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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CHARACTERISTICS</th>
<th>SALINITY TOLERANCE</th>
<th>GROWTH CONDITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Acer rubrum**        | 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 |
| Red maple              |                                                                                  | None               |                                                                                 |
| **Amelanchier arborea**| 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 |
| Common serviceberry    |                                                                                  | None               |                                                                                 |
| **Amelanchier laevis** | 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 |
| Allegheny serviceberry |                                                                                  | Yes                |                                                                                 |
| **Betula nigra**       | 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 |
| River birch            |                                                                                  | None               |                                                                                 |
| **Betula populifolia** | 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 |
| Gray birch             |                                                                                  | None               |                                                                                 |
| **Celtis occidentalis**| 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 |
<p>| Common Hackberry       |                                                                                  | None               |                                                                                 |</p>
<table>
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</table>
| *Cornus alternifolia* 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 | Light: Shade to partial shade  
Soil: Moist, well-drained, acidic soils  
Susceptible to wind and ice damage; tolerant of poor soils |
| *Cornus florida* Flowering Dogwood | 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* Cockspur hawthorn | 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* 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 | 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* Green ash | 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* 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 | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: Moist, well-drained sandy/loamy soils; will tolerate somewhat poorly drained soils |
| *Juglans nigra* 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 | Light: Full sun  
Soil: needs fertile, moist soil, grows well in riparian areas |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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</table>
| *Juniperus virginiana*      | Evergreen; height generally 3 - 12 m (10-40 ft); slow growth rate | Tolerates some salt spray | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: found on a variety of soil types from dry, acidic, sandy soils; to dry limestone based soils |
| *Liriodendron tulipifera*   | Deciduous; rapid growing; height 24-37 m (80 - 120 ft); tulip shaped green -yellow flowers | None                     | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil moist, deep, well-drained soils                                                                 |
| *Nyssa sylvatica*           | 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 | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soils: prefers moist, well-drained acidic soils; will tolerate poor drainage |
| *Pinus rigida*              | Evergreen; height to 18 m (60 ft); a three needle species, medium growth rate | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Requires full sun  
Soil: Dry, gravelly or sandy soil; Intolerant of competition from other plants |
| *Platanus occidentalis*     | Deciduous; height to 30 m (100 ft); fast growing, susceptible to wind and ice damage | Some references indicate low tolerance | Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Soil: prefers moist, sandy or silty soils; can withstand extended flooding; drought tolerant |
| *Prunus virginiana*         | Deciduous, small tree; height 6-9 m (20– 30 ft); often forms thickets; parts of plant are toxic | Tolerates salt spray      | Light: Shade to full sun  
Soil: prefers rich, moist soils, but will grow under a wide variety of soil types |
| *Prunus serotina*           | Deciduous, height 18-24 m (60-90 ft); rapid growth, fragrant white flowers | Some references indicate tolerance | Light: Sun to partial shade  
Soil: prefers moist well-drained soils; drought tolerant; common in CT’s coastal forests |
| *Ptelea trifoliata*         | Deciduous, small tree; height to 6 m (20 ft)        | 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 |

---
| Species                  | 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 alba*  
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 bicolor*  
Swamp white 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 palustris*  
Pin 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 prinus*  
Chestnut 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 rubra*  
Northern red 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 stellata*  
Post 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 |
**NATIVE SHRUBS for Coastal Connecticut**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CHARACTERISTICS</th>
<th>SALINITY TOLERANCE</th>
<th>GROWTH CONDITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Alnus incana ssp rugosa*   | 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. |
| Speckled alder              | *Alnus serrulata*                                                              | Some references indicate tolerance | None  
| Smooth alder                | 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*    | 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 |
| Canadian serviceberry       | *Amelanchier stolonifera*                                                     | Medium tolerance         | Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun  
Soils: Moist to dry soils |
| 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: rocky or sandy acidic soils  
Highly drought tolerant |
| *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*   | 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: wet to dry soils often along borders of salt and brackish tidal marshes or in backdune areas |
| Red bearberry               | *Baccharis halimifolia*                                                       | Tolerant                 | Light: 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. |
| 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>Common Name</th>
<th>Deciduous</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Tolerance</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Soils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ceanothus americanus</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>0.9 m</td>
<td>White flowers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Tea</td>
<td></td>
<td>(3 ft)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cephalanthus occidentalis</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>0.9 m</td>
<td>2.5 cm (1 in) round ball-like cluster</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common buttonbush</td>
<td></td>
<td>(3-10 ft)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Soil: wet soils; sandy and clay loams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clethra alnifolia</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>3 m</td>
<td>2.5 cm (1 in) round ball-like cluster</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td></td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal sweet pepperbush</td>
<td></td>
<td>(10 ft)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Soil: Wet to moist soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comptonia peregrine</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>0.6 m</td>
<td>Aromatic when crushed; multiple stems</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweetfern</td>
<td></td>
<td>(2 ft)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Soil: sandy, acidic soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cornus amomum</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>1.8 m</td>
<td>Small white flowers with blue fruits</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silky dogwood</td>
<td></td>
<td>(6 ft)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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><strong>Cornus racemosa</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>3 m</td>
<td>Small, greenish white flowers</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray dogwood</td>
<td></td>
<td>(10 ft)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Soil: prefers moist soils, but highly adaptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cornus sericea</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>1.8 m</td>
<td>Multi-stemmed with red branches</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redosier dogwood</td>
<td></td>
<td>(6 ft)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Soil: moist, well-drained soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eubotrys racemosa</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>1.2 m</td>
<td>Red fall foliage</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Some references indicate low tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp doghobble</td>
<td></td>
<td>(4 ft)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Soil: wet to moist, sandy acidic soils; Riparian areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gaultheria procumbens</strong></td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>0.05 m</td>
<td>Forms small colonies</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wintergreen</td>
<td></td>
<td>(2 ft)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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 floribunda**  
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); multi-stemmed; 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 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Life Form</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Soil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosa palustris</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>1.8 – 2.4 m (6 – 8 ft); dark pink flowers</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Soil: wet, rich soils; found in wet thickets and riparian shorelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosa virginiana</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>0.6 – 1.8 m (2 – 6 ft)</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Prefers full sun; will grow in partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salix discolor</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>up to 6 m (20 ft); fast growing/ short lived</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Soil: well drained acidic soils; found in thickets and meadows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sambucus nigra</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>up to 3.7 m (12 ft) tall; white flower clusters, deep purple fruits</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spiraea alba</strong> var. latifolia</td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>0.3 – 1.8 m (1 – 6 ft)</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spirea tomentosa</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>0.6 – 1.8 m (2 – 6 ft)</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vaccinium angustifolium</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>0.15 – 0.6 m (0.5 – 2 ft); multiple stemmed</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vaccinium corymbosum</strong></td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>1.8 – 3.7 m (6 – 12 ft)</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vaccinium macrocarpon</strong></td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>Height: less than 0.3 m (1 ft)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remarks:
- Some references indicate tolerance.
- Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun.
- Soil: wet, rich soils; found in wet thickets and riparian shorelines.
| **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 |
# 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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ammophila breviligulata</strong></td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Andropogon gerardii</strong></td>
<td>Big bluestem: Perennial, clump forming; height 1.2-2.4 m (4-8 ft); copper fall color</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to sun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Soil: sandy to clay soils, well drained, drought tolerant once established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Andropogon virginicus</strong></td>
<td>Broomsedge bluestem: Perennial, tuft forming grass; height: 0.6-1.2 m (2–4 ft); golden fall color</td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Some references indicate tolerance</td>
<td>Soils: low fertility soils, dry, sandy soils; drought tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carex stricta</strong></td>
<td>Upright sedge orTussock sedge: Perennial, slender leaves; Height:0.3-0.9 m (1-3 ft); forms large hummocks up to 0.9 m (3 ft) wide</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Soil: Wet soil to standing water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deschampsia flexuosa</strong></td>
<td>Wavy hairgrass: Perennial; height: to 0.3 m (1 ft) with 0.3-0.5 m (1-1.5 ft) spread</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Soil: Well drained soils; drought tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distichlis spicata</strong></td>
<td>Spikegrass: Perennial, erect and rigid; height: approx 0.3 m (1 ft) tall</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Hierochloe 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</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 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Height/Description</th>
<th>Tolerance</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Soil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hibiscus moscheutos</td>
<td>Height: 1.2 – 2.1 m (4 – 7 ft); white or pink flowers</td>
<td>Low tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Soil: brackish marsh soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimsoneyed rosemallow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris versicolor</td>
<td>Height: 0.3 – 0.9 m (1 – 3 ft); blue to purple flowers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Some references indicate moderate brackish water tolerance</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlequin blueflag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Soil: Moist, rich soils; can tolerate inundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limonium carolinianum</td>
<td>Height: 0.3 – 0.6 m (1 – 2 ft); pale purple flowers</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Soil: wet soils; common in salt marshes, and tidal shorelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Lavendar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobelia cardinalis</td>
<td>Height: 0.3 – 1.2 m (1 – 4 ft); bright red flowers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Soil: wet to moist soils; riparian areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal flower</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poisonous parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobelia siphilitica</td>
<td>Height: 0.6 – 0.9 m (2 – 3 ft); blue flowers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Shade to partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Soil: wet to moist clay, loamy to sandy soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great blue lobelia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poisonous parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupinus perennis</td>
<td>Height: 0.3 – 0.9 m (1 – 3 ft); blue/purple flowers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Soil: Dry, well-drained sandy soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundial lupine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarcocornia perennis</td>
<td>Height: 15-30 cm (6–12 in); forms mats to 1 m (3.2 ft diam); fleshy, succulent, bright green stems; red fall color</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Full sun</td>
<td>Soil: Sandy, marshy soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial glasswort</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago sempervirens</td>
<td>Height: 0.3 – 2.4 m (1-8 ft) tall; fleshy, waxy leaves; yellow flowers</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Full sun</td>
<td>Soil: Sandy soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaside goldenrod</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</td>
<td>Height: 0.9 – 1.8 m (3 – 6 ft); pink/purple flowers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade</td>
<td>Soil: Moist soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England aster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symphyotrichum tenuifolium</td>
<td>Height: 0.3 – 0.6 m (1 – 2 ft); white to pale purple flowers</td>
<td>Tolerant</td>
<td>Light: Partial shade to full sun</td>
<td>Soil: salt/brackish marsh soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial saltmarsh aster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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

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**NATIVE VINES for Coastal Connecticut**

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