



Native Plants for Natural and Landscaped Areas





The purpose of these cards is to provide recommendations for native plants that can be used in natural area restoration and landscaping.

Additionally, these cards recommend which native plants can be used in place of invasive plants that are commonly found in Pennsylvania's landscape.

Native plants, meaning plants that have evolved over time in our region, are critically important for ecosystem health and the health of wildlife, including insects. Increasing the diversity and abundance of native plants can better support wildlife than a landscape with exotic plants. Additionally, native plants are adapted to our landscapes and ecosystems, meaning they are suitable for our environmental conditions, do not need fertilizers or other inputs, and can live in balance with other native plants to create diverse environments.



This material was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, under the administration of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.



red maple
Acer rubrum

red maple

Acer rubrum



ID Features

USES: canopy or understory tree, shade tree, forest restoration, riparian plantings

GROWTH HABIT: 40-120 feet tall

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist, occasionally wet to occasionally dry

FEATURES: fall color, adaptable to various soil moisture and light levels, fast growing, food source for small mammals

USE INSTEAD OF: Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*), bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

David Korbonits, Courtesy of Natural Lands

John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Robert L. Anderson, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



white oak and red oak
Quercus alba and *Quercus rubra*

white oak and red oak

Quercus alba and *Quercus rubra*



ID Features

USES: canopy tree, shade tree, forest restoration, riparian plantings (white oak)

GROWTH HABIT: white oak: 80-100 feet tall; red oak: 50-70 feet

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: dry to moist

FEATURES: excellent host for native caterpillars, acorns provide food source for wildlife, fall color

USE INSTEAD OF: Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), black oak (*Quercus velutina*), chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Barb Stevens, Courtesy of Natural Lands

David Korbonits, Courtesy of Natural Lands

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org



flowering dogwood
Cornus florida

flowering dogwood

Cornus florida



ID Features

USES: ornamental tree, understory tree

GROWTH HABIT: 15-25 feet tall, 15-30 feet wide

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist to occasionally dry

FEATURES: distinctive white flowers, food source for butterflies and specialized bees, food for birds and other wildlife

USE INSTEAD OF: Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Carolina silverbell (*Halesia carolina*), hawthorne (*Crataegus* spp.), serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Cody Hudgens, Courtesy of Natural Lands

Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

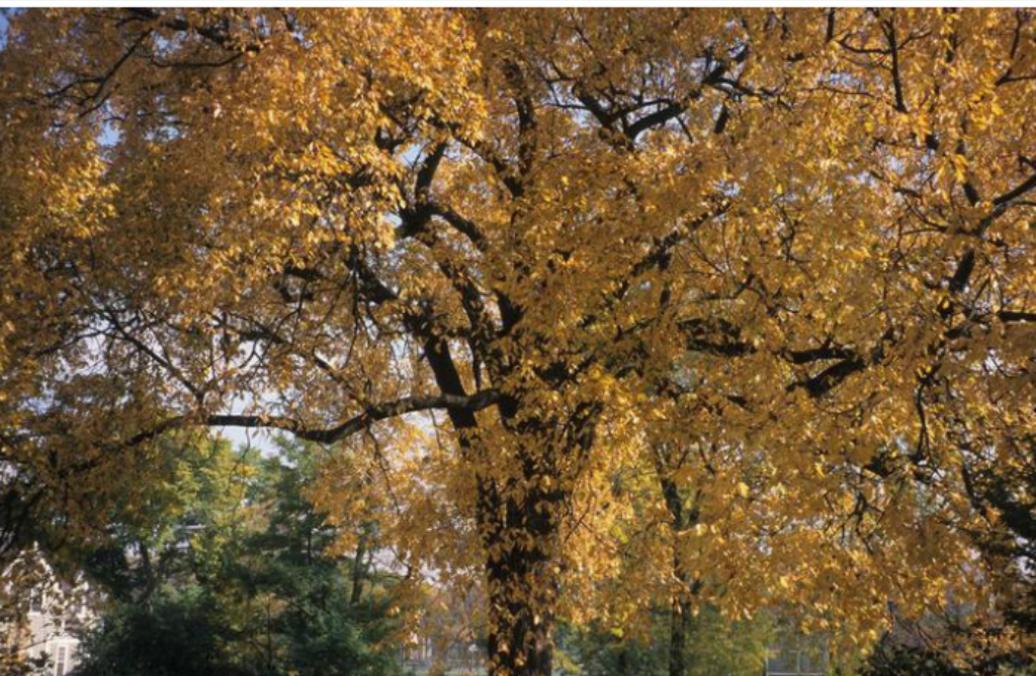


American elm and slippery elm
Ulmus americana and *Ulmus rubra*
disease resistant varieties

American elm and slippery elm

Ulmus americana and *Ulmus rubra*

disease resistant varieties



ID Features

USES: understory tree, riparian planting, street tree, shade tree

GROWTH HABIT: 60-80 feet tall, 30-60 feet wide; slippery elm: 40-70 feet tall, 30-50 feet wide; vase-shaped

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist, can tolerate occasionally dry or wet; found along streambanks and lowlands

FEATURES: host plant for butterflies, food source for birds and other small mammals

USE INSTEAD OF: Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: hawthorne (*Crataegus* spp.), serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)

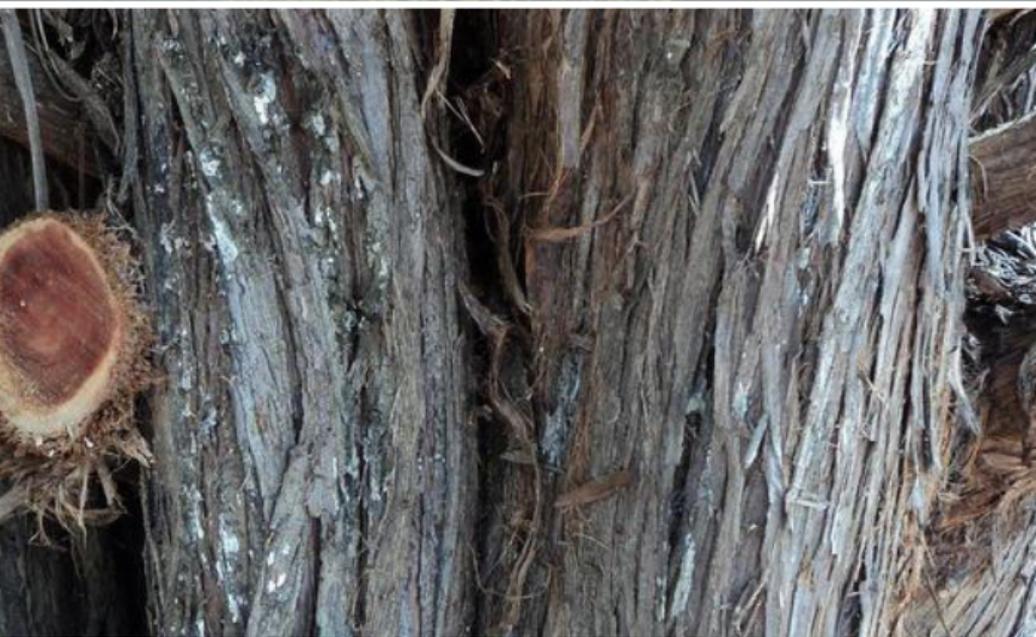
PHOTOGRAPHY

Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Richard Webb, Bugwood.org

Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



Eastern red-cedar
Juniperus virginiana

Eastern red-cedar

Juniperus virginiana



ID Features

USES: evergreen tree, buffer, screening, woodland restoration

GROWTH HABIT: 40-50 feet tall, 8-20 feet wide

SUN CONDITIONS: sun to shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: dry to moist

FEATURES: winter cover and interest, dusty blue fruit, food for wildlife, salt tolerant

USE INSTEAD OF: privet (*Ligustrum* spp.), non-native evergreens

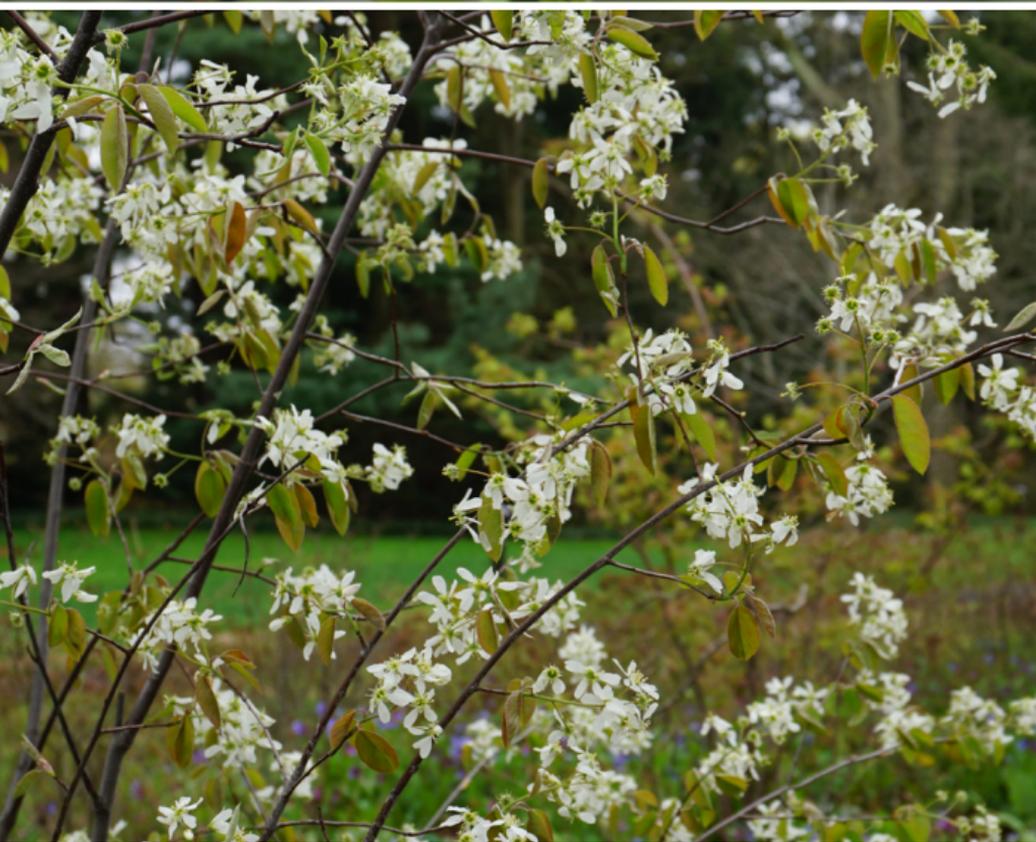
ALSO RECOMMENDED: American holly (*Ilex opaca*), red pine (*Pinus densiflora*), Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Bill Cook, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

Michasia Dowdy, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



serviceberry
Amelanchier canadensis

serviceberry

Amelanchier canadensis



ID Features

USES: ornamental tree, understory tree

GROWTH HABIT: 15-25 feet tall and wide; multi-trunked

SUN CONDITIONS: shade to full sun

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist

FEATURES: early spring flowers, fruit for wildlife, host plant for butterflies

USE INSTEAD OF: Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*), Carolina silverbell (*Halesia carolina*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Samantha Nestory, Courtesy of Natural Lands

David Korbonits, Courtesy of Natural Lands



arrowwood viburnum
Viburnum dentatum

arrowwood viburnum

Viburnum dentatum



ID Features

USES: hedges, ornamental plantings, understory shrub

GROWTH HABIT: 5-10 feet tall, 6-10 feet wide, can be suckering

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist to dry

FEATURES: fall color, clusters of white flowers, fruit for wildlife, host for butterflies

USE INSTEAD OF: privet (*Ligustrum* spp.), autumn-olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: other native viburnums (*Viburnum* spp.), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), native roses (*Rosa* spp.)

PHOTOGRAPHY

David Korbonits, Courtesy of Natural Lands

Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, Bugwood.org

Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, Bugwood.org



Virginia sweetspire
Itea virginica

Virginia sweetspire

Itea virginica



ID Features

USES: ornamental shrub, hedge, riparian buffer understory

GROWTH HABIT: 4-8 feet tall, 3-6 feet wide; typically sold as cultivars that can vary in size; suckering

SUN CONDITIONS: part sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist to occasionally wet

FEATURES: fragrant white flowers, brilliant fall color, attracts butterflies and pollinators

USE INSTEAD OF: barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), invasive shrub honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), red or black chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*, *A. melanocarpa*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*), bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*) *this is the native variety

PHOTOGRAPHY

David Korbonits, Courtesy of Natural Lands

Natural Lands

Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



inkberry
Ilex glabra

inkberry

Ilex glabra



ID Features

USES: hedge, ornamental planting

GROWTH HABIT: 5-10 feet tall, 5-8 feet wide

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist

FEATURES: evergreen, tidy shrub

USE INSTEAD OF: privet (*Ligustrum* spp.),
autumn-olive (*Elaeagnus alatus*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: winterberry holly (*Ilex opaca*), common juniper (*Juniperus communis*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Samantha Nestory, Courtesy of Natural Lands

John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



aromatic aster

Symphotrichum oblongifolius

aromatic aster

Symphyotrichum oblongifolius



ID Features

USES: perennial, landscaping, meadows, pollinator gardens

GROWTH HABIT: 2-3 feet tall, 1-3 feet wide; rounded form

SUN CONDITIONS: sun to part shade; other asters like blue wood aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolius*) tolerate shadier conditions

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist to dry; other asters like New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) tolerate wetter conditions

FEATURES: prolific purple flowers, late summer to fall blooms, supports pollinators in the fall

USE INSTEAD OF: fall mums

ALSO RECOMMENDED: goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Samantha Nestory, Courtesy of Natural Lands

David Korbonits, Courtesy of Natural Lands



golden alexander
Zizia aurea

golden alexander

Zizia aurea



ID Features

USES: perennial, meadow, native garden, rain garden

GROWTH HABIT: 1-3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist to wet, drought tolerant

FEATURES: early yellow spring blooms, readily seeds around

USE INSTEAD OF: marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: green and gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*), golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Samantha Nestory, Courtesy of Natural Lands

Katy Chayka, www.minnesotawildflowers.info, Bugwood.org



purple coneflower
Echinacea purpurea

purple coneflower

Echinacea purpurea



ID Features

USES: perennial, landscaping, meadows, pollinator gardens

GROWTH HABIT: 3-4 feet tall, 2 feet wide

SUN CONDITIONS: sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist to dry

FEATURES: long-lasting and vibrant flowers, supports pollinators, seeds for birds

USE INSTEAD OF: annuals, non-native perennials

ALSO RECOMMENDED: beebalm (*Monarda didyma*), coneflowers such as black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* spp.), native sunflowers (*Heliopsis* spp.)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Samantha Nestory, Courtesy of Natural Lands

David Korbonits, Courtesy of Natural Lands



little bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium

little bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium



ID Features

USES: grass, meadow, landscaping

GROWTH HABIT: 2-4 feet tall, 2-3 feet wide;
upright, bunching grass

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: dry, well-drained

FEATURES: blue tint in the fall, seeds for birds,
winter interest

USE INSTEAD OF: Chinese silvergrass
(*Miscanthus sinensis*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: prairie drop-seed
(*Sporobolus heterolepis*), broomsedge (*Andropogon
virginicus*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Pat Sauer, Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership, Bugwood.org

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



American wisteria
Wisteria frutescens

American wisteria

Wisteria frutescens



ID Features

USES: vine, native garden, butterfly or pollinator garden

GROWTH HABIT: 15-40 feet tall by 4-8 feet wide, twinning vine

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist

FEATURES: butterfly host plant, rapid growth rate

USE INSTEAD OF: Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*), Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)*make sure to select the native species, Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

David Korbonits, Courtesy of Natural Lands

Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



butterfly weed
Asclepias tuberosa

butterfly weed

Asclepias tuberosa



ID Features

USES: perennial, pollinator garden, low-water gardens

GROWTH HABIT: 3 feet tall, 3 feet wide

SUN CONDITIONS: full sun to part shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: dry

FEATURES: bright orange flowers in the summer, host plant for monarch butterfly

USE INSTEAD OF: summer annuals

ALSO RECOMMENDED: common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)*tolerates wider range of soil, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)*needs moist conditions, lanceleaf tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), thread leaf tickseed (*Coreopsis verticillata*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Theodore Webster, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org



Christmas fern
Polystichum acrostichoides

Christmas fern

Polystichum acrostichoides



ID Features

USES: fern, woodland planting, shade garden

GROWTH HABIT: 1.5-3 feet tall, 1-3 feet wide, clumping

SUN CONDITIONS: part shade to shade

SOIL CONDITIONS: moist

FEATURES: dark green leaves persist late into fall and winter, groundcover

USE INSTEAD OF: Japanese pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)

ALSO RECOMMENDED: sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

David Stephens, Bugwood.org

Scan to find sources for this
native plant guide:



natlands.org/nativeplants

Thank you to Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife
Center, The Morton Arboretum, New Moon
Nursery, and North Carolina Extension
Gardener Plant Toolbox

