

# RIPARIAN CORRIDOR PLANTS

## What is a “Riparian Corridor?”

“Riparian” refers to the area by the banks of a river, stream, or other body of water. “Corridor” refers to a designated zone or strip of land of a specified width along the border of an area. So a “riparian corridor” is the natural vegetation and soil cover adjacent to a river, stream, or other body of water.

Riparian corridors provide multiple functions and values. They are the first line of defense against the impacts of impervious surfaces. Corridors slow runoff, protect shorelines from erosion, aid in flood control, and filter or trap pollutants. They also provide habitat for wildlife, as well as shade waters for fisheries enhancement. Additionally, riparian corridors may provide scenic value and privacy.

The following is a list of some of the plants native to Connecticut that can live in these riparian corridors – areas which may be wet at certain periods of the year, or which may be inundated at certain times or after heavy rain events. This is not an exhaustive list, but rather a sampling of some of the more common native plants that can grow under these conditions. There are numerous other plants that will do well in upland buffer areas to wetlands and watercourses in places that rarely if ever, are inundated. These plants are not addressed here. Instead this list focuses on plants that can withstand periodic inundation or consistently wet to moist soils.

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<b>TREES</b>		
<b>Latin name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple	Wet to dry soils; sun to part shade; tolerates intermittent flooding and wet soils
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	Rich, wet to moist soils; sun to shade; tolerates seasonal flooding
<i>Betula lenta</i>	Sweet birch	Rich, moist well-drained soils; sun to shade
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch	Moist soils; good for periodically wet areas; sun to part shade
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash	Deep, moist soils; sun to shade; tolerant of poorly drained soils
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green ash	Wet to dry soils; sun to part shade; tolerates seasonal flooding
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	Deep, moist soils: sun to part shade (Natural populations are listed as of Special Concern in Connecticut)
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip tree, tulip poplar	Rich, moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum	Wide range of soils, best on moist well-drained deep soils; sun to part shade; will tolerate poorly drained soils
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	American Sycamore	Best on moist, well-drained soils; sun to part shade; tolerates seasonal flooding
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern cottonwood	Moist, well-drained soils; sun to part shade; can tolerate seasonally flooded soils
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp white oak	Poorly drained to dry soils; sun to part shade; can tolerate occasional flooding
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak	Wet to moist soils: sun to part shade; tolerates poorly drained soils
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black willow	Wet to moist soils; sun to shade

<b>SMALL TREES and SHRUBS</b>		
<b>Latin name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Hazel alder	Wet to moist soils; sun, part shade, shade
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Common serviceberry, Shadbush	Moist, well-drained soils; sun to part shade
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Canadian serviceberry	Wet to moist, well drained soils; prefers wet sites; sun to part shade
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny serviceberry	Moist to dry soils; sun to part shade
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Common buttonbush	Wet to moist soils; part shade to shade
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Coastal sweet pepperbush	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternatleaf dogwood	Moist well drained soils; part shade to shade
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky dogwood	Wet to moist soils; sun to shade
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood	Moist to dry, well-drained soils; sun to part shade
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray dogwood	Tolerant of dry to wet soils; sun to shade
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Redosier dogwood	Moist, well-drained soils; sun to partial shade

### SMALL TREES and SHRUBS (continued)

Latin name	Common name	Notes
<i>Eubotrys racemosa</i> (was <i>Leucothoe</i> )	Swamp doghobble	Wet to moist soils; part shade
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American witch hazel	Moist to dry soils, best on moister soils; sun to shade
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Common winterberry	Moist soils; sun to part shade; will tolerate poorly-drained soils; need male and female plants to produce fruits; Fruits are poisonous
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Northern spicebush	Prefers moist, well-drained soils but grows in wet to dry soils; sun to part shade
<i>Photinia melanocarpa</i>	Black chokeberry	Moist soils; sun to part shade; flood tolerant
<i>Photinia pyrifolia</i>	Red chokeberry	Moist, rich soils; sun
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Great laurel	Wet to moist, well drained soils; Partial shade to shade Poisonous plants
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp azalea	Wet soil; part shade; flood tolerant. All parts of plants are highly toxic.
<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy willow	Moist soils; sun
<i>Salix sericea</i>	Silky willow	Wet to moist soils; sun to shade
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>canadensis</i>	American black elderberry	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade. Parts of plant are toxic.
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	White meadowsweet	Wet to moist soils; sun to shade
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush blueberry	Wet to dry soils; sun to part shade
<i>Vibernum dentatum</i>	Southern arrowwood	Wet to dry soils; sun to part shade
<i>Viburnum opulus</i> var. <i>americana</i>	American cranberry bush	Wet to well drained, moist soils; flood tolerant; sun to partial shade

### FERNS and FERN ALLIES

Latin name	Common name	Notes
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Water horsetail	Wet to moist soils; sun to shade
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Scouringrush horsetail	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive fern	Wet to moist soils; part shade to shade
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon fern	Wet to moist soils; sun to shade – depending on moisture conditions
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted fern	Moist to dry soils; Shade
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal fern	Wet to moist soils; part shade to shade
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Eastern marsh fern	Wet soils; sun
<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	Virginia chain fern	Wet to moist soils; part shade (can be aggressive)

## GRASSES, SEDGES, REEDS

Latin Name	Common Name	Notes
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Bluejoint	Moist to wet soils; sun to shade; tolerates seasonal flooding
<i>Carex crinita</i> var. <i>crinita</i>	Long hair sedge	Wet, sun
<i>Carex lupulina</i>	Hop sedge	Moist to wet soils; part shade
<i>Carex lurida</i>	Sallow sedge	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade; will tolerate temporary flooding
<i>Carex scoparia</i>	Broom sedge	Wet to dry soils; sun to part shade
<i>Carex stipata</i>	Awlfruit sedge	Wet to moist soils including standing water; sun
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock sedge	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade; will tolerate standing water
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	Threeway sedge	Wet; sun to part shade
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Common spikerush	Wet to moist soils; part shade; areas with permanent or seasonal flooding
<i>Elymus riparius</i>	Riverbank wildrye	Moist soils; part shade to shade
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wildrye	Moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Glyceria canadensis</i>	Rattlesnake mannagrass	Wet to moist soils; sun
<i>Juncus canadensis</i>	Canadian rush	Wet to moist; sun to part shade
<i>Juncus effuses</i>	Common rush	Wet to moist soils; sun
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Rice cutgrass	Wet soil to standing water; sun

## HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Latin name	Common name	Notes
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack in the pulpit	Wet to moist soils; sun to shade
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	Wet to moist soils; sun
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Yellow marsh marigold	Wet to moist soils; part shade
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White turtlehead	Wet to moist soils; sun to shade
<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i> ( <i>Aster umbellatus</i> )	Parasol whitetop	Moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus</i> ( <i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i> )	Trumpetweed	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Eupatoriadelphus maculatus</i> var. <i>maculatus</i> ( <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> )	Spotted trumpetweed	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common boneset	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Common Sneezeweed	Moist soils; sun; poisonous plant parts
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Eastern rosemallow	
<i>Iris prismatica</i>	Slender blueflag	Moist soils; part shade; brackish to fresh coastal wetlands
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Larger blueflag	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Lilium superbum</i>	Turk's cap lily	Moist but well-drained soil; sun
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal flower	Wet to moist soils; sun, part shade, shade; Lobelias contain toxins

**HERBACEOUS PLANTS (continued)**

<b>Latin name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great blue lobelia	Wet to moist soils; sun, part shade, shade; Lobelias contain toxins
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Monkey flower	Wet to moist soils; sun
<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	Arrow arum	Wet soils; sun to part shade
<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Pickereel weed	Wet soils; sun to part shade
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Green headed coneflower	Moist soils; sun to part shade
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Broadleaf arrowhead	Wet soils; sun to part shade
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> ( <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> )	New England aster	Moist soils; part shade
<i>Symphotrichum novi-belgii</i> ( <i>Aster novi-belgii</i> )	New York aster	Moist well-drained soils; sun to part shade
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue vervain	Moist to dry soils; sun to part shade
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York ironweed	Moist to dry soils; sun
<i>Viola cucullata</i>	Marsh blue violet	Wet to moist soils; sun, part shade, shade
<i>Viola lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaved violet	Wet to moist soils; part shade to shade