

Commonly Used Native Plants for RiverSmart Homes

Plant Name	Botanical Name	Full Bloom Photo	Type	Plant Spacing	Bloom Color	Bloom Season	Plant Height/Width	Soil	Exposure	Water Requirements	Attractions	Fun Facts
Dwarf Fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>		Deciduous shrub	36 inches apart	White	April-May	1.3- 3 ft tall; 2- 4ft wide	Clay, Loam, Sand	Sun; Part Shade	Moist	Birds	Only the male flowers have color (showy white filaments and yellow anthers).
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>		Broadleaf evergreen	36-48 inches apart	Greenish-white	May- June	3-4 ft tall; 3-4ft Wide	Erosion, Wet soils	Sun; Part Shade	Moist to Wet	Birds	Dried and roasted inkberry leaves were first used by Native Americans to brew a black tea-like drink, hence the sometimes used common name of Appalachian tea for this shrub.
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>		Deciduous shrub	36-60 inches apart	Red Berries	June- August	3-6 ft. Tall; 3-5 ft. Wide	Clay, Loam, Sand	Sun; Part Shade	Moist to Wet	Birds, Pollinators	Only fertilized female flowers will produce the attractive red berries that are the signature of the species.
Virginia Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>		Deciduous shrub	36-60 inches apart	Green	May- June	3-4 ft tall; 4-6ft Wide	Heavy Shade, Erosion, Clay Soil, Wet Soil	Sun; Part Shade	Moist to Wet	Birds	It can be grown in partial shade and in places that are too wet for most shrubs.
Blue False Indigo	<i>Baptisa australis</i>		Perennial	24 inches apart	Indigo	May- June	3-4ft Tall; 3-4 Ft Wide	Drought, Erosion, Clay Soil, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil	Sun; Part Shade	Moist to Dry	Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Bees	Named the " perennial plant of the year" in 2010.
Blue Sedge	<i>Carex glauca</i>		Ornamental Grasses	8-18 inches apart	Greenish-White	June- August	1.5 ft Tall; 1.5ft Wide	Drought, Dry Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet		Blue sedge spreads to form a mat of bluish-green foliage. The plant can be used as a ground cover or in rock gardens.
White Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>		Perennial	12 inches apart	White	August- October	2-3ft Tall; 1.5-2.5ft Wide	Erosion, Wet Soil	Part shade	Moist to Wet	Butterflies, Bees	Genus name comes from the Greek word chelone meaning tortoise in reference to the turtlehead shape of the flowers. Specific epithet means without hairs.
Joe Pye weed	<i>Eupatorium dubium</i>		Perennial	24- 30 inches apart	Purple	July-Spetember	3-4 ft Tall; 1-3 ft Wide	Clay Soil, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet	Butterflies, Bees	Joe Pye was reportedly an Indian herbalist and healer from the New England area.

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Lord Baltimore	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>		Perennial	24inches apart	White ,Pink, Red	July-Spetember	4-5 ft Tall; 2 -3ft feet Wide	Wet soil	Full sun	Moist to Wet	Butterflies, Bees	Flowers consistently open between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. EST. Due to this, Hibiscus moscheutos was used in a floral clock created at the New York Botanical Garden.
Dwarf Crested Iris	<i>Iris cristata</i>		Perennial	6-12 inches apart	Blue, White	April-May	6-8in Tall; 18in Wide	Drought, Rocky soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist	Butterflies, Bees	Iris means "rainbow" in the Greek language. Name refers to the ability of iris to produce flowers in various colors.
Blue Flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>		Perennial	12 inches apart	Blue	May- June	2-3ft Tall; 2-3ft Wide	Drought, Clay, Wet soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet	Butterflies, Bees	Iris versicolor is the provincial flower of Quebec
Rush, Wire grass	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>		Rush or Sedge	13 inches apart	Green	May- Septemner	1-2ft Tall; 1-2ft Wide	Erosion, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet		Commonly known as "Path Rush" due to the plant's ability to grow in the compacted soils associated with foot paths. Plants produce tiny seed that are sticky when wet. The seed cling to animal fur, vehicle tires and shoes and are distributed to paths and roadsides.
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>		Perennial	18-24 inches apart	Red	July- August	2-4ft Tall; 2-3 ft Wide	Clay Soil, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet	Pollinators	Bumblebees, swallowtail butterflies and hummingbirds sip nectar from the flowers. Caterpillars of several moth species feed on the foliage. The aromatic leaves and stems are unpalatable to deer and other herbivores.
Spider Lily	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>		Perennial	18-24 inches apart	Lavender	May- July	1.5-3 ft Tall; 1-2 ft Wide	Clay Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist	Birds, Pollinators, Butterflies	Tradescantia virginiana was recognized as the Virginia Native Plant Society's 2008 Wildflower of the Year.
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>		perennial	18-24 inches apart	Orange	June -August	1-2.5 ft. Tall; 1-1.5 ft. Wide	Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil	Full Sun	Moist to Dry	Birds, Pollinators, Butterflies	Genus name honors the Greek god Asklepios the god of medicine.
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>		Perennial	12-24 inches apart	White	June- September	2-3ft Tall; 2-3ft Wide	Drought, Dry Soil,	Full Sun	Moist to Dry	Birds, Pollinators, Butterflies	Yarrow leaves were used to stop nosebleeds. Dried yarrow stalks are still used to consult the I Ching. In the Middle Ages, yarrow was a substitute for snuff and a component in an herbal mixture that flavored beer. It has truly been an all purpose herb.

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Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>		Ornamental Grasses	18-24 inches apart	Green, Straw-Gold	July- February	3-6ft Tall; 2-3 ft Wide	Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Wet Soil, Clay Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet		Excellent for winter wildlife, Switchgrass is the best native grass for creating dense cover for wildlife habitat
Purple Cone-Flower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>		Perennial	12 inches apart	Purple	June -August	2-5ft Tall; 1.5-2ft Wide	Drought, Clay Soil, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Dry	Birds, Pollinators, Butterflies	Echinacea purpurea is widely cultivated but rarely found in the wild due to overharvesting for ornamental and medicinal use. Roots and above ground parts were used extensively by Native Americans and traditional herbalists for immune system support, detoxification and wound healing.
Threadleaf Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>		Perennial	12-24 inches apart	Yellow	June-September	2.5 - 3ft Tall; 1.5 - 2 ft Wide	Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil	Full Sun	Moist to Dry	Pollinators, Butterflies	The genus name comes from the Greek words koris meaning bug and opis meaning like in reference to the shape of the seed which resembles a bug or tick.
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>		Perennial	12-18 inches apart	Yellow	June -October	2 - 5ft Tall; 2 - 2.5ft Wide	Drought, Clay Soil, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil,	Full Sun	Moist to Dry	Birds, Pollinators, Butterflies, Dragon flies	Rudbeckia fulgida was recognized as the Perennial Plant Association's 1999 Perennial Plant of the Year. In 1993 the cultivar recieved the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.
Michaelmas Daisy	<i>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</i>		Perennial	12-18 inches apart	Purple	June- September	3-5ft Tall; 2-3ft Wide	Acidic, Loam, Clay, Sand	Full Sun	Moist to Wet	Pollinators, Butterflies	Many of the established Latin names of Aster spp. were changed recently due to DNA and genetic research findings. So Aster novi-belgii is now known as Symphyotrichum novi-belgii. This aster is sometimes called Michaelmas daisy because it blooms around September 29 which is St. Michael's Day.
Globe Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>		Evergreen	48 inches apart	Green	non-flowering	3-5ft Tall; 3-5ft Wide	Clay Soil,	Full sun; Part shade	Moist		The common name of arborvitae (tree of life) comes from early French settlers to North America who learned from Native Americans that the tree's foliage could be used to treat scurvy.
Red Twig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>		Shrub	5ft-10ft apart	White	May- June	6-9 ft Tall; 8-12ft Wide	Erosion, Clay Soil, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet		Genus name comes from the Latin word cornu meaning horn in probable reference to the strength and density of the wood. Cornus is also the Latin name for cornelian cherry.
Smooth Blue Aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>		Perennial	24-36inches apart	Blue	August-October	2-4ft Tall; 1-2 ft Wide	Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil	Full Sun	Moist to Dry	Pollinators, Butterflies	Almost all asters have stems and leaves that are pubescent or rough. Aster laevis is unique in that its stems and leaves are smooth with a glaucous surface. Plants also have distinctive sessile leaves that lack leaf stalks. The leaves clasp the stems and have noticeable ear-lobe appendages at the base.

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Hot Lips	<i>Chelone lyonii</i>		Perennial	18-24 inches apart	Pink	July-September	2-4ft Tall; 1.5-2.5ft Wide	Erosion, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet	Pollinators, Butterflies	
Great Blue	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>		Perennial	18-24 inches apart	Blue	July -September	1-4 ft Tall; 1ft Wide	Heavy Shade, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet	Pollinators, Butterflies, Wasp	Deer and other mammalian herbivores generally avoid eating the plant because the foliage contains toxic alkaloids.
Oakleaf Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>		Shrub	48-60 inches apart	White, Pupleish Pink	May-July	6-8ft Tall; 6ft Wide	Drought	Shade	Moist	Pollinators, Butterflies	Genus name comes from hydor meaning water and ageion meaning vessel in reference to the cup-like capsular fruit.
Beardtounge	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>		Perennial	12-18 inches apart	White	April-June	3-5ft Tall; 1-2.5 ft Wide	Drought, Clay Soil, Dry Soil	Full Sun	Moist to Dry	Butterflies, Pollinators, Songbirds	Penstemon is derived from Greek and means five stamens. The specific epithet is from a Latin word meaning finger because the flower buds look like finger tips. The common name "beardtongue" was adopted because the flowers contain a sterile stamen with a pubescent or "bearded" stalk.
Dense Blazing-star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>		Herbaceous perennial	4-6 inches apart; 15-18 inches apart from other plants	Purple	July- August	2-4 ft Tall; 1 ft. wide	Drought, Clay Soil	Full Sun	Moist	Pollinators, Butterflies	Liatris spicata prefers wetter habitats than most other blazing stars. It can be distinguished from its relatives by its denser flower spikes, smooth un-recurved floral bracts, and tall stature.
Appalachian Blazing Star	<i>Liatris microcephala</i>		Perennial	6-12 inches apart	Purple, Pink	August-September	2ft Tall; 1ft Wide	Drought	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Dry	Pollinators, Butterflies	Liatris microcephala has been recommended as a suitable candidate for Green Roofs due to its ability to adapt to harsh dry sunny conditions.
Moss Phlox	<i>Phlox subulata</i>		Perennial	12 iches apart	Pink, Purple, White	March-May	3 -6 inches Tall; 1 - 2ft Wide	Drought, Erosion, Air Pollution	Full Sun	Moist	Pollinators, Butterflies	Phlox subulata provides valuable early season nectar for swallowtail butterflies, day flying sphinx moths (like hummingbird moths and cleaving moths) and hummingbirds.




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High Blueberry Bush	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>		Fruit	24-36 inches apart	White	May	4 - 10ft Tall; 3 - 6 ft Wide	Drought, Erosion	Full Sun	Moist to Wet	Pollinators, Butterflies, Birds	This is one of the most sought after landscape plants with multi-seasonal interest. Blueberries are rich in carbohydrates, low in fat, with plenty of vitamins C, K & A, as well as manganese, & a good source of dietary fiber.
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>		Shrub	8 - 10ft apart	Yellow sometimes tinged with orange or red	October- December	10-20ft Tall; 10 -15ft Wide	Erosion, Clay Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist	Birds	Even in the cold midwest, the fragrant yellow blooms persist into November. The fringed flowers appear in the fall and stay on the branches after the leaves have dropped.
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>		Perennial	12 inches apart	Red, Pink	April- May	1-3ft Tall; 1ft Wide	Drought, Dry Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist	Pollinators, Butterflies	The genus name Aquilegia comes from the Latin word for eagle (aquila), because the shape of the petal spurs is said to resemble an eagle's talon.
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>		Perennial	12 inches apart	Purple	August- September	3-6ft Tall; 2-3 ft Wide	Clay Soil	Full Sun	Moist	Pollinators, Butterflies	
Spice Bush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>		Shrub	6-8ft apart	Yellow	April- May	6-12ft Tall; 6-12ft Wide	Drought, Heavy Shade, Clay Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist	Birds	Native Americans made a tea from the bark of Lindera benzoin or Spice Bush as a "blood purifier" and for sweating, colds, rheumatism and anemia. Settlers used a twig tea to treat colds, fevers, worms, gas and colic and bark tea to expel worms, for typhoid fevers and a diaphoretic for other fevers.
Blue Star	<i>Amnosa tabernaemontana</i>		Perennial	24-36 inches apart	Blue	may-June	2-3ft Tall; 2-3ft Wide	Clay, Loam, Sand	Full Sun	Moist	Pollinators, Butterflies	Genus name honors 18th-century Virginian physician Dr. Charles Amson.
New York Ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>		Perennial	12 inches apart	Purple	August- September	4-6ft Tall; 3-4ft Wide	Clay Soil, Wet Soil	Full Sun	Moist to Wet	Pollinators, Butterflies	The generic name honors English botanist, bryologist and entomologist William Vernon who collected in Maryland during 1698.

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Sweet PepperBush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>		Shrub	5 - 7ft apart	White	July-August	4-8ft Tall; 4-6ft Wide	Erosion, Clay Soil, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet	Pollinators, Butterflies	The "Pepper" part of the common name derives from the mature fruits, capsules which have vague resemblance to peppercorn.
Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>		Shrub	4-6ft apart	Yellowish-Green	April-May	5-10ft Tall; 5-10ft Wide	Drought, Erosion, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Dry	Birds	Bayberry has narrow, broadly oblanceolate, leathery, glossy, grayish-green leaves (to 4" long) that are dotted with resin and aromatic when crushed.
Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>		Perennial	12-24 inches apart	Pink, White	June- September	3-4ft Tall; 2-3ft Wide	Clay Soil	Full sun; Part shade	Moist	Pollinators, Butterflies	The common name "obedient plant" was bestowed because individual florets stay in place (at least temporarily) after being repositioned. This species is sometimes called false dragonhead due to the flower's resemblance to dragonhead. This plant is a member of the Mint Family.
River Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>		Ornamental Grasses	12-24 inches apart	Green	August- September	2-5ft Tall; 1.5-2ft Wide	Drought	Full sun; Part shade	Moist to Wet		Genus name comes from the Greek chasme meaning gaping and anthemum meaning flower for the form of the flower.
"Fireworks"/ Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>		Perennial	36-48 inches apart	Yellow	September- October	2-3ft Tall; 2-3ft Wide	Clay Soil, Wet Soil	Full sun	Moist to Wet	Pollinators, Butterflies	<i>Solidago rugosa</i> 'Fireworks' provides late season nectar and pollen for native bees, wasps, Monarchs and other butterflies, moths, beetles and pollinating flies. Caterpillars of several moths feed on the foliage and seed are eaten by songbirds.
Cone Flower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>		Perennial	24-48 inches apart	Yellow	July- October	2-8ft Tall; 1-3ft Wide	Drought, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part Shade	Moist	Pollinators, Butterflies	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> can be differentiated from related species due to their nubby green to yellow cones. Most other <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp. have brown, black or gray cones. Foliage of this species has 3-7 deep lobes while most other <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp. have fewer or no lobes.
Coral Bells	<i>Heuchera americana</i>		Perennial	12-18inches apart	Greenish-white, Greenish-red	June-August	1-2ft Tall; 1-1.5ft Wide	Drought, Wet Soil	Full sun; Part Shade	Moist		Roots contain the mineral substance alum which is a powerful astringent. Foliage is high in tannins giving it a bitter taste and making it unpalatable to deer and other herbivores.

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Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomea</i>		Fern	24-36 inches apart	Green	non-flowering	2-3ft Tall; 2-3ft Wide	Heavy Shade	Part shade; Full Shade	Moist to Wet	Birds	This fern produces large edible fiddleheads that are a gourmet treat when sautéed in butter.
New York Fern	<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>		Fern	24-36 inches apart	Green	non-flowering	3-4ft Tall; 1-2.5ft Wide	Heavy Shade	Part shade; Full Shade	Moist to Dry		The dramatic feathery foliage of this fern make it a lovely and useful accent for a shade garden.
Curly Red	<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>		Evergreen	36-48 inches apart	White	May	2-4ft Tall; 3-5ft Wide	Drought	Part Shade	Moist	Birds	All parts of plant are poisonous if ingested.