



Franklin Soil & Water Conservation

Connecting People with Natural Resources

TREES, SHRUBS, & GRASSES SUITABLE FOR URBAN STREAMBANK STABILIZATION AND EROSION CONTROL

	Common/Scientific Name	Average Mature Height	Specific Characteristics
Trees	Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	60-70'	Lowlands, stream edges swamps, long-lived, fast growth, wildlife food
	Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	70-80'	Adaptable to many soils, very drought resistant, deep-rooted, long-lived, wildlife food, timber, firewood
	Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>	70-80'	Bottomlands, moist uplands, tolerant of urban stresses, moderately long-lived, firewood, wildlife food, fast growth
	Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	50-70'	Adaptable to many soils, moderately long lived, wildlife food, firewood, brilliant fall colors
	Silver Maple <i>Acer saccharinum</i>	60-80'	Streambanks, moist sites, drought resistant, susceptible to ice storms, can tolerate temporary flooding
	Box Elder <i>Acer negundo</i>	30-40'	Adaptable to many soils, drought and cold tolerant, short-lived (60-80 yrs), root system provides good erosion control
	River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	60-80'	Alluvial soils, stream bottoms, highly tolerant of acidic soils, firewood, most common in South/Central Ohio
Shrubs	Black Chokeberry <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	4-8'	Partial shade, grows in many environments from bogs to dry slopes, wildlife food and habitat
	Blackhaw <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	12-15'	Partial to full shade, wood borders, steep hillsides, food for songbirds and other wildlife
	Arrowwood Viburnum <i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	3-10'	Partial to full sun, moist woods, provides cover and nesting habitat for songbirds
	Shadblow Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	10-25'	Full sun to partial shade, wet bogs and swamps, habitat for wood frogs and spring peepers
	Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	6-12'	Partial to full shade, fertile moist woods, berries attract over 20 species of birds, host plant for butterflies
	Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	up to 20'	Full sun to partial shade, swamps and water margins, flowers produce nectar for pollinators, habitat for wildlife
	Virginia Sweetspire <i>Itea virginica</i>	3-8'	Full sun or shade, wooded swamps and along streams, riverbanks, and creeks, butterflies attracted to white flowers

(This chart was adapted from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Stream Management Guide)

RECOMMENDED PLANTS FOR BANK STABILIZATION AND EROSION CONTROL		
	Common Name	Scientific Name
Grasses	Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
	Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
	Switch grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
	Indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
	Side oats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
	Rough-clustered sedge	<i>Carex sparganioides</i>
	Canada wild rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>