

Recommended Species for Meadow Plantings in Northern Virginia

Produced by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, The Clifton Institute, and
Virginia Working Landscapes, November 2019

This is a list of species that we recommend for use in native meadow plantings in the 16 county region surrounding Shenandoah National Park (see: <http://www.vaworkinglandscapes.org/about/where-we-work>). The physiographic region and soil moisture where the species may be planted appropriately are given. We recommend that local ecotype seeds (i.e. seed collected in our region or in Virginia) be planted whenever possible. Seed companies and nurseries specify the origin of most seeds and seedlings. Seeds of most of the species on this list are available from Ernst Conservation Seed (<https://www.ernstseed.com/>). Additional species, and some species with Virginia ecotypes are available from Roundstone Native Seed (<https://roundstoneseed.com/>). At least two nurseries in our area, Earth Sangha in Fairfax (<https://www.earthsangha.org/wpnlst>), and Hill House Nursery in Rappahannock County (<http://hillhousenativeplants.com/>), sell a variety of locally sourced native meadow plants. Feel free to direct any questions to Bert Harris, Executive Director of the Clifton Institute (bharris@cliftoninstitute.org).

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SITE/SOIL MOISTURE			PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION			Notes
		Dry site	Avg. /Moist site	Wet site	Piedmont	Blue Ridge	Ridge & Valley	
GRASSES								
Winter Bentgrass	<i>Agrostis hyemalis</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	x	x				x	Limestone sites only; aggressive, plant with caution
Elliot's Bluestem*	<i>Andropogon gyrans</i>	x	x		x			
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	x					x	Limestone sites only
Riverbank Wildrye	<i>Elymus riparius</i>		x	x	x		x	
Virginia Wildrye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>		x		x		x	
Purple Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Fowl Mannagrass	<i>Glyceria striata</i>			x	x	x	x	
Beaked Panicgrass	<i>Panicum anceps</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Poverty Oatgrass*	<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	x			x	x	x	
Deertongue	<i>Dichanthelium clandestinum</i>		x	x	x	x	x	
Redtop Panicgrass	<i>Panicum rigidulum (P. stipitatum)</i>			x	x			
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	x	x		x	x	x	Aggressive; plant with caution
Purpletop	<i>Tridens flavus</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
FORBS								
Mud Plantain, Water Plantain	<i>Alisma subcordatum</i>			x	x		x	
Nodding Onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	x					x	Limestone sites only
Tall Thimbleweed	<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Dogbane	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>			x	x	x	x	
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	x			x	x	x	Expect low germination rates
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>		x		x	x	x	Can be aggressive

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Green Milkweed*	<i>Asclepias viridiflora</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Calico Aster	<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>		x	x			x	Deer like this species
Aromatic Aster	<i>Aster oblongifolius</i>	x					x	Limestone sites only
Late Purple Aster	<i>Aster patens</i>	x			x	x	x	
Heath Aster	<i>Aster pilosus</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Zigzag Aster	<i>Aster prenanthoides</i>		x	x	x	x	x	
Purplestem Aster	<i>Aster puniceus</i>			x	x	x	x	
Flat Topped White Aster	<i>Aster umbellatus</i>			x	x	x	x	
Yellow False Indigo	<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	x			x	x	x	
Nodding Bur Marigold	<i>Bidens cernua</i>			x	x		x	
Beggartick	<i>Bidens frondosa</i>		x	x	x	x	x	
Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	x	x		x		x	
Sensitive Pea	<i>Chamaecrista nictitans</i>	x			x	x	x	
Maryland Golden Aster*	<i>Chrysopsis marilandica</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
White Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>			x	x	x	x	Deer like this species
Field Thistle*	<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Pasture Thistle*	<i>Cirsium pumilum</i>	x	x		x		x	
Tall Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	x	x		x		x	
Whorled Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	x			x	x	x	
Dilenius' Ticktrefoil	<i>Desmodium glabellum</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Panicledleaf Ticktrefoil	<i>Desmodium paniculatum</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Flowering Spurge*	<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Mistflower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>		x		x	x	x	
Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>			x	x	x	x	
Spotted Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>			x			x	Limestone sites only
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>			x	x	x	x	
Hyssop-leaf Thoroughwort*	<i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i>	x			x			
Roundleaf Thoroughwort*	<i>Eupatorium rotundifolium</i>	x	x		x			
Grassleaf Goldenrod	<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>		x		x	x	x	Somewhat aggressive
Common Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>			x	x		x	
Purplehead Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium flexuosum</i>	x	x		x			
Giant Sunflower	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>		x	x	x		x	
Oxeye Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	x	x		x	x	x	Aggressive; plant with caution
Crimson-eyed Rosemallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>			x	x		x	
Spotted St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum punctatum</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Roundhead Lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	x	x		x			
Trailing Lespedeza*	<i>Lespedeza procumbens</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Slender Lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza virginica</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Grassleaf Blazing Star	<i>Liatris pilosa</i>	x			x		x	
Scaly Blazing Star	<i>Liatris squarrosa</i>	x			x			
Cardinalflower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>			x	x	x	x	

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Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>		x	x	x	x	x	
Square Stemmed Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>			x	x	x	x	
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>			x	x	x	x	
Wild Quinine	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	x					x	
Appalachian Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon laevigatus</i>		x	x	x		x	
Hoary Mountainmint	<i>Pycnanthemum incanum</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Bigleaf Mountainmint	<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>		x	x	x		x	
Narrowleaf Mountainmint	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>		x	x	x		x	
Virginia Mountainmint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>		x	x			x	
Orange Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida var. fulgida</i>	x	x		x			
Blackeyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Browneyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>		x	x	x		x	
Rose-Pink*	<i>Sabatia angularis</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Duck Potato	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>			x	x		x	
Wild Senna	<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>		x	x	x		x	
Mariland Senna	<i>Senna marilandica</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Whorled Rosinweed	<i>Silphium trifoliatum</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
White (Silver Rod) Goldenrod	<i>Solidago bicolor</i>	x			x	x	x	
Early Goldenrod	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
Gray Goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	x			x	x	x	
Wrinkeleaf Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>		x	x	x	x	x	Aggressive; plant with caution
Eastern Bur Reed	<i>Sparganium americanum</i>			x	x		x	
Tall Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum pubescens (T. polygamum)</i>		x	x	x	x	x	
Blue Curls*	<i>Trichostema dichotomum</i>	x			x		x	Likes dry, barren soils with minimal competition
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>			x	x		x	
Giant Ironweed	<i>Vernonia gigantea (V. altissima)</i>		x	x	x			
Upland Ironweed*	<i>Vernonia glauca</i>	x	x		x	x	x	
New York Ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	
Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	x	x		x		x	

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SEDGES

Fringed (Nodding) Sedge	<i>Carex crinita</i>			X	X		X	
Nodding Sedge	<i>Carex gynandra</i>			X		X		
Bladder (Star) Sedge	<i>Carex intumescens</i>			X	X		X	
Hop Sedge	<i>Carex lupulina</i>			X	X		X	
Blunt Broom Sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>			X	X	X	X	
Squarrose Sedge	<i>Carex squarrosa</i>			X	X		X	
Awl Sedge	<i>Carex stipata</i>			X	X	X	X	
Green Bulrush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>			X	X	X	X	
Woolgrass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>			X	X	X	X	Aggressive; plant with caution
Brown Bulrush	<i>Scirpus pendulus</i>			X			X	
Many Leaved Bulrush	<i>Scirpus polyphyllus</i>			X	X	X	X	
Softstem Bulrush	<i>Scirpus validus</i> <i>(Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani)</i>			X	X		X	

*Available as seedlings from Earth Sangha or Hill House Nursery

