

Plant Materials Guide for Lexington MA

2011 Edition

This plant materials list was compiled for the Town of Lexington and its residents as a guide for municipal, commercial and residential landscaping purposes, for the incorporation of plant species predominantly native to Middlesex County. The purpose of this guide is two-fold; to provide its readers with a list of native plants suitable for landscaping purposes as well as a list of the most common invasive plant species found in the Lexington community.

The selection of non-native plant species for residential and commercial landscaping purposes along with the growing proliferation of invasive and non-native species not only in Lexington but nationally, has led to an accelerating decline in our native flora and fauna. Choosing native plant species for landscaping purposes, and removing invasive species wherever possible, can counter the decline of native plants.

This guide consists of three parts, a list of invasive species (Prevalent Invasive Species), a list of native species (Recommended Plant Materials List), and a list of area and regional nurseries that specialize in native plant species. For those wishing for photo references a good on-line source is Google Images, which also provides access to more detailed information for most species.

The creation of this guide was a collaborative effort by representatives of Citizens for Lexington Conservation, the Lexington Tree Committee and the Lexington Conservation Commission.

Prevalent Invasive Species List

For purposes of this guide, invasive plants are considered to be non-indigenous species that spread into various habitats causing an adverse environmental impact. Invasive plants in Lexington are found throughout the town on both public and private property, and are displacing native plants.

The species on this list tend to be those most prevalent in Lexington. These include trees (Norway maple, tree of heaven), shrubs (burning bush, barberry species), vines that kill trees (oriental bittersweet, English ivy), and herbaceous species (purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, common reed). Some of these invasive plants have been commonly used in residential and commercial landscaping and some of them are still available commercially. The listed plants should be removed where possible and should never be planted anew.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Acer platanoides</i> | Norway Maple |
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore Maple |
| <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> | Tree of Heaven |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard |
| <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> | Porcelainberry |
| <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> | Japanese Barberry |
| <i>Berberis vulgaris</i> | Common or European Barberry |
| <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> | Oriental Bittersweet |
| <i>Cynanchum louiseae</i> | Black Swallow-wort |
| <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> | Autumn Olive |
| <i>Euonymus alatus</i> | Burning Bush |
| <i>Hedera helix*</i> | English Ivy |
| <i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> | Border Privet |
| <i>Lonicera sp.</i> | All shrub species of Honeysuckles |
| <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | Purple Loosestrife |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Common Reed |
| <i>Pyrus calleryana*</i> | Callery or Bradford Pear |
| <i>Fallopia japonica or Polygonum cuspidatum</i> | Japanese Knotweed |
| <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> | Common Buckthorn |
| <i>Rhamnus frangula*</i> | Glossy Buckthorn |
| <i>Rosa multiflora</i> | Multiflora Rose |

(Species noted with an * are not included on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List but are considered to be prevalent and of concern in Lexington. For a more extensive listing of exotic species considered to be invasive in Massachusetts, please consult the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List:

(http://www.mass.gov/agr/farmproducts/proposed_prohibited_plant_list_v12-12-05.htm).

As of January 1, 2009, Massachusetts has prohibited the sale, trade, purchase, and distribution of species so listed.)

Recommended Plant Materials List

Following is a comprehensive list of plant species native to Middlesex County, Massachusetts that are beneficial to the environment and to native fauna. The primary source for this list was The Vascular Plants of MA: A County Checklist published by the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, (1999 ed). The variety of plants listed should enable landscapers to identify native plants that are similar to many popular non-native plant species in common use. For example, the list provides many native groundcovers that can replace aggressive groundcovers like English ivy, Japanese pachysandra, periwinkle, or bugleweed. In the realm of flowering shrubs, there are native species of viburnums, dogwoods, azaleas, and many others. Many are relatively easy to buy due to the growing interest in native plants.

Endangered, threatened, or species of concern are noted with an (*) per a list prepared by the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (2005 edition). These may be particularly valuable to plant and are available in many garden centers. Extensive photo and factual information on each species may be found on-line at Google Images.

Deciduous Canopy Trees

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> | Red Maple |
| <i>Acer saccharum</i> | Sugar Maple |
| <i>Alnus incana</i> ssp. <i>rugosa</i> | Speckled Alder |
| <i>Betula lenta</i> | Sweet Birch |
| <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> | Yellow Birch |
| <i>Betula nigra</i> | River Birch |
| <i>Betula populifolia</i> | Gray Birch |
| <i>Carya alba</i> | Mockernut Hickory |
| <i>Carya ovata</i> | Shagbark Hickory |
| <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> | Common Hackberry |
| <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> | American Beech |
| <i>Fraxinus americana</i> | White Ash |
| <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> | Green Ash |
| <i>Juglans cinerea</i> | Butternut |
| <i>Larix laricina</i> | Tamarack, American Larch |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> | Tupelo, Black or Sour Gum |
| <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> | American Sycamore |
| <i>Populus deltoides</i> | Cottonwood, Necklace Poplar |
| <i>Populus tremuloides</i> | Quaking Aspen |
| <i>Prunus serotina</i> | Black Cherry |
| <i>Quercus bicolor</i> | Swamp White Oak |
| <i>Quercus alba</i> | White Oak |
| <i>Quercus coccinea</i> | Scarlet Oak |
| <i>Quercus palustris</i> | Pin Oak |
| <i>Quercus rubra</i> | Northern Red Oak |
| <i>Salix nigra</i> | Black Willow |
| <i>Sassafras albidum</i> | Sassafras |
| <i>Tilia americana</i> | American Linden, American Basswood |
| <i>Ulmus americana</i> | American Elm, 'Valley Forge', 'New Harmony', 'Princeton' |

Evergreen Trees

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> | Eastern Red Cedar |
| <i>Pinus resinosa</i> | Red Pine |
| <i>Pinus rigida</i> | Pitch Pine |
| <i>Pinus strobus</i> | White Pine |
| <i>Thuja occidentalis*</i> | Eastern Arborvitae |
| <i>Tsuga canadensis</i> | Canada Hemlock |
| <i>Taxus canadensis</i> | American or Canada Yew |

Deciduous Understory Trees

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Acer pensylvanicum</i> | Striped Maple, Moosewood |
| <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> | Shadblow, Serviceberry |
| <i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i> | Apple Serviceberry, Juneberry |
| <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> | Alternate-leaf Dogwood |
| <i>Cornus florida</i> | Flowering Dogwood |
| <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> | Witch Hazel, American Witch Hazel |
| <i>Magnolia virginiana*</i> | Sweetbay Magnolia |
| <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> | Ironwood, Hophornbeam |

Deciduous Shrubs

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>Photinia pyrifolia</i> | Red Chokeberry |
| <i>Photinia melanocarpa</i> | Black Chokeberry |
| <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> | Buttonbush |
| <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> | Summer Sweet |
| <i>Comptonia peregrina</i> | Sweet Fern |
| <i>Cornus amomum</i> | Silky Dogwood |
| <i>Cornus racemosa</i> | Gray Dogwood |
| <i>Cornus sericea</i> | Red-osier Dogwood |
| <i>Corylus americana</i> | American Hazelnut |
| <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | Common Winterberry |
| <i>Lindera benzoin</i> | Spicebush |
| <i>Rhododendron canadense</i> | Rhodora |
| <i>Rhododendron viscosum</i> | Swamp Azalea |
| <i>Rhus typhina</i> | Staghorn Sumac |
| <i>Rhus glabra</i> | Smooth Sumac |
| <i>Salix discolor</i> | Pussy Willow |
| <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> | Elderberry |
| <i>Spiraea alba var. latifolia</i> | Meadowsweet |
| <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i> | Lowbush Blueberry |
| <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> | Highbush Blueberry |
| <i>Viburnum nudum var. cassinoides</i> | Witherod Viburnum |
| <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> | Arrowwood Viburnum |
| <i>Viburnum opulus var. americanum</i> | American Cranberrybush Viburnum |

Evergreen Shrubs

Ilex glabra
Kalmia angustifolia
Kalmia latifolia
Lyonia lucida
Myrica pensylvanica
*Rhodendron maximum**

Inkberry
Sheep Laurel
Mountain Laurel
Fetterbush
Bayberry, Wax Myrtle
Rosebay

Vines

Clematis virginiana
Lonicera canadensis
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Virgin's Bower
American Fly Honeysuckle
Virginia Creeper

Groundcovers

Adiantum pedatum
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Asarum canadense
Cornus canadensis
Dennstaedtia punctilobula
Epigaea repens
Gaultheria procumbens
Gaylussaccia baccata
*Hydrastis canadensis**
Mitchella repens
Polypodium virginianum
*Waldsteinia fragarioides**
Tiarella cordifolia
Vaccinium angustifolium

Maidenhair Fern
Bearberry, Kinnikinnick
Wild Ginger
Bunchberry
Hay Scented Fern
Trailing Arbutus
Wintergreen
Black Huckleberry
Goldenseal
Partridgeberry
Rock Polypody
Barren Strawberry
Heartleaf Foamflower
Lowbush Blueberry

Herbaceous Species

Aquilegia canadensis
Asclepias syriaca
Asclepias tuberosa
Athyrium filix-femina
Bouteloua curtipendula
Chamaecrista fasciculata
Hieracium sp.
*Liatris scariosa**
Lilium canadense
Lilium philadelphicum
Lilium superbum
Lupinus perennis
Maianthemum canadense
Maianthemum racemosum

Wild Red Columbine
Common Milkweed
Butterflyweed
Northern Lady Fern
Sideoats Grama
Partridge Pea
Hawkweed *sp.*
New England Blazing Star
Canada Lily
Wood Lily
Turk's Cap Lily
Wild Blue Lupine
Canada Mayflower
False Solomon's Seal, Solomon's Plume

Matteuccia struthiopteris
Monarda fistulosa
Onoclea sensibilis
*Penstemon hirsutis**
Podophyllum peltatum
Polystichum acrostichoides
Schizachyrium scoparium
Solidago sp.
Sorghastrum nutans
Symphotrichum laeve
Symphotrichum lateriflorum
Symphotrichum novae-angliae
Verbena hastata
Zizia aurea

Ostrich Fern
Beebalm, Wild Bergamot
Sensitive Fern
Hairy Beard-tongue
Mayapple
Christmas Fern
Little Bluestem
Goldenrod
Indian Grass
Smooth Blue Aster
Calico Aster
New England Aster
Blue Vervain, Simpler's Joy
Golden Alexanders

Herbaceous Species - Understory

Actaea pachypoda
*Actaea racemosa**
Actaea rubra
Anemone virginiana
Aquilegia canadensis
Arisaema triphyllum
Carex stricta
Carex vulpinoidea
Caulophyllum thalictroides
Chelone glabra
Chelone lyonii
Dennstaedtia punctilobula
Dicentra canadensis
Dicentra cucullaria
Elymus canadensis
Eupatoriadelphus maculatus
Eupatorium perfoliatum
Eurybia divaricata
Eurybia macrophylla
Glyceria canadensis
Geum laciniatum
Hepatica nobilis var. acuta
Iris versicolor
Impatiens capensis
Juncus effusus
Juncus tenuis
Leersia oryzoides
*Lobelia siphilitica**
Maianthemum racemosum
Mimulus ringens
Onoclea sensibilis
Osmorhiza claytonii
Osmunda cinnamomea
Osmunda regalis
Sanguinaria canadensis
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani
*Schoenoplectus (Bolboschoenus) fluviatilis**

White Baneberry, Doll's Eyes
Black Cohosh, Black Bugbane
Red Baneberry
Thimbleweed
Wild Red Columbine
Jack-In-The-Pulpit
Tussock Sedge
Fox Sedge
Blue Cohosh
White Turtlehead
Pink Turtlehead
Hay-Scented Fern
Squirrel Corn
Dutchman's Breeches
Canada Wild Rye
Joe-Pye Weed, Spotted Trumpetweed
Boneset
White Wood Aster
Large Leaf Aster
Rattlesnake Mannagrass
Rough Avens
Sharp-lobed Hepatica
Northern Blue Flag
Jewelweed, Touch-me-not
Common or Soft Rush
Path or Poverty Rush
Rice Cut Grass
Great Blue Lobelia
False Solomon's Seal, Solomon's Plume
Allegheny Monkey Flower
Sensitive Fern
Sweet Cicely, Clayton's Sweetroot
Cinnamon Fern
Royal Fern
Bloodroot
Soft-Stem Bulrush
River Bulrush

Scirpus cyperinus
Symphyotrichum ericoides
Symphyotrichum pilosum
*Symphyotrichum prenanthoides**
Symplocarpus foetidus
Thalictrum thalictroides
Verbena hastata

Woolgrass
White Heath Aster
Hairy White Old Field Aster, Frost Aster
Crooked Stem Aster, Zigzag Aster
Skunk Cabbage
Rue Anemone
Blue Vervain, Simpler's Joy

Herbaceous Wetland Species - Deep Marsh (6" – 3' water depth)

Acorus americanus
Alisma plantago-aquatica
Carex comosa
Carex stricta
Eleocharis palustris
Glyceria canadensis
Iris versicolor
Nuphar luteum
Nymphaea odorata
Peltandra virginica
Pontederia cordata
Potamogeton pectinatus
Sagittaria latifolia
Sparganium americanum
Schoenoplectus acutus
Schoenoplectus pungens
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani
Typha latifolia
Vallisneria americana

Sweetflag
Water Plantain
Longhair Sedge
Tussock Sedge
Spike Rush
Rattlesnake Mannagrass
Northern Blue Flag
Yellow Pond Lily
White Water Lily
Green Arrow Arum
Pickerelweed
Sago Pond Weed
Arrowhead, Duck Potato
American Bur-reed
Hard-Stem Bulrush
Three-Square Bulrush
Soft-Stem Bulrush
Common Cattail, Broadleaf Cattail
Wild Celery, American Eelgrass

Herbaceous Wetland Species - Shallow Marsh (0" – 6" water depth)

Asclepias incarnata
Carex stipata
Elymus canadensis
Elymus virginicus
Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus
Eupatorium perfoliatum
Juncus canadensis
Juncus effusus
Juncus tenuis
Lobelia cardinalis
Monarda fistulosa
Osmunda cinnamomea
Osmunda regalis
Panicum virgatum
Scirpus atrovirens
Scirpus cyperinus
Symphyotrichum laeve
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae

Swamp Milkweed
Awl-fruited Sedge, Owl Fruit Sedge
Canada Wild Rye
Virginia Wild Rye
Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye Weed, Trumpetweed
Boneset
Canada Rush
Common or Soft Rush
Path or Poverty Rush
Cardinal Flower
Beebalm, Wild Bergamot
Cinnamon Fern
Royal Fern
Switchgrass
Green Bulrush
Wool Grass
Smooth Blue Aster
New England Aster

Symphotrichum puniceum
Verbena hastata

Purplestem Aster
Blue Vervain, Simpler's Joy

Recommended Seed Lists

Wet Meadow Mix

Andropogon gerardii
Asclepias incarnata
Sorghastrum nutans
Bouteloua curtipendula
Carex stipata
Carex stricta
Elymus canadensis
Elymus virginicus
Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus
Eupatorium perfoliatum
Juncus effusus
Lobelia cardinalis
Monarda fistulosa
Scirpus cyperinus
Symphotrichum laeve
Symphotrichum novae-angliae
Verbena hastata

Big Bluestem
Swamp Milkweed
Indian Grass
Sideoats Grama
Awl-fruited Sedge, Owl Fruit Sedge
Tussock Sedge
Canada Wild Rye
Virginia Wild Rye
Hollow-stemmed Joe-Pye weed, Trumpetweed
Boneset
Common or Soft Rush
Cardinal Flower
Beebalm, Wild Bergamot
Wool Grass
Smooth Blue Aster
New England Aster
Blue Vervain, Simpler's Joy

Dry Meadow Mix

Andropogon gerardii
Asclepias syriaca
Asclepias tuberosa
Chamaecrista fasciculata
Coreopsis rosea
Desmodium canadense
Dichanthelium clandestinum
Elymus canadensis
Elymus villosus Muhl. ex Willd.*
Festuca rubra
Lespedeza capitata
*Lupinus perennis**
Monarda fistulosa
Panicum virgatum
*Penstemon hirsutus**
Poa palustris
Rudbeckia laciniata
Schizachyrium scoparium
Solidago canadensis
Solidago speciosa
Sorghastrum nutans
Symphotrichum laeve

Big Bluestem
Common Milkweed
Butterflyweed
Partridge Pea
Pink Coreopsis, Pink Tickseed
Showy Tick Trefoil
Deertongue
Canada Wild Rye
Hairy Wild Rye
Creeping Red Fescue
Roundheaded Bush Clover
Wild Blue Lupine
Beebalm, Wild Bergamot
Prarie Switchgrass
Hairy Beard-tongue
Fowl Meadow Grass, Fowl Blue Grass
Cut-leaf or Green-headed Coneflower
Little Bluestem
Canada Goldenrod
Showy Goldenrod
Indian Grass
Smooth Blue Aster

Symphotrichum lateriflorum
Symphotrichum novae-angliae
Verbena hastata

Calico Aster
New England Aster
Blue Vervain, Simpler's Joy

Native Turf Sun Mix

Festuca aurundinacea
Festuca rubra fallax

Tall Fescue (Not native to MA)
Chewings Fescue (Not native to MA)

(Editors Note: Though both species are not native to Massachusetts no reasonable alternative species exist for those wishing turf lawns. This mix requires less frequent mowing and should be cut higher than bluegrass lawns.)

Native Turf Shade Mix

Festuca rubra ssp.rubra

Red Fescue

Woodland/Riparian Mix

*Actaea racemosa**
Anemone virginiana
Aquilegia canadensis
Arisaema triphyllum
Carex comosa
Carex vulpinoidea
Caulophyllum thalictroides
Elymus riparius
Elymus virginicus
Eupatoriadelphus maculatus
Eupatorium perfoliatum
Eurybia macrophylla
Geum laciniatum
Heliopsis helianthoides
Juncus effusus
Maianthemum racemosum
Mimulus ringens
Osmorhiza claytonii
Polemonium reptans
Rubus allegheniensis
Symphotrichum ericoides
Symphotrichum pilosum
*Symphotrichum prenanthoides**
Symphotrichum ericoides
Verbena hastata

Black Cohosh
Thimbleweed
Wild Red Columbine
Jack-In-The-Pulpit
Longhair Sedge
Fox Sedge
Blue Cohosh
Riverbank Wild Rye
Virginia Wild Rye
Joe-Pye Weed, Spotted Trumpetweed
Boneset
Large Leaf Aster
Rough Avens
Oxeye Sunflower
Common or Soft Rush
False Solomon's Seal, Solomon's Plume
Allegheny Monkey Flower
Sweet Cicely, Clayton's Sweetroot
Greek Valerian, Jacob's Ladder
Allegheny Blackberry, Common Blackberry
White Heath Aster
Hairy White Old Field Aster, Frost Aster
Crooked Stem Aster, Zig Zag Aster
White Heath Aster
Blue Vervain, Simpler's Joy

Sources for Purchasing Native Plant Materials

Bigelow Nurseries, Inc.

455 W Main St
Northborough, MA 01532-2137
(508) 845-2143
www.bigelownurseries.com

Garden in the Woods (New England Wildflower Society)

180 Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA 01701
(508) 877-7630
www.newfs.org

Nasami Farm (New England Wildflower Society)

128 North Street
Whately, MA
(413) 397-9922
www.newfs.org/visit/nasami-farm

New England Wetland Plants, Inc.

820 West Street
Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 549-4000
www.newp.com

Pierson Nurseries, Inc.

24 Buzzell Road
Biddeford, Maine 04005
(207) 499-2994
www.piersonnurseries.com

Sylvan Nurseries

1028 Horseneck Road
Westport, MA 02790
508-636-4573
www.sylvannursery.com

Vermont Wetland Plant Supply, LLC

P.O. Box 153
Orwell, VT 05760
(802) 948-2553
www.vermontwetlandplants.com

Weston Nurseries (Source for native azaleas)

93 East Main Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748
(508) 435-3414
www.westonnurseries.com

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Millican Nursery

187 Pleasant St.

Chichester, N.H. 03258

(603) 435-5039

www.millicannurseriesinc.com/

Ernst Conservation Seeds

9006 Mercer Pike

Meadville PA 16335

(800) 873-3321

www.ernstseed.com

Pinelands Nursery, Inc.

323 Island Road

Columbus, New Jersey 08022

(609) 291-9486

(800) 667-2729

www.pinelandsnursery.com