

Recommended Herbaceous Plants for Stormwater Management Ponds in Delaware

May 2006



DNREC Sediment and
Stormwater Program
(302) 739-9921



Recommended Herbaceous Plants for Stormwater Ponds in Delaware

Common name	Scientific name	Water Depth	Soil	Sunlight	Height	Flower	Bloom
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	< 3 inches	W	SU, PS	3-6 ft.	Lavender	Jul-Oct
Blue Flag Iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	< 6 inches	W,M	SU, PS	3 ft.	Blue	May-Jun
Wool Grass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	< 3 inches	W,M	SU	3-5 ft.	NA	Jul-Oct
Soft Stemmed Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i> (formerly <i>Scirpus validus</i>)	< 3 inches	W	SU	3-5 ft.	NA	May-Aug
Canada Rush	<i>Juncus canadensis</i>	< 3 inches	W,M	SU, PS	1-3 ft.	NA	Jun-Sep
Soft Rush (Smooth Rush)	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	< 3 inches	W,M	SU	2-3 ft.	NA	Jun-Sep
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	< 3 inches	W,M	SU, PS	2-5 ft.	Red	Jul-Oct
Pickereelweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	6-12 inches	W	SU, PS	3 ft.	Purple	Jun-Nov
Arrow Arum	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	6-12 inches	W	SU, PS	to 2 ft.	White	Ap-Jun
Duck Potato	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	1-3 feet	W	SU	0.5-2 ft.	White	Jul-Oct
Three Square Sedge	<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> (<i>Scirpus pungens</i>)	< 3 inches	W	SU	4 ft.	NA	Jun-Sep

W=Wet (permanently flooded)
M=Moist (water's edge)
SU=Full sun
PS=Part shade

This table was produced by DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program, with assistance from DNREC Drainage Program, DNREC Fish and Wildlife, DNREC Coastal Management Program, Envirotech, and Delaware Native Plant Society

New England Aster
(*Aster novae-angliae*)



Cardinal Flower
(*Lobelia cardinalis*)



Blue Flag Iris
(*Iris versicolor*)



Duck Potato
(*Sagittaria latifolia*)



Three Square Sedge
(*Schoenoplectus pungens* or
Scirpus pungens)



Pickereel Weed
(*Pontederia cordata*)



Arrow Arum
(*Peltandra virginica*)



Wool Grass
(*Scirpus cyperinus*)



Soft Stemmed Bulrush
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani
(formerly *Scirpus validus*)



Canada Rush
(*Juncus canadensis*)



Soft Rush (Smooth Rush)
(*Juncus effusus*)



Do Not Plant the Following Species

Phragmites spp.



This species is highly invasive (non-native) and highly prolific (spreads easily). It chokes out other plant species and eventually takes over stormwater pond to form monocultures, dominated by one species.

Cattails

Although cattails can provide habitat for wildlife, they also spread easily. We do not recommend planting this species because it can require significant aquatic vegetation control due to inundation.



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