**DC Area Plants**

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| C&O Canal National Historical Park | Georgetown Heritage |

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| **Welcome to Your National Historical Park** *Explore a diverse range of flowers, shrubs, and trees that call the 184.5 miles of the C&O Canal National Historical Park home! As you bike, hike, and enjoy the towpath, make sure to take the time to “smell the roses” and reflect on your beautiful natural surroundings.*  **Plan your visit** – Keep this guide handy during your next outdoor adventure. Check out the C&O Canal [Plan Your Visit website](https://www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/index.htm) for important information prior to visiting the park. See the References and Resources section for more information and details about the nature you see.  **Contents** – This guide includes a sample of the various species of flowers, trees, and shrubs throughout DC. Although this is not a comprehensive field guide, it provides information on a variety of plants you may see in the park or in your neighborhood. The sections are organized by various locations along the C&O Canal with reference sections.  **Acknowledgements and Special Thanks** – This guide was created in collaboration with [Georgetown Heritage](https://www.georgetownheritage.org/about-new), the non-profit organization helping restore, revitalize, and interpret the mile-long section of the C&O Canal in Georgetown, Washington, DC. Pictures are public domain images and retrieved from [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) under the Creative Commons license. |  | **Engage your senses** – Look up, down, and all around you. Focus on a flower, tree, or plant you have never seen. What colors do you see? Observe the different parts of the plant. What are the size and shape differences among the various flowers and trees? What makes these plants unique?  **Leave No Trace** – Pack in, pack out! The C&O Canal is a trash free park. Trash should be packed up and taken out of the park. Learn more about [Leave No Trace](https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/) and how to [recreate responsibly](https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/recreate-responsibly.htm) in your National Park.  **Protect Your Park** – Take a picture, not a plant! Please do not take pick any flowers, plants, leaves, or take home any part of nature from the Park. With your help, we can preserve your C&O Canal for generations to come. |
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# **Flowers Along the Towpath**

When you walk the towpath of the C&O Canal, you can find a diverse range of plants and flowers. Some plants grow closer to the ground, others rise high, or hang around the trees. Try to spot some of these plants and flowers as you visit a new area of the towpath. Take a picture to remember your adventure! Take time to think about what you see around you. Use the questions below to reflect on your surroundings.

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| *Look up, down, and all-around you! What colors, shapes, and textures do you see?* | *How many different types of flowers and trees can you spot? Which plants are most in abundance?* |
| *What insects or animals do you see around these plants?* | *What are the plants/flowers close to? Buildings? Water bodies? The towpath?* |

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| **Spiderwort**  *Tradescantia virginiana*  Near milepost 14  Image of the purple flower Spiderwort. |  | **Bluets**  *Houstonia caerulea*  Near milepost 11  Small light purple flowers in abundance. |  | **Princess Tree**  *Paulownia tomentosa*  Near Tidelock  Image of pink and white flowers from the Princess Tree. |
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| **Bulbous Buttercup**  *Ranunculus bulbosus*  Near milepost 6Image of yellow buttercup flowers in the grass. |  | **Virginia Waterleaf**  *Hydrophyllum virginianum*  Near milepost 3  Virginia Waterleaf flowers with long thin white flowers hanging among green leaves. |  |  |

**Native Pollinator Plants**

**Native plants** are plants that naturally occur in a specific region, state, or habitat. Native plants are important to their local habitats and an important source of food for insects and animals. **Native pollinator plants** attract a wide variety of pollinators including bees, butterflies, birds, moths, bats, beetles, flies, and more.

***How do native pollinator plants help our environment?***  
The native plants you will see below all play an important role in nature. These special plants help attract pollinators needed for growing vegetable gardens and fruit trees, require little water to thrive, and reduce stormwater runoff. Native pollinator plants also help better air quality and boosts the variety of plant and animal species in our environment.

Use this guide to help identify native pollinator plants in your neighborhood, around your school, or at your local park. Research your local garden centers and see if they have some of these plants you can grow in your own garden!

# **Native Pollinators: Flowers**

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| **Swamp Milkweed** *Asclepias incarnata* Image of bunched pink Swamp Milkweed flowers. |  | **Common Milkweed**  *Asclepias syriaca*  A picture containing grass, outdoor, green, plant. |  | **Yellow Wild**  *Baptisia tinctoria*A picture containing outdoor, rock, flower, plant. |

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| **Partridge Pea**  *Chamaecrista fasciculata*  Close-up of yellow flower. |  | **Showy Tick**  *Desmodium canadense*  A close-up of bunches of purple flowers. |  | **Three-nerved Joe-Pye Weed**  *Eupatorium dubium*  A close up of a pink and purple flowers in almost spherical bunches. |

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| **Common Boneset**  *Eupatorium perfoliatum*  A close up of a white flower with small tight bunches. |  | **Purple-node Joe-Pye Weed**  *Eupatorium purpureum*  A close up of a purple flower with thin white stamens. |  | **Giant Sunflower**  *Helianthus giganteus*  A group of sunflowers. |

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| **Ox-eye Sunflower**  *Heliopsis helianthoides*  A group of yellow flowers with orange centers. |  | **Round-head Bush-Clover**  *Lespedeza capitata*  A close-up of a flower among green leaves and grasses. |  | **Dense Blazing-star**  *Liatris spicata*  A field of purple flowers among green grasses and trees. |

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| **Shaggy Blazing-star**  *Liatris graminifolia*  Image result for Shaggy Blazing-star |  | **Great Blue**  *Lobelia siphilitica*  A close-up of some purple flowers. |  | **Wild Blue**  *Lupinus perennis*  A close-up of a purple flowers on long green stem. |

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| **Wild Bergamot**  *Monarda fistulosa*  A group of purple flowers with round yellow and green centers. |  | **Spotted Horsemint**  *Monarda punctata*  A close up of a flower. |  | **Beardtongue**  *Penstemon digitalis*  A close up of white flowers with round petals. |

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| **Bigleaf Mountain Mint**  *Pycnanthemum muticum*  A plant with green leaves. |  | **Common Mountain Mint**  *Pycnanthemum virginianum*  A close up of a white flowers. |  | **Black-Eyed Susan**  *Rudbeckia hirta*  A group of yellow flowers with dark centers. |

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| **Coneflower**  *Echinacea angustifolia*  A group of purple flowers. |  | **Canada Goldenrod**  *Solidago canadensis*  A close-up of a plant with yellow budding flowers. |  | **Early Goldenrod**  *Solidago juncea*  A bee on a yellow flower. |

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| **New England Aster**  *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*  A close up of a purple flower with long thin petals and spiky yellow center. |  | **Hairy Heath Aster**  *Symphyotrichum pilosum*  A close up of a flower with long thin white petals and yellow center. |  | **Virginia Wild rye**  *Elymus virginicus*  Close up of a plant with long grasses. |

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| **Blue Vervain**  *Verbena hastata*  A close up of a purple flower. |  | **New York Ironweed**  *Vernonia noveboracensis*  Close-up of purple flower with long thin petals and think white stamens in center of each flower. |  | **Golden Alexanders**  *Zizia aurea*  A close-up of many bunches of yellow followers. |

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| **Big Bluestem**  *Andropogon gerardii*  A close-up of thin long grasses resembling wheat. |  | **Switch Grass**  *Panicum virgatum*  A close-up of some tall grass. |  | **Little Bluestem**  *Schizachyrium scoparium*  A close-up of a plant with tall, long, green grasses. |

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| **Indian Grass**  *Sorghastrum nutans*  A close up of a plant with yellow flowers and light brown stems. |  | **Eastern Gamagrass**  *Tripsacum dactyloides*  A plant with colorful flowers. |  | **Canada Wild rye**  *Elymus canadensis*  A close up of some grass. |

# **Native Pollinators: Trees and Shrubs**

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| **Red Maple**  *Acer rubrum*  Acer rubrum, Red Maple | October 18, 2013 | David Illig | Flickr |  | **Black Cherry**  *Prunus serotina*  Close-up bunches of white flowers among green leaves. |  | **Allegheny Serviceberry**  *Amelanchier laevis*  A close up of some berries. |

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| **Buttonbush**  *Cephalanthus occidentalis*  A close up of a spherical plant with long thin petals. |  | **Winterberry Holly**  *Ilex verticillate*  A close up of some berries. |  | **Pawpaw**  *Asimina triloba*  A red-orange flower with a yellow center. |

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| **Virginia Sweetspire**  *Itea virginica*  A bee on a white flower with thin spikey petals and red-brown stem. |  | **Flowering dogwood**  *Cornus florida*  A close up of a white flowers with yellow-green centers. |  | **Silky dogwood**  *Cornus amomum*  A close-up of some berries among green leaves. |

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| **Redbud**  *Cercis Canadensis*  A close up of a purple flower with a woody stem. |  | **Mountain Laurel**  *Kalima latifolia*  A close-up of a flower with white and pink petals. |  | **Witch hazel**  *Hamamelis virginiana*  A group of trees. |

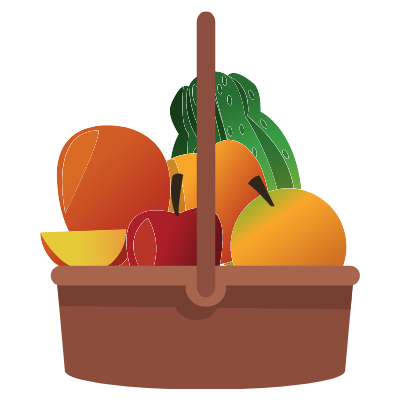
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| **Spicebush**  *Linder benzoin*  A plant with a spherical flower with yellow-green petals. |  | **Arrowwood viburnum**  *Viburnum dentatum*  A bush with white flowers in bunches. |  | **Blackhaw viburnum**  *Viburnum prunifolium*  A close-up of a white flowers in one bunch. |
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| **Highbush Blueberry**  *Vaccinium corymbosum*  A cluster of blue berries on a plant. |  |  |  |  |



# **2015 Superintendent’s Compendium**

[Click here](https://www.nps.gov/choh/learn/management/upload/CHOH-compendium-2016.pdf) for a full copy of the C&O Canal National Historical Park 2015 Superintendent’s Compendium, also found in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36, Chapter 1.7 (b).

In **Section 2.1(c)(1)** of the 2015 Superintendent’s Compendium, it reads:

Edible fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption. Commercial use is prohibited. Removal of fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms cannot disturb the remainder of the plant. Possession of plant fruits, nuts, berries, and mushrooms are limited to the following quantities:

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| **Fruit/Nut/Berry** | **Daily per Person Limit** |
| Walnuts | 1 Bushel |
| Hickory Nuts (sp.) | 1 Bushel |
| Acorns (Oak sp.) | 1 Bushel |
| Apples | 1 Bushel |
| Cherries | ½ Gallon |
| Blackberries | ½ Gallon |
| Raspberries | ½ Gallon |
| Dewberries | ½ Gallon |
| Strawberries | ½ Gallon |
| Huckleberry species | ½ Gallon |
| Elderberries | ½ Gallon |
| Wine berries | ½ Gallon |
| Paw Paws | ½ Gallon |
| Mushroom species | ½ Gallon |

Visit the C&O Canal National Historical Park website to [Plan Your Visit](https://www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/index.htm).

# **References and Resources**

**Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park** | [**Wildflower Information Page**](https://www.nps.gov/choh/learn/nature/wildflowers.htm)

To view more pictures and learn more information about wildflowers at the C&O Canal, make sure to visit the Wildflower Information Page on the Park website.

**The C&O Canal Association** | [**Wildflower Guide**](https://candocanal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/flowers.pdf)

This guide uses information from the C&O Canal’s partner organization, the C&O Canal Association, resource document on wildflowers found along the Canal.

**NPSpecies** | [**Species List**](https://irma.nps.gov/NPSpecies/Reports/SpeciesList/Species%20Full%20List%20with%20Details/CHOH/11,12/false)

Interested in learning *even more* about the plants found at the C&O Canal National Historical Park?! Click here to view the full species list provided by the National Park Service’s Integrated Resource Management Applications ([**IRMA**](https://irma.nps.gov/Portal/)) Portal

**DC.Gov** | [**Community Gardens**](https://dpr.dc.gov/page/community-gardens#:~:text=%20Community%20Gardens%20%201%20-%20LeDroit%20Park,plot.%20%20...%20An%20OSSE/DPR%20partnership...%20More)

Learn how to find a community garden near you! Find volunteer opportunities, planting resources, and links to local urban farms. Website includes community gardens organized by ward and contact information for getting involved.

**Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)** | [**Native Plants**](https://doee.dc.gov/node/1191442)

What’s a pollinator plant? Have you ever visited a community garden? Answer these questions and learn more about the native plants to the DC area from the DOEE website.

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