



## Cornell University Cooperative Extension Putnam County

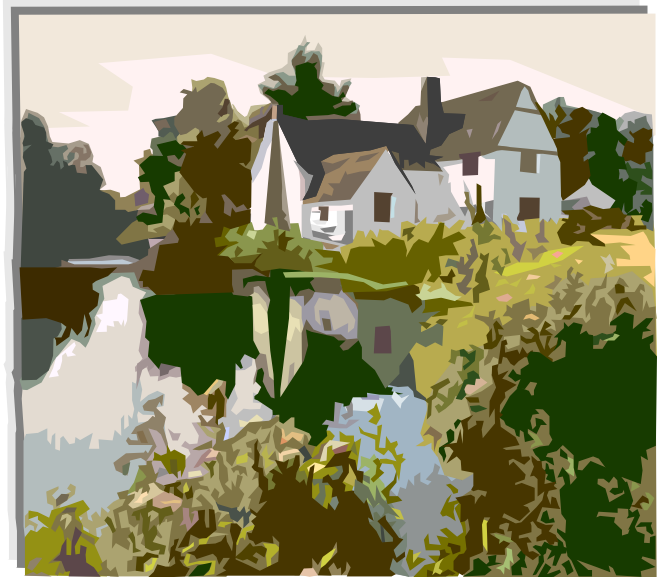
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### Lakeshore Buffer Plantings

So often you hear of the importance of creating a lakeshore buffer planting: a strip of foliage, plant material, and mulched soil that intercepts runoff from driveways and lawns before it reaches the lake.

But if you live on a lakeshore, chances are you also want to maintain a view of the water. This leads many homeowners to mow right up to the water's edge which provides a fast track for surface-water contaminants, and easy access for waterfowl to graze in the lawn.

**You can create a dense and beautiful waterside buffer planting** that catches run off before it reaches your lake, and also helps to deter Canada geese from grazing on your lawn!<sup>1</sup>



### What to Plant:

**Woody Shrubs:** These shrubs are under four feet and ideal for lakeshore buffer plantings.

- *Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird', Hummingbird Summersweet, 3'. This dwarf selection is a fragrant summer bloomer with bright yellow fall color.
- *Fothergilla gardenii* 'Mt Airy', Dwarf fothergilla, 3', Blooms early, remains small. Clear yellow fall color.
- *Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite', or 'Maryland Beauty' 3-4' Are dwarf varieties of our native Winterberry Holly. They sparkle with berries in late fall and early winter
- *Ilex glabra* 'Shamrock', 'Nana,' or 'Densa' 3' These dwarf varieties of the native Inkberry Holly provides some evergreen interest in your landscape.
- *Itea virginiana* 'Little Henry', Little Henry Sweetspire, 3'. This dwarf variety grows to three feet, blooms profusely in summer months and has spectacular scarlet fall color.
- *Rhododendron viscosum*, Swamp Azalea. 4-5' Though taller, is airy in form. Fragrant pink flowers grace this welcome spring bloomer.
- *Rhus aromatica* 'Grow Low' 2-3' Fragrant Sumac, Widely adaptable: will tolerate areas of compacted soil and drought as well

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Shrubs continued . . .

- *Vaccinium angustifolia*, Lowbush Blueberry, 18", great fall color, diminutive size, and, oh yes, edible fruit!
- *Viburnum dentatum* 'Blue Muffin' 3-4' This dwarf form of our native Arrowwood produces a profusion of blue-black berries attractive to birds.
- *Viburnum trilobum* 'Bailey Compact' 3-4' American cranberrybush viburnum produces fruit attractive to birds and squirrels. The flowers are a welcome addition to the landscape.

Herbaceous Perennials: Full Sun, 2-3' tall

- *Anemone canadensis*, Canada anemone
- *Aruncus dioicus*, Goatsbeard
- *Asclepias incarnata*, Swamp milkweed
- *Aster novae-angliae* (*Symphotrichon*) 'Purple Dome' Dwarf New England Aster
- *Chasmanthium latifolium*, Northern Sea Oats
- *Chelone glabra*, Turtlehead
- *Geranium maculatum*, Cranesbill
- *Iris sibirica*, Siberian iris
- *Iris ensata*, Japanese Iris
- *Juncus effusus*, Soft Rush
- *Liatris spicata*, Blazing star
- *Monarda didyma*, Oswego tea a.k.a. Bee Balm\*
- *Monarda fistulosa*, Wild Bergamot\*
- *Solidago* 'Firecracker' or 'Golden Fleece' Goldenrod



Herbaceous Perennials: Part Shade 2-3' tall

- *Anemone canadensis*, Canada anemone
- *Astilbe sp.*, Astilbe
- *Chasmanthium latifolium*, Northern Sea Oats
- *Farfugium japonicum*, Senecio
- *Osmunda cinnamomea*, Cinnamon Fern
- *Osmunda regalis*, Regal Fern

\*Can spread aggressively

<sup>1</sup>Managing Canada Geese in Suburban Environments, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Watershed Management, 2001