

VMHB Restricted Landscape Plant List

Developed 2023 by Landscape Chair Lynn Steiner

Homeowners who want to add plants to their personal garden areas (PGAs) should give careful consideration to plant choices, especially with shrubs, grasses, and vines. PGAs are the original common element areas that lie within approximately 10 to 15 feet of townhouse foundations. They can include entry gardens, foundation gardens, small gardens underneath trees, and small driveway trees. These garden areas are considered “common elements” under VMHB Rules and Regulations and are owned by the community.

Choose plants suitable to the site conditions (sun, shade, irrigation or not, etc.). Consideration should be given to suitability to the home style and the overall style of the community, as well as to how the plants may impact any neighbors (next to or on the streets above or below). Plants should be easily maintained by the landscape contractor (i.e., not require special pruning or soil amendments), unless the homeowner opts out of landscape services and agrees to take responsibility for any maintenance required to keep the plant(s) healthy and attractive. Homeowners may not add any trees or shrubs with a mature height of more than 5 feet anywhere without approval from the VMHB Landscape Committee.

For approval to plant anything outside of these requirements or anything in the lists below, you must get permission from the Landscape Committee by filling out a Substantial Landscape Modification Application. This application form can be found on the VMHB website at Documents | Landscape Forms. Any questions about any of the plants on this list should be directed to Landscape Committee Chair Lynn Steiner.

Invasive and/or Weedy Plants in Rhode Island

*The following plants are listed as invasive and/or weedy in Rhode Island and **should not be planted** anywhere on the property. The goal is to eventually eliminate any of these plants currently growing on the property.*

Trees

Acer ginnala (Amur maple)
Acer platanoides (Norway maple)
Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore maple)
Ailanthus altissima (Tree of heaven)
Aralia elata (Japanese angelica tree)
Aralia spinosa (Hercules' club)
Morus alba (white mulberry)
Paulownia tomentosa (princess tree)
Phellodendron amurense (Amur cork tree)
Populus alba (white poplar)
Pyrus calleryana (Callery pear, Bradford pear)
Quercus robur (English oak)
Robinia pseudoacacia (black locust)

Shrubs

Amorpha fruticosa (false indigo)
Berberis thunbergii (Japanese barberry)
Berberis vulgaris (common barberry)
Calluna vulgaris (heather)

Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian olive)
Elaeagnus umbellata (autumn olive)
Euonymus alatus (winged euonymus)
Euonymus europaeus (European spindle-tree)
Frangula alnus (glossy buckthorn)
Ligustrum species (privets)
Lonicera morrowii, *L. maackii*, and *L. tatarica* (shrublike honeysuckles)
Rhamnus cathartica (common buckthorn)
Rhodotypos scandens (jet bead)
Rosa multiflora (multiflora rose)
Rosa rugosa (Japanese beach rose)
Rubus phoenicolasius (wineberry)
Salix cinerea (gray willow)
Viburnum dilatatum (linden viburnum)

Herbaceous Plants, including Grasses

Aegopodium podagraria (bishop's weed)
Allium vineale (wild garlic)
Artemisia vulgaris (mugwort)
Bromus tectorum (cheatgrass)
Carex kobomugi (Asiatic sand sedge)
Centaurea species (knapweeds)
Cirsium arvense (creeping thistle)
Datura stramonium (jimsonweed)
Euphorbia cyparissias (cypress spurge)
Fallopia japonica (Japanese knotweed)
Fallopia sachalinensis (giant knotweed)
Glaucium flavum (yellow horn-poppy)
Glyceria maxima (tall manna grass)
Heracleum mantegazzianum (giant hogweed)
Hesperis matronalis (dame's rocket)
Impatiens glandulifera (ornamental jewelweed)
Iris pseudacorus (yellow iris)
Lepidium latifolium (tall pepperweed)
Ilaria petiolata (garlic mustard)
Lysimachia nummularia (moneywort)
Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife)
Microstegium vimineum (Japanese stiltgrass)
Miscanthus sacchariflorus (sea grass, silvergrass)
Miscanthus sinensis (Chinese silvergrass)
Myosotis scorpiodes (forget-me-not)
Persicaria longiseta (Oriental lady's-thumb)
Persicaria maculosa (lady's-thumb smartweed)
Phalaris arundinacea (reed canary grass)
Phragmites australis (common reed)
Phylostachys species (bamboos)
Ranunculus ficaria (lesser celandine)

Vines

Akebia quinata (chocolate-vine)
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata (porcelain-berry)
Campsis radicans (trumpet-creeper)
Celastrus orbiculatus (Oriental bittersweet)
Clematis terniflora (autumn clematis)
Convolvulus arvensis (field bindweed)
Cynanchum louiseae (black swallow-wort)
Cynanchum rossicum (pale swallow-wort)
Euonymus fortunei (creeping euonymus)
Hedera helix (English ivy)
Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)
Persicaria perfoliata (mile-a-minute vine)
Pueraria montana (kudzu)
Solanum dulcamara (bittersweet nightshade)
Vinca major (greater periwinkle)
Vinca minor (lesser periwinkle)
Wisteria floribunda (Japanese wisteria)
Wisteria sinensis (Chinese wisteria)

Plants Not Recommended, due to severe disease or insect problems:

The following plants have significant disease and/or insect problems and should not be planted. Existing plants will eventually be removed from landscapes.

Buxus species and cultivars (boxwoods)
Fagus sylvatica and cultivars (European beech)
Gleditsia tricanthos inermis (thornless honeylocust)

Aggressive Plants, to be used with caution

The following plants should be used with caution. Some spread rapidly and may overtake other plants growing nearby. They should only be used in situations where their growth won't interfere with other plants (i.e., in an area confined by sidewalk or other hardscaping). Some plants on this list are prolific reseederers that can result in weediness in nearby gardens and/or them seeding in nearby natural areas and overtaking native plants.

Perennials, Ferns, and Groundcovers:

Ajuga species and cultivars (ajuga)
Asclepias incarnata (swamp milkweed)*
Convallaria majalis (lily of the valley)
Echinacea purpurea (purple coneflower)*
Fragaria virginiana (wild strawberry)
Galium odoratum (sweet woodruff)
Glechoma hederacea (creeping Charlie)
Hakonechloa macra species and cultivars (Japanese forest grass)
Helianthus species (sunflowers)*
Hemerocallis fulva (orange daylily)*

Houttuynia cordata 'Chameleon' (houttuynia)
Imperata cylindrica 'Rubra' (Japanese blood grass)
Lamium cultivars (dead nettle)
Liriope muscari cultivars (lily turf)
Lysimachia nummularia 'Aurea' (creeping Jenny)
Monarda species (bee balms)*
Nandina species and cultivars (heavenly bamboo)
Pachysandra terminalis (Japanese spurge)
Solidago canadensis (Canada goldenrod)*
Viola species (violets)

Shrubs:

Aronia melanocara (black chokeberry)
Cornus racemosa (gray dogwood)
Diervilla lonicera (bush honeysuckle)*
Rhus species (sumacs)*
Rosa palustris (swamp rose)
Rubus species (raspberries, blackberries)
Sorbaria sorbifolia (dwarf false spirea)
Spiraea japonica and cultivars (Japanese spirea)
Stephanandra incisa 'Crispa' (cutleaf stephanandra)

*Many cultivars are less aggressive and suitable for landscape use.