

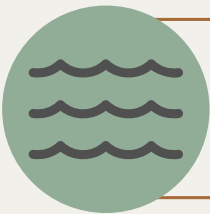
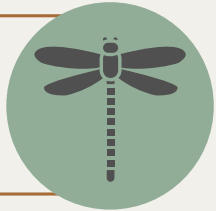
WHY NATIVE PLANTS MATTER

Native plants belong here, having adapted to local soils, climate, and weather for thousands of years.



They need less **maintenance**, requiring less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

They support wildlife, providing food and shelter for insects, birds, and aquatic species.



They protect water quality by absorbing rainfall and filtering polluted runoff to streams and rivers.

Their root systems prevent **erosion**, helping water soak into the ground instead of carrying sediment away.



Natural buffers like forests and wetlands protect shorelines from erosion.

They strengthen our local **landscapes** in restoration projects such as rain gardens, urban trees and wild yards.



ABOUT THE FLORA OF VIRGINIA PROJECT

- * The Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project, Inc. is a nonprofit led by a volunteer board dedicated to conserving and sharing knowledge of Virginia's native plants.
- * Founded in 2001 to update *Flora Virginica* (1739), the work of early botanist John Clayton.
- * After a decade of research, the Project published *Flora of Virginia* (2012)—the Commonwealth's most complete botanical reference.
- * The book documents 3,200 plant taxa in 200 families and includes 1,400 detailed illustrations.
- * The Flora App makes this information portable and searchable—even offline.
- * The Flora serves professionals, educators, and nature enthusiasts as the most trusted guide to Virginia's plants.

Visit floraofvirginia.org to learn more, download the App, and donate.



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