

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BLUE RIDGE ECOREGION

This ecoregion has ecosystems that include forested uplands with moderately to well-drained soil; open sites with rock outcrops, glades, and barrens; and wetlands with moderate to poorly drained areas.

WHAT ARE NATIVE PLANTS?

- ◆ Native plants are species that grow naturally in this region and are adapted to local physical and biological conditions. They have co-evolved over time with insects and other organisms of the region.
- ◆ Cultivars of native plants have been selectively bred, thereby reducing their genetic diversity. Use them sparingly and avoid using them in restoration areas.

WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS?

Invasive plants are not native to a given ecosystem and are likely to cause environmental harm. They tend to out-compete native species because they have no natural predators, diseases, or competitors. They have less value to native pollinators, birds, and other wildlife than native plants.

BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

- ◆ Native plants promote biodiversity in our natural communities.
- ◆ They provide habitat for all types of wildlife, satisfying their needs for food, shelter, health, and reproduction. Insects are particularly impacted because their larvae often eat native vegetation.
- ◆ After establishment, native plants require less landscape and garden maintenance.
- ◆ They define a sense of place; they are what make our Blue Ridge Mountains ecoregion unique.

USING NATIVE PLANTS

- ◆ Blue Ridge Mountains planting zones are 6a-7b.
- ◆ Visit natural areas near where you live and observe which plants are growing together. Create similar plant communities in your garden.
- ◆ Match plants with the right soil, moisture, and light conditions.
- ◆ Buy only nursery-propagated plant material.
- ◆ Provide initial care the first year, as you would for any newly planted landscape plants.

PROTECTING NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES

- ◆ Learn about and protect native plants and their natural communities. Protect natural area habitats in your community.
- ◆ Promote use of native plants in parks and landscaped areas.
- ◆ **Do not** remove plants from the wild unless participating in a legitimate and authorized "plant rescue" program.
- ◆ Remove invasive plants where possible as soon as possible.
- ◆ **Do not** plant invasive species, even if you don't observe them spreading. Wind, wildlife, and water can carry them into natural areas.

Reference: The Natural Communities of Georgia, Edwards, L., Ambrose, J., and Kirkman, L.K. (2013, University of Georgia Press).

Photography: Jim Fowler



Georgia Native Plant Society

NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

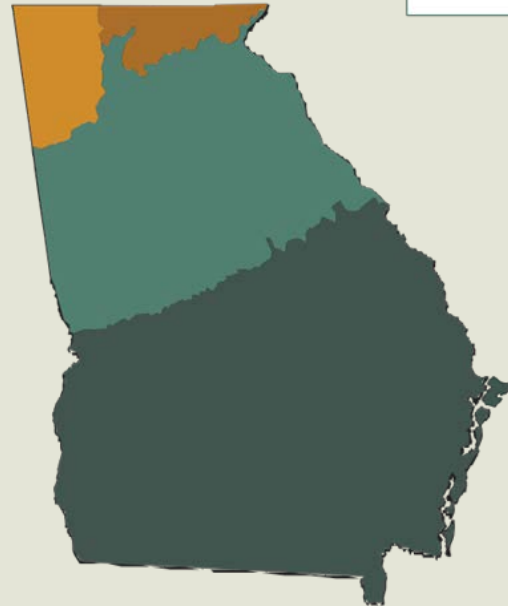
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LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS IN THE GEORGIA BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

GEORGIA ECOREGIONS

- ◆ Ridge and Valley
- ◆ Blue Ridge Mountains
- ◆ Piedmont
- ◆ Coastal Plain



Flame azalea, *Rhododendron calendulaceum*

Native Plants for the Blue Ridge Mountains Ecoregion of Georgia

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	LIGHT	MOIST	EV	BENEFITS
TREES					
<i>Acer floridanum, negundo, rubrum, saccharum</i>	Maple, boxelder	FP	WM		BPWH
<i>Aesculus flava</i>	Yellow buckeye	F	M		
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Serviceberry	FP	M		BPW
<i>Benthamidia florida (Cornus)</i>	Flowering dogwood	FP	M		BPWH
<i>Betula alleghaniensis, lenta, nigra</i>	Birch	FP	WM		BWH
<i>Carya glabra, tomentosa</i>	Hickory	FP	M		BWH
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry	FP	M		BPWH
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringetree	FP	MD		BPWH
<i>Crataegus spp.</i>	Hawthorn	FP	M		BPWH
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American beech	FP	M		BWH
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i>	Silverbell	P	M		WPH
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern redcedar	FP	M	Y	BWH
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	FP	WM		BPWH
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip tree/tulip poplar	FP	WM		BPWH
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumber magnolia	FP	M		BPWH
<i>Nyssa biflora, sylvatica</i>	Sour gum, tupelo	FP	WM		BPWH
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood	FP	M		BPWH
<i>Pinus echinata, pungens, strobus, virginiana</i>	Pine	FP	MD	Y	BWH
<i>Prunus pensylvanica, serotina</i>	Cherry	F	M		BPWH
<i>Quercus alba, coccinea, falcata, marilandica, montana, phellos, rubra, stellata, velutina</i>	Oak	FP	MD		BWH
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust	FP	WM		BPWH
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black willow	FP	WM		BPWH
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American basswood	FP	MD		BPWH
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Hemlock	FP	M	Y	BWH
SHRUBS					
<i>Aronia arbutifolia, melanocarpa</i>	Chokeberry	FP	M		BPWH
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	FP	WM		BPWH
<i>Diervilla sessilifolia</i>	Bush-honeysuckle	FP	M		PWH
<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	Huckleberry	FP	WMD		BPWH
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witchhazel	FP	M		PWH
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth hydrangea	FPS	M		PWH
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	St. John's wort	FP	MD		PWH
<i>Ilex montana, verticillata</i>	Holly	P	WM		BPWH
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweetspire	FP	WM		BPW
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain laurel	P	M	Y	BPH
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	Mountain leucothoe	PS	M	Y	PW
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	P	WM		BPWH
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Eastern ninebark	FP	MD		BPWH
<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>	Azalea/Rhododendron	PS	M	S	BPH
<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	Blackberry	FP	M		BPWH
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry	FP	WM		BPWH
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum, pallidum, stamineum</i>	Blueberry	F	M		BPWH
<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Wild raisin	FP	WM		BPWH

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	LIGHT	MOIST	EV	BENEFITS
VINES					
<i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i>	Pipevine	FP	M		PH
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Crossvine	FPS	WMD	Y	PW
<i>Hydrangea barbara</i>	Climbing hydrangea	PS	M		P
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper	FPS	MD		BPWH
PERENNIALS/FORBS					
<i>Actaea pachypoda*, podocarpa, racemosa</i>	Doll's eyes/Black cohosh	FP	M		P *toxic
<i>Asclepias exaltata, incarnata, tuberosa, verticillata</i>	Milkweed	FP	M		PH
<i>Amianthium muscitoxicum</i>	Fly poison	P	M		P
<i>Coreopsis major, pubescens</i>	Coreopsis	F	MD		P
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Turtlehead	P	WM		BPH
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake master	F	M		PH
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	White wood aster	PS	M		P
<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	Joe pye weed	FP	WM		BP
<i>Galax urceolata</i>	Galax	S	M	Y	W
<i>Helianthus spp.</i>	Sunflower	FP	M		BPW
<i>Impatiens capensis, pallida</i>	Jewelweed	FP	WM		BP
<i>Iris cristata, verna</i>	Dwarf iris	PS	M		BP
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Blazingstar	F	M		BP
<i>Lilium michauxii, superbum</i>	Lily	FP	M		BP
<i>Lobelia cardinalis, siphilitica</i>	Cardinal flower	FP	WM		BPH
<i>Monarda didyma, fistulosa</i>	Beebalm	FP	WM		BP
<i>Packera aurea</i>	Golden groundsel	PS	MD	Y	P
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	Wild quinine	FP	MD		P
<i>Penstemon spp.</i>	Beardtongue	FP	MD		BP
<i>Phlox spp.</i>	Phlox	FP	M		P
<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	Silkgrass	FP	MD	Y	P
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cutleaf coneflower	F	M		BP
<i>Rudbeckia spp.</i>	Black-eyed Susan	FP	M		BP
<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Goldenrod	FP	M		BPH
<i>Symphotrichum spp.</i>	Aster	FP	M		BPH
<i>Tiarella cordifolia, wherryi</i>	Foamflower	P	M		BP
<i>Viola spp.</i>	Violet	FP	M	S	BPWH
FERNS					
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair	PS	M		
<i>Dennstaedtia punctiloba</i>	Hay-scented	FPS	M		
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal	PS	M	Y	
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal	P	WM		
<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>	Cinnamon	PS	WM		
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas	PS	MD	Y	
<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York fern	PS	WM		
GRASSES/SEDGES					
<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>	River cane	FPS	M	Y	BWH
<i>Carex ssp.</i>	Sedge	PS	MD	S	BWH
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	River oats	PS	MD		BWH
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	PS	MD		BWH
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Yellow Indiangrass	PS	MD		BWH

LIGHT: F (full or 6+ hours), P (part), S (shade)

MOISTURE: W (wet), M (mesic), D (dry to moist)

EVERGREEN: Y (yes), S (some species are)

BENEFITS: B (birds), P (pollinators), W (wildlife), H (butterfly/moth host plant)

Note: When multiple species or "spp." are listed, please research for your own conditions which species is best.

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