

# SELECTED NATIVE WOODY FRESHWATER WETLAND PLANTS OF MASSACHUSETTS

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Workshop A6: Hands-on Plant ID: Common Woody Plants of Massachusetts Freshwater Wetlands

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## TREES

Common Name	----- Scientific Name ----- Genus and Species	----- Family	NHESP S Rank <sup>1</sup>	Wetland Indicator Status <sup>2</sup>
<b>NEEDLE LEAVED</b>				
American Larch (Tamarack) <sup>3</sup>	<i>Larix laricina</i>	Pinaceae	S5	FACW
Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Pinaceae	S4	FACW <sup>4</sup>
Black Spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>	Pinaceae	S5	FACW-
Atlantic White Cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Cupressaceae	S5	OBL
<b>BROAD LEAVED: OPPOSITE</b>				
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Sapindaceae	S4	FACW
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Sapindaceae	S5	FAC
Trident Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum var. tridens</i>	Sapindaceae	S5	FACW+
<b>BROAD LEAVED: ALTERNATE</b>				
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Fagaceae	S4	FACW+
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	Betulaceae	S3 <sup>5</sup>	FACW
Gray Birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i>	Betulaceae	S5	FAC
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	Ulmaceae	S4	FACW-
Black Tupelo (Black Gum)	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Cornaceae	S5	FACW+ <sup>6</sup> FAC

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## SHRUBS

Common Name	----- Scientific Name ----- Genus and Species	----- Family	NHESP S Rank <sup>1</sup>	Wetland Indicator Status <sup>2</sup>
<b>WHORLED</b>				
Common Buttonbush (Buttonbush)	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Rubiaceae	S5	OBL
<b>OPPOSITE</b>				
Black Elderberry (American Elder)	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ( <i>canadensis</i> )	Adoxaceae	S5	FACW
Silky Dogwood	<i>Swida amomum</i>	Cornaceae	S5	FACW
Smooth Arrowwood (Northern Arrow-wood)	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> ( <i>recognitum</i> )	Adoxaceae	S5	FAC
Withe-rod (Wild Raisin)	<i>Viburnum nudum</i> var. <i>cassinoides</i>	Adoxaceae	S5	FACW
<b>ALTERNATE</b>				
Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Ericaceae	S5	FACW-
Leatherleaf	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i> ( <i>Cassandra calyculata</i> )	Ericaceae	S5	OBL
Sheep Laurel	<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>	Ericaceae	S5	FAC
Swamp Azalea (Clammy Azalea)	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Ericaceae	S5	FACW+
Common Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Aquifoliaceae	S5	FACW+
Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Clethraceae	S5	FAC+
Pussy Willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	Salicaceae	S5	FACW <sup>7</sup>
Northern Spicebush (Spicebush)	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Lauraceae	S5	FACW-

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## SHRUBS (Continued)

Common Name	----- Scientific Name ----- Genus and Species	----- Family	NHESP S Rank <sup>1</sup>	Wetland Indicator Status <sup>2</sup>
<b>ALTERNATE (Continued)</b>				
Speckled Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>	Betulaceae	S5	FACW
Smooth Alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Betulaceae	S5	OBL
Sweet Gale	<i>Myrica gale</i>	Myricaceae	S5	OBL

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## VINES

Common Name	----- Scientific Name ----- Genus and Species	----- Family	NHESP S Rank <sup>1</sup>	Wetland Indicator Status <sup>2</sup>
<b>ALTERNATE</b>				
Poison Ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Anacardiaceae	S5	FAC
Large Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>	Ericaceae	S5	OBL

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## FOOTNOTES

### 1. S RANKS

The Vascular Plants of Massachusetts: A County Checklist First Revision uses S-ranks to indicate the frequency of occurrence and relative threats to a given taxon within the Commonwealth. Within the Natureserve network of Natural Heritage Programs (see [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org)), "S-rank" is a standardized way of reporting the conservation priority of a taxon within a state or province. The relevant categories are:

S1 = Critically Imperiled (in Massachusetts) because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the jurisdiction.

S2 = Imperiled (in Massachusetts) because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations, steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from jurisdiction.

S3 = Vulnerable (in Massachusetts) due to a restricted range, relatively few populations, recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.

S4 = Apparently Secure: Uncommon but not rare (in Massachusetts); some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.

S5 = Secure: Common, widespread, and abundant (in Massachusetts).

### 2. WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS

Plants species are grouped into status categories by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Massachusetts currently follows the Region 1 designations as per Reed 1988. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has made subsequent updates to the indicator status of some species as part of a nationwide effort to improve the accuracy of wetland delineations. Massachusetts is part of the Northcentral and Northeast Region.

Categories are based on the probability individuals will be found in wetlands vs. non-wetlands under natural conditions:

OBL	Obligate	Occurs in wetlands >99% of the time	<i>The status may appear alone or followed by a + or -, where: + = near the higher percentage, i.e. more frequently in wetlands - = near the lower percentage, i.e. less frequently in wetlands.</i>
FACW	Facultative Wetland	Occurs in wetlands 67-99% of the time	
FAC	Facultative	Occurs in wetlands 34-66% of the time	
FACU	Facultative Upland	Occurs in wetlands 1-33% of the time	
UPL	Upland	Occurs in wetlands <1% of the time.	

### References

Reed, P.B. Jr. 1988. National List of Plant Species that Occur In Wetlands: Massachusetts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC.

Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers, Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (Version 2.0), ERDC/EL TR-12-1, January 2012. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199.

3. Alternate common or scientific names are shown in parentheses.
4. FACW for seaboard lowlands; FACU in the rest of Massachusetts.
5. On the "Watch List" in Massachusetts, meaning it is uncommon or possibly rare.
6. Several varieties.
7. Most willows are FACW or wetter.