

4.4 Plant Species for Riparian Restoration

Plants that can be planted next to a stream

SHRUBS

Alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>
American hazelnut	<i>Corylus Americana</i>
Spring witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Carolina willow	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>
Sandbar willow	<i>Salix exigua</i>
Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus Canadensis</i>

TREES

Silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>

Why Should I Use Native Plants?

We recommend that you only use native plant species within the floodplain. Native plants are equipped to survive within the local climate and habitat and they provide necessary food and shelter for native animal species. As we lose more natural riparian areas to development, patches of native plant areas become all the more precious. Once they are established, native plants require almost no ongoing care yet natural controls keep them from becoming invasive.



Plants that can be planted on the bank above the high water mark

GRASSES

Switch cane	<i>Arundinaria gigantean</i>
Bearded shorhusk	<i>Brachyelytrum erectum</i>
Downy brome	<i>Bromus pubescens</i>
Riveroats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>
Virginia wildrye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>

SHRUBS

Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Northern spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
Mountain azalea	<i>Rhododendron prinophyllum</i>

TREES

Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>
Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>
Hop hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
American basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Slippery elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Wild plum	<i>Prunus Mexicana</i>

Contact your local nursery to find these plants.

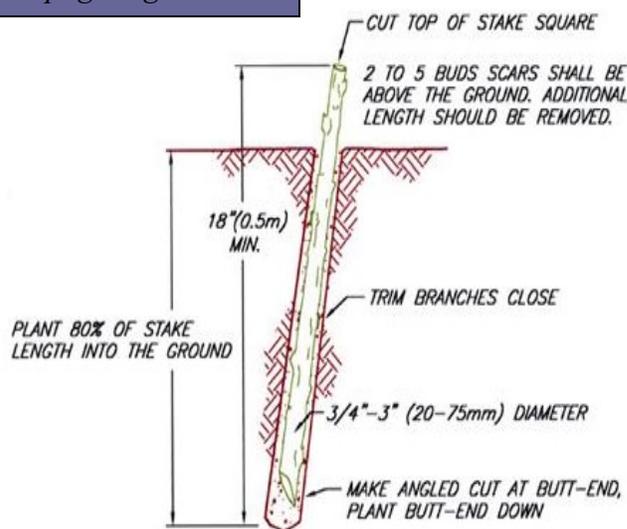
Vegetative Cuttings

Vegetative cuttings are live plant materials (twigs and branches) that can be placed in the ground to root and grow. This method is most successful when native willows are used, which can frequently be found on-site. Willow cuttings will survive even in difficult planting situations, such as rocky slopes.

- Streambank should be no steeper than 2 feet horizontal to 1 foot vertical
- Using a saw, cut willow branches that are ½ to 2 inches in diameter and 2-3 feet in length. Remove all side branches. You will plant these with the buds facing up. Cut an angle on the bottom so they can be easily inserted into the ground. Tap stakes into the ground perpendicular to the slope. About 4/5 of the stake should be below ground and facing downstream.
- Cuttings should be installed during the dormant season (October to March) and should be used within 8 hours of harvesting.
- Cuttings must be placed in saturated soils in order to survive.



Propagating willow



Arkansas Native Switch Cane

Switch cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*) is the only member of the bamboo family that is native to our region. Today it can be found in narrow strips between the edge of a bottomland field and the bank of a creek. Dense thickets of switch cane have an extensive root system which help hold the soil on streambanks in place. Many creatures, including the endangered Swainson's warbler, depend on switch cane. This cane can be easily transplanted by digging up the rhizomes and planting before they dry out.



switch cane, giant cane
Arundinaria gigantea
Photo by Ann Murray
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Please Note: Arkansas switch cane is **NOT** the same thing as the imported bamboo that is seen frequently in urban areas. Imported bamboo is highly invasive and should not be planted in wild spaces.