

# Herbaceous Plant List for Conservation Buffers

## CAPE COD COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The following list of herbaceous plants was constructed to provide guidance for green industry professionals and conservation commissions for planting herbaceous plant material in conservation buffers. The list consists of primarily native plants that are suitable for planting within conservation buffers. The list is not exhaustive and alternative species may be considered for specific management goals.

A conservation buffer should enhance natural resources such as soil, water, air quality and provide wildlife habitat. Natural succession should be allowed to proceed in most ecologies where herbaceous plants do not represent the climax species. A well-designed planting should be diverse and include several graminoid and forb species suited to the specific conditions of a site.

Additional UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Resources:

[Guidelines for Planting Within the 100 Foot Buffer](#)

[Trees and Shrubs for Coastal Environments and Freshwater Resource Buffer Zones](#)

Wetland Indicator Status					
OBL	Obligate	Almost always occur in wetlands			
FACW	Facultative Wetland	Usually occurs in wetlands but may occur in non- wetlands			
FAC	Facultative	Occurs in wetlands and non-wetlands			
FACU	Facultative Upland	Usually occurs in non-wetlands, but may occur in wetlands			
UPL	Upland	Almost never occurs in wetlands			
Sunlight		Soil Moisture		Soil Texture	
Su	Full Sun	D	Dry	C	Coarse (Sand)
PS	Part Shade	M	Moist	M	Medium (Loams)
Sh	Shade	W	Wet	F	Fine (Silts, Clay)
*Tolerant of coastal exposure conditions					



Scientific	Common	Wetland Indicator Status	Sunlight	Soil Moisture	Soil Texture	USDA Hardiness Zones	Type	Height	Spread	Plant as
<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i> *	American beach grass	UPL	Su	D	C, M	4-8	Rhizomatous	1.5-3.5'	6-10'	Dormant culms
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big bluestem	FACU	Su, PS	D, M,	C, M	4-9	Bunch	2-8'	2-3'	Plug/Seed
<i>Carex pennsylvania</i>	Pennsylvania sedge	UPL	PS, Su	D, M	C, M	3-8	Bunch	0.5-1.5'	0.5-1'	Plug
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	Wavy hair grass	FACU	PS	D, M	C?	4-7	Bunch	2-3'	1-2'	Plug/Seed
<i>Dichanthelium clandestinum</i>	Deer-tongue	FACW	Su	D, M, W	C, M, F	4-9	Bunch	1.5-4.5'	1-3'	Seed
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada wildrye	FACU	Su, PS, Sh	D, M	C, M, F	3-8	Bunch	2-5'	2-3'	Seed
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wildrye	FACW	Su, PS, Sh	D, M	C, M, F	3-8	Bunch	1.5-5'	1-2'	Plug/Seed
<i>Fectusa rubra</i>	Red fescue	FACU	Su, PS	D, M, W	C, M, F	2-7	Rhizomatous	0.5-2'	0.25-1'	Plug/Seed
<i>Leymus mollis</i> *	American dune-grass	FACU	Su	D	C	2-7	Rhizomatous	3-6'	3-6'	Plug/Seed
<i>Panicum amarum</i> *	Bitter panic grass	FACU	Su	D, M	C, M	5-9	Rhizomatous	3-6'	2-3'	Plug/Seed
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	FAC	Su	D, M, W	C, M, F	5-9	Bunch	3-6'	2-3'	Plug/Seed
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	FACU	Su	D	C, M, F	3-9	Bunch	1-3'	1-2'	Plug/Seed
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass	FACU	Su	D, M	C, M, F	4-9	Bunch	3-5'	1-2'	Plug/Seed
<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	Smooth cordgrass	OBL	Su	W	C, M, F	4-10	Bunch	2-7'	2-10'	Plug
<i>Spartina patens</i>	Saltmeadow cordgrass	FACW	Su	W	C, M, F		Rhizomatous	1-2'		Plug
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie cordgrass	FACW	Su	M, W	C, M	4-9	Rhizomatous	3-8'	4-7'	Plug/Seed
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	Eastern gamagrass	FAC	Su	M, W	C, M, F	4-9	Bunch	4-8'	4-6'	Seed

Scientific	Common	Wetland Indicator Status	Sunlight	Soil Moisture	Soil Texture	USDA Hardiness Zones	Bloom Time	Bloom Color	Height	Spread
Apocynum cannabinum	Indian hemp	FAC	Su	D, M	C, M	4-9	June-Aug	White	2-4'	1.5-2.5'
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp milkweed	OBL	Su	M, W	C, M, F	3-7	July-Aug.	Pink, white, purple	2-5'	2-3'
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly milkweed	UPL	Su	D, M	C, M	4-9	June-Aug.	Orange/yellow	1-2.5'	1-1.5'
Baptisia tinctoria	Wild indigo	FAC	Su	D	C, M	3-9	June-Aug.	Yellow	1-3'	1-3'
Chelone glabra	Turtlehead	OBL	Su, PS, Sh	M, W	C, M, F	3-8	Aug- Sept	White	2-3'	1.5 -2.5'
Coreopsis rosea	Pink tickseed	FACW	Su	M, W	C, M	3-8	June-Sept.	Pink	1-2'	1.5-2.5'
Desmodium canadense	Showy ticktrefoil	FAC	Su	M, W	C, M, F	3-7	July-Aug	Pink/ Purple	3-6'	1-2'
Doellingeria umbellata	Flat top white aster	FACW	Su, PS	M, W	C, M	3-8	July-Sept	White	2-4'	2-3'
Eupatorium perfoliatum	Boneset	UPL	Su, PS , Sh	M, W	C, M, F	3-8	July-Sept.	White	4-6'	3-4'
Eurybia macrophylla	Bigleaf aster	FACU UPL	Su, PS	D, M	C, M	3-8	Aug-Sept	Purple	3-5'	2-4'
Eutrochium dubium	Coastal Joe-Pye weed	FACW	Su, PS	M, W	C, M	3-9	Aug.-Oct.	Pink	3-5'	2-4'
Lespedeza capitata	Bush clover	FACU	Su, PS	D, M	C, M	4-8	July-Sept	White	2-4'	1-2'
Liatrix scariosa	New England Blazing-star	UPL	Su	D, M	C, M	3-8	Aug-Oct	Purple	2-4'	1-2'
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal flower	OBL	Su, PS	M, W		3-9	June-Aug	Red	1-4'	1-2'
Lupinus perrenis	Lupine	FACU	Su, PS	D, M	C, M	3-9	May-June	Blue	1-3'	1-1.5'
Mimulus ringens	Blue monkey-flower	OBL	Su, PS	M, W		3-8	July-Aug	Light purple	1-3'	0.5-1'

Scientific	Common	Wetland Indicator Status	Sunlight	Soil Moisture	Soil Texture	USDA Hardiness Zones	Bloom Time	Bloom Color	Height	Spread
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Evening primrose	FACU	Su	D, M	C, M	4-9	June-Aug	Yellow	2-5'	2-3'
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Virginia mountain mint	FACW	Su, PS	M	M	3-7	July-Aug	White	2-3'	1-1.5'
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Northern wild senna	FACW	Su, PS	D, M	C, M	4-8	July-Aug	Yellow	4-6'	
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Bluestem goldenrod	FACU	Su	D, M	C, M	3-9	Aug-Oct	Yellow	1-4'	1.5-3'
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada goldenrod	FACU	Su	D, M	C, M, F	3-9	Aug-Oct	Yellow	3-6'	4-5'
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	Early goldenrod	UPL	Su	D, M	C, M	4-8	July-Sept	Yellow	2-5'	2-3'
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Gray goldenrod	UPL	Su	D, M	C, M, F	4-8	Aug-Oct	Yellow	1-3'	0.5-2'
<i>Solidago sempervirens*</i>	Seaside goldenrod	FACW	Su	D, M, W	C, M, F	3-9	Aug- Oct	Yellow	3-6'	1-2'
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy goldenrod	UPL	Su	D, M	C, M, F	3-8	Aug-Sept	Yellow	2-5'	2-3'
<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i>	Heart-leaved aster	UPL	Su, PS	D, M	M, F	3-8	Aug-Sept	Light blue	2-5'	1.5-2.0'
<i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i>	Heath-aster	FACU	Su	D, M	C, M, F	3-10	Aug-Oct	White	1-3'	1-1.5'
<i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum</i>	Calico aster	FAC	PS, Su	D, M, W	C, M	3-9	Aug-Sept	White/ Purple	2-5'	1-2'
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England aster	FACW	Su	M	M, F	4-8	Aug-Oct	Purple	3-6'	2-3'
<i>Symphotrichum novi-belgii</i>	New York aster	FACW	Su	M	M	4-8	Aug-Oct	Purple/ Pink	3-5'	1-2'
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue vervain	FACW	Su, PS	M, W	M, F	3-8	June-Aug	Purple	2-5'	1-2.5'
<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	White vervain	FAC	Su, PS	D, M	M, F	3-8	June-Aug	White	3-5'	
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden alexanders	FAC	Su, PS	M	C, M, F	3-8	June-July	Yellow	1-3'	1.5-2'