

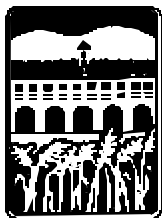
Why focus on native plants?

To gain a sense of place. Just as a city has its signature skyline and monuments, a natural place is defined by its unique mixture of plants, animals, and landforms. As part of this mixture, Virginia's diverse native plants subtly help us know where we are.

To gain a sense of history. Native plants remind us of this landscape's recent history; the grand hackberry at the eastern end of this section of the trail, for example, may have been growing there when smoke still rose from the chimney overlooking the area. They also speak of a history extending perhaps millions of years into the past, far beyond our ordinary measures of time. It is this ancient shared history that has produced the delicate interconnections of plants and animals in Virginia's natural communities.

To gain new insight. Habitat loss and fragmentation are eroding biological diversity in Virginia, just as they are in the rest of the world. The unchecked spread of some non-native plants is threatening the very character of the state's natural communities. Learning about the treasures these threats place in jeopardy helps us appreciate the full cost of human actions today, and encourages us to look for constructive ways to protect our shared sense of place and history.

A portion of the cost of printing this brochure was underwritten by a grant from the Appreciation of Earth and Animal Foundation.



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At the University of Virginia's Historic
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Nancy Larrick Crosby Native Plant Trail

Woodland Section

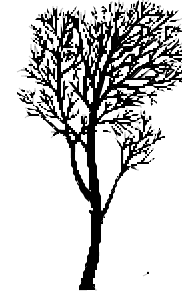


Virginia Bluebells
Mertensia virginica

State Arboretum of Virginia
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This naturalistic planting brings together some of the native plants of Virginia's varied woodlands. These species were present in some part of what is now Virginia before European settlers arrived.

The canopy of high shade over this area is dominated by the large hackberries (*Celtis occidentalis*) along the wall. The massive stump at the east end of the trail was one of the largest hackberry trees in the state before it was toppled by wind in early 2002. In time the oaks (*Quercus* spp.), ashes (*Fraxinus* spp.), and some of the other young trees will match the mature trees in size, extending the area where shade-loving plants can thrive.



Sheltered by the canopy are the shrubs and small trees of the understory, such as spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). Beneath them, low-growing wildflowers, ferns, and grasses carpet the ground. Some of these understory and groundcover species need unbroken shade. Others flourish in sunnier areas at the edge of the woods, and some wildflowers complete their life cycles in bright sun before the trees leaf out. As shade returns, these spring ephemerals become dormant.

Some species growing here, such as flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), sweet pepper-



Follow the surfaced path to see the greatest variety of plants. A seating area midway offers a shady place to rest. The stone chimney above the limestone outcrops is a relic of the earliest structure on Blandy's grounds. Its full history is unknown.

To protect fragile plants, please stay on the paths and keep dogs leashed, and for their own safety, keep children off the rocks. So others can enjoy the plants, do not pick flowers or other plant parts.

bush (*Clethra alnifolia*), and fringed bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*), are well known in gardens, often as cultivated varieties that differ from wild plants. Others, such as rue anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*) and wreath goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), are used mainly in wildflower plantings. Still others are natives most gardeners would weed out, like snakeroot (*Sanicula gregaria*) and kidney-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus abortivus*), but here they are welcome.

Birds, insects, and other animals share this area, even in winter. Many feed on seeds, leaves, or nectar or use plants for shelter. In turn their activities benefit the plants by pollinating their flowers or dispersing their fruits and seeds.



All the plants in this section are nursery- or garden-propagated, except for some obtained through an authorized plant rescue at the Thompson wildlife management area, including the white trilliums (*Trillium grandiflorum*). A few species have appeared without being planted, such as the cream violets and common blue violets (*Viola striata* and *V. papilionacea*).

PARTIAL LIST OF SPECIES FOUND IN THE WOODLAND PORTION OF THE NATIVE PLANT TRAIL

<u>Species and common name</u>	Seasonal interest				<u>Description of key features</u>
	<u>Sp</u>	<u>Su</u>	<u>Fa</u>	<u>Wi</u>	
<u>Trees and Shrubs</u>					
<i>Acer rubrum</i> , red maple	F	...	Fo	...	Red flowers, yellow to red fall color
<i>Acer saccharum</i> , sugar maple	...	...	Fo	...	Yellow, orange and red fall color
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> , serviceberry, shadblow	F	...	Fr	...	White flowers, purple summer fruits
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> , red chokeberry	F	...	Fo	...	White flowers, red fall color
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i> , Carolina allspice	F	F	...	...	Scented maroon flowers, large seed pods
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> , American hornbeam	F	...	Fr	...	Flowers in catkins, seeds in large bracts
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> , hackberry	...	...	Fr	Fr	Purple to black fruits important for wildlife
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> , Eastern redbud	F	Fr	...	...	Pink-purple flowers, long pods
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> , sweet pepper bush	...	F	...	...	Racemes of small white flowers
<i>Cornus florida</i> , flowering dogwood	F	...	Fo, Fr	...	White flowers, scarlet fruit, fall color
<i>Chionanthus virginica</i> , fringetree	F	...	...	...	White, lightly scented fringe-like flowers
<i>Diosporus virginiana</i> , persimmon	...	...	Fr	...	Yellow-orange edible fruits
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> , American beech	...	...	Fo	Fo	Bronze fall color, leaves persist in winter
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> , dwarf fothergilla	F	...	Fo	...	White, honey-scented flowers; yellow fall color
<i>Fraxinus americana</i> , white ash	...	...	Fo	...	Purplish to maroon fall color
<i>Halesia carolina</i> , Carolina silverbell	F	Fr	Fr	...	Bell shaped flowers; four-winged seedpods
<i>Hammamelis virginiana</i> , witch hazel	...	...	...	F	Fragrant yellow flowers
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> v. <i>radiata</i> , wild hydrangea	...	F	F	...	White flowers in flat clusters
<i>Ilex</i> (3 species), hollies	...	...	...	Fr	Some evergreen, red or black fruits
<i>Lindera benzoin</i> , spicebush	F	...	Fo, Fr	...	Yellow flowers, spicy foliage, red berries
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> , sweetgum	...	...	Fo	Fr	Bright fall foliage; seeds in prickly 'gumballs'
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> , black gum	...	...	Fo	...	Glossy leaves, crimson fall color
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> , sourwood	...	F	Fo	...	White, urn-shaped flowers; brilliant fall color
<i>Prunus serotina</i> , wild black cherry	...	...	Fr	...	Fruits black, important for wildlife
<i>Ptelea trifolia</i> , hoptree or water ash	F	...	Fr	...	Greenish-white flowers, seeds in samaras
<i>Quercus</i> (4 species), oaks	...	...	Fo, Fr	...	Red fall color, acorns for wildlife
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i> , rosebay	F	...	...	...	Evergreen, rose-purple flowers
<i>Rubus odoratus</i> , flowering raspberry	...	F	...	...	Magenta flowers
<i>Styrax americana</i> , American snowbell	F	...	...	...	White bell-shaped flowers, slightly fragrant
<i>Tilia americana</i> , basswood	...	F	Fr	...	Cream, with heady fragrance
<i>Viburnum</i> (4 species), viburnums	F	...	Fr	...	Cream flower clusters, blue or black fruits
<u>Perennials, ferns and grasses</u>					
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i> , maidenhair fern	Fo	Fo	Fo	...	Black stems, finely cut leaves
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i> , willow amsonia	F	...	Fr	Fr	Steel-blue flowers, narrow seed pods
<i>Anemone</i>	F	...	...	...	Delicate white to pale pink flowers
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> , wild columbine	F	...	...	...	Red and yellow spurred flowers
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> , Jack-in-the-pulpit	F	...	Fr	...	Striped greenish 'pulpit', red fruit clusters
<i>Asarum canadense</i> , wild ginger	F, Fo	...	...	...	Maroon flowers on ground, heart-shaped leaves
<i>Aster</i> (4 species), asters	...	F	F	...	White or blue flowers in panicles
<i>Astilbe biternata</i> , false goat's beard	...	F	...	...	White flowers in large panicles
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i> , Pennsylvania sedge	F	...	Fo	...	Narrow grass-like leaves, tawny in fall
<i>Chelone glabra</i> , turtlehead	...	F	F	...	White, tubular flowers on spikes
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> , green-and-gold	F	F	...	...	Gold flowers on low, semi-evergreen foliage
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i> , black snakeroot	...	F	...	...	White flowers on tall stalks
<i>Dentaria laciniata</i> , cutleaf toothwort	F	...	...	...	White flowers, dormant by early summer
<i>Dicentra exima</i> , fringed bleeding heart	F	F	...	...	Pink flower clusters hang above cut foliage
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i> , marginal wood fern	Fo	Fo	Fo	Fo	Vase-shaped, with twice-cut fronds
<i>Geranium maculatum</i> , wild geranium	F	F, Fr	...	...	Lavender-pink flowers, 'crane's-bill' seedpods
<i>Gillenia trifoliata</i> , Bowman's root	...	F	...	...	Small, white, star-shaped flowers
<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i> , sharp-lobed hepatica	F	...	...	...	White flowers, leaves with pointed lobes
<i>Heuchera americana</i> , alumroot	F	Fo	Fo	...	Evergreen leaves mottled with silver
<i>Iris cristata</i> , dwarf crested iris	F, Fr	Fo	Fo	...	Blue to purple flowers, short dense foliage
<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i> , twinleaf	...	Fo	...	...	White flowers, stalked capsule, paired leaves
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> , cardinal flower	...	F	F	...	Intense red flower spikes
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> , great blue lobelia	...	F	F	...	Pale to deep blue flower spikes
<i>Mertensia virginica</i> , Virginia bluebells	F	...	...	...	Pink buds, blue flowers; dormant by summer
<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i> , sundrops	F	...	...	...	Bright yellow flowers, reddish green leaves
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> , sensitive or bead fern	Fo	Fo	Fo	...	Separate stems topped with fertile 'beads'
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i> , interrupted fern	Fo	Fo	Fo	...	Brown fertile area 'interrupts' center of fronds
<i>Phlox divaricata</i> , wild blue phlox	F	...	...	...	Lavender-blue, very fragrant flowers
<i>Polemonium reptans</i> , Jacob's ladder	F	F	...	...	Pale blue, lightly fragrant flowers
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> , Christmas fern	Fo	Fo	Fo	Fo	Evergreen, fertile fronds narrow abruptly
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> , bloodroot	F	Fo	...	...	White flowers, yellow centers, leathery leaves
<i>Sedum ternatum</i> , wild stonecrop	F	Fo	Fo	...	White flowers, creeping plant with fleshy leaves
<i>Smilacina racemosa</i> , false Solomon's seal	...	F	Fr	...	White flowers in panicles, mottled red berries
<i>Solidago caesia</i> , wreath goldenrod	...	F	F	...	Drifts of yellow flowers in racemes
<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i> , celandine poppy	F, Fr	...	...	...	Yellow flower and fuzzy, green fruit
<i>Thalictrum</i> (2 species), meadow rue	F	...	...	...	No petals, numerous stamens form flowers
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i> , large flowered trillium	F	...	...	...	White to deep pink, three petaled flowers
<i>Trillium sessile</i> , toad trillium, sessile trillium	F	...	...	...	Maroon flowers atop mottled leaves
<i>Urtica latifolia</i> , northern river oats	...	F	Fr	...	Arching stems, tawny, nodding seed heads
<i>Uvularia</i> (3 species), merrybells	F	...	...	...	Yellow-green bell-shaped flowers
<i>Viola</i> (4 species), violets	F	...	...	...	Blue, white and yellow flowers
<i>Xanthorhiza simplicissima</i> , shrubby yellowroot	F	...	Fo	...	Yellow flowers, maroon fall color

KEY F – flowers Fo – foliage Fr – fruits, seeds