Native Plants for Slopes and Hills

4-seasons of interest, bird and butterfly value. And No Mowing!

We recommend planting perennials and shrubs with a bit of height on a slope. No one likes weeding, and if your plants are 12” or taller, they will shade out many weeds, or at least cover them so you don’t see them. Here are some of our favorites for slopes. We’ve selected those around 3’ and under. They don’t need trimming or cutting back, so once established you can let them be.

SHRUBS:

Gro-lo Sumac: low growing spreading shrub with great fall color. Dry to moist, sun to part shade. To 2’. On Display behind our hoop houses.

Bush Honeysuckle: dry to moist, sun to shade. Arching stems with bright yellow flowers. To 3.5’.

Dwarf Ninebark: dry to wet, sandy to rocky, sun to part shade. Tough shrub. Blooms white spring.

Shrub roses: spreading arching canes, single petal flower in spring, red hips in fall. R. virginiana and R. caroliniana for most soils, R. palustris for damp to wet. Sun.

Snowberry: Dry, rocky soil OK. Speads by suckers. Blue-green leaves, pink flowers spring, ornamental white berries in fall. Sun.


Perennials and Grasses on reverse side

Bring life to the landscape with native plants.

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Perennials:
Wild strawberry: covers ground quickly and thickly, helps keep other weeds down. Blooms white in spring. This is on display by our pond, take a look!
Whorled loosestrife: This purple leaved selection has yellow flowers and spreads rapidly by suckers. (This is NOT the same as the invasive Purple Loosestrife.)
Golden Alexander: Average to wet. Blooms yellow, spreads rapidly by seed.
Almost any perennial adapted to your soil can be added in for color and interest!

Grasses:
The Grasses are a bit taller than 3’, but are strong growers and provide winter interest.
Big Blue Stem: 5’-8’. Well suited to dry soil. Sun. Fall interest.
Switch Grass: Many cultivars available. Adaptable to dry or moist soil. Sun.
Indian Grass: Sun to part sun. Beautiful copper colored seed head in fall.
Northern Sea Oats: Spreads rapidly by rhizomes and seed. Sun to part shade.

Vines:
American Bittersweet: scrambles rapidly, sets orange berries.
Virginia Creeper: ground hugging, shade. Fall color, bird value.