

# Native Plant Society of New Jersey

[www.npsnj.org](http://www.npsnj.org)

## Recommended Native Trees and Shrubs

(For a complete list see our website)

### Why Use Native Plants?

Native plants are adapted to the growing conditions, soils, and climate of their natural range. They have integrated into the ecology of their natural range and have evolved relationships with birds, mammals, insects and soil micronutrients. All the following recommendations offer wildlife support in the form of food and/or habitat.

### Trees Preferring Moist Soil

***Acer rubrum*: Red Maple** to 100' tolerant of flooding, shade, wide range of moisture & pH major forest tree

***Acer saccharinum*: Silver Maple** to 90' fast growing tolerates flood plains, prefers moist soil, low pH, but not high winds

***Betula nigra*: River Birch** to 90' usually forms clumps, grows on flood prone lands, tolerant of extremely low pH

***Chamaecyparis thyoides*: Atlantic White Cedar** to 75' evergreen, feathery foliage, tolerant of flooding, muck soils, low pH

***Fraxinus spp.* Ash F.Americana White ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Green ash**, to 75' tolerant of flooding, drought, soil compaction and wide range of pH

***Nyssa sylvatica*: Black Tupelo or Sourgum** to 90' slow-growing, exes on separate trees

***Pinus strobus*: Eastern White Pine** to 110' prefers sun, although somewhat shade tolerant, fast growing on moist, well drained soils

***Platanus occidentalis*: American Sycamore** to 150' pioneer on moist soil handsome brown & white bark prefers riverside locations

***Populus tremuloides*: Quaking Aspen** tolerant of pollutants and poor soils, pioneer on moist soil fast growing mid-range pH

***Quercus bicolor*: Swamp White Oak** to 70' moderately flood tolerant out of growing season, moist to wet soil. Oaks are a major food source for many animals.

***Quercus palustris*: Pin Oak** to 70' moderately flood tolerant, tolerant of nutrient poor, poorly drained acid soil, but has wide range of tolerance to pH and moisture

***Thuja occidentalis*: Northern White Cedar** evergreen moist to wet soil, swamps, preferred by deer

### Trees Tolerating Drier Soil

***Acer saccharum*: Sugar Maple** to 100' very shade tolerant, drought tolerant, long lived, slow growing, famous for vivid fall color

***Betula allegheniensis*: Yellow Birch** to 80' usually in mountain areas moist, well drained, fertile loam soils often found in moist woods

***Betula lenta*: Black or Sweet Birch** to 70' tolerant of drought, fast growing in moist, well drained soils often found in moist woods

***Carpinus caroliniana*: Hornbeam / Ironwood** to 30' often multi-stem, under story tree moist, well drained soils often found in moist woods

***Carya cordiformis*: Bitternut Hickory** to 90' moderately tolerant of flooding, drought,

- Carya glabra*: Pignut Hickory** to 90' drought tolerant, slow growing, long lived, rich moist soils, found on dry woods & slopes
- Cary ovata*: Shagbark Hickory** to 90' drought tolerant, slow growing, long lived, rich moist soils important **shade tree of local woods**
- Carya tomentosa*: Mockernut Hickory** to 80' drought tolerant, slow growing, long-lived, dry to moist soils
- Cornus florida*: Flowering Dogwood** to 40' moist well drained soil, do not plant too many of these in one location because they have been succumbing to anthracnose disease, still worth a try in ideal conditions
- Fagus grandiflora*: American Beech** to 90' very shade tolerant. Slow growing, moist soil **dominant upslope forest trees**
- Fraxinus Americana*: White Ash** to 80' moderately tolerant of drought, flooding, soil compaction, fast growing on moist, fertile
- Juglans nigra*: Black Walnut** to 100' fast growing on deep, well drained soils
- Juniperus virginiana*: Eastern Cedar** to 60' evergreen, frequent in local woods, must be fenced lowest 4' will be browsed by deer.
- Liriodendron tulipifera*: Tulip Tree** to 120' fast growing on moist, loose, well drained soils
- Prunus serotina*: Wild Black Cherry** to 75' tolerates acid, infertile soil, often a pioneer on fill

### Trees Needing Moist Soil

- Quercus alba*: White Oak** 75' slow growing, long lived, somewhat drought and shade tolerant major forest tree
- Quercus coccinea*: Scarlet Oak** to 75' long lived, drought tolerant, grows in dry uplands
- Quercus velutina*: Black Oak** to 80' slow growing, long lived drought tolerant, tolerate rocky slopes major forest tree
- Quercus prinus*: Chestnut Oak** to 70' slow growing, long lived, very drought tolerant occurs dry rocky slopes
- Quercus rubra*: Red Oak** to 90' slow growing, long lived, does best on deep, moist, well-drained soils major forest tree
- Sassafras albidum*: Sassafras** to 40' forms colonies, pioneer of disturbed areas
- Tilia Americana*: American Linden/Basswood** to 80' somewhat shade tolerant

### Recommended Shrubs for New Jersey

Many of the following are attractive to birds, butterflies, and other animals

#### Shrubs Preferring Moist Soil

- Alnus incana*: Speckled Alder** to 15' wet soil, marshes
- Alnus serrulata*: Smooth Alder** to 16' pond edges, marshes
- Aronia arbutifolia*: Red Chokeberry** to 6' white flowers, Apr/May persistent red fruit, Sept/Oct swamps, wet woods
- Aronia melanocarpa*: Black Chokeberry** to 6' white flowers, May/June black fruit, Aug/Sept swamps, wet woods
- Cephalanthus occidentalis*: Buttonbush** to 9' white flowers in ball shaped clusters, July/Aug fruit dry open locations saturated soil pond edges
- Clethra alnifolia*: Sweet Pepperbush** to 8' white, fragrant flowers July/Aug moist to wet woods, stream banks spreads not preferred by deer

- Cornus amomum*: Silky Dogwood** to 9' clusters of white flowers June blue/white fruit, Aug./Sept swamps, pond edges will adapt to drier conditions spreads
- Cornus sericea* (=stolonifera): Red-twig Dogwood** (=Red Osier Dogwood) clusters of white flowers, May/June white fruit, Aug/Sept moist woods, edges will adapt to drier conditions spreads not preferred by deer
- Leucothoe fontanesiana*s: Fetterbush or Drooping Leucothoe** to 12' wide, 3' high. fragrant white flowers, and May/June evergreen swamp forests. Prefers acidic soil high in organic matter.
- Ilex glabra*: Inkberry** to 6' tiny white flowers June black fruit (females only) Sept/Oct evergreen not preferred by deer
- Ilex laevigata*: Smooth Winterberry** to 9' small white flowers, June red fruit (females only) Oct
- Ilex verticillata*: Winterberry** to 15' small white flowers, June persistent red fruit (females only), Sept/Oct wet soil a preference
- Lindera benzoin*: Spicebush** to 15' shade tolerant, lots of small yellow flowers, March/April, red fruit (females), Sept/Oct, moist forests, not preferred by deer
- Physocarpus opulifolius*: Ninebark** to 10' white flowers May-July, sandy soil
- Rhododendron viscosum*: Swamp Azalea** to 6' fragrant white flowers, June-July, Aug. open swamps, wet edges
- Salix spp.*: various Willows**, but not weeping all to about 15' in wet conditions
- Spiraea alba and latifolia*: Meadowsweet and Hardhack** to about 5' in open meadows
- Vaccinium spp. V corymbosum*: Highbush Blueberry** to 9' moist well drained, acidic, high in organic matter soils. Will also tolerate sandy acidic soils. Sun to partial shade. Edible fruit, important wildlife food.
- Viburnum alnifolium* Hobblebush** to 7', moist well drained, partial shade to shade. White flat cluster flower from summer to autumn.
- Viburnum cassinoides* Witherod Viburnum** to 12' moist to wet, sun to shade. Wide flat cluster flower in late spring

## Shrubs Tolerating Moist to Dry Soil

- Amelanchier Canadensis, A. laevis, A. arborea*: Serviceberry, Downy Shadblow** treeform to 25' white flowers, Apr., fruit relished by birds.
- Clethra alnifolia*, Summersweet**: to 8' white flowers, fragrant, July & August. Moist to wet, acidic soil, partial shade to sun.
- Comptonia perigrina*: Sweetfern** to 4'' open, sunny, dry, sterile soil deer hate this one, but it won't grow just anywhere
- Cornus alternifolia*: Pagoda Dogwood** clump form and tree-like to 18' appears at rich woods, squirrels and robins love the fruit
- Cornus racemosa*: Gray Dogwood** to 15' white flowers, blue fruit
- Cornus sericea*: Redtwig Dogwood** to 7' white flowers & berries, spreads, loves wet soil
- Corylus Americana*: American Hazelnut** to 9' tan catkins, edible nuts, open woods edges
- Eunonymus americanus*: Strawberry Bush** to 7' greenish purple flowers, May/June, red fleshy fruit, moist woods (Note: most *Eunonymus* are non native.)
- Gaylussacia baccata*: Black Huckleberry** to 3' white flowers, black fruit, this and two other Huckleberries (Dwarf & Tall) are a wildlife mainstay, deer leave these alone
- Hamamelis virginiana*: Witchhazel** to 25' yellow flowers, Sept/Nov, deer don't like this one
- Kalmia latifolia*: Mountain laurel** to 10' showy white flowers, deer love this one

***Rhododendron maximum***: Rosebay or Native Rhododendron to 30' white flowers deer love this one

***Rhododendron periclymenoides***: Pinkster Azalea to 6' showy pink flowers, Apr/May, moist woods

***Rhododendron viscosum***: Swamp Azalea:

***Rhus sp.***: various Sumacs 6-10' all good wildlife support, red fruit & fall

***Rubus sp.***: various Blackberry, Dewberry, Raspberry, thorny spreading in open areas, good source of food for wildlife

***Vaccinium angustifolium*** Low Sweet Blueberry, to 2,' dry to moist, must be well drained, acidic, infertile, rocky, or sandy soil. Requires sun for fruit.

***Viburnum acerfolium***: Mapleleaf Viburnum to 5' white flowers, blue/black fruit, very common in moist woods

***Viburnum dentatum***: Arrowwood to 10' white flowers, June/July, blue fruit, Aug-Oct., sun to partial shade

Although this is a pretty comprehensive list, there are many other valuable native plants for use in gardens and roadsides.

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Excerpts from:

*Native Plants for Metropolitan New York Natural Areas*, by Margaret B. Gargiullo, Ph.D.

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