Plants for Wet Soils and High Water Table Soils in Carteret

Many of the soils in Carteret County, especially down east, have high water tables. This means that those soils may stay saturated or soggy for awhile after periods of rain. In other places in the county, landowners find that they have low areas which stay wet after rains. Very few plants can tolerate wet feet, so it is difficult to find landscape materials that will thrive in these locations. To make matters even worse, during our regular dry periods some of these same soils may stay very dry for days or weeks at a time. This combination of saturated soil to dry soil is an especially challenging environment for plants.

There are, however, some plants that can tolerate both wet feet and occasional periods of drought. These plants are highly recommended to homeowners who are trying to landscape difficult areas where both occasional dry conditions and regular soggy soils are a problem. There are divided here into two categories: plants for areas where the soil regularly stays saturated for only 1 or 2 days at a time, and plants for areas where the soil regularly stays saturated for longer periods.

Plants to try where soils regularly stay saturated for short periods (1 or 2 days at a time), but also may become very dry at times.

- Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos* (large tree)
- Nutall Oak, *Quercus nuttallii* (large tree)
- Southern Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora* (large evergreen tree)
- Redbud, *Cercis canadensis* (small tree)
- Dahoon Holly, *Ilex cassine* (small evergreen tree)
- American Holly, *Ilex opaca* (small evergreen tree)
- Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana* (small evergreen tree)
- Devilwood, *Osmanthus americanus* (small evergreen tree)
- Red Bay, *Persea borbonia* (small evergreen tree)
- Yaupon, *Ilex vomitoria* (evergreen shrub or small tree)
- Anise Shrub, *Illicium parviflorum* (evergreen shrub or small tree)
- Wax Myrtle, *Myrica cerifera* (evergreen shrub or small tree)
- False Indigo, *Baptisia species* (perennial)
- Tickseed, *Coreopsis lanceolata* (perennial)
- Moss Pinks, *Phlox subulata* (perennial)
- Rudbeckia, *Rudbeckia fulgida* (perennial)
- Verbena, *Verbena canadensis* (perennial)
- Muhly Grass, *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (ornamental grass)
- Indiangrass, *Sorghastrum nutans* (ornamental grass)
- Liriope, *L. muscarii* and *L. spicata* (non-native ornamental grass)
- Daylily, *Hemerocallis* hybrids (non-native perennial)
- Maiden Grass, *Miscanthus* cultivars (non-native ornamental grass)
Plants to try where soils regularly stay saturated for longer periods (3 to 5 days at a time), but also may become very dry at times.

River Birch, *Betula nigra* (large tree)
Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum* (large tree)
Pond Cypress, *Taxodium ascendens* (large tree)
Atlantic White Cedar, *Chamaecyparis thyoides* (large evergreen tree)
Ironwood, *Carpinus caroliniana* (small tree)
Possumhaw, *Ilex decidua* (small tree)
River Oats, *Chasmanthium latifolium* (ornamental grass)
Panic Grass, *Panicum virgatum* (ornamental grass)

Additional plants to try where soils regularly stay saturated for 3 to 5 days, but drought tolerance is not also an issue.

Green Ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (large tree)
Willows, *Salix* species (large trees)
Swamp Laurel Oak, *Quercus laurifolia* (Evergreen large tree)
Washington Hawthorn, *Crataegus phaenopyrum* (small tree)
Sweet Bay, *Magnolia virginiana* (small evergreen tree)
Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (shrub)
Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata* (shrub)
Virginia Willow, *Itea virginica* (shrub)
Possumhaw, *Viburnum nudum* (shrub)
Florida Anise Shrub, *Illicium floridanum* (evergreen shrub)
Dwarf Palmetto, *Sabal minor* (evergreen shrub palm)
Blue Star, *Amsonia tabernaemontana* (perennial)
Swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata* (perennial)
Climbing Aster, *Aster carolinianus* (perennial)
Boltonia, *Boltonia asteriodes* (perennial)
Turtlehead, *Chelone glabra* (perennial)
Joe Pye Weed, *Eupatorium dubium* (perennial)
Swamp Sunflower, *Helianthus angustifolius* (perennial)
Swamp Mallow, *Hibiscus moscheutos* (perennial)
Texas Star, *Hibiscus coccineus* (perennial)
Blue Flag Iris, *Iris virginica* (perennial)
Seashore Mallow, *Kosteletska virginica* (perennial)
Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis* (perennial)
Cinnammon Fern, *Osmunda cinnamomea* (perennial)
Royal Fern, *Osmunda regalis* (perennial)
Green Headed Coneflower, *Rudbeckia laciniata* (perennial)
Rain Lilies, *Zephyranthes* species (non-native perennial)
Crinum Lilies, *Crinum* species (non-native perennial)

For images of the plants listed above visit the below website.
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/