

The late days of summer bring on a large flush of wildflowers in Virginia - one last raucous display of pink, purple, and gold before autumn arrives to herald the end of the growing season.

Most of these remarkable blooms are found in our open meadows and wetlands, where the plants have been able to soak up sunlight throughout the long summer days, often growing to tremendous heights.



Halberd-leaved hibiscus - *Hibiscus laevis*

Explore the towering forms of our gorgeous wildflowers with the help of this ID guide.

These icons denote the most common locations of each plant along the trail:



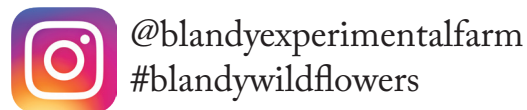
Identify more plants and share your observations online!



The citizen science app iNaturalist is a free resource to help you identify more plants not in this brochure, and contribute to citizen science programs in the area! Just download the free app from Google Play or the App Store to get started.

- Upload your photos of plants and wildlife to get suggestions on possible IDs.
- Join the 'Blandy Experimental Farm' project to share your observations with our scientists and other guests.
- Learn from other outdoor enthusiasts and contribute to citizen science projects!

Take an interesting photo? Tag us on social media!



The Wildflowers of Late Summer



Plant Identification Guide



White Snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*) - Clusters of white compound flowers. Heart-shaped opposite leaves with toothed edges. 2-4 ft tall. 🌳



White Wood Aster (*Eurybia divaricata*) - White flower rays with yellow centers. Heart shaped alternate leaves with toothed edges. 1-2 ft tall. 🌳



Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) - spikes of pink flowers on top of a square stem. Leaves opposite, with toothed edges. 1-3 ft tall. 🌳



Cardinalflower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) - Unique spikes of bright red flowers, 1-3 ft tall. Leaves dark green with fine teeth, come to a point at the end. 🌳💧



Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) - Spikes of blue flowers, 1-3 ft tall. Similar to cardinalflower, but leaves lighter green, toothed with a rounded tip. 🌳💧



Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) - Long sprays of nodding, yellow, compound flowers. Narrow, toothed leaves along the 2-5 ft tall stems. 🌞💧



Big Stem (*Andropogon gerardii*) - Tall grass (up to 7 ft) common in meadow. Tops of stems end in a handful of flowering spikes that resemble a turkey's foot. 🌞



Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) - Tall grass (up to 7 ft) common in meadow. Tops of stalks end in a broom-like tuft of gold-colored florets. 🌞



Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) - Tall grass (up to 8 ft) common in meadow. Grows in distinct clumps up to 10 feet across. Loose, spreading inflorescences. 🌞



False Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) - Yellow, sunflower-like flower. Dozens of yellow florets in the middle of each. Rough, sandpapery leaves with coarse teeth. 🌞



Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*) - Clusters of dusty pink flowers on top of tall stems, ranging from 3-9 ft! Leaves in whorls of 3-7 leaflets around stem. 🌞💧



Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) - Clusters of compound white flowers. Very hairy leaves that clasp the stem from both sides. 2-4 ft tall. 💧



Allegheny Monkeyflower (*Mimulus ringens*) - Lilac flowers with yellow centers. One flower above the mid-vein of each mature leaf. Leaves opposite. 💧



Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) - Trumpet-shaped orange flowers, which become explosive seedpods later. Leaves smooth and shiny with rounded teeth. 💧



Halberd-Leaved Hibiscus (*Hibiscus laevis*) - Pink flowers with red centers on stems up to 7 ft tall. Flowers bloom for one day each. Leaves roughly T-shaped. 💧



Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) - a large shrub found only in the wetland. White, orb-like flowers and smooth, glossy leaves. 💧



Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) - Cluster of bright pink flowers. Opposite, oval leaves with notable white mid-vein. Blooms much later than other milkweeds. 💧



New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) - Clusters of small, dark purple flowers at top. Leaves narrow with fine teeth, alternate on stem. 4-6 ft tall. 💧