
PLANTS FOR WET AREAS

Oregonians are no strangers to water, but it seems like some places are just too moist to grow anything. For one reason or another, be it general drainage, high water tables, poor soils, or runoff patterns, some areas never seem to dry. The best idea is to try and fix the water problem by diverting runoff, adding subsurface drainage, or simply amending your soil. This doesn't always work though, so here is a list of plants tolerant of those moist conditions. Keep in mind that although they will tolerate moisture, these plants will still **need some drainage**, very few plants can survive in standing water.

TREES

Acer rubrum- **Red Maple** and its cultivars

Betula varieties- **Birch**

Fraxinus americana and *F. pennsylvanica*- **Ash** varieties (NOT Raywood!)

Liquidambar styraciflua- **Sweetgum** (avoid compacted soils)

Magnolia virginiana- **Sweet Bay Magnolia** (None of the others, though)

Nyssa sylvatica- **Sour gum**, Black Tupelo

Populus varieties- **Poplar**

Populus tremuloides- **Quaking Aspen** (Okay in moist soil, but NOT heavy and poorly drained soil)

Salix varieties- **Willow**

Stewartia- will take moist soil, drainage helps

There are only a handful of conifer trees that will tolerate wet soils. Usually, a conifer tree will not be recommended because of this fact. In order for most conifer trees to thrive, there must be fair drainage in the area. Examples of more moisture tolerant conifer trees are

Metasequoia spp.- **Dawn Redwood**

Taxodium spp.- **Bald Cypress**

Thuja spp.- **Thuja**

SHRUBS

Andromeda polifolia- **Bog Rosemary**

Bamboo

Calycanthus- **Allspice**

Clethra varieties- **Summersweet**

Cornus varieties (Shrub type only)- **Shrub Dogwoods** (NOT Tree types)

Gaultheria shallon- **Salal**

Itea virginica and varieties- **Sweetspire**

Leucothoe

Salix varieties- **Willow**

Sambucus canadensis and varieties- **Elderberry**

Symphoricarpos- **Snowberry**

Viburnum- Deciduous types *V. opulus* (Snowball, Cranberry) and *V. plicatum tomentosum* (Doublefile)

PERENNIALS

Acanthus mollis- **Bear's Breeches**
Aconitum- **Monkshood**
Aruncus- **Goatsbeard**
Asarum canadense/caudatum- **Wild Ginger**
Asclepias- **Butterfly Weed**
Astilbe
Camassia
Cimicifuga
Chelone- **Turtlehead**
Coreopsis rosea
Cornus canadensis- **Bunchberry**
Darmera- **Umbrella Plant**
Epimedium- **Barrenwort**
Eupatorium- **Joe Pye Weed**
Filipendula- **Meadow sweet**
Galium odoratum- **Sweet Woodruff**
Hemerocallis- **Daylily** (Particularly H. lilioasphodelus)
Hosta
Houttuynia cordata
Iris ensata and **pseudoacorus**
Kirengeshoma
Ligularia dentata, others
Lobelia cardinalis- **Cardinal Flower**
Lobelia siphilitica- **Blue Lobelia**
Lysimachia
Mentha - **Mint, Lemon Balm...**
Mimulus- **Monkey Flower**
Monarda- **Bee Balm**
Myosotis- **Forget-me-not**
Polygonatum odoratum- **Solomon's Seal**
Primula- **Primrose**
Pulmonaria- **Lungwort** (Moist, but not waterlogged)
Rodgersia
Schizostylis- **Crimson Flag, Kaffir Lily**
Tradescantia- **Spiderwort**
Trollius
Zantedeschia- **Calla Lily**
Veronicastrum- **Culver's Root**
Vinca minor

GRASSES

Acorus gramineus, calamus- **Sweet Flag**
Arundo donax- **Giant Reed Grass**
Calamagrostis acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'- **Feather Reed Grass**
Carex varieties- **Sedges**
Cortaderia selloana- **Pampas Grass**
Deschampsia caespitosa- **Tufted Hair Grass**
Imperata cylindrical 'Rubra'- **Japanese Blood Grass**
Juncus varieties- **Rush**

Miscanthus sinensis and varieties- **Maiden grass**
Molinia- **Moor Grass**
Panicum virgatum- **Switch grass**

FERNS

Blechnum varieties- **Deer fern, Hart's tongue**
Osmunda varieties- **Cinnamon Fern, Ostrich**

VINES

Akebia- Moist soil okay, but provide drainage
Lonicera japonica 'Halliana'- **Hall's Honeysuckle**