

What are wetlands?

Wetlands hold water at or just below the surface of the ground. In Lynnfield wetland types can be rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, vernal pools and marshes, as well as multiple types of vegetated wetlands.

Wetlands provide habitat for thousands of species of aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals. They are critically valuable for pollination, flood protection, water quality improvement, sequestering carbon, shoreline erosion control, as well as recreation and aesthetics.

Do I have wetlands on or near my property?

The Conservation Commission staff can tell you! And, if you've recently purchased your home, you may have received a letter informing you of any presence of wetlands.

Some wetlands are easy to recognize, like those that hold water year-round. However, some wetlands can appear dry at different times of the year. These wetlands are not as easy to recognize. However, even though they can appear dry during some seasons, they contain enough water just below the surface of the ground to support certain plants and soils.

How do wetland buffer shrubs protect wetlands?

Wetlands are critical resource areas in our community, and wetland buffer shrub and perennial plantings are important means of protecting them. Shrub root systems hold the soil and prevent erosion at wetland edges. When planted in place of lawn, they significantly reduce the amount of pesticide and herbicide run-off into the wetlands. Shrubs provide important bird and other wildlife food and habitat. And, of course, plentiful native species can make for beautiful buffer garden vistas.

Select your perfect shrubs from this list!

This comprehensive listing includes the shrub's common name, botanical name, mature size, and light and soil moisture requirements. It also includes information on flowers, color and special features that make these shrubs important environmental and visually aesthetic plantings for your property! Also, keep in mind that most of the listed shrubs needing "moist to average" soil will also do well in upland areas and are adaptable to many growing conditions.

Want to know more?

Lynnfield Planning & Conservation
Lynnfield Town Hall, (781) 334-9495



Lynnfield Planning & Conservation

Recommended Wetland Buffer Shrub Planting List



Here is our Conservation Commission's Recommended Wetland Buffer Shrub Planting List for those areas of your yard that border wetlands.

These shrubs are **native** to our area, are **readily available** in local garden centers and nurseries and will **thrive** when planted in moist to average-moist soils. See over for more details!

Recommended Wetland Buffer Shrub Planting List

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	SIZE	LIGHT REQUIREMENT	SOIL	FLOWERS AND FRUIT	SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS
Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	5' W x 8' H	Sun to Part Shade	Moist to average	White flowers in May, persistent Fall red fruit	Wildlife food source; red fall foliage; Very adaptable
Black Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	5' W x 8' H	Sun to Part Shade	Moist to average	White flowers in May, persistent Fall black fruit	Wildlife food source; red fall foliage; Very adaptable
Pinxterbloom Azalea	<i>Azalea periclymenoides</i>	5' W x 5' H	Sun to Part Shade	Moist to average	Pink scented flowers in May	Extremely Hardy; Slow growing
Swamp Azalea	<i>Azalea viscosum</i>	5' W x 8' H	Sun to Part Shade	Moist to average	Fragrant White or Pink Flowers mid-summer	Excellent border plant; Protect from winter wind
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	6' W x 6' H	Sun	Wet to Moist	Rounded creamy white flowers late summer	Brown nutlets persist into winter for wildlife food and winter interest
Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	5' W x 8' H	Sun to Shade	Moist to average	Fragrant White flowers mid- summer; yellow/brown fruit	Wildlife food and Cover; Yellow Fall foliage; Highly adaptable
Red Twig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	8' W x 6' H	Sun	Moist	Small dull white flowers Late May; Blue fruit late August	Nesting and Cover for birds; Winter Interest; Fast spreading clump
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	6' W x 6' H	Sun	Wet to Moist	Black Berries	Evergreen; Can form colonies; Useful for mass plantings
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	5' W x 7' H	Sun to Part Shade	Moist to average	White flowers in May; Red Fruit	Winter Bird food source
Virginia Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>	5' W x 4' H	Sun to Shade	Moist to average	Fragrant white flowers mid- summer	Arching stems; Brilliant Fall foliage
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	8' W x 10' H	Sun to Part Shade	Moist to average	Yellow-Green flowers in April before leaves emerge	Brilliant yellow Fall foliage; Spicy leaves and twigs
Sweetgale	<i>Myrica gale</i>	5' W x 3' H	Sun to Part Shade	Wet to Moist	Small flowers appear before foliage in March/April	Foliage is pleasantly aromatic
Virginia Rose	<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	5' W x 3' H	Sun	Average	Pink flowers: Red fruit through winter	Medium height groundcover; Winter interest
American Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	8' W x 8' H	Sun	Wet to Moist	White Flower June/July; Black fruit late summer	Fast, spreading; Informal locations
Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	5' W x 6' H	Sun to Part Shade	Moist to average	White flowers in May; Blue berries all summer	Attracts birds; brilliant fall foliage; Many varieties to choices
Cranberry Viburnum	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	10' W x 10' H	Sun to Part Shade	Moist to average	White flowers in May; Red fruit through fall	Screening; Vigorous growth