



PLANTS TOLERANT OF MOIST TO WET SOIL

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Gardening in Chicagoland's heavy clay soils can be quite challenging. Although clay soils tend to be rich in nutrients, they often lack the air space essential for good drainage. Many plants will not tolerate soils that are constantly moist or wet, however; the plants listed in the table below are naturally adapted to perform well in these inhospitable conditions. **Moist soil** is defined as constantly damp, but rarely exposed to standing water. **Wet soil** is defined as saturated, with occasional exposure (less than 1 day) to standing surface water. **Flood tolerant** plants can withstand a few days of standing water from events such as spring snowmelt and heavy seasonal rains.

| SMALL TO MEDIUM TREES - 15 to 25 FEET | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Botanic Name | Common Name | Exposure | Flood Tolerant |
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | European Alder | ○ / ◐ | X |
| <i>Amelanchier</i> | Serviceberry | ○ / ◐ | |
| <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> | American Hornbeam | ○ / ◐ | |
| <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> | Fringetree | ○ / ◐ | |
| <i>Cornus drummondii</i> | Giant Gray Dogwood | ○ / ◐ | |
| <i>Cornus mas</i> | Corneliancherry Dogwood | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> | Arborvitae | ○ / ◐ | X |
| LARGE TREES - 25 to 60 FEET | | | |
| <i>Aesculus glabra</i> | Ohio Buckeye | ○ / ◐ | |
| <i>Acer freemanii</i> | Freeman Maple | ○ / ◐ | |
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Red Sunset' | Red Sunset Red Maple | ○ / ◐ | |
| <i>Betula nigra</i> | River Birch | ○ | X |
| <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i> | Katsuratree | ○ / ◐ | |
| <i>Fraxinus americana</i> 'Autumn Purple' | Autumn Purple White Ash | ○ | |
| <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Cimmaron' | Cimmaron Green Ash | ○ | |
| <i>Gleditsia</i> | Honeylocust | ○ / ◐ | |
| <i>Larix</i> | Larch | ○ | |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> | Sweetgum | ○ | |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | Tuliptree | ○ | |
| <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> | Dawn Redwood | ○ | |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> | Black Gum | ○ | |
| <i>Populus tremuloides</i> | Quaking Aspen | ○ | |

Sun ○
6 hours of direct sun

Partial Sun ◐
3 hours of direct sun

Shade ●
No direct sun or
low/moderate filtered sun

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LARGE TREES - 25 to 60 FEET (cont)

| Botanic Name | Common Name | Exposure | Flood Tolerant |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Quercus bicolor</i> | Swamp White Oak | ○ | X |
| <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> | Bur Oak | ○ | |
| <i>Salix 'Niobe'</i> | Niobe Weeping Willow | ○ | |
| <i>Taxodium distichum</i> | Bald Cypress | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Ulmus</i> | Elm | ○ | |

SHRUBS

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------|----------|
| <i>Azalea viscosum</i> | Swamp Azalea | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Aesculus pavia</i> | Red Buckeye | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Aesculus parviflora</i> | Bottlebrush Buckeye | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Aronia.</i> | Chokeberry | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Calycanthus floridus</i> | Carolina Allspice | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> | Summersweet | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Cornus alba 'Bloodgood'</i> | Bloodgood Redtwig Dogwood | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Cornus racemosa</i> | Gray Dogwood | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Forsythia</i> | Forsythia | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Hamamelis vernalis</i> | Spring Witchhazel | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> | Fall Witchhazel | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Ilex glabra</i> | Inkberry | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | Winterberry | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Itea virginica</i> | Virginia Sweetspire | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> | Privet | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Lindera benzoin</i> | Spicebush | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Lonicera tatarica</i> | Honeysuckle | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> | Northern Bayberry | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Physocarpus opulifolius 'Diablo'</i> | Diablo Ninebark | ○ | |
| <i>Potentilla</i> | Potentilla | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Salix</i> | Willow | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Sambucus</i> | Elderberry | ○ | |
| <i>Stephanandra incisa 'Crispa'</i> | Cutleaf Stephanandra | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> | Blueberry | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> | Arrowwood Viburnum | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Viburnum lantana 'Mohican'</i> | Mohican Viburnum | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Viburnum opulus</i> | European Cranberrybush | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> | Blackhaw Viburnum | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Viburnum sargentii 'Onandaga'</i> | Onandaga Viburnum | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> | American Cranberrybush | ○ / ● | |

VINES

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------|--|
| <i>Akebia quinata</i> | Fiveleaf Akebia | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Campsis</i> | Trumpet Vine | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Hydrangea anomala</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i> | Climbing Hydrangea | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> | Honeysuckle, Woodbine | ○ / ● | |

VINES (cont)

| Botanic Name | Common Name | Exposure | Flood Tolerant |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Lonicera x brownii</i> 'Dropmore Scarlet' | Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Lonicera x heckrottii</i> | Goldflame Honeysuckle | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Schizophragma hydrangeoides</i> | Japanese Hydrangea-vine | ○ / ● | |
| PERENNIALS | | | |
| <i>Aconitum</i> | Monkshood | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Alchemilla mollis</i> | Lady's Mantle | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i> | Texas Star, Willow Amsonia | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Aruncus dioicus</i> | Goatsbeard | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Asarum canadensis</i> | Wild Ginger | ● / ● | |
| <i>Astilbe</i> | Astilbe | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Astrantia major</i> | Masterwort | ● / ● | |
| <i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> | Bergenia, Pigsqueak | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Brunnera macrophylla</i> | Siberian Bugloss | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Caltha palustris</i> | Marsh Marigold | ● / ● | X |
| <i>Chelone</i> | Turtlehead | ● / ● | |
| <i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i> | Snakeroot, Bugbane | ● / ● | |
| <i>Darmera peltatum</i> | Umbrella Plant | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Dicentra</i> | Bleeding Heart | ● / ● | |
| <i>Dodecatheon</i> | Shooting Star | ● / ● | |
| <i>Doronicum</i> | Leopard's Bane | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Epimedium</i> | Bishop's Hat | ● / ● | |
| <i>Eupatorium</i> | Joe Pye Weed | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Filipendula</i> | Queen of the Prairie | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Hemerocallis</i> varieties | Daylily | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Hibiscus</i> | Hardy Hibiscus | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Hosta</i> | Hosta | ● / ● | |
| <i>Houttuynia cordata</i> | Houttuynia | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Iris ensata</i> | Japanese Iris | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Iris pallida</i> 'Variegata' | Variegated Sweet Flag Iris | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | Yellow Flag Iris | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Iris sibirica</i> | Siberian Iris | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Iris versicolor</i> | Blue Flag Iris | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Ligularia</i> | Ligularia | ● | X |
| <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> | Cardinal Flower | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> | Great Blue Lobelia | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Lysimachia</i> | Loosestrife | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Mertensia virginica</i> | Virginia Bluebells | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Monarda didyma</i> | Bee Balm | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Myosotis sylvatica</i> | Forget-Me-Not | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> | Obedient Plant | ○ / ● | |

PERENNIALS (cont)

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Exposure | Flood Tolerant |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Polygonatum</i> | Solomon's Seal | ☉ / ● | |
| <i>Pulmonaria</i> | Lungwort | ☉ / ● | |
| <i>Rodgersia</i> | Rodgersia | ☉ / ● | |
| <i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i> | Celadine Poppy | ☉ | |
| <i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i> | Meadow Rue | ○ / ☉ | |
| <i>Tiarella</i> | Foamflower | ☉ / ● | |
| <i>Tradescantia virginiana</i> | Spiderwort | ○ / ☉ | |
| <i>Trollius chinensis</i> | Chinese Globeflower | ○ / ☉ | |
| <i>Viola</i> | Violet | ○ / ● | |
| FERNS | | | |
| <i>Adiantum pedatum</i> | Maidenhair Fern | ☉ / ● | X |
| <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> | Lady Fern | ☉ / ● | |
| <i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i> | Hay Scented Fern | ☉ / ● | |
| <i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i> | Toothed Wood Fern | ☉ / ● | X |
| <i>Matteuccia pensylvanica</i> | Ostrich Fern | ☉ / ● | X |
| <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> | Sensitive Fern | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> | Cinnamon Fern | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Osmunda claytonia</i> | Interrupted Fern | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Osmunda regalis</i> | Royal Fern | ○ / ● | X |
| GRASSES | | | |
| <i>Acorus</i> | Sweet Flag | ○ / ☉ | X |
| <i>Carex</i> | Sedge | ☉ / ● | |
| <i>Cortaderia</i> (annual) | Pampas Grass | ○ / ☉ | |
| <i>Erianthus ravennae</i> | Ravenna, Hardy Pampas Grass | ○ / ☉ | |
| <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> 'Red Baron' | Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass | ○ / ☉ | |
| <i>Luzula nivea</i> | Snowy Woodrush | ☉ | |
| <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> | Maiden Grass | ○ / ☉ | |
| <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | Switch Grass | ○ / ☉ | |
| <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> | Ribbon Grass | ○ / ● | X |
| <i>Spartina pectinata</i> | Cord Grass | ○ / ☉ | |
| GROUND COVERS | | | |
| <i>Ajuga reptans</i> | Bugleweed | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Euonymus coloratus</i> | Purpleleaf Wintercreeper | ○ / ● | |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> 'Thorndale' | Thorndale English Ivy | ☉ / ● | |
| <i>Liriope spicata</i> | Lilyturf | ○ / ☉ | |
| <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i> 'Green Carpet' | Japanese Spurge | ☉ / ● | |