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## **New Delaware Riverkeeper Network brochure recommends native plants, buffers**

*Bristol, PA* – Fall is great time of year to plant native plants, especially trees and shrubs which are particularly important to the watershed because they shield the ground from heavy rains and slow runoff from the land. Those looking to add native plants to their yards or gardens this fall, but are not sure what to plant, may want to take a look at the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's new brochure, *20 Ways to Protect Streams & Streamside Properties*. This new full color brochure profiles 36 native plants to consider planting.

“With so many beautiful plants that are native to our area, it was difficult to narrow the selection to the 36 plants included in the brochure” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. van Rossum described the plant selection process which looked at the extent of the plant's range in the Delaware River watershed; likely success rate; adaptability; availability from nurseries; wildlife value and deer resistance. “We think the final list offers some great options for a variety of planting conditions,” she added.

“We felt the best way to encourage planting of these natives would be color photos showing the selected species at their best bloom, color and growth,” van Rossum explained. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network's new brochure display images of the plants at 1.5" x 3.25" with images the trees displayed at a slightly larger size. To prepare this brochure, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network drew upon the expertise of its own staff as well as contacts among native plant nurseries, some of which contributed plant images for the project.

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*20 Ways to Protect Streams & Streamside Properties* also highlights simple actions individuals can take—like planting native plants—to protect streams. Native plants, especially native trees and shrubs, are important to the watershed because they shield the ground from heavy rains and slow runoff from the land. Trees and shrubs also slowly release some of the water from the ground into the air through their root systems which helps cool the air in the hot summers and dry the ground after extended wet periods.

Plants native to the Delaware River watershed region are also ideally suited to survive the varied weather conditions through the seasons to come. They provide resiliency and beauty for the landscape, hold in the soil and guard against erosion, while serving as habitat for native birds, butterflies and other wildlife. In most cases they are easy to grow and it is a joy to watch them thrive.

Other simple practices highlighted in *20 Ways to Protect Streams & Streamside Properties*: Avoiding and controlling non-native invasive plants; Recycling yard waste and use it as mulch; Managing stormwater using rain barrels; and Bagging pet waste.

A limited number of print copies of this brochure are available, but it can be downloaded from the free resources section of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's website:

<http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/free-publications.asp>.

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