

A SELECTION OF TREES AND SHRUBS NATIVE TO WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA FOR LANDSCAPE USE

By using plants native to the Allegheny Plateau in our landscapes and gardens, we fortify our ecosystem by providing food and habitat for our native wildlife which in turn helps sustain our own lives. Not only are native trees and shrubs essential providers of food and shelter to our wildlife, they are the essential providers of clean air and water, capture storm water runoff preventing erosion, mitigate temperature extremes, and overall they create an environment that sustains and recharges the human soul.

Diversity of plant species is also of utmost importance because different species of flora sustain larger numbers of animals in the food chain, and are an added protection against environmental challenges such as extremes of weather or pest related incidents. Not all species will succumb to an environmental onslaught.

The trees and shrubs listed were chosen because of their excellent horticultural and environmental qualities and are most easily obtained in the trade. There are many other excellent tree species not mentioned because they are very difficult to find in the nursery trade. Try to purchase specimens grown in northern nurseries to insure the first few winters survival. For proper planting technique and maintenance refer to the AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE 'S " A 300 STANDARDS FOR TREE CARE " or TREEVITALIZE.org or <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/uh143.pdf>. And please NO VOLCANO MULCHING DIRECTLY NEXT TO THE TREE TRUNKS. This creates a breeding area for insects and rodents to chew away at the bark eventually causing disease conditions for the tree. Remember that trees in the forest have survived centuries without direct mulching. MKB

This tree and shrub list was prepared by Alan Banks, landscape architect, and Steve Miller and Greg Paige of Bartlett Tree Experts and edited by Sally Foster and Marilyn Bruschi, members of the Garden Club of Allegheny County, a member of Garden Club of America.

NATIVE DECIDUOUS PENNSYLVANIA TREES- LARGE -growing 40-100 feet tall, requires sun: zone 4 or 5

Quercus alba	White Oak Plant oaks about 100 feet apart from one another to keep roots apart, most important tree species in the Pennsylvania ecosystem
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak
Quercus rubra	Northern Red Oak
Acer rubrum	Red Maple
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple
Betula nigra	River Birch- " Heritage"- exfoliating bark, likes moist, acidic conditions, but performs in a variety of soil conditions, heat resistant
Fagus grandifolia	American Beech- avoid wet, compacted soil
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree, T. Jefferson's used multiples at Monticello
Magnolia acuminata	Cucumber Tree, wonderful large flowering tree though hard to find
Nyssa sylvatica	Black Gum or Black Tulepo, planted at the curb at Squaw Valley Park, OHara
Platanus occidentalis	American Sycamore- white bark
Ulmus americana	American Elm- use only blight resistant varieties such as Princeton, Valley Forge, New Harmony

NATIVE DECIDUOUS PENNSYLVANIA TREES- SMALL- growing 20-40 feet tall, sun or shade, fine in groups of three or more

Amelanchier arborea	Downy Serviceberry, Shadbush , multistemmed flowering and fruiting, part sun/ sun
Amelanchier canadensis	Shadblow Serviceberry, can be grown in moist sites
Amelanchier laevis	Allegheny Serviceberry
Carpinus caroliniana	American Hornbeam, ironwood or muscledwood- very adaptable in sun or part shade
Cercis Canadensis	Eastern Redbud- many varieties, beautiful pink flowers in early spring
Cornus alternifolia	Pagoda Dogwood, part shade
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood, magnificent in spring bloom before leafing out, needs moist, acid, well drained soil in partial shade, varieties such as Cherokee Chief, Cherokee Princess, Cloud Nine, First Lady, Rubra, etc. Also Rutgers hybrids.
Crataegus viridis	Green Hawthorne, “Winter King” notable red fruit
Oxydendrum arboreum	Sourwood, moist, well drained in humus rich soil, early summer flowering
Magnolia tripetala	Umbrella Magnolia, moist , well drained soil, creamy white flowers in late spring
Magnolia virginiana	Sweetbay Magnolia, moist, wonderful fragrant creamy white blooms in June

NATIVE EVERGREENS TREES – 40- 80+ ft

Ilex opaca	American Holly tree for moist, organic-laden, well drained areas in sun or part sun, prolific fruiting, many varieties, some shorter
Juniperus virginiana	Eastern Redcedar, tough and durable, great for screening, sun, avoid wet sites
Pinus resinosa	Red Pine, for dry, acid, gravelly sites, good as wind break

Pinus strobus	White Pine, beautiful billowy form, fast growing
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URBAN TREES- FOR USE IN DIFFICULT AREAS NEAR HEAT REFLECTING ASPHALT, SOME SALT TOLERANT

Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry, "Prairie Pride", will withstand harsh winds, moist or dry conditions, 40-60 feet tall
Cercis Canadensis	Eastern Redbud- good choice under power lines, grows 20-30 feet tall
Gleditsia triacanthos	Thornless Common Honeylocust, salt tolerant, adaptable to variety of soil conditions
Juniperus resinosa and virginiana	Eastern Redcedar, good for dry sites
Pinus rigida and Pinus resinosa	Red Pine, for use in exposed, dry, acid, sandy sites, good in groups for screening

NATIVE SHRUBS

Aralia spinosa	Devil's Walking Stick, use only as an aggressive ground cover
Aronia arbutifolia	Red Chokeberry- 6-8 Ft, "Brilliantissima", fall red fruiting and coloring, great for massing
Aronia melanocarpa	Black Chokeberry- var. elata, black berries, same as above
Calycanthus floridus	Eastern Sweetshrub or Carolina Allspice, 6-10 ft, wonderful large leaves and flowers in spring, sun or part shade
Ceanothus americanus	New Jersey Tea, white flowers in June, likes dry, infertile, sunny sites, 3-4ft tall, great for hillside groundcovers
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush, 3-10 Ft, can grow in very moist or marshy sites, flowering
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet, 3-8 ft, fragrant white or pink flowers late summer, moist, well drained, acid soil, sun to shade, great for massing, many varieties
Euonymus americanu	Stawberry Bush- 4-10 ft, wonderful seed pods, not deer resistant

NATIVE SHRUBS continue

Hamamelis virginiana	Witchhazel, part shade, 15-20 Ft, yellow fall blooming flowers
Hydrangea arborescens	Smooth Hydrangea, 3-5 ft, sun or shade, moist well drained soil, June flowering with large creamy white flowers, var pink variety "Annabelle," "Grandiflora," also new pink variety
Ilex glabra	Inkberry Holly, 6-8 ft, for sun or part shade, adaptable soil conditions, great for massing, good substitute for boxwood, var. "Nigra," "Nordic," "Shramrock"
Ilex verticillata	Common Winterberry, 6-10ft, deciduous with bright red fruit, sun, moist, acid, fertile soil, must have male plant for pollination to achieve fruiting, var. "Red Sprite," "Winter Red," great for mass planting
Itea virginica	Virginia Sweetspire, 3-5 ft, generally deciduous, prolific white fragrant showy white flowers in June, very adaptable to sun or shade, wet or dry soils, great for mass planting
Kalmia latifolia	Mountain Laurel, Pennsylvania state flower, 7-15 ft, beautiful flowering plant in May and June, part sun or shade, requires excellent drainage, acid soils, winter shade, many varieties
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush, 10 ft, for sun or shade, moist or drier sites, early bloomer, red fruit
Marella pennsylvanica or Myrica pennsylvanica	Northern Bayberry, 5-12 ft, good for clay soils, sun or shade, great for massing
Physocarpus opulifolius	Common Ninebark, 5-10 ft, exfoliating bark, deciduous, May flowering, very adaptable, vigorous, sun, great screening plant
Rhododendron maximum	Rosebay Rhododendron, 15-20 ft, June-July flowering, well drained, moist, organic laden acid soil, part sun or shade
Rhododendron periclymenoides	Pinxterbloom Azalea, 4-6 ft, May flowering, cultivation same as above

Rhus aromatic	Fragrant Sumac, 2-6 ft, flowering and fruiting, great for ground covering, sun or shade, adaptable soil conditions
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NATIVE SHRUBS continue	
Vaccinium angustifolium	Lowbush Blueberry, 1/2 -2 ft, requires acid soils and sun, summer fruiting,
Vaccinium corymbosum	Northern Highbush Blueberry, 8-12 ft, cultivation same as above
Viburnum acerifolium	Mapleleaf Viburnum, 4-6 ft, shade and drought tolerant, wonderful fall color, black fruit
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum, 6-8 ft, dark blue fruit in fall, excellent fall color, salt tolerant, good for screening under utility lines
Viburnum dilatatum	Linden Viburnum, 8-10 ft, scarlet red fruit in fall, as well as fall leaf color
Viburnum nudum	Winterthur Viburnum, 10 ft, lovely lustrous leaves. white flowers, fall color
Viburnum prunifolium	Blackhaw Viburnum, 12-15 ft, blackish fruit, very adaptable

For further information consult the following books:

“Bringing Nature Home” by Douglas Tallamy- will change your life!

“Dirr’s Hardy Trees and Shrubs” by Michael Dirr

“Native Plants of the Northeast” by Donald J. Leopold

“Trees of Pennsylvania and the Northeast” by Charles Fergus

“A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants” by Judith D. Zuk