Native Plant Society of New Jersey  
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 Sour gum 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

**Carya 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

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**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

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**Recommended Shrubs for New Jersey**

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

**Shrubs Prefering 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 fontanesianas**: 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

**Spirea 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** Withrod 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 Shadbrow 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

**Kalnina 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 augustifolium** 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. Gargiulllo, Ph.D.

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