

# MIDDLESEX COUNTY

## SUGGESTED PLANT LIST

2003 Edition



### MIDDLESEX COUNTY

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#### NOTICE

This guide is for information only. Please refer to the applicable laws and regulations for specific technical and procedural requirements. In some cases, you will need professional help in such areas as land survey, engineering and law.

Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness, the procedures contained in this guide are not guaranteed to be inclusive. Permitting procedures, fees and times are subject to periodic review and change. Any errors and omissions in this guide will not relieve any applicant or property owner of the responsibility, obligation or liability in fulfilling all of these legal requirements.

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### Grasses

Name	Shade Tolerant	Salt Water Tolerant	Drought Tolerant
Bermudagrass	NO	YES	YES
Centipede	YES	NO	YES
St. Augustine	YES	YES	YES
Tall Fescue	YES	NO	NO
Zoysia	YES	YES	YES

### Ground Cover

Name	Description	Exposure	Soil
Blue Pacific Juniper	This plant has evergreen needles and is about 1 foot tall. It spreads 6 to 9 feet. This low spreading evergreen has awl-shaped foliage that is prickly and a blue-green color.	Plant in full sun for best growth.	Avoid wet soils, salt tolerant, tolerant of poor soils, especially sandy soils near the coast.
Creeping Myrtle or Periwinkle	Evergreen, mat-like ground cover that blooms with white or purple flowers. Excellent, fast growing ground cover for large sunny areas such as creek or riverbanks.	Sun to shade	Soil of medium drainage and low fertility. pH range of 4.0 to 7.0.
Pachysandra-Japanese	Evergreen, spreads to form a solid mat. Leaves are dark glossy green and flowers are small white blooms. Excellent ground cover for medium to large shaded areas, under trees and shrubs, or as edging along walkways.	Prefers partial to dense shade.	Moist, fertile, well drained soil with a pH range of 5.0 to 7.0.
Pampas Grass	Pampas Grass can grow to 8-12 feet tall. The Pampas Grass has large pink plume like flowers that give the grass an ornamental sort of look. Pampas Grass can adapt to most places and can adapt fairly quickly.	Sun	Somewhat damp ground. Grows well along a small stream bank.
Switch Grass	Switch Grass or Reed Switch Grass is a warm-season native grass. Use in mass where its fine-textured flowers and seed heads will produce a cloud like effect. Dense, upright growth habit; 3-8' when in flower. Green to blue-green foliage; takes on a beige color for winter. The light, airy flower panicles vary in color from green to pink.	Best grown in full sun. Tolerates some shade; too much shade reduces the intense fall color. Floppy habit if grown in medium to heavy shade.	Good in wet or dry soils; the more moisture, the taller it will grow.

Name	Description	Exposure	Soil
Weeping Love Grass	Features dark green, fine textured, almost hair-like foliage that forms dense clumps. The thin leaves grow only 3-4 inches tall, but produces 2-3 ft. tall flower clusters on arching, weeping stems. The flowers are olive-purple, maturing to a grayish color, and are quite delicate and move in the slightest breeze. Foliage turns a beautiful bronze-red color after a freeze.	Full sun to partial shade.	Sandy soils
Wintercreeper	Fast growing small to medium size clinging vine is an evergreen with insignificant whitish green flowers. Attaches rootlets along stem to support. Tolerates salt spray and is drought resistant.	Full sun to moderate shade.	Average soil

## Shrubs

Name	Description	Height	Exposure	Soil
Aucuba	Grows where nothing else will. Has variously gold patterned leaves or plain green. Tolerates pollution and salt winds.	6 feet	Deep shade	Poor soil
English Laurel	Pleasant shrub with masses of small white, fragrant flowers in spring. This plant is deer resistant and tolerates seashore conditions.	4 -6 feet	Full sun to full shade.	Moist well drained soil
Virginia Sweet Spire	Drooping racemes of white flowers in early spring; open from base to tip; lightly fragrant. Mahogany to orange red fall foliage; arching branches; flowers attracts butterflies; seeds eaten by birds; avoid high fertilization; may spread by runners.	3-5 feet	Sun to partial shade.	Dry to moist to wet soil
Wax Myrtle	Tough native shrub or small tree and is a great plant for along the shore. Tolerates salt and excess moisture.	10-15 feet	Full sun to part shade	

## Trees

Name	Description	Height
Bald Cypress	Found in deep swamps which are usually flooded for long periods at a time, and on wet stream banks and bottom lands. Its straight trunk with numerous ascending branches, and narrow conical outline makes the tree one of considerable beauty.	80-130 feet
Eastern Red Cedar	Pyramidal to columnar evergreen. Used for a windbreak or screen. Adapts to any well drained soil in full sun. It is best with moist conditions, but is drought tolerant.	40-50 feet
Honey Locust	This tree is very hardy in that it adapts well to many types of soils. It thrives best in moist soil.	35-60 feet
Japanese Black Pine	Small, irregular and open tree used in seashore planting. Performs well in full sun in sandy soil and tolerates drought.	35-60 feet
Leyland Cypress	Large evergreen that is fast growing. Very adaptable and tolerates acidic or alkaline soils and poor drainage on occasion. Withstands salt spray and is suited for coastal landscapes.	60-70 feet
Live Oak	Grows best in full sun and adapts to most soil types and moisture conditions.	50-80 feet
Maple	Commonly planted species are red maple, sugar maple, black maple, and Norway maple. The species most commonly grown are medium to large deciduous trees with lobed "maple-shaped" leaves.	20-60 feet
Oak	Red Oak prefers moist, deep, rich, well-drained soils of slightly acidic pH. It adapts readily to dry soils of acidic, neutral, or slightly alkaline pH. It thrives in full sun to partial sun (but is shade tolerant in youth).	60 feet
Southern Magnolia	Grows in full sun to part shade in humus rich, moist but well drained acidic soil.	60-80 feet
Salt Cedars	A deciduous shrub and small tree for coastal sites and dry or marshy, often salt rich areas inland. Grows best in full sun in well drained soil.	10-15 feet
Tulip Poplar	Leaves 4-lobed with a tulip-like outline. Flower also tulip-shaped, orange at the base, with 6 greenish-yellow petals. They appear only after leaves develop.	50-150 feet
Weeping Willows	Abundantly found in wetlands and alongside streams, ponds, and rivers, as well as swampy or marshy areas. As an ornamental, it can even be planted as a fine-textured shade tree, as it tolerates dry soils with reduced vigor.	30 feet
Yaupon Holly	Small evergreen shrub or tree that bears scarlet red fruit and is useful as a screen or hedge in a swampy area.	15-20 feet

## Wetland Plants

Name	Description
American Threesquare	American threesquare was once used for chair caning and is also known, in fact, as <i>chairmaker's rush</i> . The plant is named <i>threesquare</i> because of the triangular stem. It is found in many parts of America, particularly in coastal wetland areas. New plants grow from both seeds and spreading rhizomes (underground stems).
Arrow Arum	Arrow arum is found in freshwater wetlands throughout the southeast. Arrow arum, a perennial, is also known as duck corn because wood ducks often include the plant's seeds in their diet. Because the seeds contain crystals of calcium oxalate, most marsh birds (other than wood ducks) do not like them. The seeds develop in a spike-shaped pod and are released early in the fall as the pod decays. The arrow arum leaves can grow up to three feet in length, and plants as high as seven feet have been found.
Black Needlerush	This salt-loving "leafless" rush can cover large areas in coastal salt and brackish tidal marshes, and is easily recognizable by its characteristic grayish-green to blackish hues. Its "stem tips" are very sharp pointed and stout. " Black needle rush is a true rush. From rhizomes; stems to 5 ft. tall, grayish green; leaf blades stem-like, long, stiff, round, with very sharp points.
Marsh Elder	Both the marsh elder (also known as the gall bush) and the groundsel tree are common in marshes, often mixed in with saltmeadow cordgrass. The two shrubs are similar in appearance and size with an average height of five to nine feet. The marsh elder, found along most of the Atlantic coast, has small, green, round flowers that appear as heads along a thin stem.
Marsh Mallow	In late July and August, the marsh mallow's pink blossoms (up to about two and a half inches) appear. The stems and leaves of the marsh mallow are covered with minute, dense, hairs; the leaves are three lobed. The plant grows to about three feet.
Narrow-leaved Cattail	The narrow-leaved cattail is found in freshwater and brackish marshes throughout the United States. Early in the year, the new plants and spikes are often collected and eaten by humans. The roots are often included in the diets of geese.
Prickly Pear	Often found in sandy soil along the Mid-Atlantic Coast, has few spines. In the spring, this cactus produces yellow blooms, and its purplish fruits mature in the late summer and fall. The fruits are edible, but because of their small bristles, they should be peeled. A jam is often made from the fruits.
Saltmarsh Cordgrass	Taller than saltmeadow cordgrass and with flat, smooth blades, saltmarsh cordgrass grows along the sides of guts (marsh creeks) and in places flooded by the tides. Cordgrasses are able to survive in areas flooded by salt water because of the regulatory system they have developed that excretes unneeded salt on the leaf edges. The root system of saltmarsh cordgrass helps stabilize the marsh mud. Besides securing a habitat for other plants and animals.
Saltmeadow Cordgrass	Saltmeadow cordgrass, the shorter, wiry-looking grass of the marshes, is usually found on the higher flats of the marsh flooded only by the high tides. Saltmeadow cordgrass serves as a nesting area for some of the marsh birds.