

# Seaside Gardening

An open view of sea and sky is often best enhanced by a natural or informal gardening scheme. As an ocean view is often the dominant feature of the site, thoughtful consideration must be given to the impact the view creates within the garden. In brilliant seaside sunshine, and within the pearly gray light of summer fogs, flower colors can be especially vibrant. Blues, which are invaluable in any garden, are particularly useful here in reflecting and connecting with the distant hues of water and sky and in playing against evergreen foliage. The silver-gray foliage of some plants picks up the bleached colors of the shore; the branches trembling in the sea breeze reflect the dappled light of sunshine on waves.

For many, the thought of gardening by the sea seems hopeless. The need for education on plants that will tolerate wind, salt spray and other common problems associated with planting by the sea has greatly increased. Many know that ornamental grasses thrive in these situations, but there are many other perennials that do well.

## Planting at the Shore

Here on Long Island we have an extremely porous, sandy soil. What grows in these conditions is tempered by the very sandy, quick-draining quality of the soil as well as by the effect of the sea itself.

The eastern coastal strip has its own peculiar individuality and charm greatly enhanced by the special vegetation that has evolved here and that should be the backbone of any landscape planting.

## Perennials for Seaside Gardens

**Achillea ‘Coronation Gold’, Yarrow:** Yellow flat flower heads; 2-3 feet tall; full sun; blooms in mid-summer to early fall.

**Achillea millefolium ‘Moonshine’, Yarrow:** Yellow flat flower heads; 2-3 feet tall; full sun; blooms in early summer to early fall.

**Achillea millefolium ‘Paprika’, Yarrow:** Orange-red flat flower heads; 2-3 feet tall; full sun; blooms in early to late summer.

**Alcea rosea, Hollyhock:** All colors; 4-8 feet tall; full sun; blooms mid to early summer.

**Allium ‘Purple Sensation’, Allium:** Purple, round flower head atop a tall green stem with long green foliage; 2-2½ feet tall; full sun; blooms in summer.

**Aquilegia formosa, Columbine:** Orange, yellow and red flowers; 3 feet tall; shade; blooms late spring to early summer.

**Armeria maritima, Sea Pink, Thrift:** Pink, round flower head; 1 foot tall, full sun, blooms spring to fall.

**Artemisia ludoviciana ‘Powis Castle’, Mugwort:** Silver/gray foliage plant, 3 feet tall, full sun, blooms in midsummer to early fall.

**Artemisia ludoviciana ‘Silver King’, Mugwort:** Silver/gray foliage plant, 2-3 feet tall, full sun, blooms in midsummer to early fall.

**Artemisia stelleriana ‘Silver Brocade’, Mugwort:** Silver/gray foliage, 2 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late summer to early fall.

**Asclepias tuberosa, Butterfly Weed:** Orange flower head, 2 feet tall, full sun, blooms in midsummer to early fall.

**Astilbe ‘Bridal Veil’, Astilbe:** White feather-like flowers, to 30 inches tall, shade, blooms in summer.

**Baptisia australis, False Indigo:** Small purple-blue flowers on tall green stalks, 3-4 feet tall, full or part sun, blooms in late spring.

**Calluna vulgaris, Heather:** Evergreen foliage; White, pink, lavender or rosy purple tiny flowers on short branches, to 12 inches tall, full sun, blooms in midsummer to late fall.

**Campanula persicifolia, Peach-leaved Bellflower:** White to lilac-blue bell shaped flowers, to 3 feet tall, full sun, blooms in early and midsummer.

**Chrysanthemum maximum, Shasta Daisy:** White daisy flower with a yellow center, 1-3 feet tall, full sun, blooms in early summer.

**Chrysanthemum nipponicum, Montauk Daisy:** White daisy flower with a yellow center, to 30 inches tall, full sun, blooms in fall.

**Campsis radicans, Trumpet Vine:** Vine; Orange or yellow trumpet shaped flowers, to 30 feet, sun or shade, blooms all summer.

**Clematis maximowicziana, Sweet Autumn Clematis:** Vine with small, star-shaped white flowers, to 30 feet, blooms very fragrant flowers in late summer into fall.

**Delphinium x elatum hybrids, Delphinium:** Blue, purple, lavender, pink, or white flowers on tall stalks, 3-6 feet tall, full sun, blooms in early summer.



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**Dianthus barbatus, Sweet William:**

White and pink flowers, 1-2 feet tall, full sun, usually biennial - completes its life cycle in 2 years, growing in the first year, and flowering and fruiting in the second. Blooms late spring and early summer.

**Echinops ritro, Globe Thistle:** Blue, round flower head, 2-4 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late summer.

**Eryngium giganteum, Sea Holly:** Steel-blue flower with dissected bracts (modified leaf at the base of a flower or flower head, petal-like), 3 feet tall, full sun, blooms in summer.

**Gaillardia x grandiflora 'Goblin', Blanketflower:** Yellow and red daisy flower with a dark brown center, 1 foot tall, full sun, blooms in summer.

**Gaura lindheimeri, White Gaura:** White 4 petal flowers on long wispy pink and green stems, 3-5 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late spring to early fall.

**Gypsophila repens, Creeping Baby's Breath:** Light pink, 5 petal, tiny and wispy flower on short stems, to 6 inches tall, full sun, blooms in early summer.

**Hemerocallis hybrid, Daylily:** All colors, 6 petal lily, 1-6 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late spring to late summer.

**Heuchera micrantha hybrids, Coral Bells:** Evergreen foliage; White, pink or red flowers atop dark red or green foliage, to 2 feet tall, full sun or part shade, flowers bloom in early summer.

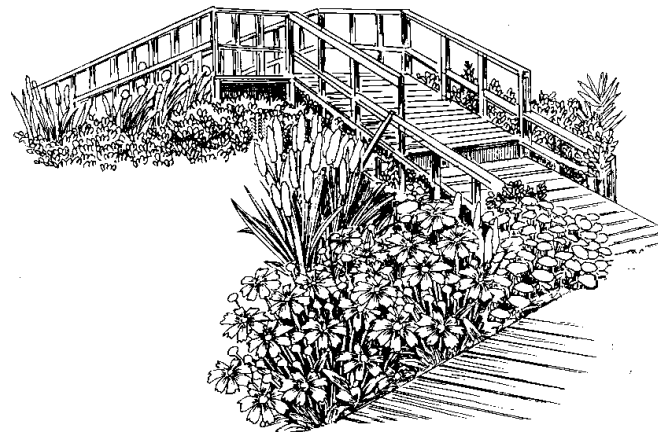
**Hibiscus moscheutos, Rose Mallow:**

Red, pink or white large flowers, 4-6 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late summer.

**Hosta species:** Green foliage plant that can be variegated with white or yellow on leaves, has lavender or white tall flowers, average height to 2-3 feet tall plus 1-2 feet with flower, shade, foliage all summer, flower blooms in early summer.

**Iberis sempervirens, Candytuft:**

Evergreen foliage, Low growing creeper with white flowers, 6-12 inches tall, full or part sun, blooms in spring.



**Kniphofia hybrids:** Orange and Yellow spike flowers, to 6 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late summer.

**Lavandula angustifolia, English Lavender:** Purple flowers atop silver stems, 1-3 feet tall, full sun, blooms in early summer.

**Liriope spicata, Creeping Lilyturf:** Low growing purple flowers on dense mat of grassy, dark green leaves; 10 inches tall, shade, blooms in late summer.

**Papaver orientale, Oriental poppy:** Orange and red colors, to 3 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late spring.

**Perovskia atriplicifolia, Russian Sage:** Tall, wispy flowers atop silver stems with silver foliage, 3-5 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late summer.

**Phlox paniculata, Garden Phlox:** All colors, 2-4 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late summer.

**Phlox subulata, Moss Phlox / Creeping Phlox:** All colors, 2-6 inches tall, full sun, blooms in late spring to early summer.

**Rosa rugosa, Saltspray Rose:** All colors, 2-5 feet tall, full sun, blooms in summer to fall.

**Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm', Black-eyed Susan:** Yellow daisy flower with brown center, to 3 feet tall, full sun, blooms midsummer to fall.

**Santolina virens, Green Santolina:** Small, round, yellow flower heads on green, fragrant foliage; to 2 feet tall, full sun, blooms in summer.

**Sedum 'Autumn Joy', Stonecrop:** Dark pink/rust color flower head, thick, succulent green leaves, 2-3 feet tall, full sun, blooms in late summer and fall.

**Sedum acre, Goldmoss Sedum:** Tiny, star shaped yellow-green flowers, 2+ inches tall, full sun, blooms in late summer and fall.

**Sempervivum tectorum, Hens and Chicks:** Small green and red foliage plant that gets a small yellow flower, 1-4 inches tall, full sun, foliage throughout summer, flowers in late summer.

**Senecio cineraria, Dusty Miller:** Silver-gray foliage plant, to 2 feet tall, full sun, foliage all season.

**Stachys byzantina, Lamb's Ear:** Silver-gray foliage plant that gets an upright pink/purple flower stalk, 12-18 inches tall, full or part sun, blooms early summer to early fall.

**Wisteria sinensis, Chinese Wisteria:** Vine: Long, purple pendulous flowers; to 30 feet, full sun or part shade, blooms in late spring to early summer.

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