

# Native Plant Materials

**N**ative shrubs and trees are the species that existed in this area before man's activities dominated the natural landscape, or long ago became naturalized within the checks and balances of natural systems. Over the past several hundred years, humans have imported or bred plants to suit their cultural, aesthetic, and environmental needs. A number of species have escaped from cultivated gardens or were planted intentionally into natural areas for wildlife benefit, only to cause havoc in the local ecosystem. Usurping the native plant communities, these invasive exotics create areas of little diversity—in some cases, monocultures. While some of these plants do provide benefits to wildlife, the long-range results are natural areas that cannot provide diverse nutritional and structural needs of wildlife and that are aesthetically unpleasing.

As invasives increase in number and volume of seed source, land managers face an ever-growing challenge to preserve native plant communities and their associated wildlife. To speed the restoration of affected areas, it is helpful to plant desirable species following the removal of invasives. It is imperative that the mistakes of the past (intentionally planting invasive species) not be repeated—even though the use of some invasives is still promoted by federal agencies.

The following lists highlight a number of native plant materials which meet the needs (aesthetically pleasing, wildlife benefit) of home gardeners and professional land managers, and are generally available through local nurseries and suppliers. Plants grown from local seed sources or taken as cuttings from existing native plants found on the site, are preferable as they are best adapted to the soil and climatic conditions of the area.



# Large Trees

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'-60', Spread: same Habit is pyramidal in youth and rounded with age. Tolerant of most soils, but prefers slightly acid, moist conditions. Naturally occurs in wet area. Excellent fall color.	Buds, flowers, and leaves provide food for many birds and mammals. Chipmunks and squirrels eat seeds and some songbirds use twigs for nest building.
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	silver maple	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 50'-70', Spread: 40'-50' Has strong spreading branches which form a rounded crown. Tolerant of many soil types. One of the best trees for poor soils and wet conditions. Use of this tree should be limited to areas free of buildings and heavy human use as it is prone to internal decay and subsequent loss of branches. Provides fast shade.	See red maple.
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	sugar maple	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'-70', Spread: 40'-50' Upright oval to rounded habit. Prefers moist, well drained soils. Tolerates some shade.	See red maple.
<i>Betula nigra</i>	river birch	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'-70', Spread: 40'-60' Pyramidal in youth and rounded with age. Often grown multistemmed. Best adapted to moist soils. Used in areas that are alternately wet and dry.	Catkins are used by redpolls and pine siskins. Foliage is used by browsers.
<i>Betula lenta</i>	sweet birch	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'-55'+, Spread: 35'-45' Pyramidal in youth, forming an irregular, rounded, sometimes wide-spreading crown at maturity. Best in deep, rich, moist, slightly acid soils, however, often found on rocky, drier sites. Flowers are catkins, 2" - 3" long. Yellow leaves in fall are best among birches.	See river birch.
<i>Carya ovata</i>	shagbark hickory	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'-80', Spread: 40'-60' Straight trunk with an oblong crown. Bark breaks up in thin plates. Difficult to transplant, start as seedling. Good for woodland border.	Leaves are used by browsers. Nuts are also consumed by deer, turkey, foxes, wood ducks, and squirrels.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	common hackberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'-60', Spread: same In youth weakly pyramidal; in old age the crown is a broad top of ascending-arching branches. Medium to fast growth. Prefers rich, moist soils, but grows in dry, heavy, or sandy, rocky soils; withstands acid or alkaline conditions; moderately wet or very dry areas; tolerates wind; full sun. Fruit is fleshy, orange to dark purple, ripening in September to October. Leaves are yellow to yellow-green in fall. Useful tree for adverse growing conditions.	Fruit is popular with winter birds, especially cedar waxwing, mockingbird, and robin.
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American beech	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 50'-70'+, Spread: same Often has short trunk with wide-spreading crown. Likes moist, well drained soils. Does best in full sun, but tolerates shade.	Beechnuts are eaten by birds and mammals and are important food for chipmunks and squirrels.
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	white ash	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 50'-80', Spread: same Pyramidal in youth and later developing an open rounded crown. Grows best on deep, well drained soils and full sun.	Moderate importance to wildlife. Seeds eaten by wood ducks, finches, and cardinals.
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	red ash	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 50'-60'+, Spread: 25'-30' Pyramidal in youth, developing upright, spreading habit at maturity. Grows quickly in full sun and in a wide range of soil conditions. Naturally found on moist bottomlands	See white ash.
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	common honeylocust	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 30'-70', Spread: same Usually has short trunk with open, oval crown. Fast grower. Withstands a wide range of conditions but prefers rich, moist bottomlands.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	black walnut	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 50'-75', Spread: same Well-formed trunk with an oval crown. Prefers rich, moist soils. Often found on bottomlands. Difficult to transplant; should be started as seedling. Produces toxins which are poisonous to many plants giving it an advantage in open field situations but creating problems for gardeners.	Nuts are eaten by woodpeckers, foxes, and squirrels.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	eastern redcedar	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'-50', Spread: 8'-20' Densely pyramidal when young and slightly pendulous in old age. Medium rate of growth. Tolerant of adverse conditions. Prefers deep, moist soils. Will tolerate shade only in youth. Handsome reddish brown bark. Produces small cones. Useful for windbreaks, shelter belts, hedges.	Twigs and foliage eaten by browsers. Seeds are eaten most extensively by cedar waxwings. Evergreen foliage provides nesting and roosting cover for sparrows, robins, mockingbirds, juncos, and warblers.
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	American sweetgum	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'-75'+, Spread: 40'-50' Pyramidal in youth, rounded crown at maturity. Likes deep, moist, acid soils. Occurs naturally on bottomlands.	Goldfinches and purple finches eat winged seeds.
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tuliptree	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 70'-90', Spread: 30'-50' Long, straight trunk with a narrow canopy. Fast grower. Plant in full sun and a well drained loam. Wood somewhat weak.	Moderate wildlife importance. The purple finch and cardinal are principal users.
<i>Myssa sylvatica</i>	black gum	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 30'-50', Spread: 20'-30' Pyramidal in youth and irregularly crowned at maturity. Prefers moist, well drained, acid soils. Full sun or semi-shade. Deep taproot.	Fruit is relished by many songbirds. Users include wood ducks, robins, woodpeckers, thrashers, flickers, and mockingbirds.
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	eastern white pine	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 50'-80'+, Spread: 20'-40'+ Pyramidal in youth, crown at maturity has several horizontal and ascending branches. Fast grower. Grows best on fertile, well drained soils but is very adaptable.	Provides valuable cover and nesting sites for songbirds and mammals. Needles are used as nesting material. Seeds are eaten by quail, chickadees, grosbeaks, nuthatches, and woodpeckers.
<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 100', Spread: 50'-80' Pyramidal in youth, becoming broad and rounded with wide spreading branches. Transplant as small tree. Prefers moist, well drained soils. Difficult to obtain from nurseries. Sometimes available as seedling.	Oaks, in general, are of major importance to wildlife. Acorns are at the top of the food preference list for wood ducks, pheasants, grackles, jays, nuthatches, thrushes, woodpeckers, rabbits, foxes, squirrels, and deer.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'-70', Spread: 25'-40' Strongly pyramidal with ascending branches. One of the faster growing oaks. Full sun. Tolerates wet soils but is adaptable to many soil types.	See white oak.
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	red oak	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'-75'+, Spread: 40'-50' Habit is round-topped and symmetrical. Full sun. Prefers loamy, well drained soils. Fast growing.	See white oak.
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American linden	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'-80', Spread: 35'-50' Pyramidal in youth, assuming a rounded shape with age. Full sun or part shade. Prefers deep, moist soils, but is tolerant of heavier soils.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	eastern hemlock	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'-70', Spread: 25'-35' Pyramidal in youth becoming more pendulous with age. Likes moist, well drained soils. Plant in sheltered area. Tolerates shade. Relatively fast growing. Excellent for screens, hedges.	Provides excellent cover for deer and songbirds. Nesting site for several warblers. Seeds are eaten by juncos, chickadees, and siskins.

## Small Trees / Large Shrubs

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	shadbush or shadblow serviceberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 6'-20', Spread: 10' Erect stems, often clumped. Blends well on the forest edge.	Important berry producer during the early summer months. Fruit eaten by crows, bluebirds, cardinals, and tanagers. Foliage used by browsers.
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	eastern redbud	Piedmont	Height: 20'-30', Spread: 25'-35' Small tree with rounded crown. Likes moist, well drained soils. Full sun to light shade.	Limited wildlife value.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	white fringetree	Coastal Plain	Height: 12'-20', Spread: same Open habit, often wider than high. Prefers moist, fertile soils and full sun.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Cornus florida</i>	flowering dogwood	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 20', Spread: 15'-20' Small tree with flat-topped crown. Place in well drained soil. Full sun to partial shade. Has character in all four seasons.	Fruit is an important source for songbirds including evening grosbeak, cardinals, robins and cedar waxwings.
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	common witchhazel	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 20'-30', Spread: 20'-25' Small tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Prefers moist soils in full sun or partial shade.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 15'-30', Spread: 18'-25' Dense, pyramidal in youth, opening up with age. Plant in moist, well drained soil. Full sun or partial shade. Use one male for every three females.	Used extensively by many songbirds including thrushes, mockingbirds, catbirds, bluebirds, and thrashers. Foliage provides cover for songbirds and mammals.
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	sweetbay magnolia	Coastal Plain	Height: 10'-20', Spread: same Multi-stemmed, open shrub. Likes wet, acid soils. Tolerates shade.	Wildlife value is low. Seeds are eaten by some mammals and birds. Foliage is used by several birds for nest building.
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	nannyberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 15'-18', Spread: 6'-10' Shrub or small tree with open habit. Adapts to a wide range of soil conditions. Sun or partial shade.	See southern arrow-wood.
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	blackhaw viburnum	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 12'-15', Spread: 8'-12' Round-headed tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Adaptable to many soil types. Sun or shade.	See southern arrow-wood.

# Shrubs

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	red chokeberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 6'-10', Spread: 3'-5' Upright multi-stemmed shrub, somewhat open and rounded. Adaptable to many soil types. Full sun to half shade.	Fruit eaten by grouse, chickadees, and other songbirds.
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	black chokeberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	See red chokeberry.	See red chokeberry.
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	summersweet clethra	Coastal Plain	Height: 3'-8', Spread: 4'-6' Oval, round-topped, erect, dense, leafy shrub. Transplant into moist organic soils. Full sun or shade. Good plant for wet areas and heavy shade.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	silky dogwood	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 10'-15', Spread: 10'-15' Erect, multi-stemmed shrub with short spreading branches. Suckers profusely and forms large colonies. Very adaptable, withstanding wet or dry soils, but prefers moist, well drained conditions. Full sun or shade.	High wildlife value for fruit and browse. Used by a wide variety of mammals and songbirds, including cardinals, evening grosbeaks, robins, thrush, vireos, and cedar waxwings.
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	inkberry	Coastal Plain	Height: 6'-8', Spread 8'-10' Upright, multi-branched, rounded shrub. Prefers moist, acid soils.	Berries used by a wide variety of wildlife.
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	winterberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 6'-10', Spread: same Oval, rounded, deciduous shrub holly. Tends to form multi-stemmed clumps. Does well in light and heavy soils. Prefers moist, organic soils. Red fruit is beautiful in winter. A male plant is necessary for fertilization.	Used extensively by many songbirds, particularly thrushes, mockingbirds, robins, bluebirds, and thrashers.
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweetspire	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 3'-5', Spread: 6'-8' Erect shrub with clustered branches. Prefers moist, fertile soils. Full sun or shade. Suited for wet areas. Excellent fall color.	Fruit capsules are used by some songbirds.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	mountain laurel	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 7'-15', Spread: same Large, robust shrub, becomes open with age. Requires moist, well drained soils in full sun or shade.	Mammals eat foliage and twigs. Utilized extensively by mammals and birds for winter shelter.
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	northern bayberry	Coastal Plain	Height: 5'-12', Spread: same Tends to sucker to form large colonies. Deciduous to semi-evergreen. Upright, rounded, dense shrub. Adaptable to many soil conditions, including poor soils. Full sun to partial shade.	Fruit is eaten by a variety of birds in small quantities including tree swallows and myrtle warblers.
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	rosebay rhododendron	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 4'-10', Spread: same Rounded, evergreen shrub. Plant in moist, well drained soil. Prefers partial shade.	Limited wildlife value except as browse for deer and winter cover for songbirds.
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	pinxter-flower	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 4'-6', Spread: 6'-8' Multi-stemmed, stoloniferous shrub. Adapted to dry, sandy, rocky soils. Useful for naturalizing.	Limited wildlife value except as browse for deer and grouse
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	highbush blueberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 6'-12', Spread: 8'-12' Upright, multi-stemmed shrub with spreading branches. Requires moist, well drained soils. Full sun or light shade.	Used heavily by grouse, scarlet tanager, bluebirds, thrushes, and other songbirds.
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	maple-leaved viburnum	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 4'-6', Spread: 3'-4' Low, sparsely branched shrub. Adaptable to dry soils. Extremely shade tolerant.	Twigs are eaten by deer and rabbits. Fruit is used by grouse.
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	southern arrow-wood	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 6'-8', Spread: 6'-15' Multi-stemmed, dense, rounded shrub. Adaptable to most soil conditions, but prefers well drained. Suckers freely.	Used by grouse, brown thrasher, cedar waxwing, squirrels, and deer.



## Meadow Wildflowers

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	UPLAND OR WET MEADOW PREFERENCE
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Wet
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	Upland
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly-weed	Upland
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	Upland
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Turtlehead	Wet
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	Upland
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Joe-pye-weed	Wet
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe Pye-weed	Wet
<i>Helianthus decapetalus</i>	Thin-leaved Sunflower	Wet
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Spiked Gayfeather	Upland
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal-flower	Wet
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Lobelia	Wet
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee-balm	Wet
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	Upland
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue	Upland
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Eastern Coneflower	Wet
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	Upland
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Green-headed Coneflower	Wet
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Thin-leaved Coneflower	Upland
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed Grass	Wet
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	Early Goldenrod	Upland
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Gray Goldenrod	Upland
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy Goldenrod	Wet
<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	Blue-stemmed Goldenrod	Wet
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	Wet
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York Ironweed	Wet
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's-root	Wet
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	Wet



## Meadow Grasses

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	UPLAND OR WET MEADOW PREFERENCE
<i>Agrostis alba</i>	Redtop	Upland
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	Upland, Wet
<i>Andropogon virginica</i>	Broom-sedge	Upland
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wild-rye	Wet
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	Upland
<i>Schizacharium scoparium</i> ( <i>Andropogon scoparius</i> )	Little Bluestem	Upland
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian-grass	Upland
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	Purpletop	Upland



## Sources

### NURSERIES SPECIALIZING IN NATIVE PLANTS

David Brothers Bean Road Nursery  
P.O. Box 123  
Whitehall and Bean Roads  
Worcester, PA 19490  
610-584-1550

Natural Landscapes  
354 North Jennersville Road  
West Grove, PA 19380  
610-869-3788

North Creek Nurseries, Inc.  
388 North Creek Road  
Landenberg, PA 19350  
877-ECO-PLUG  
www.northcreeknurseries.com

Octoraro Native Plant Nursery  
6126 Street Road  
Kirkwood, PA 17536  
717-529-3160  
www.octoraro.com

Pinelands Nursery  
323 Island Road  
Columbus, NJ 08022  
609-291-9486  
www.pinelandsnursery.com

Redbud Native Plant Nursery  
1214 N. Middletown Road  
Glen Mills, PA 19342  
610-358-4300  
www.redbudnativeplantnursery.com

Sylva Native Nursery and  
Seed Company  
3815 Roser Road  
Glen Rock, PA 17327  
717-227-0486  
www.sylvanative.com

Temple University/Ambler Nursery  
580 Meetinghouse Road  
Ambler, PA 19002-3994  
215-283-1330  
(Wholesale only)

Yellow Springs Farm  
1165 Yellow Springs Road  
Chester Springs, PA 19425  
610-827-2014  
www.yellowspringsfarm.com

### OTHER NURSERIES THAT CARRY NATIVE PLANTS

Buddies Nursery  
P.O. Box 14  
Birdsboro, PA 19508  
610-582-2410

Moon Nurseries  
P.O. Box 672  
145 Moon Road  
Chesapeake City, MD 21915  
800-803-TREE  
www.moonnurseries.com

Musser Forests  
1880 Route 119 North  
Indiana, PA 15701  
800-643-8319  
www.musserforests.com  
(Seedlings only)

Princeton Nurseries  
P.O. Box 185  
Allentown, NJ 08501  
800-916-1776  
www.princetonnurseries.com

Shemin Nurseries  
P.O. Box 649  
100 Green Tree Road  
Oaks, PA 19456  
610-666-0595  
5191 Concord Road  
Aston, PA 19014  
610-358-0220  
1414 Wilmington Pike (US Rte 202)  
West Chester, PA 19382  
610-455-0540  
www.sheminnurseries.com  
(Wholesale only)



### WILDFLOWER SOURCES

Brandywine Conservancy  
Box 141  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
610-388-2700

Ernst Conservation Seeds  
9006 Mercer Pike  
Meadville, PA 16335  
800-873-3321  
www.ernstseed.com

Prairie Nursery  
P.O. Box 306  
Westfield, WI 53964  
800-476-9453  
www.prairienursery.com

Sandy Wilson  
Native Plants and Aquatic Nursery  
834 Church Road  
Harleysville, PA 19438  
610-584-6302

### ADDITIONAL SOURCES FOR GENERAL LISTS

*Guide to Pennsylvania Nursery Stock*  
Pennsylvania Nurserymen's  
Association, Inc.  
1924 North Second Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

New England Wild Flower  
Society, Inc.  
Garden in the Woods  
180 Hemenway Road  
Framingham, MA 01701  
508-877-7630

### INFORMATION SOURCES

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Michael Dirr  
Stipes Publishing Company, 1990

*American Wildlife and Plants:  
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Alexander C. Martin, et. al.  
Dover Publications, 1951

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Ann Fowler Rhoads and  
Timothy A. Block  
University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000



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