



BUFFERS & NATIVE PLANTS RESOURCES

If you live along our creek, the ocean, or even a small stream or wetland, places with water are special places. The land right next to the water is vital wildlife habitat, and creeks and rivers form natural corridors across the land. A strip of plants along a river or wetland is known as a **buffer** because it protects the river from pollutants and disturbances from our activities in a watershed.

In undeveloped areas, rivers have natural buffers of native vegetation. You may like the way a natural buffer looks - a wild and carefree collection of native plants. Ecologically, it is best if you leave the buffer to grow naturally, with occasional pruning to preserve your view. You might want to add a few native plants with attractive flowers, or to provide more food for wildlife.

However, if you have an existing lawn down to your river, stream or neighboring wetland, you may want to plant a landscaped buffer. Some native plants are particularly attractive, with showy flowers and autumn color. A native plant buffer does not have to be a tangle of weeds!

ONLINE RESOURCES

PLANT LISTS

- Gardening to Conserve Maine's Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid (University of Maine Cooperative Extension)
<http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmpubs/2500.htm>
<http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/2500.pdf>
- Maine DEP Plant List <http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docwatershed/bufhand.htm>
- Selecting, Planting and Caring for Shrubs and Trees in the Maine Landscape - <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/2366.pdf>

BUFFER HANDBOOK - <http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docwatershed/bufa.htm>

- Introduction
- What is a Vegetated Buffer?
- Benefits of Vegetated Buffers
- Understanding Your House Lot
- Designing the Buffer
- Other Considerations
- Summary

Additional Maine DEP Publications - <http://www.maine.gov/dep/publications.htm>

RAINGARDENS

- Rain Gardens of Western Michigan - <http://www.raingardens.org/Index.php>
- Rain Gardens: A household way to improve water quality in your community & A how-to manual for homeowners - <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden/>
- Plant lists and descriptions for the plants recommended for [sunny](#) and [shady rain gardens](#). (Courtesy of the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District)

WILDLIFE

- Backyard Wildlife Habitat – <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/7131.pdf>, <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/7137.pdf> & <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/7132.pdf>
- Keeping Your Yard Safe for Birds - <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/7145.pdf>
- Landscaping for Butterflies in Maine - <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/7151.pdf>

MISCELLANEOUS

- Establishing a Home Lawn - <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmpubs/2367.htm>
- Testing Your Soil - <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/2286.pdf>
- Applying Fertilizers on Home Gardens - <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/2287.pdf>
- Home Composting - <http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/1143.pdf>

ORGANICS

- North Country Organics - <http://www.norganics.com/>
- Cockadoodledo Organic Lawn & Garden Products - <http://www.purebarnyard.com>
- All Organic Links – <http://www.allorganiclinks.com/>
- Organic Consumers Association - <http://www.organicconsumers.org/>

NURSERIES THAT CARRY NATIVE PLANTS

Green Art

Thomas Berger
Route 1 Bypass (northbound side)
Kittery, Maine
<http://www.greenart.com/>
(207) 439-7700

O'Donal's

Routes 22 & 114
South Gorham, Maine
(207) 839-4262
<http://www.odonalsnurseries.com/>
(retail/wholesale, catalog, many natives)

Fernwood Nursery

Rick & Gail Sawyer
433 Cross Road
Swanville, Maine (near Belfast)
(207) 338-4100
(open daily, no catalog, very large selection of herbaceous natives)

The Garden of Eves

Breakfast Hill Road
Greenland, New Hampshire
(603) 436-3581
(open daily all week after Easter)

Rolling Green Nursery

Breakfast Hill Road
Greeland, New Hampshire
(603) 436-2732
<http://www.rollinggreennursery.com>
(many natives)

Salmon Falls Nursery

300 Route 236
Berwick, Maine
(207) 384-0120
<http://www.salmonfallsnursery.com/>
(new owner Chris Pendergast, no catalog, many natives, owner welcomes requests)

Natural Attraction Project Inc.

They have put together some packages such as the Erosion Control, the Shady River Embankment and the Sunny Edge of Lake Packages.
190 Sheldon Road
Griswold, CT 06351
<http://www.naturalattractionproject.com>
(860) 376-2513
Fax (860) 376-5839