

## XERISCAPE PLANTS PART SUN / PART SHADE

### Perennials

**Common Name** [Snakeroot](#)

**Botanical Name** *Ageratina altissima* (*Eupatorium rugosum*) Chocolate  
36 inches tall with white flowers in the fall. Enjoys partial shade to full shade. This chocolate variety has dark purplish leaves.

**Common Name** [White Snakeroot](#)

**Botanical Name** *Ageratina altissima* (*Eupatorium rugosum*)  
This plant is easy to grow. It prefers dry soil and likes partial sun to light shade. It produces white flowers in the summer. Height: 1-3 feet. Grows in woods and thickets.

**Common Name** [Agrimony](#)

**Botanical Name** *Agrimonia gryposepala*  
Produces yellow flowers in the summer. Grows 1-3 feet tall and prefers partial sun in dry to moist soil. Natural habitat is woods and thickets.

**Common Name** [Bluestar](#)

**Botanical Name** *Amsonia tabernaemontana*  
Native to Massachusetts. Light blue flowers in spring. Grows to 3 feet tall. Prefers sun to light shade. A very hardy plant.

**Common Name** [Thimbleweed](#)

**Botanical Name** *Anemone virginiana*  
This plant gets its name from its thimble-shaped fruit. White flowers bloom in the summer. Grows 2-3 feet. Prefers dry soil. A member of the buttercup family.

**Common Name** [Field Pussytoes](#)

**Botanical Name** *Antennaria neglecta*  
This plant prefers full to part sun and dry conditions. It works well in rock gardens. Grows 6-12 inches tall. Develops white, cottony flower tufts in the spring. Host plant for American and Painted Lady caterpillar.

**Common Name** [Woman's Tobacco](#)

**Botanical Name** *Antennaria plantaginifolia*  
This member of the aster family produces white flowers in the spring. Grows 3-16 inches tall. Prefers dry soil. Full to part sun. It produces male and female flowers on separate plants. Host plant for American and Painted Lady caterpillar.

**Common Name** [Indian Hemp](#)

**Botanical Name** *Apocynum cannabinum*

This plant produces greenish white flowers in the summer. Grows along shores and in thickets. Grows 1-3 feet. Commonly mistaken for milkweed. Partial to full sun.

**Common Name** [Wild Red Columbine](#)

**Botanical Name** *Aquilegia canadensis*

Produces red/yellow nodding blooms in late spring. Prefers well drained, drier soils. Happy in sandy soils. Good for rock gardens.

**Common Name** [Wild Indigo](#)

**Botanical Name** *Baptisia tinctoria*

This indigo attracts butterflies with its yellow flowers that bloom in the early summer. It naturalizes well and is drought tolerant. It can handle poor soil conditions as long as it is in a well-drained area in part sun. Grows 2-3 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Tall Bellflower](#)

**Botanical Name** *Campanula americana*

Showy blue flowers. Blooms June to August. Full sun to part shade.

**Common Name** [Harebell/Bluebell](#)

**Botanical Name** *Campanula rotundifolia*

Lavender-blue, bell shaped flowers in summer to early fall. Great in rock gardens due to their appreciation of well drained soils. Partial shade to sun. Flowers on spikes up to 2 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Horse Balm or Mint](#)

**Botanical Name** *Collinsonia canadensis*

This plant prefers the shade to partial shade. It grows to 2-3 feet tall and produces yellow flowers in the summer. Its leaves smell like citronella.

**Common Name** [Large-bracted Tick Trefoil](#)

**Botanical Name** *Desmodium cuspidatum*

This Tick Trefoil grows 2-4 feet tall. It prefers dry soil conditions in a partially sunny location. Produces pink flowers in the late summer.

**Common Name** [Wild Bleeding Heart](#)

**Botanical Name** *Dicentra eximia*

Native to Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Pink blooms that last from late spring to early fall. Grows 12-18 inches tall with fine, fern like leaves. Forms nice clumps and can handle a variety of soils, sun to shade.

**Common Name** [Shooting Star](#)

**Botanical Name** *Dodecatheon media*

Showy white, pink, purple flowers. Blooms in May. Shade to part shade.

**Common Name** [Robin's Plantain](#)

**Botanical Name** *Erigeron pulchellus*

This member of the aster family has wavy green leaves and pale purple flowers. It blooms in the late spring. Grows 6-16 inches tall. Great ground cover for dry areas. Partial sun/partial shade.

**Common Name** [White Wood Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Eurybia divaricata* (*Aster divaricatus*)

Fall blooming aster with a spray of small, delicate daisy like white flowers. Moist to dry soils; can handle harsh conditions. Grows 18 inches tall. Great for a shady to part shady garden.

**Common Name** [Big-leaved Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Eurybia macrophylla* (*Aster macrophyllus*)

This aster grows 1- 5 feet tall. Flowers in the late summer. It has rough, heart-shaped leaves and pale purple flower rays. Makes a great ground cover. Partial sun/partial shade.

**Common Name** [Wood or Alpine Strawberry](#)

**Botanical Name** *Fragaria vesca*

This cute ground cover occurs naturally in open woods and rocky meadows. Berries are small but tasty! The plant grows 4-10 inches tall. Prefers acidic, well-drained soils in partially sunny locations.

**Common Name** [Virginia Strawberry](#)

**Botanical Name** *Fragaria virginiana*

This 3-6 inch tall plant produces delicious wild strawberries. It has white flowers in the spring. Great ground cover for dry and shady, part shade to full sun.

**Common Name** [Woodland Sunflower](#)

**Botanical Name** *Helianthus divaricatus*

Yellow rays with darker yellow center disk. Blooms in May in partial shade.

**Common Name** [Coral Bells](#)

**Botanical Name** *Heuchera americana*

Greenish white flower with red tinge. Blooms June to August. Full to part sun.

**Common Name** [Naked-flowered Tick Trefoil](#)

**Botanical Name** *Hylodesmum* (*Desmodium*) *nudiflorum*

Its name is derived from the fact that its flower stalks have no leaves. They emerge from the ground near the leafy stem. Blooms in the late summer. Its flowers are pink in color. Grows 18-36 inches tall. Prefers dry soil in a partially sunny location.

**Common Name** [Wild Live Forever](#)

**Botanical Name** *Hylotelephium telephium* (*Sedum telephiodes*)

Produces pink blooms in late summer to fall. Prefers sun to part shade and moist to well-drained soils. Grows 8 to 16 inches tall.

**Common Name** [Yellow Stargrass](#)

**Botanical Name** Hypoxis hirsuta

This tiny beauty produces tons of bright yellow flowers on grass-like foliage. Grows 3-7 inches tall. Prefers sun to partial shade. Found in meadows and open woodlands.

**Common Name** [Wood Iris](#)

**Botanical Name** Iris cristata

Friendly neighbor! Native to the New England state of Massachusetts. Attractive, light blue flowers bloom in spring. Green foliage remains throughout summer. Only 4- 8 inches tall. Contrast nicely with Tiarella or Sedums. Needs well drained soils with part sun to shade. Nice addition to rock gardens.

**Common Name** [Oswego Tea \(Bee Balm\)](#)

**Botanical Name** Monarda didyma

Scarlet red blooms in summer. Grows 3-4 feet tall. Prefers sun to part sun in rich, moist soils. Very easy to grow; will colonize easily. Attracts hummingbirds.

**Common Name** [Wild Bergamont \(Bee Balm\)](#)

**Botanical Name** Monarda fistulosa

This plant prefers sun to partial shade. Grows 3-4 feet tall. Grows along dry hillsides and woodland margins. Produces light purple blooms in the summer.

**Common Name** [Sundrops](#)

**Botanical Name** Oenothera fruticosa

This plant prefers average to rich, well-drained to dry soil. Likes full sun to partial shade. Produces yellow flowers in the summer.

**Common Name** [Beardtongue](#)

**Botanical Name** Penstemon digitalis

White with shades of pink blooms that look something like a delicate foxglove. Prefers rich soils and sun to partial shade. Will grow 2-4 feet tall and blooms in early summer. It is drought tolerant once established.

**Common Name** [Creeping Phlox Lavender/Pink](#)

**Botanical Name** Phlox subulata Lavender and Pink

This semi-evergreen grows like a carpet. It has lavender or pink flowers that bloom in the late spring. It prefers moist, well-drained soil in a sunny or slightly shady location. Grows up to 6 inches tall and 2 feet wide.

**Common Name** [Short Toothed Mountain Mint](#)

**Botanical Name** Pycnanthemum muticum

This plant has a spearmint-like scent. It is a good nectar plant. Prefers sun to part shade with moist to dry soils. Grows 3-4 feet tall. Blooms in late summer. Creates the perfect backdrop for Phlox or Monarda.

**Common Name** [Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint](#)

**Botanical Name** *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*

This plant grows in fields and thickets. Grows 1-3 feet tall. Blooms in the summer. Flowers are white with pale purple spots. Partial sun/partial shade to full sun.

**Common Name** [Bloodroot](#)

**Botanical Name** *Sanguinaria canadensis*

Prefers part sun to shade with moist to well drained soils. A true spring ephemeral. The white blossom opens first atop a 6-8 inch stalk, with the leaf still tight around the stem. Then the leaves unfold later to reveal its rounded and deeply lobed form. Beautiful as a colony.

**Common Name** [Entire-leaved Skullcap](#)

**Botanical Name** *Scutellaria integrifolia (incana)*

This meadow native grows 3-4 feet tall and provides weeks of purple blooms in mid-summer. Partial sun/partial shade. Attracts butterflies.

**Common Name** [Heartleaved Skullcap](#)

**Botanical Name** *Scutellaria ovata*

Native to Pennsylvania. Shade loving beauty covered in tiny purple flowers in the summer. Also adaptable to Partial sun/partial shade. Does well in dry soils. Grows up to 18 inches tall.

**Common Name** [Wild Stone Crop](#)

**Botanical Name** *Sedum ternatum*

Prefers sun to partial shade, this low-creeping sedum produces white blooms in late spring. Very tough, great for rock gardens.

**Common Name** [Wild Senna](#)

**Botanical Name** *Senna hebecarpa*

Bright yellow pea like blooms from July through September. Grows 3-5 feet tall and has locust-like leaves. Enjoys sandy, well drained soils with sun to part shade. Very hardy. Salt and drought tolerant.

**Common Name** [Fire Pink](#)

**Botanical Name** *Silene virginica*

Native to New York and Pennsylvania. Attracts hummingbirds with its pretty red flowers that bloom in late spring. Grows 1-2 feet tall. Prefers moist, well-drained sandy or clay soil, adaptable. Plant in full sun or partial shade.

**Common Name** [Blue-stemmed Goldenrod](#)

**Botanical Name** *Solidago caesia*

This Goldenrod grows up to 3 feet tall and likes the shade, partial shade/partial sun. It has bright yellow flowers in late summer to fall. Contrary to popular belief, Goldenrod does NOT cause hay fever!

**Common Name** [Slender Goldenrod](#)

**Botanical Name** *Solidago erecta*

A pop of bright color for the garden in the fall. Produces yellow flowers in the late summer. Grows 2-4 feet tall. Prefers a partially sunny location with dry, sandy soil. Attractive to pollinators.

**Common Name** [Blue Wood Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Symphyotrichum cordifolium* (*Aster cordifolius*)

Clouds of blue flowers in fall in the shade, partial shade/partial sun. Great under tree and woodland edges.

**Common Name** [Calico Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (*Aster laterifolius*)

Prefers average to dry soil. Partial shade/partial sun. Develops white to purple tinged blooms. Grows 1-4 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Rue Anemone](#)

**Botanical Name** *Thalictrum* (*Anemonella*) *thalictroides*

Delicate white to pink flowers in spring. Grows only 5-9 inches tall. Enjoys open woods, and moist, well drained soils. Miniature versions of thalictrum.

**Common Name** [Forked Bluecurls](#)

**Botanical Name** *Trichostema dichotomum*

This perennial bluecurl, member of the mint family, blooms in late summer and produces pretty deep blue flowers. Grows 4-30 inches tall. Prefers dry soil in the sun or partial shade.

**Common Name** [Labrador Violet](#)

**Botanical Name** *Viola labradorica*

With its green and purple foliage and pretty, tiny, purple flowers, this plant makes a great ground cover for shady sites or partial sun. It blooms in the spring but can re-bloom in the fall. Birds eat its seeds and pollinators use it as a source of nectar. It is a larval food source for Fritillary butterflies. Prefers moist, rich soil, adaptable. Grows 3-8 inches tall.

**Common Name** [Ovate-leaved Violet](#)

**Botanical Name** *Viola sagittata* (*fimbriatula*)

This tiny violet only grows to be up to 6 inches tall. It prefers dry, sandy soil. Partial shade/partial sun. Its blooms are dark purple and appear in the spring.

**Common Name** [Heart-leaved Alexander](#)

**Botanical Name** *Zizia aptera*

This plant is endangered in Connecticut. Grows 1-3 feet tall. It produces tiny, yellow flat-topped flowers in clusters in the summer. Partial shade/partial sun.

**Common Name** [Golden Alexander](#)

**Botanical Name** *Zizia aurea*

Grows 1-3 feet tall. Prefers moist to wet soil but is adaptable. Produces tiny yellow flowers creating a showy umbel in the late spring. Partial shade/partial sun to sun.

## Trees, Shrubs, Vines

**Common Name** [Shadblow, Serviceberry](#)

**Botanical Name** *Amelanchier canadensis*

Small tree grows 18-20 feet tall. Early spring blooms are a delicate white. Smooth gray bark. Can handle sun, part shade and moist to dry soils. Berries in summer are edible; birds love them

**Common Name** [Bitternut Hickory](#)

**Botanical Name** *Carya cordiformis*

This rapid growing Hickory produces bitter nuts in the fall, hence its name. Grows 50-70 feet tall. Partial to full sun. It has striking yellow buds in the spring.

**Common Name** [Shagbark Hickory](#)

**Botanical Name** *Carya ovata*

Grows 50-70 feet tall. This slow growing Hickory produces sweet edible nuts in the fall. It has large strips of exfoliating bark. Likes sun to partial shade. Tolerates a variety of soil conditions.

**Common Name** [New Jersey Tea](#)

**Botanical Name** *Ceanothus americanus*

This shrub attracts hummingbirds and butterflies with its white flowers that bloom in summer. Turkey and quail eat its seeds. Grows 2-4 feet tall and prefers sandy, well-drained soil. Partial shade/partial sun to full sun.

**Common Name** [Sweetfern](#)

**Botanical Name** *Comptonia peregrina*

Shrub 4ft. high and wide. Has glossy, green fern-looking leaves. Likes dry, sandy, acidic soils and sun to partial sun. Good on sandy hillsides. Aromatic foliage.

**Common Name** [American Filbert](#)

**Botanical Name** *Corylus americana*

Deciduous shrub, 10-16 feet tall. Blooms March to April. Full to part sun. Edible fruit.

**Common Name** [Northern Bush Honeysuckle](#)

**Botanical Name** *Diervilla lonicera*

Grows 1-2 feet tall. This shrub has gorgeous bronze green foliage. Tolerant of windy conditions. Produces yellow flowers in the early summer. Prefers dry, sandy soil in partial shade/partial sun to full sun.

**Common Name** [Oakleaf Hydrangea](#)

**Botanical Name** *Hydrangea quercifolia*

This shrub grows 6-8 feet tall and wide. Produces large white flowers that turn purplish-pink as the flower matures. Prefers full sun to partial shade.

**Common Name** [Northern Bayberry](#)

**Botanical Name** *Morella caroliniensis* (*Myrica pennsylvanica*)

This shrub grows 5-12 feet high and wide. Thrives in poor, sandy soils. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Its waxy, aromatic berries can be used for making candles but is also an excellent food source for birds. Salt tolerant. It requires a male and female pairing to produce fruit.

**Common Name** [Hop Hornbeam or Ironwood](#)

**Botanical Name** *Ostrya virginiana*

A small tree found in the understory and along slopes. It grows 20-45 feet tall. Has smooth, gray muscle-like stem. Can handle drier sites. Seeds provide a food source for many woodland species.

**Common Name** [Red Foliage Ninebark](#)

**Botanical Name** *Physocarpus opulifolius*

This shrub grows 6-12 feet tall with red foliage. Prefers sun to light shade. Produces white flowers in the spring to early summer. The caterpillars of Blue Azure butterflies love them.

**Common Name** [Fragrant Sumac](#)

**Botanical Name** *Rhus aromatica*

This dioecious shrub can reach 6 feet tall and 10 feet wide. Found in moist to dry rocky or sandy soils. Partial shade/partial sun to full sun. Leaves are three on a stem. Should not be confused with poison ivy; this plant is not poisonous. Fall color is scarlet to burgundy and females have a red fruiting body in the fall. Great for sandy bank stabilization.

**Common Name** [Shining Sumac](#)

**Botanical Name** *Rhus copallinum* (*copallina*)

This 7-15 foot tall shrub has gorgeous red foliage in the fall. It flowers with yellow/green blooms in the summer and then produces clusters of dark red berries. It requires a male and female pairing to produce fruit. Partial sun/partial shade.

**Common Name** [Carolina Rose](#)

**Botanical Name** *Rosa carolina*

This shrub can be found in dry soils in full sun or half shade. It has glossy green leaves that turn red in the fall. It produces pink flowers that are 2-3 inches wide.

**Common Name** [Sassafras](#)

**Botanical Name** *Sassafras albidum*

This tree has fragrant bark and roots. Grows 30-60 feet tall and makes an excellent shade tree. Prefers acidic, well-drained soil and sun to partial shade. Produces yellow flowers in the spring and a round, blue fruit. The fruit attracts birds and squirrels. It is dioecious. Has good fall color.



**Common Name** [Panicled/Gray Dogwood](#)

**Botanical Name** *Swida (Cornus) racemosa*

Shrub 7-10 feet tall and wide. Flowers are terminal, small, and white. Fruits are white with red stalks. Found on roadsides and in thickets. Partial shade/partial sun to full sun.

**Common Name** [Lowbush Blueberry](#)

**Botanical Name** *Vaccinium angustifolium*

This tiny shrub only grows 6-24 inches high but will spread out 2 feet or more. Produces white to pink urn-shaped flowers in April-May with very sweet berries in summer. Can handle dry, acidic, poor soils. Partial sun/partial shade. Foliage turns scarlet-crimson in fall.

**Common Name** [Mapleleaf Viburnum](#)

**Botanical Name** *Viburnum acerifolium*

This shrub grows 4-8 feet high and 4 feet wide. Foliage is bright to dark green in the summer and reddish-purple in fall. Flowers start out pink prior to opening, then flower turns a creamy white in June. Fruit are long, black ovals hanging at the tips of branches from September into winter. Very shade tolerant. Adaptable to partial shade/partial sun. Terrific food source for many woodland species.

**Common Name** [Blackhaw Viburnum](#)

**Botanical Name** *Viburnum prunifolium*

This shrub grows 12-15 feet high and 8-12 feet wide. It is a multi-stemmed shrub or can resemble a round headed tree. Dark green leaves turn reddish-purple in the fall. Flowers are creamy white flat-topped cymes at ends of branches in May. The fruit is bluish black and develops September through November. Useful for massing and borders. The single-stemmed variety can be specimen. Partial shade/partial sun to full sun.

**Common Name** [Summer Grape](#)

**Botanical Name** *Vitis aestivalis*

This vine grows up to 70 feet long. Develops green flowers in the late spring followed by purple grapes in the late summer. The grapes are best after the first frost. Prefers full to partial sun with dry, sandy, well-drained soil.

## Grasses

**Common Name** [Pennsylvania Sedge](#)

**Botanical Name** *Carex pensylvanica*

This sedge has fine foliage and grows only 8 inches tall. Spreads by rhizomes and enjoys acidic soil sites. Prefers partial shade. Great under oaks and pines.

**Common Name** [Sea Oats](#)

**Botanical Name** *Chasmanthium latifolium*

Native to New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A wide leaved grass with lovely nodding clusters of oat like seed heads. It grows 2-5 feet tall and more than 2 feet wide. Its leaves and flower heads turn a rich tan to reddish bronze color in the winter. Partial shade/partial sun to full sun.

**Common Name** Poverty Grass

**Botanical Name** Danthonia spicata

This grass thrives in dry, rocky, poor soil areas! The twisted, curly foliage gives it a nice compact shape. Grows up to 12 inches tall. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Drought tolerant.

**Common Name** Woodrush

**Botanical Name** Luzula multiflora

This ornamental grass is a handsome dark green evergreen. It produces light, fluffy, chestnut brown flowers in the spring. Partial sun/partial shade.

**Common Name** Rocky Muhly Grass

**Botanical Name** Muhlenbergia sobolifera

This grass likes to grow in well-drained, rocky, dry soil along cliffs and woodland edges. Prefers partially sunny locations. Develops green seed heads in the fall. Grows two feet tall and one foot wide.

## Ferns

**Common Name** Hay-scented Fern

**Botanical Name** Dennstaedtia punctilobula

This fern tends to be aggressive and spreads readily. Great for erosion control. Gets its name from the scent of its crushed leaves. Can handle sunny locations.

## Resources:

Jessica Lubell, Dept Plant Science & Landscape Architecture, University of CT.

Vickie Wallace and Alyssa Siegel-Miles, UConn Extension, College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources.

Larry Weaner, Landscape Associates.

[www.earthtonesnatives.com](http://www.earthtonesnatives.com).

CT Section American Water Works Association – Water Conservation Committee.

The Connecticut Water Company – Xeriscape Gardening.

New England Wildflower Society

