



Native Trees and Shrubs

Know your natives! These favorites are often available as named cultivars, so it's important to do your research. Cultivars may vary in size, fruiting or flower color and may be more readily found in the horticulture trade. Pick the right plant for the right place in terms of light, moisture and size restrictions and these natives are sure to please.

***Aronia melanocarpa* – Black Chokeberry**

A vigorous, spreading shrub with clusters of bright white flowers in May that are brilliant against the glossy, dark green foliage. Attractive, glossy black berries follow in late summer and the leaves turn red, yellow and orange in the fall.

Height: 5' – 9' Light: Full sun Blooms: Clusters of white flowers
Spread: 4' – 8' Moisture: Medium Fruit/Seed: Edible black berries

***Asimina triloba* – Paw Paw**

Big, tropical-looking leaves, weird flowers in spring and edible, brown fruit that is eaten by many birds, small mammals, and humans make this a truly unusual native. Can be grown as a multi-stemmed large shrub or pruned to a small tree. Spreads slowly by suckers to form small colonies or thickets.

Height: 15' – 30' Light: Full sun to shade Blooms: Cup-shaped purple flowers
Spread: 15' – 20' Moisture: Medium to wet Fruit/Seed: Large, edible brown fruit

***Cephalanthus occidentalis* – Buttonbush**

Creamy white, ball-shaped flowers cover this shrub in August, inviting butterflies and pollinators to its irresistible nectar. Waterfowl like the nutlike seeds and many birds prefer it as a nesting site. Excellent in a rain garden or butterfly patch!

Height: 5' – 12' Light: Full sun to part shade Blooms: White, ball-shaped flowers
Spread: 4' – 8' Moisture: Medium to wet Fruit/Seed: Clustered nutlets

***Cercis canadensis* – Eastern Redbud**

This widely used tree is best known for its pinkish-purple flowers that bloom in early spring before the leaves appear. Often an understory tree in the woods, it requires a fair amount of sun to maintain a compact, regular habit for landscape planting. Heart-shaped leaves turn yellow in fall. For best results, redbuds should be planted in well-drained soil.

Height: 20' – 30' Light: Full sun to part shade Blooms: Pinkish-purple
Spread: 25' – 35' Moisture: Medium Fruit/Seed: Flat, bean-like seedpods

***Chionanthus virginicus* – Fringe Tree**

The fringe tree is a smaller sized tree that blooms in late spring to early summer with frothy clusters of scented white flowers. Lovely, olive-like blue fruits appear in fall if both male and female trees are present. With clear yellow fall color and a smaller mature size, it is well suited to the urban landscape.

Height: 8' – 10' Light: Full sun to part shade Blooms: White, dangling clusters
Spread: 10' – 18' Moisture: Medium Fruit/Seed: Round, dark blue fruit

***Cornus florida* – Flowering Dogwood**

A very attractive, small to medium-sized tree with an abundance of white, flower-like bracts in early spring. Autumn brings bright red leaves and persistent fruit that winter birds love, making this a great garden specimen year-round.

Height: 15' – 30' Light: Full sun to shade Blooms: Showy white bracts
Spread: 15' – 30' Moisture: Medium Fruit/Seed: Clusters of glossy red fruit

***Ilex verticillata* – Winterberry Holly**

This deciduous holly makes a bright and beautiful display of berries from September into the winter – or until the birds demolish them! A slow-growing shrub that makes a great hedge. Male and female plants are needed for fruiting.

Height: 6' – 10' Light: Full sun Blooms: Small, greenish-white flowers
Spread: 4' – 8' Moisture: Medium to wet Fruit/Seed: Tightly clustered red berries

***Juniperus virginiana* – Eastern Red Cedar**

This upright evergreen has a distinctive fragrance when crushed and small, berrylike, blue cones in late summer on the female plants. In addition to a fondness for the fruit, birds love nesting in the dense branches year-round.

Height: 30' – 65' Light: Full sun Blooms: Inconspicuous
Spread: 8' – 25' Moisture: Medium to dry Fruit/Seed: Small, dark blue cones

***Lindera benzoin* – Spicebush**

Fragrant, yellow-green flowers appear in early spring before the leaves emerge. Aromatic, light green leaves turn deep yellow to gold in fall. If male and female plants are present, small, brilliant red fruits appear in autumn – and birds love them!

Height: 6' – 12' Light: Full sun to part shade Blooms: Tiny, greenish-yellow flowers
Spread: 6' – 12' Moisture: Medium Fruit/Seed: Bright red fruit

***Physocarpus opulifolius* – Ninebark**

Clusters of pinkish-white flowers attract butterflies from May to June and are followed by reddish fruit clusters that birds eat. Winter interest is provided by the peeling bark that exposes the reddish to light brown inner wood.

Height: 5' – 8' Light: Full sun to part shade Blooms: Pinkish-white flower clusters
Spread: 4' – 6' Moisture: Dry to medium Fruit/Seed: Drooping red fruit clusters

***Nyssa sylvatica* – Black Gum**

This easy-to-grow tree is very adaptable but prefers to be grown in moist soil and will happily grow in standing water. If both male and female trees are present, small, dark blue fruits arrive in fall along with vibrant scarlet foliage.

Height: 30' – 50' Light: Full sun – part shade Blooms: Inconspicuous
Spread: 20' – 30' Moisture: Wet to Medium Fruit/Seed: Edible but sour, dark blue fruit

***Viburnum prunifolium* – Blackhaw Viburnum**

The blackhaw viburnum is a spring-blooming shrub with white flowers that yield clusters of blue-black drupes that birds, other wildlife and humans can eat. Fall color is a dramatic mix of red and purple.

Height: 12' – 15' Light: Full sun – part shade Blooms: White
Spread: 6' – 12' Moisture: Medium to dry Fruit/Seed: Edible, blue-black berries

For more information and additional suggestions, search the Native Plant Database at

<http://grownative.org/native-plant-info/plant-picker/>.