' &amp; '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.). Connoisseur plants &amp; like enough space.</p>
<p><i>Helianthus</i> 'Lemon Queen' (naturally occurring hybrid found in the Midwest – <i>H. pauciflorus</i> subsp. <i>subrhomboideus</i> &amp; <i>H. tuberosus</i> (native to VA)</p>	<p>Lemon Queen Sunflower</p>	<p>Full sun; tolerates dry sites but foliage does not look as good &amp; less bloom</p>

<p><i>Helleborus foetidus</i> &amp; cultivars</p> <p><i>H. orientalis</i> &amp; hybrids (<i>H. x hybridus</i>) – many bloom colors as well as single &amp; double forms (can buy seed-grown strains or tissue cultured cultivars).</p> <p><b>For the collector of species-types</b> (most gardeners will not grow): <i>H. odorus</i> (green blooms) &amp; <i>H. purpurascens</i> (dark purple blooms; goes dormant in the summer) - have been easy to grow but not as showy</p> <p><i>H. niger</i> has been short lived, even when limestone was added to loamy soils at planting &amp; when the pH was fairly close to 7.</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> &amp; cultivars, &amp; <i>H. orientalis</i> hybrids</p> <p>'Penny's Pink' is alive in 2017 from a 2015 planting – parentage is probably <i>H. x ballardiae</i> (<i>niger x lividus</i>) x <i>H. x hybridus</i>.</p> <p><b>Species &amp; Hybrids Without <i>H. orientalis</i> Parentage Have Been Less Reliable:</b> These plants have different foliage than <i>H. orientalis</i> hybrids &amp; have not seeded around. Several have not been long lived &amp; some have had few or no flowers, especially in dry sites with acid soil. They like a higher pH: mix agricultural lime in the soil when planting &amp; add more lime over time (some plants performed well for a few years then declined or died).</p> <p>Hybrids of <i>H. niger</i> &amp; <i>H. lividus</i> (sold as <i>H. x ballardiae</i>): 'Raulston Remembered' did not perform well at Green Spring. In contrast, a cultivar that appears to be 'Pink Frost' or something similar has performed well in a moist site.</p> <p>Hybrids of <i>H. niger</i>, <i>H. argutifolius</i>, &amp; <i>H. lividus</i> (sold as <i>H. x ericsmithii</i>): Champion ('COSEH 730') performed well in a moist site in 2017 from a 2015 planting. Ivory Prince ('Walhelivor') &amp; 'Silvermoon' were short-lived in dry sites with a more acid pH.</p> <p>Hybrids of <i>H. niger</i> &amp; <i>H. argutifolius</i> (sold as <i>H. x nigercors</i>): 'Honeyhill Joy' was not long lived in a dry site with a more acid pH.</p>
<p><i>Hemerocallis</i> cultivars</p> <p>Species that are not invasive: 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: greatly reduces blooms.</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 ('Mocha' is an example).</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><b>Note:</b> cultivars with colorful flowers have <i>H. sanguinea</i> parentage (coral bells, coral flower) are not as durable in our region.</p>
<p><i>Hibiscus coccineus</i> (naturalized in Virginia - native to the Deep South)</p> <p><i>H. dasycalyx</i> (native to Texas – a short species – good for small gardens)</p> <p><i>Hibiscus</i> hybrids &amp; cultivars are available (parents include <i>H. coccineus</i> &amp; Virginia native <i>H. moscheutos</i>). Cultivars bred for large, showy flowers, &amp; some 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 &amp; 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><b>Iris - for moist or wet sites:</b></p> <p><i>I. ensata</i> cultivars ('Variegata')</p> <p><i>I. sibirica</i>, hybrids, &amp; cultivars ('Caesar's Brother' &amp; 'Tropic Night' are some of the most vigorous performers in our area; lighter-flowered cultivars like 'Butter and Sugar' &amp; 'White Swirl' bloom well but have less vigor than the above purple-flowered plants)</p>	<p>Japanese Iris</p> <p>Siberian Iris</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><b>Note:</b> Louisiana Iris are hybrids of iris species native to the southeastern U.S. – cultivars include 'Black Gamecock' &amp; 'Hurricane Party' – best in full sun &amp; consistently moist to wet sites. Foliage is less upright &amp; paler than other species so messier looking.</p>



<p><i>Iris</i> - <b>for dry or moist sites:</b>  <b>Bearded Iris:</b>          Bearded iris hybrids &amp; cultivars - range from dwarf to tall forms</p> <p>Green Spring has a purple – flowered <i>I. subbiflora</i> hybrid (a dwarf bearded iris).</p> <p><i>I. variegata</i> (wild species- beautiful but hard to find)</p> <p><b>Beardless Iris:</b>  <i>I. graminea</i></p>	<p>Iris</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade; tolerant of dry sites.</p>
<p><i>Kniphofia</i> hybrids &amp; cultivars          Cultivars include 'Echo Mango', 'Little Maid', 'Pineapple Popsicle', &amp; '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>(<i>L. intermedia</i> 'Phenomenal' has done well in some sites at Green Spring &amp; not others. Likes full sun)</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 &amp; near trees ('Kew Red' is not hardy).</p> <p>Can be a short-lived perennials: plants often break up with age. Can be marginally hardy in very cold winters.</p>
<p><i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>          'Becky'          (<i>Chrysanthemum x superbum</i>)</p> <p>'Daisy Duke' has been reported to be grow well in the Southeastern U.S. but sited wrong at Green Spring &amp; crowded out.</p>	<p>Becky Shasta Daisy</p> <p>Other cultivars have not been as durable.</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; a fall bloomer that needs excellent drainage – not as attractive as Shasta Daisy but the fall bloom is valuable).</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 x faassenii</i> &amp; <i>N. racemosa</i>          cultivars including 'Blue Wonder', 'Dropmore', 'Junior Walker', 'Purple Haze', 'Six Hills Giant', &amp; 'Walker's Low'.</p>	<p>Catmint</p>	<p>Full sun in well-drained sites; tolerate dry sites</p> <p>'Little Titch' has low vigor in this region (some bigger plants have been mislabeled this in the nursery trade – true cultivar is very short).</p>
<p><i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>          ('Gyoku-Ryu' - dwarf cultivar)</p>	<p>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.          Black-foliaged forms are not as dense.</p>

<p><i>Paeonia</i> hybrids &amp; cultivars – herbaceous selections</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Intersectional hybrid or Itoh peonies are produced by crossing herbaceous peonies with tree peonies – yellow selections are reported to perform the best.</p>	Peony	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’ &amp; other cultivars</p>	<p>Atlas Poppy, Moroccan Poppy</p> <p>Oriental Poppy</p>	<p>Full sun; biennial to short-lived perennial but reseeds readily</p> <p>Full sun; summer dormant &amp; foliage comes up again in the fall</p>
<p><i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> &amp; cultivars</p>	Russian Sage	Full sun; a subshrub (short, woody perennial – cut back in March)
<p><i>Phlomis tuberosa</i> (tall with green foliage)</p> <p>Note: <i>P. fruticosa</i> ‘Miss Grace’ (‘Compact Grey’) needs better drainage &amp; is often shorter lived (a subshrub).</p>	Phlomis	Full sun; <i>P. fruticosa</i> tolerates dry sites & is evergreen in warmer winters
<p><i>Polygonatum odoratum</i> ‘Variegatum’</p>	Variegated Japanese Solomon's Seal	Light shade to part shade; tolerates dry sites
<p><i>Polygonum amplexicaule</i> ‘Fire Tail’</p> <p><i>P. microcephalum</i> ‘Red Dragon’</p>	<p>Fire Tail Mountain Fleeceflower</p> <p>Red Dragon Fleeceflower</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade in moist or periodically wet sites.</p> <p>‘Fire Tail’ is grown for its flowers &amp; ‘Red Dragon’ for its foliage.</p>
<p><i>Primula sieboldii</i></p> <p><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, &amp; magenta flowers for some with <i>P. juliae</i> parentage such as ‘Lois Lutz’)</p> <p><i>P. vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>sibthorpii</i> – pink flowers (can grow for several years when have the right site conditions – tougher than the yellow-flowered form)</p>	<p>Siebold Primrose</p> <p>Primrose</p>	<p>Light shade to part shade; spring ephemeral (goes dormant in summer – the longest lived species)</p> <p>Light shade to part shade; moist sites preferred; foliage persists all growing season.</p> <p>Connoisseur plants since performance is variable &amp; often short-lived if conditions not perfect.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>P. japonica</i> (Japanese Primrose) performs best in light shade in wet sites.</p>
<p><i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i> &amp; cultivars (‘Bertram Anderson’ &amp; ‘Cevnensis’)</p> <p><i>P. saccharata</i> &amp; hybrids with blue flowers</p>	Lungwort	<p>Light shade to part shade – best in moist sites; light reseedling (that is how most of them survive over time)</p> <p><b>Note:</b> pink- &amp; raspberry-flowered cultivars have not been long lived.</p>
<p><i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> ‘Arp’ &amp; ‘Madalene Hill’ (‘Hill Hardy’)</p>	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><b>Salvia – the hardiest &amp; most durable species:</b>  <i>S. guaranitica</i> – including ‘Argentina Skies’ (pale blue flowers) &amp; ‘Black and Blue’ (dark blue flowers &amp; a shorter plant).</p> <p><i>S. nemorosa</i> ‘Caradonna’ &amp; ‘Marcus’ (other cultivars may grow well in some sites with good drainage – some cultivars have died off in moist, fairly level sites over time – prefer sloping areas)</p> <p><i>S. uliginosa</i> (tall &amp; floppy but nice flowers)</p>	<p>Blue Anise Salvia</p> <p>Salvia</p> <p>Bog Salvia</p>	<p>Full sun; drought tolerant.  The tall plant sold as <i>S. guaranitica</i> ‘Costa Rica Blue’ is not reliably hardy.</p> <p>Likes more moisture than the above plants</p>
<p><b>Salvia – slightly less hardy and/or durable species in our area:</b>  <i>S. arizonica</i> (low growing)</p> <p><i>S. azurea</i> var. <i>grandiflora</i> (native to IL to NE, AR, &amp; TX)  <i>S. darcy</i></p> <p><i>S. greggii</i> (native to Texas), <i>S. microphylla</i> (native to Mexico &amp; naturalized in Texas &amp; other states), hybrids, &amp; cultivars. Subshrubs in this group – short woody plants that are treated more like herbaceous perennials. Cultivars in this group that have performed well include:  ‘Big Pink’  ‘Cherry Chief’  ‘Diane’  ‘Heatwave Blast’  ‘Heatwave Glow’  ‘La Trinidad Pink’  ‘Lipstick’  ‘Mesa Azure’  ‘Mesa Rose’  ‘Mesa Scarlet’  ‘Pink Preference’  ‘Raspberry Royale’  ‘Red Velvet’  ‘San Carlos Festival’  ‘San Takao’  ‘Shell Dancer’ (nice flower color but not the best plant form)  ‘Stampede Lavender’  ‘Teresa’  ‘Wild Watermelon’</p>	<p>Arizona Salvia</p> <p>Blue Salvia, Prairie Salvia</p> <p>Darcy’s Salvia</p> <p>Texas Salvia</p>	<p>Most species like full sun &amp; tolerate dry sites; well-drained sites for best winter hardiness</p> <p>Some tolerance of light shade when grown in sunny areas under large trees.</p> <p><i>S. microphylla</i> ‘Hot Lips’ has bicolor flowers (red &amp; white), but sometimes reverts &amp; loses bicolor flower color.</p> <p>‘Lemon Lights’ has a harder-to-find flower color.</p> <p>Not all cultivars of Texas salvia are easy to grow: ‘Dark Dancer’, ‘Mesa Purple’, ‘Ultra Violet’, &amp; most yellow &amp; peach selections (under the <i>S. x jamensis</i> name) did not overwinter well or perform well.</p> <p>Green Spring is propagating many showy unnamed selections also that arose at Green Spring. New cultivars available in the nursery trade are also being tested.</p>

<p><b>Salvia that are best described as marginally winter hardy in our area (will overwinter at least some years):</b></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. elegans</i> ('Golden Delicious')</p> <p><i>S.</i> 'Indigo Spires' (like better than its progeny, 'Mystic Spires Blue')</p> <p><i>S. involucrata</i> 'Bethellii' &amp; <i>S. puberula</i> 'El Butano' (<i>S. involucrata</i> according to some authorities)</p> <p><i>S.</i> 'Phyllis Fancy' ('Phyllis' Fancy')</p>	<p>Mexican Blue Salvia</p> <p>Coahuila Salvia Pineapple Salvia Indigo Spires Salvia</p> <p>Roseleaf Salvia</p> <p>Phyllis Fancy 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> – Personal favorites are cultivars with purplish or purple foliage, or gray foliage: Matrona' – taller plant. 'Black Jack' is a sport of 'Matrona' 'Purple Emperor' 'Vera Jameson' (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>Functional plants – drought tolerant</p> <p>Many groundcover types with green foliage are aggressive spreaders in gardens – some are now 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. Over time gets some leaves reverting back to green species type.</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> &amp; hybrids</p> <p><i>T. hirta</i> cultivars &amp; 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. &amp; Okla.)</p>	<p>Iron Butterfly Ironweed</p>	<p>Full sun; drought tolerant species. Seedlings are taller than the cultivar &amp; have coarser foliage - weed them out.</p>
<p><i>Veronica</i> 'Goodness Grows'</p>	<p>Veronica</p>	<p>Full sun to light shade. <i>V. spicata</i>, hybrids, &amp; cultivars often survive (especially taller forms) but look scorched in the summer in this region.</p>

**Note:** *Agave* species that are hardy such as *A. parryi* (Parry's Agave) – some gardeners may like to grow them in very dry sites (unusual foliage).

*Coreopsis* hybrids & cultivars – some cultivars are annuals, others are short-lived perennials, & some may live longer. Further evaluation is needed – Mt Cuba Center in Wilmington, DE has done extensive evaluation of cultivars.

### NON-NATIVE FERNS FOR GARDENS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<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)	Japanese Painted Fern  Ghost Fern	Deciduous; tolerates alkaline soil; prefer moist sites. A. 'Ghost' is a clumping type & Japanese painted fern spreads slowly.
<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i> ('Brilliance')	Japanese Shield Fern	Evergreen; tolerates dry sites

### 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-Variiegated Hakone Grass & White-Variiegated Hakone Grass	Best in light shade to part shade in moist soil (dies out in dry sites); 'Albovariegata' is more tolerant of sunnier sites
<i>Pennisetum orientale</i> 'Karley Rose' (some botanists have reclassified to <i>Cenchrus orientalis</i> ) (the cultivar is more vigorous & showier than the species type)	Karley Rose Oriental Fountain Grass	Full sun. Very drought tolerant.  Best not to grow <i>P. alopecuroides</i> (fountain grass) since black-flowered cultivars like 'Moudry' reseed too readily (have stopped growing at Green Spring). Native grasses also valuable to butterfly caterpillars (skippers).

**Note:** *Muhlenbergia* 'Pink Flamingos' ('Pink Flamingo') is a hybrid between the Virginia native *M. capillaris* (pink muhly grass) & the western *M. lindheimeri*. In most gardens in our area, our native species is a better choice, but the hybrid can work in larger, very dry sites.

*Nassella tenuissima* (formerly *Stipa*; Mexican Feather Grass) is beautiful in some sites & does not reseed excessively, but in other sites it can reseed too much.

*Celtica gigantea* (*Stipa gigantea*; Giant Feathergrass, Giant Oat) can be used in some very dry sites that are open.

## NON-NATIVE ORNAMENTAL SEDGES FOR GARDENS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<p><i>Carex morrowii</i> cultivars – the best cultivars are the clumping forms including: 'Goldband' 'Silk Tassel' (var. <i>temnolepis</i> is not recognized by botanists) 'Variegata'</p> <p>Note: <i>C. flacca</i> 'Blue Zinger' is used in some regional gardens but have not evaluated. Native species of sedges with blue foliage are also available.</p>	Morrow Sedge Cultivars	<p>Best in light shade to part shade; evergreen.</p> <p>Personally prefer over <i>Liriope muscari</i>: a better accent plant &amp; grows more slowly (with the exception of 'Ice Dance' – this cultivar is a spreader &amp; has a coarse look)</p> <p>'Silk Tassel' is a fine-textured sedge with narrow white variegation.</p>
<p><i>Liriope muscari</i> &amp; cultivars (a clumping species) – primarily for groundcover use</p>	Liriope Cultivars, Lilyturf	<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><b>Note:</b> Do not grow <i>L. spicata</i> – invasive that spreads too fast &amp; naturalized in MD &amp; other states.</p>

### **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](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 Following Section (Best to Remove & Do Not Purchase):**

*Arum italicum* (Italian Arum) (tuberous roots so bulb-like) - naturalized in Va., NC & other states; abundant  
Reseeding – very difficult to entirely kill.

*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* 'Feeseey' (feeseey 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 – Most are Still Available in the Nursery Trade (Remove & Do Not Purchase):**

*Aegopodium podagraria* & 'Variegatum' (Goutweed) – 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) – very difficult to kill (have tried since about 1991 & still there!)

*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 (Crowdripper or Pinellia) – first species is naturalized in MD, WV, & other states; seeds excessively in gardens & hard to kill.

**Note:** *Corydalis incisa* (incised fumewort) - emerging invasive plant that is a bulb. Some members of this genus persist all growing season while others go dormant in the summer (this species goes dormant in the summer & foliage starts to re-emerge in the fall). Highly invasive at Green Spring in moist areas. This species is not sold but looks similar to some purple-flowered cultivars that are sold in the nursery trade. Shared among some gardeners before its invasiveness was documented.

### **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.

### **Other References:**

**Flora of Virginia.** Alan Weakley, J. Christopher Ludwig, and John Townsend. 2012. BRIT Press. Botanical Research Institute of Texas.

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 (<http://www.wildflower.org/explore/>).

**USDA PLANTS Database** (<http://plants.usda.gov/java/>) - 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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