Connecticut Coastal Planting Guide

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This guide will be a useful tool for those interested in native landscaping within Connecticut’s coastal region. It contains a list of plants that will grow well along Long Island Sound and several miles inland. Connecticut’s coastal zone is defined here as the coastal ecoregion of Dowhan and Craig (1976) (Figure 1). An ecoregion is an area of similar landforms, climate, and biota. This region, divided below into eastern and western coastal ecoregions (V-A and V-B), extends 5 to 7 miles inland and has a long frost-free season (average approximately 180 days in the west, and 195 days in the east). Within this region, there are a wide variety of habitats and growing conditions, including tidal marshes and coastal forests, soils ranging from fine silts to sandy or rocky soils, and soil moisture conditions ranging from wet or moist to very dry. Vegetation in a particular area depends on a complex suite of site characteristics including geology and soils, local climate, topography, land use history and biotic factors. So the plants found growing in one location may be very different from those found one or two miles away.

Figure 1. Ecoregions of Connecticut (from Dowhan, J. and R. Craig. 1976. Rare and endangered species of Connecticut and their habitats. Hartford, CT: Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey, p. 135.)
Plants are categorized in the following list by growth form: tree, shrub, herbaceous perennial, or vine. For each species, information is provided on general plant characteristics such as average height, growth conditions (light and soil conditions), and salinity tolerance in terms of soil salinity and salt spray tolerance. In some cases, information is provided on negative aspects of a plant, such as whether or not it is poisonous to humans. This information on plant toxicity is included only as space permits and so should not be considered a definitive guide.

Salts from both Long Island Sound waters and pavement de-icing materials can pose challenges to those landscaping in coastal Connecticut. Salts can impact plants in the form of salt spray or can accumulate in soils. Salt spray can damage leaves and plant tissue: high soil salt concentrations can damage plant tissue and interfere with water uptake. Either can ultimately cause plant death. This publication indicates salt tolerance for the listed species both in the form of salt spray and soil salt tolerance. For some species, the data are clearly consistent and species are indicated as being salt tolerant. For some species, however, depending on how salt tolerance studies were conducted, there may be differences in the results. In these situations, the tolerance is indicated as “Some references indicate tolerance.” Users of this guide know their localized landscaping area best. Information from local nurseries, taking note of which native species live and thrive nearby, combined with information offered here, may be the best guide in determining salinity tolerance for specific locations and conditions. In addition, there are cultivars and varieties of species available at local nurseries which may have higher salinity tolerances than those listed.

Plants that were not included on this list are nonnative or invasive species, certain native species that are particularly susceptible to disease or wind damage, and native plants listed by the state as endangered, threatened or of special concern. Native/Naturalized status for each species was determined using the USDA Plants Database, and a plant is considered “native” if it has been determined to occur naturally within Connecticut’s political boundaries.

There are many other plants and horticultural varieties that you may want to use in landscaping and that are much easier to find in local nurseries than those listed here. **This list is meant to be a starting place** where you can begin thinking about the growing conditions on your property such as soil type and exposure to salt, and the mix of desired growth forms (trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials). For example, one can create a windbreak with salt spray tolerant trees and shrubs, and behind it, plant favorite landscape plants and annuals that may have little if any salt tolerance.
Within Connecticut, any area below mean high water is directly subject to state regulation under the Connecticut Coastal Management Act. Any work or planting in or near a tidal wetland or watercourse, or within the Coastal Zone, may require a state permit. In addition, inland wetlands and watercourses are regulated by town inland wetlands commissions. In fact, even removal of invasive species from a wetland may require commission approval. For further information contact either your town Inland Wetland Commission or Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection
Office of Long Island Sound Programs
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
(860) 424-3034
References used to obtain information on plant characteristics, growing conditions and salinity tolerances:

http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/

Connecticut College Arboretum publications: http://www.conncoll.edu/green/arbo/8569.htm

http://www.uri.edu/cels/ceoc/coastalPlants/CoastalPlantGuide.htm

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Database http://www.wildflower.org/plants/

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/eh159


# NATIVE TREES for Coastal Connecticut

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<th>CHARACTERISTICS</th>
<th>SALINITY TOLERANCE</th>
<th>GROWTH CONDITIONS</th>
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| *Acer rubrum* Red maple       | Deciduous; height 12 – 21.3 m (40 – 70+ ft); rapid growing, red fall foliage; subject to storm damage | None               | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Grows best in moist, acidic conditions, but very adaptable |
| *Amelanchier arborea* Common serviceberry | Deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub or small tree; height to 10 m (33 ft); white flowers in early spring, red fall foliage | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Shade to full sun 
Soil: Moist acidic soil 
Can grow in a variety of habitats: forest edges, dry wood, rocky and sandy bluffs, swampy lowlands |
| *Amelanchier laevis* Allegheny serviceberry | Deciduous, small tree with multiple trunks; height 4.6 – 7.6 m (15-25 ft); white flowers in spring | Yes                | Light: Shade to full sun 
Soil: Moist to moderately dry soils; grows in cool, rich, woods, moist to drier thickets, swamp margins, 
Prefers wetter sites; drought sensitive |
| *Betula nigra* River birch    | Deciduous, multi-trunked with peeling bark; height to 21 m (70 ft); medium to rapid growth rate | None               | Light: Partial shade to full sun; shade intolerant 
Soil: Sandy/loamy, moist soils; can tolerate periodic flooding; commonly grows in riparian areas |
| *Betula populifolia* Gray birch | Deciduous, small, bushy tree with white, non-peeling bark. Height to 15 m (49 ft); Fast growing but short lived | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun 
Soil: wet to dry, poor soils often excessively drained soils; cannot withstand long periods of inundation |
| *Celtis occidentalis* Common Hackberry | Deciduous; height 15–21 m (50-70 ft); oval lance-shaped leaves; Fruits have high wildlife value | None               | Light: Shade to full sun 
Soil: Prefers rich soil, but is very adaptable; Can grow along stream banks or flood plains |
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| Cornus alternifolia      | Deciduous; height to 7.6 m (25 ft); clusters of small, white flowers in mid to late spring; red/purple berries | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Shade to partial shade  
Soil: Moist, well-drained, acidic soils  
Susceptible to wind and ice damage; tolerant of poor soils |
| Cornus florida           | Deciduous; height 6 - 9 m (20-30 ft); showy spring flowers, red fruit, red fall foliage; susceptible to anthracnose | None                         | Light: Shade to partial shade  
Soil: Rich well-drained, acidic soils |
| Crataegus crus-galli     | Deciduous; height 6 - 11 m (20-35 ft); exfoliating bark, horizontal branching, red fall foliage, thorns | Tolerant                     | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: variable, prefers moist, well-drained soils |
| Fraxinus americana       | Deciduous; height 20 – 30 m (66-98 ft); Often planted in large, open areas as a shade tree; medium growth rate | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun; prefers full sun  
Soil: Rich, moist, well-drained soils, well drained stream banks; tolerant of poorly drained soils |
| Fraxinus pennsylvanica   | Deciduous; Height approx 15m (49 ft); Once established, very hardy to climatic extremes | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Adaptable, prefers fertile, well drained loamy soils; will tolerate seasonal flooding; intolerant of shading |
| Ilex opaca               | Evergreen; height 4.6 - 6 m (15–20 ft) but can be more; bright red berries on female plants; very slow growing; need male and female plants to produce fruits; fruits are poisonous | Some references indicate low tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Moist, well-drained sandy/loamy soils; will tolerate somewhat poorly drained soils |
| Juglans nigra            | Deciduous; height 15 - 21 m (50-70 ft) or more; Fruits (nuts) can be messy; susceptible to anthracnose; slow growing | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Full sun  
Soil: needs fertile, moist soil, grows well in riparian areas |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juniperus virginiana</td>
<td>Evergreen; height generally 3 - 12 m (10-40 ft); slow growth rate</td>
<td>Tolerates some salt spray</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern red cedar</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low salinity tolerance</td>
<td>Soil: found on a variety of soil types from dry, acidic, sandy soils; to dry limestone based soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liriodendron tulipifera</td>
<td>Deciduous; rapid growing; height 24 -37 m (80 - 120 ft); tulip shaped green -yellow flowers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulip poplar</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low tolerance</td>
<td>Soil moist, deep, well-drained soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyssa sylvatica</td>
<td>Deciduous, medium tree; height 9 - 15 m (30 - 50 ft) with a 6 - 9 m (20 - 30 ft) spread; red fall foliage; slow growth rate</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackgum</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Soil: prefers moist, well-drained acidic soils; will tolerate poor drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinus rigida</td>
<td>Evergreen; height to 18 m (60 ft); a three needle species, medium growth rate</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Requires full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitch pine</td>
<td></td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Soil: Dry, gravelly or sandy soil; Intolerant of competition from other plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanus occidentalis</td>
<td>Deciduous; height to 30 m (100 ft); fast growing, susceptible to wind and ice damage</td>
<td>Some references indicate low tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Soil: prefers moist, sandy or silty soils; can withstand extended flooding; drought tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus virginiana</td>
<td>Deciduous, small tree; height 6-9 m (20– 30 ft); often forms thickets; parts of plant are toxic</td>
<td>Tolerates salt spray</td>
<td>Light: Shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chokecherry</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Soil: prefers rich, moist soils, but will grow under a wide variety of soil types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus serotina</td>
<td>Deciduous, height 18-24 m (60-90 ft); rapid growth, fragrant white flowers</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Sun to partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black cherry</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Soil: prefers moist well-drained soils; drought tolerant; common in CT’s coastal forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ptelea trifoliata</td>
<td>Deciduous, small tree; height to 6 m (20 ft)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common hoptree</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Soil: Moist to dry well-drained loams (prefers moist soil)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Good for both moist conditions and dry, rocky sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Characteristics</td>
<td>Light Requirement</td>
<td>Soil Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus alba</em></td>
<td>White oak; deciduous; height 30 m (100 ft); long lived shade tree</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Moist well-drained loams and sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus bicolor</em></td>
<td>Swamp white oak; deciduous; height 15 - 18 m (50 - 60 ft); moderate growth rate</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Moist to wet acidic soil; drought tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus palustris</em></td>
<td>Pin oak; deciduous; height 21 - 27 m (70 -90 ft); fast growing oak</td>
<td>Partial shade to sun</td>
<td>Wet, poorly drained soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus prinus</em></td>
<td>Chestnut oak; deciduous; height 18 - 21 m (60 -70 ft); moderate growth rate</td>
<td>Partial shade</td>
<td>Moist well-drained sandy loams; adaptable to poorly drained or dry soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus rubra</em></td>
<td>Northern red oak; deciduous, large tree; height 23 m (75 ft) +; can tolerate</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Well drained, acidic sandy loams; adaptable to poorly drained or dry soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus stellata</em></td>
<td>Post oak; deciduous; height 12 - 15 m (40 - 50 ft); slow growing</td>
<td>Partial shade</td>
<td>Dry to moist rocky or sandy soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Quercus velutina</em></td>
<td>Black oak; deciduous, medium sized tree; height 15 - 18 m (50 - 60 ft); moderate</td>
<td>Partial shade to sun</td>
<td>Dry, sandy to moist, rich, well-drained, acidic soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sassafras albidum</em></td>
<td>Sassafras; deciduous; height 18 m (59 ft); slender, pyramidal shape, with bright</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Moist well-drained soil, but adaptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tilia americana</em></td>
<td>Basswood; deciduous; height 15 - 21 m (50 - 70 ft); medium to fast growing;</td>
<td>Partial sun to full sun</td>
<td>Moist well-drained, loamy soils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# NATIVE SHRUBS for Coastal Connecticut

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CHARACTERISTICS</th>
<th>SALINITY TOLERANCE</th>
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| *Alnus incana ssp rugosa*  | Speckled alder Deciduous; Height: can reach 9m (30 ft) but often smaller; thicket forming, fast growing | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soils: moist soils, wide range of soil types, can tolerate occasional flooding and drought; often found growing in riparian areas. |
| *Alnus serrulata*       | Smooth alder Deciduous; Height: approx 3.7 m (12 ft) or more; thicket forming    | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soils: moist to wet soils; flood tolerant, often found in riparian areas, but will grow in well-drained uplands; Susceptible to wind and ice damage |
| *Amelanchier canadensis* | Canadian serviceberry Deciduous; Height: 1.8 – 6m (6 – 20 ft), multi-trunked; red fruits and orange to red fall foliage | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soils: moist, well-drained soils; subject to many diseases and insect problems which usually cause only cosmetic damage |
| *Amelanchier stolonifera* | Running serviceberry Deciduous; Height: 1.2 – 1.8 m (4- 6 ft), clump forming  | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soils: Moist to dry soils |
| *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* | Red bearberry Evergreen; Height: 0.15 - 0.3 m (0.5 – 1 ft); ground trailing shrub with wide spread; slow growing | Tolerant | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soils: rocky or sandy acidic soils  
Highly drought tolerant |
| *Baccharis halimifolia* | Groundsel bush Deciduous; Height: up to 3 m (10 ft); female plants have showy, cotton-like white flower clusters; fast growing | Tolerant | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soils: wet to dry soils often along borders of salt and brackish tidal marshes or in backdune areas |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Type: Height:</th>
<th>Light:</th>
<th>Soil:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ceanothus americanus New Jersey Tea</td>
<td>Deciduous: Height: to 0.9 m (3 ft) tall, white flowers</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade</td>
<td>Soils: well-drained sand or loam, limey soils; drought tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cephalanthus occidentalis Common buttonbush</td>
<td>Deciduous; Height: 0.9 – 3 m (3-10 ft) tall; Fruits are 2.5 cm (1 in) round ball-like cluster</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Soil: wet soils; sandy and clay loams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clethra alnifolia Coastal sweet pepperbush</td>
<td>Deciduous; Height up to 3 m (10 ft) tall; Spikes of fragrant white flowers bloom in late summer</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Soil: Wet to moist soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comptonia peregrine Sweetfern</td>
<td>Deciduous; Height 0.6 – 1.2 m (2 - 4 ft); member of the bayberry family; leaves aromatic when crushed; multiple stems</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade</td>
<td>Soil: sandy, acidic soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus amomum Silky dogwood</td>
<td>Deciduous: Height 1.8 - 3 m (6 - 10 ft); small white flowers with blue fruits</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade</td>
<td>Soil: wet to moist, clay. loamy and sandy soils; not drought tolerant; found in riparian areas/seasonal wetlands, fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus racemosa Gray dogwood</td>
<td>Deciduous; Height: 3 – 4.6 m (10 – 15 ft) tall; small, greenish white flowers</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Soil: prefers moist soils, but highly adaptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus sericea Redosier dogwood</td>
<td>Deciduous; Height:1.8 – 3.7 m (6 – 12 ft) tall; multi-stemmed with red branches</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade</td>
<td>Soil: moist, well-drained soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eubotrys racemosa Swamp doghobble</td>
<td>Deciduous; Height: 1.2 – 1.8 m (4 – 6 ft) tall; thicket forming; red fall foliage</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade</td>
<td>Soil: wet to moist, sandy acidic soils; Riparian areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaultheria procumbens Wintergreen</td>
<td>Evergreen; Height: 0.05 – 0.15 m (2 – 6 in). Forms small colonies</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to shade</td>
<td>Soil: moist to dry, variable soil types</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Gaylussacia baccata**  
Black huckleberry | Deciduous; Height: 0.3 – 0.6 m (1 – 2 ft) tall; colony forming shrub; red fall foliage | None | None | Light: Shade to partial shade to sun  
Soil: Wet to moist to dry, sandy or rocky, acidic soils; good ground cover for thin, rocky soils |
| **Gaylussacia frondosa**  
Blue huckleberry | Deciduous in CT; Height: 0.5 – 0.9 m (1.5 – 3 ft); blue fruits | None | None | Light: Partial shade  
Soil: well-drained soils; often on acidic, poor soils; often found in dry to wet woods and thickets and swamp margins; high drought tolerance |
| **Hamamelis virginiana**  
Common witchhazel | Deciduous; Height: 3 – 4.6 m (10 – 15 ft); multi-trunked; fall flowering with yellow flowers | Some references indicate tolerance | None | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Prefers rich, well drained soils |
| **Ilex verticillata**  
Common winterberry | Deciduous; Height: Up to 3 m (10 ft); fruits are bright red; need male and female plants to produce fruits | Some references indicate tolerance | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Soil: Moist, acidic soils; tolerant of poor drainage  
Fruits are poisonous |
| **Iva frutescens**  
High tide bush, marsh elder | Deciduous; Height: 0.6 – 1.8 m (2 – 6 ft), bushy, small, inconspicuous flowers | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Full sun  
Soil: Moist to wet saline soils, upland marsh border |
| **Juniperus communis**  
Common juniper | Evergreen; Height: 1.5 – 3 m (5 – 10 ft); slow growth rate | Some references indicate tolerance | Medium tolerance | Light: Full sun  
Soil: sandy, dry soils; Shade intolerant; high drought tolerance |
| **Juniperus horizontalis**  
Creeping juniper | Evergreen; Height: to 0.9 m (3 ft) but forms a horizontal mat to 20 ft | Low | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: dry, rocky soils; intolerant of shade and poor drainage |
| **Kalmia angustifolia**  
Sheep laurel | Evergreen; Height: to 0.9 m (3 ft) forming a horizontal mat; pink flowers | None | None | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Wet to dry soil  
Plant parts are poisonous |
| **Kalmia latifolia**  
Mountain laurel | Evergreen; Height: 3.7 – 6 m (12 – 20 ft); thicket forming | None | None | Light: Partial shade  
Soil: Moist, rocky or sandy soils  
Plant parts are poisonous |
| **Lindera benzoin**  
Northern spicebush | Deciduous; Height: 1.8 – 3.7 m (6 – 12 ft); fast growing shrub; yellow flowers followed by red fruits | None | None | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soil: moist, sandy, well-drained soils;  
Prefers moist, shady areas |
| **Lyonia ligustrina**  
Maleberry | Deciduous; Height: 0.9 – 3.7 m (3 to 12 ft); small, white flowers | None | None | Light: Partial shade  
Soil: Wet, poorly drained acidic soils; often found in riparian areas, and alluvial wetlands |
| **Morella pensylvanica**  
Northern bayberry | Height: 1.5 – 2.4 m (5 – 8 ft); waxy, silver/gray berries; need male and female plants to produce berries | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Sandy, clay soils, wide range of growing conditions |
| **Myrica gale**  
Sweet gale | Deciduous; Height: 0.6 – 1.2 m (2 – 4 ft); sweet scented leaves | Some references indicate tolerance | None | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Wet to moist soil |
| **Photinia floriunda**  
Purple chokeberry | Deciduous; Height to 3.7 m (12 ft); white, showy flowers | Some references indicate tolerance | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: wide range of soil types: clay, loam, sand and wet to dry; tolerates seasonal flooding  
Moderately tolerant of shade and drought; can be found in salt marsh borders |
| **Photinia prunifolia**  
Black chokeberry | Deciduous; Height 0.9 – 1.8 m (3 to 6 ft); multistemmed; small white flowers, purple fruits | Some references indicate tolerance | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Best in full sun  
Soil: dry to wet soils, adaptable to a wide variety of conditions |
| **Photinia pyrifolia**  
Red chokeberry | Deciduous; Height: 1.8 – 3 m (6 to 10 ft), multi-stemmed; white flower clusters; red fall foliage | Tolerant | Low tolerance | Light: Full sun  
Soil: dry to wet soils; adaptable to a wide variety of conditions |
| **Physocarpus opulifolius**  
Common ninebark | Deciduous; Height: 0.9 – 3 m (3 - 10 ft) whitish pink flowers; exfoliating bark | Some references indicate tolerance | None | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soil: wet, moist or dry clay or loam soils, drought tolerant. Grows well in a wide range of light, soil and moisture conditions  
| **Prunus maritima**  
Beach plum | Deciduous; Height: 1.8 – 3.7 m (6 - 12 ft); white flowers; fast growing | Tolerant | Low tolerance | Light: Full sun (shade intolerant)  
Soil: sandy or gravelly soils; sandy soils near the coast  
| **Quercus ilicifolia**  
Bear oak | Deciduous; Height: 3.7 – 6.1 m (12 – 20 ft), much branched | Some references indicate tolerance | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Full sun  
Soil: dry sandy or gravelly acidic soils  
| **Quercus prinoides**  
Dwarf Chinkapin Oak | Deciduous; Height: to 7.6 m (25 ft) | Some references indicate tolerance | Some references indicate tolerance | Sun: Shade to partial shade  
Soil: Dry, sandy/rocky soils  
| **Rhododendron viscosum**  
Swamp azalea | Deciduous; Height: 0.9 – 2.4 m (3-8 ft) tall; white very fragrant flowers | None | None | Light: Partial shade  
Soil: wet soils; flood tolerant.  
| **Rhus copallinum**  
Winged sumac | Deciduous; Height: to 3 m (10 ft), sometimes taller; thicket forming, leaves reddish purple in fall | Some references indicate tolerance | None | Light: Full sun  
Soil: dry, rocky often poor soils  
| **Rhus glabra**  
Smooth sumac | Deciduous; Height: 3 – 4.6 m (10 – 15 ft); thicket forming | Some references indicate tolerance | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: most dry soils; drought tolerant  
| **Rhus typhina**  
Staghorn sumac | Deciduous; Height: 4.6 – 9.1 m (15 – 30 ft); thicket forming | Some references indicate tolerance | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: dry, gravelly or rocky soils  
| **Rosa carolina**  
Carolina rose | Deciduous; Height: 0.3 – 0.9 m (1 – 3 ft); pink flowers | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: moist to dry rocky or sandy well-drained soils |
| **Rosa palustris**  
Swamp rose | Deciduous; Height: 1.8 – 2.4 m (6 – 8 ft); dark pink flowers | Some references indicate tolerance | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soil: wet, rich soils; found in wet thickets and riparian shorelines |
| **Rosa virginiana**  
Virginia Rose | Deciduous; Height: 0.6 – 1.8 m (2 – 6 ft) | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Prefers full sun; will grow in partial shade  
Soil: well drained acidic soils; found in thickets and meadows |
| **Salix discolor**  
Pussy willow | Deciduous; Height: up to 6 m (20 ft); fast growing/ short lived | None | None | Light: Prefers full sun; shade tolerant  
Soil: Prefers damp soils; |
| **Sambucus nigra**  
ssp. **canadensis**  
American black elderberry | Deciduous; Height: up to 3.7 m (12 ft) tall, white flower clusters, deep purple fruits | None | None | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: wet to dry soils; prefers moist, rich soils |
| **Spiraea alba** var. **latifolia**  
White Meadowsweet | Deciduous; Height: 0.3 – 1.8 m (1 – 6 ft) | Some references indicate tolerance | None | Light: Full sun  
Soil: moist soils |
| **Spirea tomentosa**  
Steeplebush | Deciduous; Height: 0.6 – 1.8 m (2 – 6 ft) | Some references indicate tolerance | None | Light: Full sun  
Soil: moist to wet soils; found in wet meadows and riparian areas |
| **Vaccinium angustifolium**  
Lowbush blueberry | Deciduous; Height: 0.15 – 0.6 m (0.5 – 2 ft); multiple stemmed | Some references indicate tolerant | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: best growth on well drained acidic soils |
| **Vaccinium corymbosum**  
Highbush blueberry | Deciduous; Height: 1.8 – 3.7 m (6 – 12 ft) | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soil: wet to moist to dry; acidic rocky soil to organic peat |
| **Vaccinium macrocarpon**  
cranberry | Evergreen; Height: less than 0.3 m (1 ft) | None | None | Light: Partial shade  
Soil: wet to moist, peaty soils |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>Deciduous; Height</th>
<th>Tolerance</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Soil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Vaccinium pallidum</em></td>
<td>0.3 – 0.6 m (1 -2 ft); colony forming</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Shade to partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Moist to dry loamy sands; often found in dry woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum dentatum</em></td>
<td>0.9 – 2.7 m (3 – 9 ft); wide clusters of white flowers, dark blue fruits</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun.</td>
<td>Dry to wet soils and sands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Viburnum recognitum</em></td>
<td>1.5 – 4.6 m (5 – 15 ft); multistemmed, dark blue fruits</td>
<td>Some reference indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Partial shade to shade</td>
<td>Wet to moist, fertile, loamy soils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# NATIVE GRASSES/SEDGES/RUSHES for Coastal Connecticut

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CHARACTERISTICS</th>
<th>SALINITY TOLERANCE</th>
<th>GROWTH CONDITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Ammophila breviligulata**               | Perennial, erect grass; Height: 0.6-0.9 m (2-3 ft); spreads laterally by rhizomes; continues growth when leaves are covered by sand | Tolerant Tolerant    | Light: Full sun  
Soil: Dry sand or sandy, coarse textured soils; most common plant of CT’s sand dunes; local genotypes should be used; plant dormant culms between Oct15 and April 1 |
| American Beach Grass                      |                                                                                  |                      |                                                                                  |
| **Andropogon gerardii**                   | Perennial, clump forming; height 1.2-2.4 m (4-8 ft); copper fall color          | Tolerant Tolerant    | Light: Partial shade to sun.  
Soil: sandy to clay soils, well drained, drought tolerant once established |
| Big bluestem                              |                                                                                  |                      |                                                                                  |
| **Andropogon virginicus**                 | Perennial, tuft forming grass; height: 0.6-1.2 m (2-4 ft); golden fall color    | Some references indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soils: low fertility soils, dry, sandy soils; drought tolerant |
| Broomsedge bluestem                       |                                                                                  |                      |                                                                                  |
| **Carex stricta**                         | Perennial, slender leaves; Height: 0.3-0.9 m (1-3 ft); forms large hummocks up to 0.9 m (3 ft) wide | None None            | Light: Full sun  
Soil: Wet soil to standing water |
| Upright sedge or Tussock sedge            |                                                                                  |                      |                                                                                  |
| **Distichlis spicata**                    | Perennial, erect and rigid; height: approx 0.3 m (1 ft) tall                    | Tolerant Tolerant    | Light: Full sun  
Soil: wet saline or alkaline soils; in CT found in salt and brackish tidal marshes; can adapt to drier soils such as sands, silts and clays |
<p>| Spikegrass                                |                                                                                  |                      |                                                                                  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Life Form</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Light Requirements</th>
<th>Soil Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Elymus virginicus</em></td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>0.6-1.2 m (2-4 ft)</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Prefers fertile, loamy soils but will grow in many other soil types; moist conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hierochloe odorata</em></td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>0.3-0.6 m (1-2 ft)</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
<td>Wet soils; moist meadows, fresh/brackish shoreline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hordeum jubatum</em></td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>0.3-0.6 m (1-2 ft)</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
<td>Wide range of soil types; poorly drained to dry soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Juncus effuses</em></td>
<td>Grass-like perennial</td>
<td>1.2 m (4 ft), clump forming, slow spreading</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
<td>Clay, loam, sand; fresh to brackish marshes; seasonal wetlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Juncus gerardii</em></td>
<td>Grass-like perennial</td>
<td>0.25 – 0.5 m (10 – 20 in); capsule fruit turns dark brown hence the name “blackgrass”</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
<td>Wet soils of salt and brackish marshes, found at higher elevations of the salt marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Panicum virgatum</em></td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>0.9 – 1.8 m (3 – 6 ft) grows in large clumps, stem has reddish tint</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Dry to moist soils, grows best in sandy to clay loams; can tolerate seasonal poor drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Schizachyrium scoparium</em></td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>0.5 – 0.6 m (1.5 – 2 ft) foliage turns from blue-green to copper in the fall</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Well-drained, medium to dry infertile soils; wide range of soils but not wetlands; drought tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Schoenoplectus robustus</em></td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>up to 1 m (3.5 ft), stems are triangular in cross-section</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
<td>Wide range of wetland soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sorghastrum nutans</em></td>
<td>Perennial</td>
<td>0.9 – 1.5 m (3-5 ft)</td>
<td>Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Grows best in moist, rich soils; tolerant of poor to excessively well-drained soils; many soil types</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Spartina alterniflora** | Perennial grass; height 0.9 – 2 m (3 - 7 ft), spreads extensively via rhizomes | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Full sun  
Soil: Sandy to peaty soils; salt/brackish marshes and shorelines |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Spartina patens**      | Perennial grass; height: 0.3 – 0.5 m (1 – 1.5 ft) spreads extensively via rhizomes | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Full sun  
Soil: Sandy to peaty soils; salt/brackish marshes; tolerates irregular tidal inundation |
# NATIVE HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS for Coastal Connecticut

<table>
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<tr>
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</table>
| **Asclepias tuberosa**      | Height: 0.5 – 0.6 m (1.5 – 2 ft); large clusters of orange flowers | None | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Prefers well-drained sandy soil; drought tolerant; Parts may be toxic |
| **Baptisia australis**      | Bushy; height: 0.6 – 1.2 m (2 – 4 ft) with 0.6 – 0.9 m (2-3 ft) spread; blue legume flowers | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Full sun  
Soil: Gravelly, sandy or well-drained loamy soils; drought tolerant |
| **Baptisia tinctoria**      | Bushy; height 0.6 – 0.9 m (2 – 3 ft); yellow flowers | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Full sun  
Soil: acidic loams, sand  
Toxic if ingested |
| **Eupatoriadelphus dubius** | Height: 0.6 – 1.5 ft (2 – 5 ft); pale pink flowers | None | Light: Full sun  
Soil: sandy, wet soils particularly in marshes and wet meadows |
| **Eupatoriadelphus maculates** | Height: 0.9 – 1.8 m (3 – 6 ft); pale pink flowers | None | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: various soil types as long as wet to moist conditions |
| **Eupatorium perfoliatum**  | Height: 0.6 – 1.2 m (2 – 4 ft); white flowers | None | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: various soil types as long as wet to moist conditions |
| **Eupatorium purpureum**    | Height: 0.9 – 2.1 m (3 – 7 ft); pink flowers | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: various soil types with moist to average soils moisture conditions |
| **Hibiscus moscheutos**  
Crimson-eyed rosemallow | Height: 1.2 – 2.1 m (4 – 7 ft); white or pink flowers | Low tolerance | Low tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: brackish marsh soils |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Iris versicolor**  
Harlequin blueflag | Height: 0.3 – 0.9 m (1 – 3 ft); blue to purple flowers | None | Some references indicate moderate brackish water tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Moist, rich soils; can tolerate inundation |
| **Limonium carolinianum**  
Sea Lavendar | Height: 0.3 – 0.6 m (1 – 2 ft); pale purple flowers | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: wet soils; common in salt marshes, and tidal shorelines |
| **Lobelia cardinalis**  
Cardinal flower | Height: 0.3 – 1.2 m (1 – 4 ft); bright red flowers | None | None | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soil: wet to moist soils; riparian areas  
Poisonous parts |
| **Lobelia siphilitica**  
Great blue lobelia | Height: 0.6 – 0.9 m (2 – 3 ft); blue flowers | None | None | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soil: wet to moist clay, loamy to sandy soils  
Poisonous parts |
| **Lupinus perennis**  
Sundial lupine | Height: 0.3 – 0.9 m (1 – 3 ft); blue/purple flowers | None | None | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Dry, well-drained sandy soils |
| **Sarcocornia perennis**  
Perennial glasswort | Height: 15-30 cm (6–12 in); forms mats to 1 m (3.2 ft) diam; fleshy, succulent, bright green stems; red fall color | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Full sun  
Soil: Sandy, marshy soils |
| **Solidago sempervirens**  
Seaside goldenrod | Height: 0.3 – 2.4 m (1-8 ft) tall; fleshy, waxy leaves; yellow flowers | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Full sun  
Soil: Sandy soils |
| **Symphyotrichum novae-angliae**  
New England aster | Height: 0.9 – 1.8 m (3 – 6 ft); pink/purple flowers | None | None | Light: Partial shade  
Soil: Moist soils |
| **Symphyotrichum tenuifolium**  
Perennial saltmarsh aster | Height: 0.3 – 0.6 m (1 – 2 ft); white to pale purple flowers | Tolerant | Tolerant | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: salt/brackish marsh soils |
### Teucrium canadense
Canada germander

- **Height**: 0.3 – 0.9 m (1 – 3 ft); pink and white flowers
- **Light**: Partial shade
- **Soil**: Prefers moist or shallow, submerged soils
- **Some references indicate tolerance**

### Vernonia noveboracensis
New York Ironweed

- **Height**: 0.9 – 2.1 m (3 – 7 ft); purple flowers
- **Light**: Full sun
- **Soil**: Prefers moist soils, but will grow in average to dry soils

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## NATIVE VINES for Coastal Connecticut

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lathyrus japonicus var. maritimus</strong>&lt;br&gt;Beach pea</td>
<td>Perennial, trailing vine; to 0.6 m (2 ft) pink to purple flowers</td>
<td>Tolerant&lt;br&gt;Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Full sun&lt;br&gt;Soil: Sandy or loamy, well-drained soils&lt;br&gt;Seeds are toxic to humans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lonicera sempervirens</strong>&lt;br&gt;Trumpet honeysuckle</td>
<td>Perennial; climbing or ground cover; 0.9 – 6 m (3 – 20 ft); semi-evergreen leaves, red, tubular flowers</td>
<td>None&lt;br&gt;None</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun&lt;br&gt;Soil: Moist, well-drained soils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>