

Ten Plants for Soggy Soils

Adding these plants with greater absorbency to your landscape is a natural method of dealing with frequent wet conditions.

WHILE ALL PLANTS absorb water to a degree, there are certain plants known for their ability to thrive with above average amounts of water. Plant choices will vary, depending on location, climate, plant hardiness zone and what's native. It is best to check with your local nursery for professional help in choosing appropriate plants, shrubs, trees and groundcover for your particular area of the country.

FLOWERS



Common Camas (*Camassia quamash*)

Camas is native to the Western United States, ranging from Washington to California, and east to Montana and Utah. It grows naturally in coastal mountain forests, and in wet and marshy inland meadows. The bulbs of this perennial herb are edible.



Yellow-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*)

This plant grows wild along the Coast Ranges in the Western United States. It likes full sun near the coast, and does well in the interior with a little afternoon shade and regular water. Yellow-eyed Grass tolerates alkaline soils with a high clay content and seasonal flooding.

GRASSES AND FERNS



Tufted Hair Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*)

This grass is frequently used for stabilizing stream banks, canals, shorelines and upper tidal marshes, and is used in swales for bio-filtration. Plants tolerate moderately moist to seasonally flooded conditions, sunny to partially shaded environments and a wide variety of soil types.



Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*)

This evergreen fern is very tough and can survive occasional dry periods. Sword ferns are native to Western U.S. forests and may not grow well in Eastern soils; Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomea*) is a better choice for gardens east of the Mississippi. Sword ferns thrive with consistent moisture, filtered sunlight and cooler weather.

TREES AND SHRUBS



Willow (*Salix* sp.)

There are about 100 willow species native to the United States, ranging from small shrubs to trees. Willows are easy to establish, fast-growing and tolerant of poor, soggy soils, making them a valuable tool for stabilizing banks in riparian restoration projects.



Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*)

This deciduous shrub ranges between 10 and 20 feet in height. Vine Maple occurs naturally in the Pacific Northwest, ranging from the Cascade Mountains to the coast, and from Southern British Columbia to Northern California. It likes moist soils, and often grows by stream banks.



Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

Quaking Aspen is commonly found at higher elevations across the Northern United States. Named for its trembling foliage, this fast-growing tree protects against soil erosion, and is commonly used to restore riparian habitats.



Common Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

Common Persimmon is primarily a species of the east-central and Southeastern United States, but can thrive in a wide range of climates. Though moist, well-drained soil provides the best condition, this smaller, slow-growing tree is widely adaptable to many diverse locations, including streams and river bottoms, shallow sloughs and swamp margins.



Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

This large shrub ranges from six to nine feet tall, and is used for stream bank protection. Adapted from Ohio to Maine, and south to northern Virginia and New Jersey, Redosier Dogwood does best well in moist soils, even those with poor drainage. It's a good choice for windbreaks and slope stabilization. The dark red twigs add interest to winter gardens.



Common Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)

Found in fertile bottomland and hilly upland habitat, Pawpaw is native to the Eastern United States. This small, thicket-forming tree also produces the largest edible fruit indigenous to the U.S. It often grows along the banks of rivers and streams.