



## Water-Loving Trees & Plants

Trees and plants that thrive in water or soggy soil conditions, often referred to as wetland or aquatic plants, have evolved unique adaptations to survive in these environments. Species such as the bald cypress and river birch can grow in standing water, developing specialized root systems to anchor themselves while obtaining nutrients in nutrient-poor soils. Other plants, like canna and papyrus, prefer moist, organic-rich soil and can flourish in boggy areas, contributing to the biodiversity of wetlands. These plants not only enhance the beauty of their surroundings but also play crucial roles in water filtration, habitat creation, and flood mitigation, making them essential components of healthy ecosystems.

1. **Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)** - The bald cypress can grow in standing water and in well-drained soil with a preferred pH of 5.5-6.8. This plant grows 50-70 feet tall and 20-30 feet wide, but some have even reached heights of 120 feet.
2. **Canna (*Canna x generalis*)** - Cannas do not like standing water but prefer high organic matter, moist soils with a pH of 6-7. They grow 5-8 feet tall and spread.
3. **Cat Tail Reed (*Typha spp.*)** - This plant can grow in standing water and moist to boggy soils with a pH of 6-7.5. It grows 6-10 feet tall and 1 foot wide but spreads.
4. **Corkscrew Rush (*Juncus effusus 'Spiralis'*)** - This plant can grow in low-standing water and is versatile for soil; it just needs to be moist with a preferred pH of 6.5-7.5. It grows 2-4 feet tall and wide.
5. **Dystilium (*Hamamelidaceae*)**- This evergreen shrub can tolerate wet or soggy soil conditions. Dystilium is versatile in moist environments and can

handle standing water to some extent but is a good option for poor drainage areas. It's a low-maintenance option that also exhibits drought resistance once established, making it suitable for a variety of landscape settings.

6. **Elephant Ear (*Colocasia spp.*)** - This plant can grow in low-standing water and prefers moist, nutrient-rich soil with a pH of 6.5. It grows 2-10 feet tall and wide.
7. **Horsetail Reed (*Equisetum hyemale*)** - This plant can grow in standing water and in soil; it spreads quickly, so it must be planted strategically. It prefers moist soils high in organic matter with a pH of 6-7.5. This plant can grow 4-6 feet tall and 1-6 feet wide.
8. **Louisiana Iris (*Iris ser. hexagonae*)** - This variety of iris will grow and bloom in standing water. It is ideal for growing in pots submerged in fishponds.
9. **Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*)** - This plant can be set in standing water and planted in moist to boggy soil with a preferred pH of 6-8. It grows 5-8 feet tall and 2-4 feet wide.
10. **River Birch (*Betula nigra*)** - River birch is another tree that can grow in standing water and soil, with a preference for acidic soils and a pH of 4.5-7.5. This tree grows 60-80 feet tall and 40 feet wide.
11. **Siberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*)** - This plant prefers rich, moist soil with a pH of 6.5-7. It is not recommended to plant in standing water, but it has worked in some cases. This plant grows 1-4 feet tall and wide.
12. **Southern wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)** – This evergreen shrub can handle soggy soil conditions. It is a versatile shrub that thrives in wet, marshy areas and can tolerate some standing water.
13. **Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)** - This deciduous shrub prefers wet, acidic soils and produces fragrant white flowers in late spring. Its foliage turns vibrant red in the fall.
14. **Umbrella Sedge (*Cyperus alternifolius*)** - This plant can also be set in standing water and in moist to boggy soil with a preferred pH of 5.5-6.5. It grows 4-6 feet tall and about 2-3 feet wide.
15. **Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*)** - Weeping willows can grow in standing water, and if not, they just require a lot of watering. They prefer clay, loamy,

or sandy soil with a pH of 4.5-8. This plant grows 30-50 feet tall and 30-40 feet wide.