
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

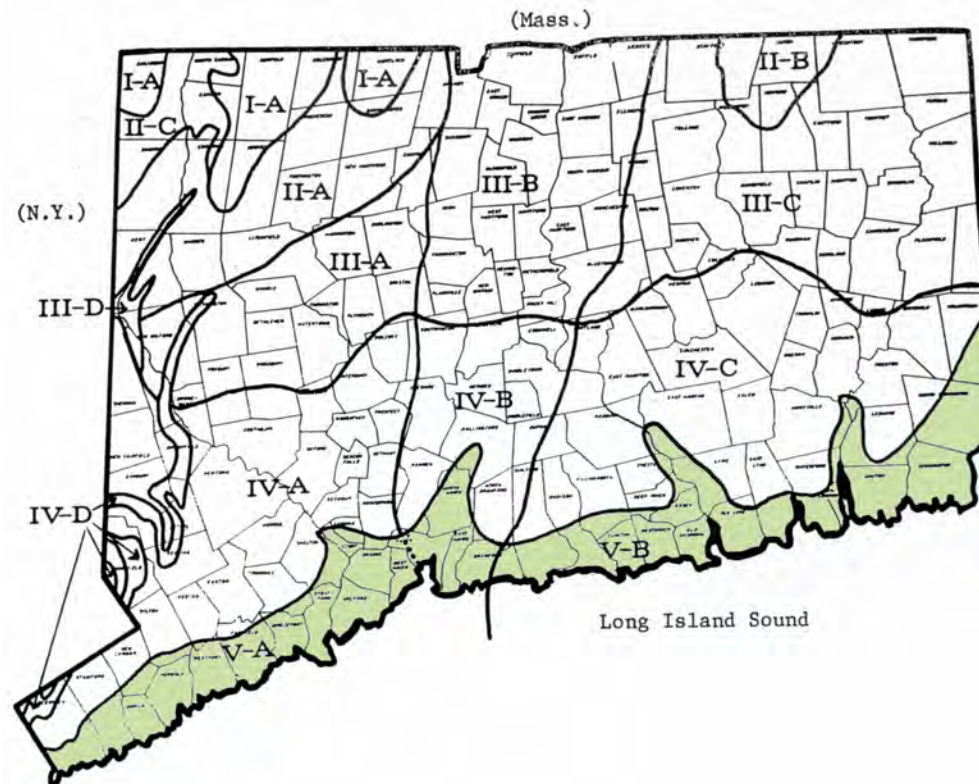


Figure 1. Ecoregions of Connecticut adapted from Dowhan, J. and R. Craig. 1976. Rare and endangered species of Connecticut and their habitats. Hartford, CT: Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey. p. 135.

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 wind break 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. Additionally, inland wetlands and watercourses are regulated by town inland wetlands commissions. 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:

Brand, M. 2001. UConn Plant Database. University of Connecticut. <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/>

Connecticut Botanical Society Databases (<http://www.ct-botanical-society.org/>)

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

Gordon, S., B. Maynard, G. Torphy, D. Hughes, K. Venturini, C. Chaffee. 2007. Rhode Island Coastal Plant Guide. University of Rhode Islands and Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council. <http://www.uri.edu/cels/ceoc/coastalPlants/CoastalPlantGuide.htm>
<http://hort.ufl.edu/trees/>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Database (<http://www.wildflower.org/plants/>)

Rollins, L. 2007. Salinity Management Guide: Choose salt-tolerant plants. WateReuse Foundation. http://www.salinitymanagement.org/Salinity%20Management%20Guide/cp/cp_7.html

USDA, NRCS. 2006. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>), 21 November 2006). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

NATIVE TREES for Coastal Connecticut

NAME	CHARACTERISTICS	SALINITY TOLERANCE		GROWTH CONDITIONS
		Spray	Soil	
<i>Acer rubrum</i> Red maple	Deciduous; height 12 – 21.3 m (40–70+ ft); rapid growing, red fall foliage; subject to storm damage	None	None	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil: Grows best in moist, acidic conditions, but very adaptable
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> 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	None	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
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i> Allegheny serviceberry	Deciduous, small tree with multiple trunks; height 4.6 – 7.6 m (15-25 ft); white flowers in spring	Yes	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
<i>Betula nigra</i> River birch	Deciduous, multi-trunked with peeling bark; height to 21 m (70 ft); medium to rapid growth rate	None	None	Light: Partial shade to full sun; shade intolerant Soil: Sandy/loamy, moist soils; can tolerate periodic flooding; commonly grows in riparian areas
<i>Betula populifolia</i> 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	None	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil: wet to dry, poor soils often excessively drained soils; cannot withstand long periods of inundation
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> Common Hackberry	Deciduous; height 15–21 m (50-70 ft); oval lance-shaped leaves; Fruits have high wildlife value	None	None	Light: Shade to full sun Soil: Prefers rich soil, but is very adaptable; Can grow along stream banks or flood plains

NAME	CHARACTERISTICS	SALINITY TOLERANCE		GROWTH CONDITIONS
		Spray	Soil	
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> Pagoda dogwood	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	None	Light: Shade to partial shade Soil: Moist, well-drained, acidic soils. Susceptible to wind and ice damage; tolerant of poor soils
<i>Cornus florida</i> Flowering Dogwood	Deciduous; height 6 - 9 m (20-30 ft); showy spring flowers, red fruit, red fall foliage; susceptible to anthracnose.	None	None	Light: Shade to partial shade Soil: Rich well-drained, acidic soils
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> Cockspur hawthorn	Deciduous; height 6 - 11 m (20-35 ft); exfoliating bark, horizontal branching, red fall foliage, thorns	Tolerant	Yes	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil: variable, prefers moist, well-drained soils
<i>Fraxinus americana</i> White ash	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	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
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> Green ash	Deciduous; Height approx 15m (49 ft); Once established, very hardy to climatic extremes	Some references indicate tolerance	None	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil: Adaptable, prefers fertile, well drained loamy soils; will tolerate seasonal flooding; intolerant of shading
<i>Ilex opaca</i> American holly	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	Some references indicate low tolerance	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil: Moist, well-drained sandy/loamy soils; will tolerate somewhat poorly drained soils
<i>Juglans nigra</i> Black walnut	Deciduous; height 15 - 21 m (50-70 ft) or more; Fruits (nuts) can be messy; susceptible to anthracnose; slow growing	Some references indicate tolerance	Some references indicate tolerance	Light: Full sun Soil: needs fertile, moist soil, grows well in riparian areas

NAME	CHARACTERISTICS	SALINITY TOLERANCE		GROWTH CONDITIONS
		Spray	Soil	
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> Eastern red cedar	Evergreen; height generally 3 - 12 m (10-40 ft); slow growth rate	Tolerates some salt spray	Low salinity tolerance	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil: found on a variety of soil types from dry, acidic, sandy soils; to dry limestone based soils
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> Tulip poplar	Deciduous; rapid growing; height 24 -37 m (80 - 120 ft); tulip shaped green -yellow flowers	None	Low tolerance	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil moist, deep, well-drained soils
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> Blackgum	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	Some references indicate tolerance	Low	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soils: prefers moist, well-drained acidic soils; will tolerate poor drainage
<i>Pinus rigida</i> Pitch Pine	Evergreen; height to 18 m (60 ft); a three needle species, medium growth rate	Some references indicate tolerance	Some references indicate tolerance	Light: Requires full sun Soil: Dry, gravelly or sandy soil; Intolerant of competition from other plants
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> Sycamore	Deciduous; Height approx 15m (49 ft); Once established, very hardy to climatic extremes	Some references indicate tolerance	None	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil: prefers moist, sandy or silty soils; can withstand extended flooding; drought tolerant
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> Chokecherry	Deciduous, small tree; height 6-9 m (20– 30 ft); often forms thickets; parts of plant are toxic	Tolerates salt spray	None	Light: Shade to full sun Soil: prefers rich, moist soils, but will grow under a wide variety of soil types
<i>Prunus serotina</i> Black cherry	Deciduous, height 18-24 m (60-90 ft); rapid growth, fragrant white flowers	Some references indicate tolerance	None	Light: Sun to partial shade Soil: prefers moist well-drained soils; drought tolerant; common in CT's coastal forests

NAME	CHARACTERISTICS	SALINITY TOLERANCE		GROWTH CONDITIONS
		Spray	Soil	
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> Common hoptree	Deciduous, small tree; height to 6 m (20 ft)	None	None	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil: Moist to dry well-drained loams (prefers moist soil) Good for both moist conditions and dry, rocky sites
<i>Quercus alba</i> White oak	Deciduous; height to 30 m (100 ft); long lived shade tree	Some references indicate tolerance	Some references indicate tolerance	Light: Partial shade to full sun Soil: prefers moist well-drained loams and sand
<i>Quercus bicolor</i> Swamp white oak	Deciduous; height 15 - 18 m (50 - 60 ft); moderate growth rate, leaves have whitish green undersides	None	None	
<i>Quercus palustris</i> Pin oak				
<i>Quercus prinus</i> Chestnut oak				
<i>Quercus rubra</i> Northern red oak				
<i>Quercus stellata</i> Post oak				

Ptelea trifoliata

Common hoptree Deciduous, small tree; height to 6 m (20 ft)

None None Light: Partial shade to full sun

Soil: Moist to dry well-drained loams (prefers moist soil)

Good for both moist conditions and dry, rocky sites

Quercus alba

White oak Deciduous; height to 30 m (100 ft); long lived shade tree Some references indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance Light: Partial shade to full sun

Soil: prefers moist well-drained loams and sand

Quercus bicolor

Swamp white oak Deciduous; height 15 - 18 m (50 - 60 ft); moderate growth rate, leaves have whitish green undersides None None Light: Partial shade to full sun

Soil: prefers moist to wet acidic soil; drought tolerant

Quercus palustris

Pin oak Deciduous tree, height 21 - 27 m (70 -90 ft); fast growing oak, strongly pyramidal shape, red fall foliage None None Light: Partial shade to sun

Soil: Wet, poorly drained soils

Quercus prinus

Chestnut oak Deciduous tree, height 18 - 21 m (60 -70 ft); moderate growth rate Some references indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance Light: Partial shade

Soil: often found on sandy, rocky or gravelly, dry soils; will grow well on well-drained lowland sites

Quercus rubra

Northern red oak Deciduous, large tree; height 23 m (75 ft) +; can tolerate urban conditions None Some references indicate tolerance Light: Partial shade to full sun

Soil: prefers well drained, acidic sandy loams; adaptable to poorly drained or dry soils

Quercus stellata

Post oak Deciduous, height 12 - 15 m (40 - 50 ft); slow growing Some references indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance Light: Partial shade

Soil: Dry to moist rocky or sandy soils

Quercus velutina

Black oak Deciduous, medium sized tree; height 15 - 18 m (50 - 60 ft), moderate growth rate Low Some references indicate tolerance Light: Partial shade to sun

Soil: dry, sandy to moist, rich, well-drained, acidic soil

Sassafras albidum

Sassafras Deciduous; height to 18 m (59 ft); slender, pyramidal shape, with bright yellow/orange foliage in the fall; A common tree of CT's coastal forests Some references indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance) Light: Partial shade to full sun

Soil: Prefers moist well-drained soil, but adaptable

High drought tolerance

Tilia americana

Basswood Deciduous; height 15 - 21 m (50 - 70 ft); medium to fast growing; flowers favored by bees None None Light: Partial sun to full sun

Soil: Moist well-drained, loamy soils

**NAME CHARACTERISTICS SALINITY TOLERANCE
GROWTH CONDITIONS**

Spray Soil

Alnus incana ssp rugosa

Speckled alder Deciduous; Height : can reach 9m (30 ft) but often smaller; thicket forming, fast growing Some references indicate tolerance 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 None 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 Medium 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 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 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 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

Ceanothus americanus

New Jersey Tea Deciduous: Height: to 0.9 m (3 ft) tall, white flowers None None Light: Shade to partial shade
Soils: well-drained sand or loam, limey soils; drought tolerant

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Common buttonbush Deciduous; Height: 0.9 – 3 m (3-10 ft) tall; Fruits are 2.5 cm (1 in) round ball-like cluster None Some references indicate low tolerance Light:
Partial shade to full sun
Soil: wet soils; sandy and clay loams

Clethra alnifolia

Coastal sweet pepperbush Deciduous; Height up to 3 m (10 ft) tall; Spikes of fragrant white flowers bloom in late summer Tolerant Some references indicate tolerance Light:
Partial shade to full sun.
Soil: Wet to moist soils

Comptonia peregrine

Sweetfern Deciduous; Height 0.6 – 1.2 m (2 - 4 ft); member of the bayberry family; leaves aromatic when crushed; multiple stems Some reference indicate tolerance
Some references indicate tolerance Light: Partial shade
Soil: sandy, acidic soils

Cornus amomum

Silky dogwood Deciduous; Height 1.8 - 3 m (6 – 10 ft); small white flowers with blue fruits Some references indicate tolerance None Light: Shade to partial shade
Soil: wet to moist, clay, loamy and sandy soils; not drought tolerant; found in riparian areas/seasonal wetlands, fields

Cornus racemosa

Gray dogwood Deciduous; Height: 3 – 4.6 m (10 – 15 ft) tall; small, greenish white flowers Some references indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun
Soil: prefers moist soils, but highly adaptable

Cornus sericea

Redosier dogwood Deciduous; Height: 1.8 – 3.7 m (6 – 12 ft) tall; multi-stemmed with red branches Some references indicate tolerance None Light: Partial shade
Soil: moist, well-drained soils

Eubotrys racemosa

Swamp doghobble Deciduous; Height: 1.2 – 1.8 m (4 – 6 ft) tall; thicket forming; red fall foliage None Some references indicate low tolerance Light: Partial shade
Soil: wet to moist, sandy acidic soils;
Riparian areas

Gaultheria procumbens

Wintergreen Evergreen; Height: 0.05 – 0.15 m (2 – 6 in). Forms small colonies None None Light: Partial shade to shade
Soil: moist to dry, variable soil types

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				
<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>				
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				
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>				
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				
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>				
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				
<i>Lyonia ligustrina</i>				
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				
<i>Morella pensylvanica</i>				
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				
<i>Myrica gale</i>				
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				
<i>Photinia floribunda</i>				
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				
<i>Photinia prunifolia</i>				
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				
<i>Photinia pyrifolia</i>				
Red chokeberry	Deciduous; Height: 1.8 – 3 m (6 to 10 ft), multistemmed; white flower clusters; red fall foliage	Tolerant	Low tolerance	Light: Full sun
Soil: dry to wet soils; adaptable to a wide variety of conditions				
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>				
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 Λιγητ: Full sun (shade intolerant)

Σοιλ: σανδψ ορ γραπελλψ σοιλσ; σανδψ σοιλσ νεαρ τηε χοαστ

Quercus ilicifolia

Bear oak Deciduous; Height: 3.7 – 6.1 m (12 – 20 ft), much branched Some references indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance Λιγητ: Φυλλ συν

Σοιλ: δρψ σανδψ ορ γραπελλψ αχιδιχ σοιλσ

Quercus prinoides

Dwarf Chinkapin Oak Deciduous; Height: to 7.6 m (25 ft) Some references indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance Συν: Σηαδε το παρτιαλ σηαδε

Σοιλ: Δρψ, σανδψ/ρογκψ σοιλσ

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

Spiraea 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

Vaccinium pallidum

Blue Ridge blueberry Deciduous; Height 0.3 – 0.6 m (1 -2 ft); colony forming None None Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun

Soil: Moist to dry loamy sands; often found in dry woods

Viburnum dentatum

Southern arrowwood Deciduous; Height 0.9 – 2.7 m (3 – 9 ft); wide clusters of white flowers, dark blue fruits Tolerant Tolerant Light: Partial shade to full sun.

Soil: dry to wet soils and sands

Viburnum recognitum

Southern arrowwood Deciduous; Height: 1.5 – 4.6 m (5 – 15 ft); multistemmed, dark blue fruits Some reference indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance

Light: Partial shade to shade

Soil: wet to moist, fertile, loamy soils

**NAME CHARACTERISTICS SALINITY TOLERANCE
GROWTH CONDITIONS**

Spray Soil

Ammophila breviligulata

American Beach Grass 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

Andropogon gerardii

Big bluestem 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

Andropogon virginicus

Broomsedge bluestem 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

Carex stricta

Upright sedge or Tussock sedge 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

Deschampsia flexuosa

Wavy hairgrass Perennial; height: to 0.3 m (1 ft) with 0.3-0.5 m (1-1.5 ft) spread None None Light: Shade to partial shade

Soil: Well drained soils; drought tolerant

Distichlis spicata

Spikegrass 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

Elymus virginicus

Virginia wildrye Perennial, erect; height: 0.6-1.2 m (2-4 ft) Some references indicate tolerance Some references indicate tolerance Light: Partial shade to full sun

Soil: Prefers fertile, loamy soils but will grow in many other soil types; moist conditions

Hierochloa odorata

Sweetgrass Perennial; slender, erect; height: 0.3-0.6 m (1-2 ft) Tolerant Tolerant Light: Full sun

Soil: wet soils; moist meadows, fresh/brackish shoreline

Hordeum jubatum

Foxtail Barley Perennial, bunch grass; height: 0.3-0.6 m (1-2 ft) Tolerant Tolerant Light: Full sun

Soil: wide range of soil types; poorly drained to dry soils

Juncus effuses

Common rush Grass-like perennial (rush); height: to 1.2 m (4 ft), clump forming, slow spreading Low Low Light: Full sun

Soil: clay, loam, sand; fresh to brackish marshes; seasonal wetlands

Juncus gerardii

Black rush or Blackgrass Grass-like perennial (rush); height: 0.25 – 0.5 m(10 – 20 in); the capsule fruit turns dark brown hence the name “blackgrass” Tolerant Tolerant Light:

Full sun

Soil: wet soils of salt and brackish marshes, found at higher elevations of the salt marsh

Panicum virgatum

Switchgrass Perennial; height: 0.9 – 1.8 m (3 – 6 ft) grows in large clumps, stem has reddish tint Tolerant Some references indicate tolerance Light: Partial shade to full sun

Soil: Dry to moist soils, grows best in sandy to clay loams; can tolerate seasonal poor drainage

Schizachyrium scoparium

Little bluestem Perennial, bunch grass; height: 0.5 – 0.6 m (1.5 – 2 ft) foliage turns from blue-green to copper in the fall None None Light: Partial shade to full sun

Soil: Well-drained, medium to dry infertile soils; wide range of soils but not wetlands; drought tolerant

Schoenoplectus robustus

Sturdy bulrush Perennial sedge; height: up to 1 m (3.5ft), stems are triangular in cross-section Tolerant Tolerant Light: Full sun

Soil: wide range of wetland soils

Sorghastrum nutans

Indiangrass Perennial, clumped grass; height: 0.9 – 1.5 m (3-5 ft) Tolerant Tolerant Light: Partial sun to full sun

Soil: grows best in moist, rich soils; tolerant of poor to excessively well-drained soils; many soil types

Spartina alterniflora

Saltmarsh cordgrass 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

Saltmeadow cordgrass 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

NAME	CHARACTERISTICS	SALINITY TOLERANCE	GROWTH CONDITIONS		
	Spray	Soil			
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly milkweed	Height: 0.5 – 0.6 m (1.5 – 2 ft); large clusters of orange flowers	None	None	Light: Partial shade to full sun
	Soil: Prefers well-drained sandy soil; drought tolerant; Parts may be toxic				
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue wild indigo	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	None	Light: Full sun
	Soil: Gravelly, sandy or well-drained loamy soils; drought tolerant				
<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	False indigo	Bushy; height 0.6 – 0.9 m (2 – 3 ft); yellow flowers	Some references indicate tolerance	None	Light: Full sun
	Soil: acidic loams, sand Toxic if ingested				
<i>Eupatoriadelphus dubius</i>	Coastal plain Joe Pye Weed	Height: 0.6 – 1.5 ft (2 – 5 ft); pale pink flowers	None	None	Light: full sun
	Soil: sandy, wet soils particularly in marshes and wet meadows				
<i>Eupatoriadelphus maculatus</i>	Spotted trumpetweed	Height: 0.9 – 1.8 m (3 – 6 ft); pale pink flowers	None	None	Light: Partial shade to full sun
	Soil: various soil types as long as wet to moist conditions				
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common Boneset	Height: 0.6 – 1.2 m (2 – 4 ft); white flowers	None	None	Light: Partial shade to full sun
	Soil: various soil types as long as wet to moist conditions				
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Sweet scented Joe pye weed	Height: 0.9 – 2.1 m (3 – 7 ft); pink flowers	Some references indicate tolerance	Some references indicate tolerance	Light: Partial shade to full sun
	Soil: various soil types with moist to average soils moisture conditions				
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Crimsoneyed 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				
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	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				
<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>	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

Symphotrichum 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

Symphotrichum 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 Some references indicate tolerance None Light: Partial shade

Soil: Prefers moist or shallow, submerged soils

Vernonia noveboracensis

New York Ironweed Height: 0.9 – 2.1 m (3 – 7 ft); purple flowers None None Light: Full sun

Soil: Prefers moist soils, but will grow in average to dry soils

NATIVE VINES for Coastal Connecticut

NAME	CHARACTERISTICS	SALINITY TOLERANCE	GROWTH CONDITIONS		
SPRAY SOIL					
<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i> var. <i>maritimus</i>					
Beach pea	Perennial, trailing vine; to 0.6 m (2 ft) pink to purple flowers	Tolerant	Tolerant	Light:	Full sun
Soil: Sandy or loamy, well-drained soils					
Seeds are toxic to humans					
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>					
Trumpet honeysuckle	Perennial; climbing or ground cover; 0.9 – 6 m (3 - 20 ft); semi-evergreen leaves, red, tubular flowers	None	None	Light:	Partial shade to full sun
Soil: Moist, well-drained soils					