

# Meadow Native Species List for Washington County, VA

## Wild Ones Appalachian Highlands Chapter

January 20, 2025, Version 1.0

***A Guide to Gardening with Southwest Virginia Native*** book e! [Plant SWVA Natives Guide — Plant Virginia Natives](#) is a great informative and captivating guide. The Guide provides information on 294 native species found in 20 counties in SW Virginia. It is available online and in hard copy from many libraries in SW Virginia. The Website contains a wealth of information; however, it can be overwhelming.

The Wild Ones Appalachian Highlands (WOAH) Chapter compiled a list of species that are:

1. native to the counties and ecoregions in our region,
2. provide color and wildlife habitat over the seasons,
3. do well in a garden setting,
4. could be grown successfully by relatively new gardeners,
5. have a high probability for long-term survival,
6. have relatively low maintenance/management requirements,
7. have a “wow factor” for both the gardener and their neighbors, and
8. generally, be available from local nurseries (within 1–2-hour drive from Bristol).

Our list is a subset of 147 species out of the 292 of those in the Guide that we selected using additional information along with lists of species sold by local nurseries, and members’ personal experience. The plan is to periodically update this dynamic list based on members’ input and working with local nurseries to encourage them to sell more native species.

The list could be used to help establish a new native habitat meadow or add species to your existing flower gardens. We all may have traditional flowers that we enjoy. Native habitat meadows do not need to be 100% native species; however, studies have shown that those having 70-80% natives are best for supporting wildlife.

***Whatever experience you have with native species, you are encouraged to review the list and the Guide or other resources to design your unique native species planting.***

Our objective is to focus on the region covered by the WOAH Chapter including counties in both SW Virginia and NE Tennessee; however, our initial list is based on species in Washington County, VA as representative of the area. We generally excluded very tall (over 6ft), short species (under 1ft, except for ground cover species), very aggressive species, or those requiring very specific habitat conditions. The list includes 6 cover species, 11 ferns, 47 forbs, 6 grasses/sedges, 36 shrubs, 4 vines, and 37 trees.

The list indicates those as Keystone as indicator of wildlife value. Keystone plants are native plants critical to the food web and necessary for many wildlife species to complete their life cycle (NWF).

Check our Chapter website ([Wild Ones Appalachian Highlands Chapter - Native Plants, Natural Landscapes.](#)) under the Tools/Resources tab for revisions and local nurseries.

## Select Native Fern, Forb, Grass, Shrub, Vine Species in Washington County, VA

Key= Keystone species value; Local=Sold at least one local nursery

Primary source: A Guide to Gardening with Southwest Virginia Native Plants

Compiled by: Wild Ones Appalachian Highlands Chapter, Jan 21, 2025

No	Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Key	Local	Hght -ft	Sprd -ft	Bloom Color
1	<b>Cover</b>							
2	Cover	<i>Packera aurea</i>	Golden Ragwort		+	4	18"	Yellow
3	Cover	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Moss Phlox	X	+	6"	2	Purple/white
4	Cover	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	Green-and-gold		+	1	18"	Yellow
5	Cover	<i>Sedum ternatum</i>	Wild Stonecrop		+	6"	9"	Yellow
6	Cover	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Heart-leaved Foamflower		+	1	2	White
7	Cover	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern, Bead Fern		+	3	3	None
8	<b>Ferns</b>							
9	Fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Nothern Maidenhair Fern			1	2	None
10	Fern	<i>Athyrium asplenoides</i>	Southern Lady Fern			3	3	None
11	Fern	<i>Claytosmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern			3	3	None
12	Fern	<i>Cystopteris bulbifera</i>	Bulblet Fern			3	3	None
13	Fern	<i>Dryopteris intermedia</i>	Evergreen Wood Fern, Fancy Fern			3	3	None
14	Fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal Wood Fern		+	2	1	None
15	Fern	<i>Osmunda spectabilis</i>	Royal Fern		+	5	3	None
16	Fern	<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>	Cinnamon Fern		+	6	3	None
17	Fern	<i>Parathelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York Fern			2	3	None
18	Fern	<i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i>	Broad Beech Fern			2	2	None
19	Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern		+	2	2	None
20	<b>Forbs</b>							
21	Forb-Erly	<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	Wild Bleeding Heart		+	2	18"	Pink
22	Forb-Erly	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	X	+	2	18"	Pink
23	Forb-Erly	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	American Alumroot		+	3	18"	White
24	Forb-Erly	<i>Iris cristata</i>	Dwarf Crested Iris	X	+	2	1	Purple
25	Forb-Erly	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebell		+	2	18"	Blue
26	Forb-Erly	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Woodland Phlox	X	+	2	1	Blue/purple
27	Forb-Erly	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's-seal		+	3	18"	White

28	Forb-Erly	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot		+	1	0.5	White
29	Forb-Erly	<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed-grass		+	2	1	Blue
30	Forb-Erly	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Virginia Spiderwort		+	3	18"	Blue/purple
31	Forb-Sprg	<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	Plantain-Leaved Pussytoes		+	1	18"	White/pink
32	Forb-Sprg	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goat's Beard		+	6	4	White
33	Forb-Sprg	<i>Erigeron pulchellus</i>	Robin's Plantain	X	+	2	2	White
34	Forb-Sprg	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild Strawberry	X	+	6"	1	White
35	Forb-Sprg	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	False Solomon's-seal, Solomon's Plume		+	3	2	White
36	Forb-Sprg	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Spreading Jacob's Ladder		+	2	18"	Blue
37	Forb-Sprg	<i>Silene virginica</i>	Fire Pink		+	18"	18"	Red
38	Forb-Sprg	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	Large-flowered Trillium		+	18"	1	White
39	Forb-Sprg	<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Bellwort		+	2	18"	Yellow
40	Forb-Sprg	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders		+	2	2	Yellow
41	Forb-Smmr	<i>Actaea racemosa</i>	Black Cohosh		+	6	4	White
42	Forb-Smmr	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	X	+	5	3	White/pink
43	Forb-Smmr	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	X	+	2	18"	Yellow/orng
44	Forb-Smmr	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White Turtlehead		+	3	3	White/pink
45	Forb-Smmr	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset		+	6	4	White
46	Forb-Smmr	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	X	+	5	3	Yellow
47	Forb-Smmr	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Oxeye	X	+	5	4	Yellow
48	Forb-Smmr	<i>Heuchera villosa</i>	Hairy Alumroot		+	2.5	2	White/pink
49	Forb-Smmr	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp Rose-mallow		+	5	4	White/pink
50	Forb-Smmr	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	X	+	3	18"	Blue
51	Forb-Smmr	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Scarlet Beebalm	X	+	3	3	Red
52	Forb-Smmr	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot		+	5	3	Pink
53	Forb-Smmr	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Fall Phlox		+	4	3	Pink/white
54	Forb-Smmr	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Orange Coneflower	X	+	3	2	Orange /yllw
55	Forb-Smmr	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cut-leaf Coneflower	X	+	5	3	Yellow
56	Forb-Smmr	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-eyed Susan	X	+	3	2	Yellow
57	Forb-Smmr	<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	Carolina Wild Pentunia	X	+	3	1	Lavender, blue
58	Forb-Smmr	<i>Solidago bicolor</i>	Silverrod	X	+	3	1	White
59	Forb-Smmr	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Blue-stemmed Goldenrod	X	+	3	3	Yellow
60	Forb-Smmr	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	Zigzag Goldenrod	X	+	3	3	Yellow

61	Forb-Smmr	<i>Solidago odora</i>	Sweet Goldenrod	X	+	5	2	Yellow
62	Forb-Smmr	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy goldenrod	X		6	3	Yellow
63	Forb-Smmr	<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i>	Heart-leaved Aster	X	+	5	2	Blue
64	Forb-Smmr	<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth Blue Aster	X	+	3	2	Purple
65	Forb-Smmr	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	X	+	7	3	Purple
66	Forb-Smmr	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	X	+	5	3	Purple
67	Forb-Smmr	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York Ironweed	X	+	8	4	Purple
68	<b>Grasses</b>							
69	Grass	<i>Carex appalachica</i>	Appalachian Sedge		+	1	18"	Green
70	Grass	<i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock Sedge	X		3	2	Red/brown
71	Grass	<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	Bushy Bluestem			6	3	White/pink
72	Grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	Bottlebrush Grass		+	4	2	Green
73	Grass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple Lovegrass		+	2	2	Purple
74	Grass	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	X	+	4	2	White
75	<b>Shrubs</b>							
76	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea			4	5	White
77	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	X		12	12	White
78	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush		+	12	12	Yellow
79	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Pinxterflower, Wild Azalea			15	12	White/pink
80	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry			10	6	White/pink
81	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry			8	6	White
82	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Sweet-shrub, Sweet Betsy		+	10	12	Red/brown
83	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	X		15	15	White
84	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry			12	12	Green/white
85	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel		+	15	15	Pink
86	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark			10	6	White
87	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>	Flame Azalea		+	12	10	Red/yellow
88	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Catawba Rhododendron			10	12	Pink/purple
89	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac			6	10	Yellow
90	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac			15	15	Yellow/green
91	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Pasture Rose, Carolina Rose	X		6	10	Pink
92	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Salix sericea</i>	Silky Willow	X		12	12	Green/brown

93	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry		+	12	12	White
94	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush			4	5	Pink/purple
95	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	Bladdernut			15	20	White
96	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Northern Lowbush Blueberry	X		2	2	White
97	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Northern Highbush Blueberry	X		12	12	White/pink
98	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	Early Lowbush Blueberry	X		3	3	White
99	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-Leaf Viburnum			6	4	White
100	Shrub-Sprng	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Southern Arrow-wood Viburnum			10	10	White/yellow
101	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush			12	8	White/pink
102	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Diervilla Lonicera</i>	Northern Bush-honeysuckle			5	5	yellow
103	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen, Teaberry			6"	1	White/pink
104	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Wild Hydrangea, Smooth Hydrangea			5	5	White/green
105	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Hypericum densiflorum</i>	Bushy St. John's Wort			7	6	Yellow
106	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. John's-wort		+	5	4	Yellow
107	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Great Rhododendron			15	12	White/pink
108	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose	X	+	6	6	Pink
109	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Rubus odoratus</i>	Purple Flowering Raspberry	X		6	12	Pink/purple
110	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Narrowleaf Meadowsweet			4	4	White
111	Shrub-Smmr	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel			20	20	Yellow
112	<b>Vines</b>							
113	Vine	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Trumpet Honeysuckle, Coral Honeysuckle			20	6	Red/yellow
114	Vine	<i>Clematis viorna</i>	Northern Leatherflower			12	6	Purpl/brgndy
115	Vine	<i>Isotrema macrophyllum</i>	Dutchman's Pipe			35	20	Green/brgnd y
116	Vine	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Purple Passionflower, Maypop			25	6	Purple
117	<b>Trees</b>							
118	Tree	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Serviceberry	X	+	25	25	
119	Tree	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Smooth Serviceberry	X		25	25	
120	Tree	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternate-Leaf Dogwood	X	+	25	30	
121	Tree	<i>Prunus americana</i>	American Wild Plum	X	+	25	25	

122	Tree	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Canada Serviceberry	X	+	30	20	
123	Tree	<i>Castanea pumila</i>	Allegheny Chinquapin	X	+	30	20	
124	Tree	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	X	+	30	30	
125	Tree	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	X	+	30	20	
126	Tree	<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	Striped Maple	X		35	20	
127	Tree	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	Virginia Pine	X	+	40	20	
128	Tree	<i>Betula lenta</i>	Sweet Birch	X	+	50	50	
129	Tree	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Ash-Leaf Maple	X		60	50	
130	Tree	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	Shortleaf Pine	X		60	35	
131	Tree	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak	X	+	60	60	
132	Tree	<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	X	+	60	60	
133	Tree	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	X	+	70	50	
134	Tree	<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	X	+	70	60	
135	Tree	<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch Pine	X		70	50	
136	Tree	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak	X	+	70	50	
137	Tree	<i>Quercus montana</i>	Chestnut Oak	X	+	70	70	
138	Tree	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Chinkapin Oak	X	+	70	70	
139	Tree	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	X	+	70	60	
140	Tree	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern Red Oak	X		75	50	
141	Tree	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	X	+	80	60	
142	Tree	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Birch	X		80	80	
143	Tree	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory	X	+	80	50	
144	Tree	<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut Hickory	X	+	80	40	
145	Tree	<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Basswood	X	+	80	50	
146	Tree	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut Hickory	X	+	85	60	
147	Tree	<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory	X	+	90	70	
148	Tree	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	X	+	100	80	
149	Tree	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	X	+	100	60	
150	Tree	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak	X	+	100	75	
151	Tree	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Wild Black Cherry	X	+	110	60	
152	Tree	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	X	+	120	80	
153	Tree	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut	X	+	150	100	
154	Tree	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White Pine	X	+	150	40	