Trees and Shrubs 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.

Swamp White Oak
(Quercus bicolor)

60-80' x 30-40', grows slowly into a
Large oval, than a rounded shape.

CT native, found in swamp forests and floodplains.

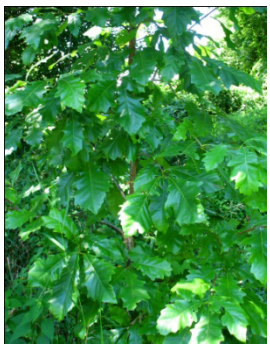
Oval scalloped lustrous leaves.

Warm gray, shaggy, plated bark.

Sun or part sun. Moist or wet acid soils.

Use for naturalizing, in park, large areas.

Oaks are extremely important species
for wildlife, including song birds, game birds,
and mammals.
They are host to hundreds of butterfly species.



Photos 1, 2, 4, 5
Missouri Botanic PlantFinder
mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder
Photos 3, 6
North Central Conservation District

Buttonbush
(Cephalanthus occidentalis)

3-8’ x 3-6’

CT native, found in swamps, by streams edges, emergent in shallow water.

Creamy white 1” flower balls, surrounded by tubes all over, asteroid –like, for a month in summer. Musky sweet fragrance.

Bold glossy dark green leaves in whorls of three.

Smooth greenish-gray bark, gray-brown striations.

Sun to light shade; moist to wet (flooded).
Drought intolerant. If sited near water, place so that inundated in spring, but out of water in summer.
Spreads underground when by water.
Can die back in hard winters, like a perennial.
Can cut back to ground every few years for more shapely plant.

Use to naturalize on banks and shallow water, as specimen or for massing in moist sunny garden sites.

Excellent nectar plant for Swallowtail and Frittilary butterflies.

Photos 1, 3
Missouri Botanic PlantFinder
mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder
Photos 2, 4, 5
Will Cook, Duke University
duke.edu/~cwcook.trees/leax.html

Winterberry
(Ilex verticillata)

9', upright rounded dense twiggy shrub.

CT native, found at woodland edges, swamps.

Profuse and spectacular vivid red berries
without rival in the fall/winter landscape,
fall through early spring.

Lustrous leathery dark green oval leaves;
burgundy in fall.

Silvery smooth bark.

Sun to part sun, more fruit in more sun;
moist to wet acidic soil, but tolerates dry soils.
Can form thickets. Easy to grow.

Use as specimen for winter interest,
in naturalized landscapes, for massing,
screening, hedges, in foundations.

Streamside buffers.

Pollinated by bees.
Fruit eaten in winter by birds, including Cedar Waxwings,
Bluebirds, and many others.
Nectar attracts butterflies; larval host to Elf Butterfly.

Photos 1, 4
Steve Sweedler, Plymouth State University Horticulturalist
plymouth.edu/fsb/landscap/plantsis.htm
Photos 2, 6, and bird
North Central Conservation District
Photo 3
Jeffrey S. Pippen
duke.edu/~jspippen/nature.htm
Photo 5
Missouri Botanic Garden PlantFinder
mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder