SHORELINE EVALUATION PROGRAM

PLANT LIST FOR SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

Following is a list of native plants recommended for shoreline management. This list is not comprehensive. Rather, it lists plants that are known to grow well in the Northern Neck. The list is organized by location:

1. Plants that grow in the water (low to high tide line).

2. Plants that grow near the water (mid to high tide line).

3. Plants that grow on the low bank (periodically inundated – high tide and above).

4. Plants that grow on the higher upland bank (rarely inundated).

It includes grasses, sedges, rushes, bushes, small trees, vines, and ferns. It is further grouped by light requirements: sun/part sun/shade. Plants that fit into more than one category are listed in each. This list does not specifically address plantings for the upland, whether flat or gently sloped, although many of the plants in the list will grow there. Upland plants are very important in filtering runoff, but because the upland has no tidal inundation and is seldom exposed to salt spray, it can support more varied vegetation. A general list of additional plants recommended for the upland riparian buffer follows this list, along with a list of websites that contain additional recommendations.

1. **Land that is regularly inundated – low to high tide line.**

Sun/Part sun

Name	Type	Form	Comments
Spartina alterniflora Smooth cordgrass	Grass	1-8 ft., erect, rhizomatous	Grows best in full sun; will grow in part sun; plant at high tide line; plant will grow into the low tide area

2. Mid to High tide line.

Sun/Part Sun

Name	Type	Form	Comments
Distichlis spicata Saltgrass	Grass	8-16 in., visible, creeping rhizomes; terminal flower spikes Jul-Sep	Plant near mean high water
Schoenoplectus americanus Common threesquare	Sedge	3-4 feet	Tolerates part shade

Schoenoplectus (Scirpus) robustus Saltmarsh bulrush	Sedge	2-3 ft; triangular stem; rhizomatous; pink flowers Jul-Oct	Does well in fluctuating salinity; also for salt meadow
Juncus effusus Soft rush	Rush	3-4 ft; grows in clumps; round stems; evergreen	
Spartina patens Salt meadow hay	Grass	1-3 ft; forms dense mats; rolled leaves resemble stems; flower spikes Jul-Sep	Shore erosion control; tolerates drought

3. <u>Land that is periodically inundated and borders the dry, upland bank – High tide line and above.</u>

Sun/Part sun

Panicum virgatum Switchgrass	Grass	3-6 ft; dense clumps; large, straw-colored flower panicles Jul-Sep	Many cultivars available. Persistent seed heads ornamental in winter. Also use for upland bank
Iva frutescens High-tide bush Marsh elder	Shrub	2-10 ft; opposite, fleshy, toothed leaves; small, greenish flowers Aug-Oct	Part of "saltbush community." Also for upland bank
Baccharis halimifolia Groundsel bush	Shrub	6-12 ft; alternate, lobed, waxy leaves; small, white flowers Sep-Oct	Prolific, dandelion-like seeds spread by wind. Also for upland bank
Morella (Myrica) caroliniensis Swamp bayberry	Shrub	8-12 ft.; evergreen; bluish white berries in fall	Tolerates dry or moist soil
Morella cerifera Wax myrtle, Southern bayberry	Shrub	5-20 ft., evergreen aromatic leaves; green flowers in spring; small, bluish berries	
Ilex glabra Inkberry holly	Shrub	6-10 ft., evergreen. Male and female flowers on separate plants.	Tolerates some salt.
Kosteletzkya virginica Seashore mallow Virginia saltmarsh mallow	Herbaceous plant	2-4 ft., erect; alternate, arrow-shaped leaves with dense hairs; showy, pink flowers July-Sept.	
Hibiscus moscheutos Marsh hibiscus	Herbaceous plant	3-6 ft., shrub-like; showy, white or pink flowers with red centers Jul-Sept.	

Part sun to part shade

Solidago sempervirens Seaside goldenrod	Herbaceous plant	4-5 ft; yellow flower clusters Aug-Oct	
Amelanchier arborea Downy serviceberry	Tree	15-20 feet; flowers in early spring, followed by fruit	
Amelanchier canadensis; Serviceberry	Tree	35-50 ft.; flowers in early spring; followed by fruit	
Morella caroliniensis Swamp bayberry	Shrub	8-12 ft.; evergreen; bluish white berries in fall	Tolerates dry or moist soil
Clethra alnifolia Sweet pepperbush	Shrub	6-12 ft. flowers July-Aug.; fruit – brown capsules	
Ilex glabra Inkberry holly	Shrub	6-10 ft., evergreen. Male and female flowers on separate plants.	Tolerates some salt.

Shade tolerant

Clethra alnifolia Sweet pepperbush	Shrub	6-12 ft.; flowers July-Aug.;fruit – brown capsules	
Morella caroliniensis Swamp bayberry	Shrub	8-12 ft.; evergreen; bluish white berries in fall	Tolerates dry or moist soil
Ilex glabra Inkberry holly	Shrub	6-10 ft., evergreen. Male and female flowers on separate plants.	Tolerates some salt.

4. Upland Bank. Dry land with rare and temporary inundation. Many landscape plants may be suitable for this site, especially shrubs, trees and vines, which can help stabilize the slope. Some common salt-tolerant natives listed here may be best suited to survive the occasional storm surge.

Sun to part sun

Panicum amarum Coastal Panic Grass	Grass	3-4 ft.	Will tolerate salt spray. Very deep roots. Plant above high tide line
Panicum virgatum Switchgrass	Grass	3-6 ft; dense clumps; large, straw-colored flower panicles Jul-Sep	Many cultivars available. Persistent seed heads ornamental in winter. Also for upland bank

Campsus radicans Trumpet vine	Vine	Spreads 20-30 ft. Orange flowers July-Sept.	
Osmunda regalis Royal fern	Fern	2-6 ft.	Tolerates drought
Vaccinium angustifolium Lowbush blueberry	Bush	1-2 ft.	Tolerates dry soil
Ilex vomitoria Yaupon holly	Bush	20-25 ft.; evergreen	Dwarf variety (Nana) available
Ilex verticillata Winterberry holly	Bush	3-15 ft. ; deciduous; red berries in the fall	Need both male and female plants for berries
Ilex glabra Inkberry holly	Shrub	6-10 ft., evergreen. Male and female flowers on separate plants.	Tolerates some salt.
Parthenocissus quinquefolia Virginia creeper	Vine	Up to 60 ft; grows on trees or 12 in-high groundcover	Erosion control when used as groundcover; shade-tolerant; good fall color
Chasmanthium latifollum River Oats	Grass	2-4 ft. Forms clumps. Attractive seed heads.	Somewhat aggressive if happy.

Part shade/shade

Polystichum acrostichoides Christmas fern	Fern	1-2 ft.; evergreen	
Osmunda regalis Royal fern	Fern	2-6 ft.	Tolerates drought
Ilex verticillata Winterberry holly	Bush	3-15 ft.; deciduous; red berries in the fall	Need both male and female plants for berries
Ilex glabra Inkberry holly	Shrub	6-10 ft., evergreen. Male and female flowers on separate plants.	Tolerates some salt.
Parthenocissus quinquefolia Virginia creeper	Vine	Up to 60 ft; grows on trees or 12 in-high groundcover	Erosion control when used as groundcover; shade-tolerant; good fall color

Riparian Buffer Area

Riparian buffers are vegetated areas adjacent to water bodies. Made up of trees, understory and ground cover, they are the last line of defense for the protection of water quality. Riparian buffers stabilize shorelines and stream banks, and filter pollutants from storm water runoff. Because of the importance of vegetation in preventing erosion and filtering pollutants, upland vegetation should be disturbed as little as

possible. In the resource protection area (RPA), tree removal is subject to local requirements. As noted above, many of the plants listed as appropriate for planting close to the water are also appropriate for planting in the riparian buffer area, which is not generally subject to flooding or salt spray.

In buffer areas in need of supplemental planting, small trees such as Dogwood (*Cornus florida)*, Redbud (*Cercus canadensis)*, Virginia Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana),* would be good choices. Additional shrub choices include Southern Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*), Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica)*, and Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*). The references listed below contain many additional plant suggestions.

Sources

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, "Living Shorelines for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed," September 2007, http://cbf.org/document.doc?id=60.

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