



Natural & Nature-Based Features

Scrub-Shrub



Description

Scrub-shrub upland areas are covered by woody vegetation generally less than 20 feet tall, typically where tree canopy was removed and the vegetation remains mostly woody shrubs and small trees. These vegetation features provide similar benefits to forests and woodlands although without a tall tree canopy. Scrub-shrub features can provide storm and flood mitigation, cleaner water, economic gains, and cultural traditions as ecosystem service benefits.

Multiple Benefits

- * Intercept and slowly release rainfall
- * Absorb and store floodwaters
- * Reduce bank erosion
- * Intercept air pollution
- * Regulate stream and air temperatures
- * Carbon storage

Scrub-Shrub Restoration Tips

- * Allow vegetation succession to forest
- * Connect scrub patches especially along streams and shorelines
- * Plant native trees similar to local forests
- * Provide layers of plant height between tree canopy and ground
- * Allow leaves and sticks to remain for healthy soil and infiltration
- * Remove and control invasive plants
- * Consult with arborist about tree health and care

Resources

[A Guide for Forestry Practices in the Chesapeake TMDL](#)

[VA Cooperative Extension Buffers Fact Sheet](#)

[Common Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of Virginia](#)



Water Quality BMPs

Land Retirement to Ag Open Space or Pasture
Mixed Open or CSS Mixed Open
Sheetflow to Vegetated Filter Strip or Conserved Open Space
Dry Swale



Community Rating System

Credit Potential

Scrub Shrub in Special Flood Hazard Areas

Scrub shrub areas do not typically earn credit in the CRS Program, unless the area shares additional NNBFs that could earn CRS credit.

For example, if the scrub shrub area is located within a tidal marsh, then it could potentially earn credits under **Activity 420: Open Space Preservation, Natural Functions Open Space, & Natural Shoreline Protection**.

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