

LANDSCAPING with NATIVE PLANTS on Nantucket

Native vs. Non Native Plants

Native plants are species that are indigenous to the island. Having grown and evolved here for thousands of years, native plants are well-adapted to living in Nantucket's coastal habitats and have formed complex and interdependent relationships with the island's wildlife. Some native plants are aggressive growers, such as grape and scrub oak, but they are key dominant plants in local ecosystems.

Non-native plants are those that have been introduced to an area by humans, either intentionally or accidentally. Over time, these plants can expand their range without human interference. They are also called exotic, alien, or non-indigenous plants.

Invasive Plants

Invasive species are non native species that grow aggressively, reproducing rapidly to crowd out other plants, and are difficult to remove once established. These traits make them troublesome garden weeds; as they expand into natural areas, they can also threaten native plant communities and reduce wildlife habitat quality.

The Nantucket Landscape

Nantucket's glacial landscape consists of moraines with scattered boulders in the northern part of the island, and sandy, flat, well-drained outwash plains along the south shore. Bogs, marshes, pocket wetlands and larger coastal ponds provide variation. The climate and growing conditions are similar to those found on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Long Island.

The whole island is low-lying, with a maximum elevation of 111ft., and is subjected to strong winds and salt spray, particularly during the stormy winter months. The climate is moderated by the island's location offshore, about 27 miles south of Cape Cod. Winters tend to be milder than on the mainland, while summers are cooler with frequent fog. The USDA hardiness zone is 7b, more similar to the Mid Atlantic coastal states than to the rest of New England.

Nantucket is home to globally rare sandplain grassland and coastal heathland plant communities characterized by low growing grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs. Small areas of mixed deciduous forest, pitch pine and scrub oak barrens, beaches, dunes, marshes, and coastal plain ponds round out the island's diversity.

Why Choose Natives?

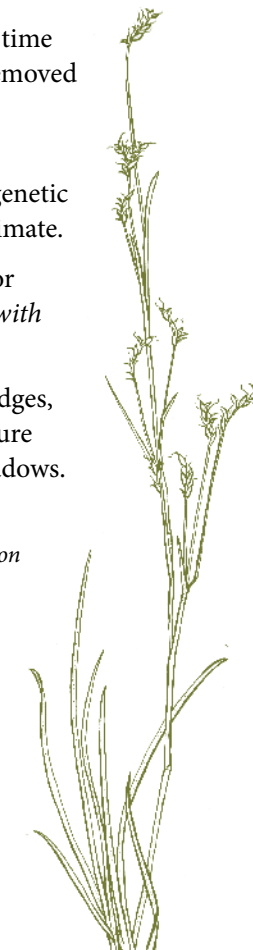
Selecting Natives Will:

- **Save Water**—Native plants are adapted to the local climate and site conditions.
- **Save Time**—Less maintenance is required with native plants once established.
- **Reduce Pesticide Use**—Native plants have developed their own defenses against many pests and diseases.
- **Enhance Wildlife Habitat**—Provide shelter and high quality food for native wildlife.
- **Protect Nantucket's Distinctive Landscape and Fragile Ecosystem.**

Tips for Using Native Plants

- Use this guide to familiarize yourself with plants that may be suitable for your yard—you may already have some great native species to work with. Assess your site and consider your goals for the landscape.
- Check with local nurseries to find out which natives they have in stock, and what they recommend based on your needs. Or, ask your landscape designer to incorporate natives.
- Replace invasives with natives when it's time for garden improvements. Dispose of removed material appropriately.
- Source plants grown from island or northeastern stock—to maintain local genetic variation and have best results in our climate.
- Collect local seed and grow your own, or salvage plants from construction sites (*with permission of landowner*).
- *Ideas:* Plant edible or wildlife habitat hedges, pollinator gardens, rain gardens to capture runoff, and wildflower/native grass meadows.

**E—Please use caution when consuming plants on the landscape. Ensure the ID of the plant and what parts of the plant are edible to humans. Just because a particular plant is edible, that doesn't mean that every part of it should be eaten.*



RESOURCES

Massachusetts Prohibited Plants List
www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/farm-products/plants/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list.html

Nantucket Invasive Plants List (Wetland Regulations)
nantucket-ma.gov/documentcenter/view/1008

Native Plant Nurseries in MA/New England
grownativemass.org/resources/nurseries

Coastal Zone Landscaping
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/stormsmart-coasts-coastal-landscaping-in-massachusetts>

Integrated Landscaping
www.upne.com/1611682786.html
http://www.plantnative.org/books_gb.htm

Go Botany
(Plant I.D. and Range Info)
gobotany.newenglandwild.org

Nantucket Invasive Plant Species Committee (IPSC)
The Invasive Plant Species Committee is a standing committee of the NBI focused on evaluating, managing and educating the public about Nantucket's invasive plant species

Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative (NBI)
NBI seeks to conserve the native biodiversity of Nantucket through collaborative research, monitoring, and education. NBI is a collaborative effort of the following organizations:

Linda Loring Nature Foundation
Maria Mitchell Association
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Nantucket Conservation Foundation
Nantucket Islands Land Bank
Nantucket Land Council
Nantucket Memorial Airport
Science Department of the Nantucket High School
The Trustees of Reservations
Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department
Tuckernuck Land Trust
UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pamphlet created and printed by



**Nantucket
Conservation
Foundation**



www.nantucketbiodiversity.org

SHRUBS & VINES

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Light			Water			Best Uses				
		F	P	S	D	M	W	D	E	H	P	W
Azalea, Swamp	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	•	•			•	•			•	•	
Bayberry	<i>Morella carolinensis</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Beach Plum	<i>Prunus maritima</i>	•			•	•			•	•		•
Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•		•
Blueberry, Highbush	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	•	•			•	•		•	•	•	
Blueberry, Lowbush	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	•	•		•	•		•	•	•		•
Bower, Virgin's	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	•	•		•	•				•	•	
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	•				•	•			•		
Chokeberry, Black	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	•	•			•	•			•		
Creeper, Virginia	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	
Elderberry, Black	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	•				•			•	•		
Grape, Fox	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	•	•			•		•	•	•	•	
Groundsel	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	•	•			•	•			•	•	•
Hazelnut, American	<i>Corylus americana</i>	•	•		•	•			•	•		
Hazelnut, Beaked	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	•	•	•	•	•			•	•		
Heather, Golden False	<i>Hudsonia ericoides</i>	•			•					•		
Holly, American	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	•	•			•				•	•	
Holly, Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	•	•			•	•	•		•	•	
Huckleberry, Black	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	•	•		•			•	•	•		•
Huckleberry, Blue Dangle	<i>Gaylussacia frondosa</i>	•	•	•		•			•	•		
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	•	•			•	•	•		•		
Laurel, Sheep	<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>	•	•			•		•		•		
Marsh-elder, Maritime	<i>Iva frutescens</i>	•	•			•	•			•		•
Oak, Dwarf Chinquapin	<i>Quercus prinoides</i>	•			•	•				•		•
Oak, Scrub	<i>Quercus ilicifolia</i>	•			•	•		•		•		
Pepperbush, Sweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	•	•			•	•	•		•		•
Rose, Carolina	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	•				•	•	•		•		
Rose, Virginia	<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	•				•		•		•		
Shadbush, Downy	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	•	•			•			•	•		
Shadbush, Eastern	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	•	•			•			•	•		
Sumac, Smooth	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•		
Sumac, Winged	<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•		•
Sweetfern	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•		
Viburnum, Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	•	•			•				•		•
Willow, Pussy	<i>Salix discolor</i>	•	•			•	•			•		
Wintergreen	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	•	•		•	•		•	•	•		

TREES

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Light			Water			Best Uses				
		F	P	S	D	M	W	D	E	H	S	W
Cedar, Red	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•		•
Cherry, Black	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	•				•			•	•	•	•
Elm, American (cultivar)	<i>Ulmus americana</i> cultivar	•	•		•	•			•	•		
Hickory, Mockernut	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	
Maple, Red	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	•	•			•	•			•	•	•
Oak, White	<i>Quercus alba</i>	•				•				•	•	•
Oak, Black	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	•	•		•	•				•	•	•
Pine, Pitch	<i>Pinus rigida</i>	•	•		•	•				•	•	•
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•
Tupelo (Black Gum)	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	•	•			•	•			•		•

FLOWERING PERENNIALS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Light			Water			Best Uses				
		F	P	S	D	M	W	B	D	N	H	W
Aster, Bushy	<i>Symphyotrichum dumosum</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Aster, Sickle-leaved Golden	<i>Pityopsis falcata</i>	•			•			•		•	•	•
Aster, Heath	<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i>	•			•	•		•		•	•	•
Aster, Stiff	<i>Ionactis linariifolia</i>	•			•	•		•		•	•	•
Aster, Toothed White-Top	<i>Sericocarpus asteroides</i>	•			•	•		•		•	•	•

FLOWERING PERENNIALS CONTINUED

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Light			Water			Best Uses				
		F	P	S	D	M	W	B	D	N	H	W
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	•				•	•			•	•	•
Boneset, Hyssop-Leaved	<i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Everlasting, Pearly	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	•			•	•		•		•	•	•
Geranium, Cranesbill	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	•	•			•		•		•	•	
Goat's Rue	<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Goldenrod, Grass-Leaved	<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Goldenrod, Seaside	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	•			•			•		•	•	•
Goldenrod, Sweet	<i>Solidago odora</i>	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Indigo, Yellow Wild	<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Iris, Blue Flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i> , <i>I. prismatica</i>	•	•			•	•			•	•	•
Joe-pye Weed, Coastal	<i>Eutrochium dubium</i>	•				•	•			•	•	•
Lily, Turk's Cap	<i>Lilium superbum</i>	•	•			•	•			•		
Lily, Wood	<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•		
Mallow, Swamp Rose	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	•				•	•			•	•	•
Milkweed, Common	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	•			•	•		•		•	•	•
Milkweed, Orange	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Milkweed, Purple Swamp	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Mint, Clustered Mountain	<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	•	•			•	•		•	•	•	•
Primrose, Evening	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Rabbit-tobacco	<i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i>	•			•	•		•		•	•	•
Sunflower, Woodland	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Loosestrife, Yellow	<i>Lysimachia quadrifolia</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•

GRASSES, SEDGES & RUSHES

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Light			Water			Best Uses				
		F	P	S	D	M	W	D	H	L	N	W
Beach Grass, American	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	•			•					•	•	•
Bentgrass, Autumn	<i>Agrostis perennans</i>	•	•			•	•			•	•	•
Bentgrass, Rough	<i>Agrostis scabra</i>	•	•			•	•			•	•	•
Bentgrass, Winter	<i>Agrostis hyemalis</i>	•	•			•				•	•	•
Bluestem, Big	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	•	•			•				•	•	•
Bluestem, Bushy	<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	•				•	•			•	•	•
Bluestem, Little	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Cordgrass, Prairie	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Cordgrass, Saltmeadow	<i>Spartina patens</i>	•				•				•		•
Cordgrass, Smooth	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	•				•	•			•		•
Grass, Poverty-oats	<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Hairgrass, Wavy	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	•			•	•				•	•	
Lovegrass, Purple	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	•			•	•		•		•	•	•
Rush, Soft	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	•	•			•	•			•		
Sedge, Pennsylvania	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	•
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	•	•		•	•				•		•
Wildrye, Common	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	•				•				•		•

FERNS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Light			Water			Best Uses				
		F	P	S	D	M	W	D	H	L	N	W
Fern, Cinnamon	<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>		•	•		•	•			•	•	•
Fern, Marsh	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	•	•			•	•			•	•	•
Fern, Massachusetts	<i>Parathelypteris simulata</i>		•			•	•			•	•	•
Fern, New York	<i>Parathelypteris noveboracensis</i>	•	•			•	•			•	•	•
Fern, Royal	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>		•	•		•	•			•	•	•

SITE CONDITION CODES

Sun Exposure	Soil Moisture	Best Use Codes	H=Habitat/Restoration	P=Privacy Hedge/Screening
F=Full Sun	D=Dry	B=Bee/Butterfly Garden	L=Lawns/Groundcover	S=Shade Tree
P=Partial Sun	M=Moderate	D=Deer Resistant	N=Naturalizing/Wildflower Meadow	W=Wind/Salt spray Tolerant
S=Shade	W=Wet	*E=Edible Value		