

Table 13.6. Popular, Versatile and Available Native Emergent and Submergent Vegetation for Constructed Wetlands

Plant	Zone	Form	Inundation Tolerance	Wildlife Value	Notes
Arrow Arum (<i>Peltandra virginica</i>)	2	Emergent	Up to 1 ft.	High, berries are eaten by wood ducks	Full sun to partial shade
Broad-Leaf Arrowhead (Duck Potato) (<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>)	2	Emergent	Up to 1 ft.	Moderate, tubers and seeds eaten by ducks	Aggressive colonizer
Blueflag Iris* (<i>Iris versicolor</i>)	2, 3	Emergent	Up to 6 in.	Limited	Full sun (to flower) to partial shade
Broomsedge (<i>Andropogon virginianus</i>)	2, 3	Perimeter	Up to 3 in.	High, songbirds and browsers; winter food and cover	Tolerant of fluctuating water levels and partial shade
Bulltongue Arrowhead (<i>Sagittaria lancifolia</i>)	2, 3	Emergent	0-24 in	Waterfowl, small mammals	Full sun to partial shade
Burreed (<i>Sparganium americanum</i>)	2, 3	Emergent	0-6	Waterfowl, small mammals	Full sun to partial shade
Cardinal Flower* (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>)	3	Perimeter	Periodic inundation	Attracts hummingbirds	Full sun to partial shade
Common Rush (<i>Juncus spp.</i>)	2, 3	Emergent	Up to 12 in.	Moderate: Small mammals, waterfowl, songbirds	Full sun to partial shade
Common Three Square (<i>Scipus pungens</i>)	2	Emergent	Up to 6 in.	High; seeds, cover, waterfowl, songbirds	Fast colonizer; can tolerate periods of dryness; full sun; high metal removal
Duckweed (<i>Lemna sp.</i>)	1, 2	Submergent / Emergent	Yes	High; food for waterfowl and fish	May biomagnify metals beyond concentrations found in the water
Joe Pye Weed (<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>)	2, 3	Emergent	Drier than other Joe-pye weeds, dry to moist areas, no mention of inundation	Butterflies, songbirds, insects	All light conditions
Lizard's Tail (<i>Saururus cernus</i>)	2	Emergent	Up to 1 ft.	Low, except for wood ducks	Rapid growth; shade-tolerant
Marsh Hibiscus (<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>)	2, 3	Emergent	Up to 3 in.	Low; nectar	Full sun; can tolerate periodic dryness
Pickerelweed (<i>Pontederia cordata</i>)	2, 3	Emergent	Up to 1 ft.	Moderate; ducks, nectar for butterflies	Full sun to partial shade
Pond Weed (<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>)	1	Submergent	Yes	Extremely high; waterfowl, marsh and shore birds	Removes heavy metals from the water
Rice Cutgrass (<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>)	2, 3	Emergent	Up to 3 in.	High; food and cover	Prefers full sun, although tolerant of shade; shoreline stabilization
Sedges (<i>Carex spp.</i>)	2, 3	Emergent	Up to 3 in.	High; waterfowl, songbirds	Wetland and upland species
Softstem Bulrush	2, 3	Emergent	Up to 2 ft.	Moderate; good	Full sun;

Plant	Zone	Form	Inundation Tolerance	Wildlife Value	Notes
(Scirpus validus)				cover and food	aggressive colonizer; high pollutant removal
Smartweed (Polygonum spp.)	2	Emergent	Up to 1 ft.	High; waterfowl, songbirds; seeds and cover	Fast colonizer; avoid weedy aliens, such as P. Perfoliatum
Spatterdock (Nuphar luteum)	2	Emergent	Up to 1.5 ft.	Moderate for food, but High for cover	Fast colonizer; tolerant of fluctuating water levels
Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum)	2, 3, 4	Perimeter	Up to 3 in.	High; seeds, cover; waterfowl, songbirds	Tolerates wet/dry conditions
Sweet Flag * (Acorus calamus)	2, 3	Perimeter	Up to 3 in.	Low; tolerant of dry periods	Tolerates acidic conditions; not a rapid colonizer
Waterweed (Elodea canadensis)	1	Submergent	Yes	Low	Good water oxygenator; high nutrient, copper, manganese and chromium removal
Wild celery (Valisneria americana)	1	Submergent	Yes	High; food for waterfowl; habitat for fish and invertebrates	Tolerant of murkey water and high nutrient loads
Wild Rice (Zizania aquatica)	2	Emergent	Up to 1 ft.	High; food, birds	Prefers full sun
Woolgrass (Scirpus cyperinus)	3, 4	emergent	yes	High: waterfowl, small mammals	Fresh tidal and nontidal, swamps, forested wetlands, meadows, ditches
Zone 1: -6 to -12 OR -18 inches below the normal pool elevation Zone 2: -6 inches to the normal pool elevation Zone 3: From the normal pool elevation to +12 inches Zone 4: +12 to +36 inches; above ED zone * Not a major colonizer, but adds color (Aggressive colonizers are shown in bold type)					

- Match Plants to Inundation Zones.** The various plant species shown in **Table 13.6** should be matched to the appropriate inundation zone. The first four inundation zones are particularly applicable to stormwater wetlands, as follows:
 - Zone 1:** -6 inches to -12 below the normal pool elevation
 - Zone 2:** -6 inches to the normal pool elevation)
 - Zone 3:** From the normal pool elevation to + 12 inches above it)
 - Zone 4:** +12 inches to + 36 inches above the normal pool elevation (i.e., above the ED Zone)

(Note that the Low Marsh Zone (-6 inches to -18 inches below the normal pool elevation) has been dropped since experience has shown that few emergent wetland plants flourish in this deeper zone.)