



Plants for a Low Maintenance Landscape

Many low maintenance plants are old standbys that tolerate heat, exposure and a wide variety of difficult soil conditions once established. In addition, these plants are often pest resistant and require limited attention to pest management or spraying, if any. These qualities may also give certain plants invasive tendencies; these should be avoided or used only if they can be restrained. As our climate changes, plants that were not problematic may become so and should be monitored for invasive tendencies. Though low maintenance plants will survive in difficult places, given optimal conditions, they will thrive with little care (although some will need protection from deer injury).

Large Trees (30' and over)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Native	Comments
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	Yes	Outstanding fall color, red ; tolerates wet soil
<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Heritage'	Heritage River Birch	Yes	Resistant to bronze birch borer
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Ironwood, American Hornbeam	Yes	Prefers light shade
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlas Cedar	No	Evergreen
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Katsura Tree	No	Tolerates wet soil; drought sensitive
<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i> and <i>C. pisifera</i>	False Cypress	No	Evergreen
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Yellowwood	Yes	Late spring flowers, white, fragrant
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree	No	Pollution and salt tolerant; attractive fall color, yellow; fruit has unpleasant odor – non-fruiting male trees are available
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky Coffee Tree	Yes	Late spring flowers, greenish-white, some fragrance; Male varieties available if fruit is not desired
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i>	Carolina Silverbell	Yes	Spring flowers, white, emerging before leaves
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	Yes	Evergreen, best in low wind exposure and some shade; ornamental fruit, attracts wildlife
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree	No	Summer flowers, yellow
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood	No	Fine textured deciduous conifer – bronze fall color; drought sensitive
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Blackgum, Black Tupelo	Yes	Outstanding fall color, yellow through orange and red
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood, Sorrel Tree	Yes	Summer flowers, white, fragrant
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	No	Evergreen
<i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i>	Umbrella Pine	No	Evergreen
<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>	Scholar Tree	No	Summer flowers, creamy white; very drought tolerant
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress	Yes	Deciduous conifer - orange-brown fall color

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Small Trees (15' to 30')

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	Serviceberry, Shadblow	Yes	Early spring flowers, white; edible fruit attracts wildlife
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud	Yes	Spring flowers, pink
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe Tree	Yes	Late summer flowers, fragrant; pollution tolerant
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Japanese Dogwood	No	Late spring flowers, white
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry	No	Early spring flowers, yellow; red fruit
<i>Cotinus</i> spp. <i>C. obovatus</i> is native	Smoketree, Smokebush	Some	Late spring flowers, smoky pink; long lasting effect
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel	Yes	Fall/winter flowers, yellow, red
<i>Hovenia dulcis</i>	Japanese Raisin Tree	No	Early summer flowers, white
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possumhaw	Yes	Persistent red fruit
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	Star Magnolia	No	Early spring (frost sensitive) flowers, white
<i>Rhus typhina</i> 'Laciniata'	Staghorn, Laceleaf Sumac	Yes	Tolerates drought and pollution; persistent red fruit

Shrubs

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> var. <i>elata</i>	Black Chokeberry	Yes	Mid spring flowers, white; deep red fall color
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	Flowering Quince	No	Early spring flowers, salmon, red, pink or white; drought tolerant
<i>Forsythia</i> spp.	Forsythia	No	Ubiquitous early spring flowers, yellow. Tolerates poor soil.
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Rose of Sharon	No	Summer flowers, pink, purple, red, white; sun or part shade
<i>Ilex crenata</i>	Japanese Holly	No	Evergreen; pollution and pruning tolerant
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry	Yes	Evergreen; prefers acid soil
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	Yes	Showy, persistent red fruit; needs a male pollinator
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	Yes	Early summer flowers, white, fragrant; semi-evergreen
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Bush Cinquefoil	Yes	Early summer flowers, yellow, white; drought tolerant
<i>Spiraea</i> spp.	Spirea	No	Spring or early summer flowers, white to pink
<i>Viburnum carlesii</i>	Korean Spice Viburnum	No	Spring flowers, pink, white; resistant to viburnum leaf beetle
<i>Viburnum plicatum</i>	Doublefile Viburnum	No	Spring flowers, white; resistant to viburnum leaf beetle
<i>Viburnum rhytidophyllum</i>	Leatherleaf Viburnum	No	Spring flowers, white; resistant to viburnum leaf beetle
<i>Weigela florida</i>	Weigela	No	Spring flowers, white, pink, red
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Yucca	Yes	Summer flowers, white; Evergreen; prefers dry soil

Ornamental Grasses

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u> (height in inches, foliage color)	
<i>Festuca ovina</i> 'Glauca'	Blue Fescue	No	6-8"	Showy silvery-blue
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	Blue Oat Grass	No	30"	Attractive blue foliage
<i>Miscanthus</i> spp.	Maiden Grass	No	12-144"	Green or green with contrasting midvein or stripes; showy inflorescence; possible invasive tendencies
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	Yes	36-48"	Purple to silver-white, airy flower panicles; attractive fall color
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	Fountain Grass	No	6-48"	Green, golden in fall; showy inflorescence; some cultivars are invasive

Perennials

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u> (height in inches, color, bloom time)		
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle	No	12-18"	Yellow	June-July
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Blue Star	Yes	24-36"	Light Blue	June
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goatsbeard	Yes	36-60"	White	June-July
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	False Indigo	Yes	36-48"	Blue	May-June
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Siberian Bugloss	No	12-18"	Blue	April-June
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Plumbago	No	6-18"	Blue	Aug.-Oct.
<i>Chelone</i> spp.	Turtlehead	Yes	24-48"	White, Pink, Purple.	Aug.-Oct.
<i>Cimicifuga</i> spp. (<i>C. Americana</i> and <i>C. simplex</i> are native)	Fairy Candles, Snakeroot	Some	24-60"	White, Light Pink	Aug.-Oct.
<i>Echinops humilis</i> 'Taplow Blue'	Globe Thistle	No	36-48"	Blue	June-Sept.
<i>Epimedium</i> spp.	Barrenwort	No	8-18"	White, Pink, Yellow	April-May
<i>Euphorbia polychroma</i>	Spurge	No	18"	Yellow	April-May
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Cranesbill Geranium	No	12-18"	Pink, Reddish-Purple	May to June
<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp. & cvs. *	Daylily	No	18-48"	Orange, Yellow, Red, Pink	June-Sept.
<i>Heuchera</i> spp. & cvs.	Coral Bells	Yes	12-24"	White, Pink, Red	May-June
<i>Hosta</i> spp. & cvs.*	Plantain Lily	No	12-24"	Lavender, White	July
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Lily Turf	No	18-24"	Purple, White	July-Aug.
<i>Sedum</i> spp.	Stonecrop	Some	6-24"	Yellow, Pink, Red, White	July-Sept.

*Deer favorites: must have protection.

Annuals

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Amaranthus caudatus</i> and <i>A. tricolor</i>	Tassel Flower Joseph's Coat	No	Showy seed heads and/or leaves <i>A. tricolor</i> grown as vegetable
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Madagascar Periwinkle	No	Pink, red, white flowers; ground cover
<i>Cleome hasslerana</i>	Spider Flower	No	White, Pink, Lavender

Annuals, continued.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Native	Comments
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy	Yes*	Orange, red, yellow flowers; blue-green foliage in cool weather
<i>Euphorbia marginata</i>	Snow-on-the-Mountain	Yes*	Showy variegated leaves
<i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	Globe Amaranth	Yes*	Pink, purple, white flowers
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum	No	Pink, white flowers; prefers cool temperatures
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Four O'Clock	No	Fragrant; red through pink, yellow, white flowers
<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>	Moss Rose	No	Red through pink, yellow, white and bicolor flowers
<i>Senecio cineraria</i>	Dusty Miller	No	Silvery-white, felted leaves
<i>Tagetes</i> spp.	Marigold	No	Yellow, orange, red flowers
<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	Mexican Sunflower	Yes*	Orange to red flowers
<i>Tropaeolum</i> spp.	Nasturtium	No	Cream, yellow, orange through red edible flowers
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	Verbena	No	Purple flowers; self-seeds

* Native to warm regions of North America

Invasive Plants

Some plants on the above lists are invasive in warmer climates, but have not yet become so in our area. Any plants that can easily handle a variety of difficult growing conditions should be closely monitored and removed or avoided if they become aggressive. The plants below are common ornamentals that have colonized large areas and displaced native species.

Common Invasive Plants to Avoid

Botanical Name	Common Name	Native	Comments
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Bishop's Weed	No	Aggressive ground cover
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry	No	Widely used, showy border plant; shade tolerant and deer resistant – aggressively colonizes woodland areas
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Winged Euonymus	No	showy red fall color; shade tolerant and deer resistant – aggressively colonizes woodland areas
<i>Lonicera</i> spp.	Bush Honeysuckle	No	Aggressive growth and seeder
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 'Moudry'	Moudry Fountain Grass	No	Aggressive seeder
<i>Phyllostachys</i> spp.	Grove (running) Bamboo	No	Aggressive underground runners; very difficult to remove
<i>Pleioblastus</i> spp.	Dwarf Bamboo	No	Aggressive underground runners; very difficult to remove

This is by no means a comprehensive list of invasive or potentially invasive plants. Contact Cooperative Extension at 845-429-7085 option 3 or www.rocklandcce.org for more information.

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