



Promoting Native Plants since 2003 Certified Women Owned Business Enterprise

Native Plants for Slopes and Hills

Avoid ground-hugging plants on a slope or hill -- taller plants will shade out many weeds, or at least cover them so you don't see them. Here are some of our favorites shrubs for slopes. We've selected those around 3' and under because we've found many people have slopes where traffic sight-line is also an issue. Almost any tree could also be planted on a slope or hill.

SHRUBS, AND VINES

Gro-lo Sumac: low growing spreading shrub with great fall color. Dry to moist, sun to part shade. To 2'. Planted behind shade retail area.

Bush Honeysuckle: dry to moist, sun to shade. Arching stems with bright yellow flowers. To 3.5'. Planted near the pond.

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

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. Planted behind the shade retail area. Excellent for soil stabilization. One is planted behind the shade retail area.

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

Bayberry: Semi-evergreen, suckers and forms colonies. Sun to part sun. Adaptable.

Virginia Creeper - a fast growing vine that will spread horizontally and cling to soil. Fall color, bird value.

American Bittersweet: scrambles rapidly, sets orange berries.

Brambleberries: Raspberry, currant and other suckering shrubs will hold soil in.

Serviceberry: Taller shrub that grows up to 25'. Good bird value, easy to establish.

PERENNIALS

Wild strawberry: covers ground quickly and thickly, helps keep other weeds down. Blooms white in spring.

Whorled loosestrife: This purple leaved selection has yellow flowers and spreads rapidly by suckers. (not the same as invasive Purple Loosestrife.)

Canada anemone: low growing, buttercup like flower. Spreads rapidly. Sun.

Golden Alexander: Average to wet. Blooms yellow, spreads rapidly by seed.

Conoclinium coelestinum (blue mistflower), Spreads rapidly by seed, will fill in gaps. 12"-18".

Coreopsis lanceolata (lanceleaf tickseed). Tall, deep rooted, yellow flower.

Penstemons: will spread by seed, fill in bare spots, hold the top layer of soil.

Almost any perennial adapted to your soil can be added for color and interest.

GRASSES

Grasses are a bit taller than 3', strong growers and provide winter interest with seed heads. Native grasses are deep rooted and will slow run off and stabilize soil. All but Canada Wildrye require full sun.

Sideoats grama
Canada Wildrye
Little Bluestem
Prairie Dropseed

Big Blue Stem:
Switch Grass
Indian Grass:
Northern Sea Oats

PLANTING NOTES FOR SLOPES AND HILLS

Plant a mixture of low growing perennials, shrubs and grasses. If possible, intersperse rocks or small boulders between the plants to hold soil.

A diverse planting with layers of vegetation is critical. The force of falling rain will be tempered as it falls through layers of vegetation. Deeper rooted plants will help stabilize the slope, and shallow rooted plants will hold the top few inches of soil.

Never till the soil on a slope. Disturb the soil only as needed for planting. Use strategically placed rocks around the newly planted items to hold loose soil.

Water with drip irrigation or soaker hose to minimize run off. Mulch bare spots with two to three inches of shredded mulch.