



A Dozen 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 and the leaves turn red, yellow and orange in the fall.

<u>Height:</u>	5' – 9'	<u>Light:</u>	Full sun	<u>Blooms:</u>	Clusters of white flowers
<u>Spread:</u>	4' – 8'	<u>Moisture:</u>	Medium	<u>Fruit/Seed:</u>	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.

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

cephalanthus occidentalis - buttonbush

Creamy white, ball-shaped flowers cover this shrub in August, inviting butterflies and beneficial insects 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!

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

<u>Height:</u>	20' – 30'	<u>Light:</u>	Full sun to part shade	<u>Blooms:</u>	Pinkish-purple
<u>Spread:</u>	25' – 35'	<u>Moisture:</u>	Medium	<u>Fruit/Seed:</u>	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.

<u>Height:</u>	8' – 10'	<u>Light:</u>	Full sun to part shade	<u>Blooms:</u>	White, dangling clusters
<u>Spread:</u>	10' – 18'	<u>Moisture:</u>	Medium	<u>Fruit/Seed:</u>	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.

<u>Height:</u>	15' – 30'	<u>Light:</u>	Full sun to shade	<u>Blooms:</u>	Showy white bracts
<u>Spread:</u>	15' – 30'	<u>Moisture:</u>	Medium	<u>Fruit/Seed:</u>	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.

<u>Height:</u>	6' – 10'	<u>Light:</u>	Full sun	<u>Blooms:</u>	Small, greenish-white flowers
<u>Spread:</u>	4' – 8'	<u>Moisture:</u>	Medium to wet	<u>Fruit/Seed:</u>	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.

<u>Height:</u>	30' – 65'	<u>Light:</u>	Full sun	<u>Blooms:</u>	Inconspicuous
<u>Spread:</u>	8' – 25'	<u>Moisture:</u>	Medium to dry	<u>Fruit/Seed:</u>	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!

<u>Height:</u>	6' – 12'	<u>Light:</u>	Full sun to part shade	<u>Blooms:</u>	Tiny, greenish-yellow flowers
<u>Spread:</u>	6' – 12'	<u>Moisture:</u>	Medium	<u>Fruit/Seed:</u>	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.

<u>Height:</u>	5' – 8'	<u>Light:</u>	Full sun to part shade	<u>Blooms:</u>	Pinkish-white flower clusters
<u>Spread:</u>	4' – 6'	<u>Moisture:</u>	Dry to medium	<u>Fruit/Seed:</u>	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 can actually grow in standing water. If both male and female trees are present, small, dark blue fruits arrive in fall along with vibrant scarlet foliage.

<u>Height:</u>	30' – 50'	<u>Light:</u>	Full sun – part shade	<u>Blooms:</u>	Inconspicuous
<u>Spread:</u>	20' – 30'	<u>Moisture:</u>	Wet to Medium	<u>Fruit/Seed:</u>	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.

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

For more information and additional suggestions, see the Native Plant Database at <http://grownative.org/native-plant-info/plant-picker/>.