Perennial Plants for Streamside Vegetative Buffers

Plants for ***SHALLOW WATER AREAS***

6-12 inches deep, permanently or semi-permanently; emergent aquatic plants.

Includes bottom-land hardwood forests, wet prairies and marshes, seeps, ponds and sloughs, and the margins of lakes

Arrow Arum
(Peltandra virginica)

1-2’ aquatic plant.

CT native, found in fresh to brackish marshes, swamps, and shallow waters and mud 0f ponds and lakes.

Erect arrow-shaped long-stalked wavy-margined green leaves.

Sun to part shade.
Wetland plant.
Can form large colonies, slowly.

Use in water garden, pond, or shore area.

Provides food for Wood Ducks, and other marsh and shorebirds.

Photos 1, 2
Janet Novak, Connecticut Botanical Society
ct-botanical-society.org
Photo 3
Theodore S. Cochcrane
University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
wisplants.uwsp.edu

Blue Flag Iris
(Iris versicolor)

2-4' tall, graceful robust, slowly spreading clumps.

CT native, found by shores, in marshes, swamps, wet meadows, wet ditches, shallow water.

2.5-4" boldly-veined violet-blue flowers with yellow and white markings at base of falls; 2-4 flowers on sturdy stalks held above leaves, May-June.

Arching to erect narrow sword-like blue-green leaves.

Sun to part shade. Moist to wet soil, or up to 2-4" of water. Prefers sandy loamy. Not demanding. Can be grown in most gardens.

Use in moist borders, beside or in pond/ water gardens, bogs, or meadows.

Stream buffers.

The yellow and white markings on the flowers direct birds and insects to the nectar.

Provides food and cover for water fowl, marsh birds.

Attracts hummingbirds and bees.

Provides nectar to Silver-bordered Fritillary, Bronze Copper, Two-Spotted Skipper.

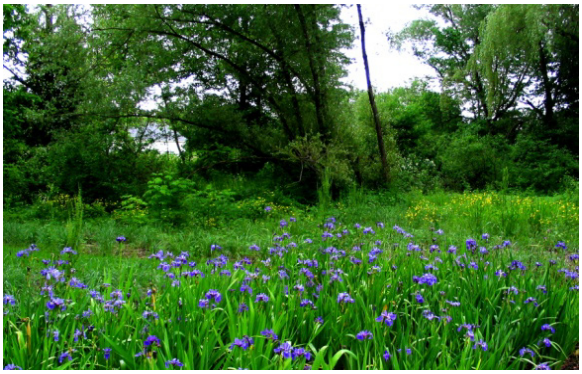


Photo 1
Janet Novak
Connecticut Botanical Society
ct-botanical-society.org
Photos 2, 3
North Central Conservation District

Pickerel Weed
(Pondeteria cordata)

2 to 4' emergent marginal aquatic.

CT native, found in fresh to moderately brackish marshes, and the shallow water of ponds and lakes.

Spikes of soft violet blue tubular flowers, June to October.

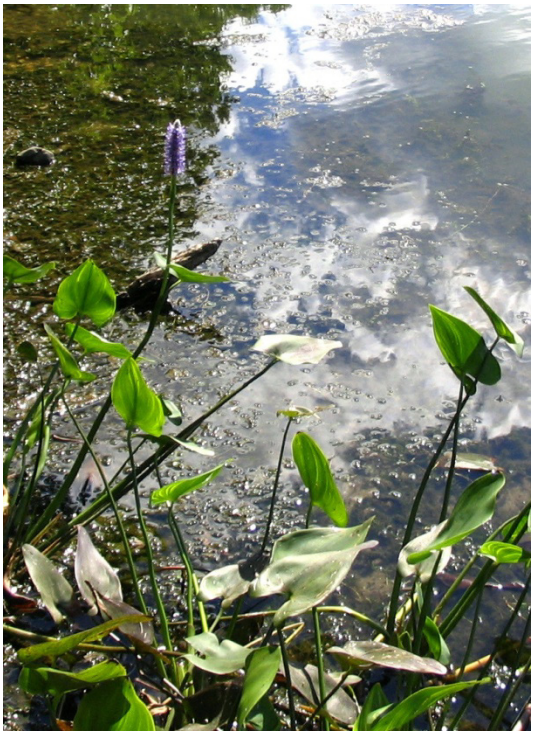
Glossy narrow arrowhead-shaped leaves.

Seeds released into the water. They are edible off the plant, and may be added to granola.

Sun to partial shade.
Can form colonies, moderate spreader.

Use in water and bog gardens, pond edges, in large containers.

Food for Mottled Duck and other waterfowl.
Cover for fish.
Attracts butterflies.
Dragonflies commonly lay eggs in stems near water surface.



Photos 1, 2
Missouri Botanical Garden PlantFinder
www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder
Photo 3
North Central Conservation District

Soft Rush
(Juncus effusus)

2-4' grass-like cylindrical tussocks or hummocks.

CT native, found in mashes, shrub swamps, wet meadows, ditches.

Stems appear stiff and brittle, but are soft to the touch.

Prefers sun, may tolerate part shade.
Moist to wet soils, including 4" of water.
Slow to establish, but then they spread by creeping rhizomes.

Use at the edge of a pond or water garden, in boggy areas, among rocks in shallow water, for vertical accents, in tubs.

Erosion control on banks.

Food for wildfowl, upland game birds, marsh birds, songbirds, waterfowl.

Spawning grounds for Rock Bass, Bluegills, and others.

Cover for water fowl.

Attracts 6 species of native butterflies/moths.

Photo
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