

2025 Asheville FALL Online Native Plant/Shrub Species Descriptions

SMALL TREES:

Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) 3 Gal. - \$38



American Hazelnut, *Corylus americana*, is an easy-to-grow native shrub that produces edible nuts in late summer. Able to thrive in a wide range of conditions, this native shrub is a good choice for hedgerow or windbreak. It can be pruned at any time of year and its deep green leaves turn copper and yellow in autumn.

Highly attractive to wildlife, the nuts are eaten by squirrels, foxes, deer, northern bobwhite, ruffed grouse, turkey, woodpeckers and pheasants. The leaves, twigs, and catkins are browsed by rabbits and deer. The male catkins are a winter food for turkey and ruffed grouse. The dense, low growth habit provides cover and nesting sites for birds and other wildlife. It hosts numerous lepidoptera, including *Polyphemus* and lo moths.

Planting and Cultivation Notes

This is a unisex species, with separate male and female parts on the same branch. A single shrub will produce some nuts, but as a wind-pollinated species 3-5 shrubs are recommended for optimal nut production.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) 3 Gal. - \$38



Height: 15.00 to 25.00 feet Spread: 15.00 to 25.00 feet Bloom Time: March to April Bloom Description: White Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium Maintenance: Low Suggested Use: Flowering Tree Flower: Showy, Fragrant Leaf: Good Fall Attracts: Birds, Butterflies Fruit: Showy, Edible Tolerate: Clay Soil, Air Pollution

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SHRUBS:

Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* 'Massachusetts') 1 Gal. - \$16



Known as common bearberry, this native evergreen is a low growing perennial shrub that can be effectively used as a ground cover. Its natural habitat includes rocky sites, open woods, dry areas, sandy hills and mountain ranges. Its scientific name comes from the Greek *arctos* meaning 'bear' and *staphyle* translating to 'grape.' As the names indicate, the fruits of this plant are enjoyed by the local bear population. The berries are also suitable for human consumption, however, they are seldom eaten due to their lack of flavor.

Soil surrounding the plant should not be compacted. Fertilization is discouraged.

It does not like to be transplanted, so choose the correct location when planting. Propagation is best done with stem cuttings, they can be placed in sand or propagating by layering.

It is low maintenance and prefers dry to moderate moisture and is drought tolerant. It does not do well in eastern US because of wet, humid summer weather. The plant forms a low, creeping, mat-like cover to the soil and grows slowly. This plant produces drupes, a small berry-like fruit which, though technically edible by humans, are not considered to have a desirable flavor and are rather mealy. These fruits do provide an interesting visual and are produced in the summer with a green color, which matures to red in the fall. The foliage is also green, however in the winter the leaves turn a bronze color but will regain their green foliage come spring. Other attractive features include the exfoliating bark and white flowers.

Bearberry is an important food source for butterflies, serving as a host plant for [Hoary Elfin](#) (*Callophrys polios*), [Brown Elfin](#) (*Callophrys augustinus*), and [Freija Fritillary](#) (*Boloria freija*) larvae.

Space: 12-24 inches apart

Issues: moist to wet soil can lead to root disease

Site: light-textured soil

Form: Prostrate low mat

Growth Rate: Slow to moderate

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Buttonbush (*Sambucus canadensis*) 3 Gal. - \$35



Buttonbush can grow as a tree up to 20 feet, but is usually a small shrub up to 12 feet tall and 8 feet wide. This shrub needs consistently moist to wet, rich soils in full to partial sun. It does well in swamps, streambanks, riverbanks, lakes, and often in standing water up to 3 feet. It is adaptable to various soil types, except for dry ones, and is tolerant of heat and soil compaction. Flowering is poor in the shade or in dry soils. It is multi-stemmed with a rounded to irregular crown and needs little pruning.

Black Chokeberry (*Aronia mel.* 'Autumn Magic') 3 Gal. - \$35



Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) is an adaptable shrub with hardiness and wide tolerance to a variety of soil textures, densities, pH levels and moisture conditions.

Because of suckering and its tolerance to wet soils, this species is typically used in mass planting, in naturalized and woodland gardens, for erosion control, in windbreaks and in excessively wet soils.

Black chokeberry can also be used as an edible fruit crop although the fruit is too astringent to eat raw.

The high-antioxidant fruit is used in baking and to make jams, jellies, syrup, tea, juice and wine. Fruit can persist into winter and serves as a food source for birds and other wildlife.

In spring, it has showy white flower clusters. In autumn, leaves change from green to vibrant tones of red, orange and purple.

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Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) 3 Gal. - \$35



Red chokeberry is an upright, multistemmed, perennial shrub with high visual appeal in all seasons. It prefers acidic soil but can tolerate a pH of up to 8.0.

Height: 6 to 12 feet

Bloom color: White to light pink

Bloom time: March to May

Hardiness zone: 3a to 9b

Salt tolerance: Tolerates salt spray

Spreading habit: Root suckers can form dense colonies

Sun: Full sun/partial shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hydrologic zone: Moist, can tolerate occasional periods of wet soil

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) 3 Gal. - \$35



American elderberry is a woody, deciduous shrub or small tree, 5 to 12 feet tall and 6 to 10 feet wide, that is native to North America, Venezuela, and Brazil. It is a member of the Adoxaceae (muskroot) family. It can be found in all areas of North Carolina along streams, marshes, moist forests, and disturbed areas. The genus name may be derived from sambuco, the Italian word for the elder bush.

American elderberry tolerates a wide variety of wet to dry soils but prefers rich, moist, slightly acidic soil in sun to partial shade. Plants will spread by root sucker and will form thickets if the suckers are not removed. In summer, small white flowers are borne in dense clusters. Flowers are followed by a purple-black drupe that is produced in drooping clusters from late summer to fall. The drupe is an edible fruit and when cooked can be used in pies, pancakes, and jellies. Elderberry flowers and fruits are used in winemaking. Wildlife also enjoys the fruits, and the arching branches provide a habitat for nesting birds.

Use this plant in naturalized areas, as a hedge, in a woodland, or along streams and ponds. It is a good addition to butterfly, edible, native, pollinator, or rain gardens. It is effective erosion control in moist sites. Due to the plants suckering and unkempt appearance, it is best not to use this shrub or tree in the home landscape.

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Hardhack (*Spiraea tomentosa*) 3 Gal. - \$35



Hardhack, is an upright, multi-stemmed, suckering, deciduous shrub in the Roseaceae (rose) family native to wet meadows, wet pastures, boggy areas, marshes, fields, and lake margins from Nova Scotia south to Louisiana and Georgia. As it's native location suggests, the plant needs moist acidic soils in order to grow well to its mature height of 4 feet with a slightly larger width.

Hardhack is easy to grow in average, acidic, moist to wet soils in full sun. It will tolerate a wide range of soil and light shade, but a site with full sun is best for maximum blooming. Remove faded flower clusters as soon as practical to encourage additional blooms. The plant flowers on new wood, so prune in late winter to early spring if needed. This a vigorous plant that will spread by suckers to form colonies.

Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) 3 Gal.- \$35



Oakleaf hydrangea is an upright, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub in the Hydrangeaceae (hydrangea) family. It may grow to 8 feet in height and 6 to 8 feet in width. Oakleaf hydrangea grows best in organically rich, well-drained soils with medium moisture. It does well in full sun to part shade, and mulch in the summer helps to keep the soil moist. The plant does need some sun to bloom, usually from mid spring to early summer. Because blooming occurs on old wood, prune if needed immediately after flowering. Winter damaged stems may be pruned in early spring.

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Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) 3 Gal.- \$35



Spicebush is a deciduous shrub that may grow to 8 to 15 feet that can be found in rich forests, dry forests on slopes, and swamps. The leaves are alternate with a smooth margin. Leaves produce a spicy odor when crushed. The bark is brown to gray-brown and speckled with light-colored lenticels. In early spring, small, yellow flowers mature in axillary clusters. The shrub produces a bright red drupe with a peppery taste and scent. The fruit matures in the fall. This plant is sensitive to heat and drought. This plant is dioecious, which means female fruit sets need male pollinator plants to reproduce. This plant has good, yellow fall color.

Dwarf Sumac (*Rhus aromatica* 'Gro Low') 3 Gal.- \$38



The fragrant sumac is a dense, rambling, low spreading groundcover or low spreading deciduous shrub. It reaches a height of 2 to 6 feet tall and 6 to 10 feet wide. It spreads by root suckers and forms colonies and thickets. In mass plantings, it is excellent for stabilizing banks and slopes. In the early spring, small yellow flowers appear at the twig tips before the foliage appears. Its green leaves of spring and summer transition to beautiful shades of orange, red, or reddish-purple in the fall. The leaves have a lemony scent when crushed. There are male and female flowers that may appear on the same or a different plant. The female flowers produce small clusters of red berries in late summer which attract wildlife. This shrub is a member of the Anacardiaceae or cashew family.

Fragrant sumac is best grown in full sun to partial shade and in moist to dry, well-drained soils. They prefer acidic soils but are tolerant of most soil types except for poorly drained areas. The stems will root easily when they come in contact with the soil. They may also be propagated by seed.

This plant has many benefits, including fall color, and is tolerant to drought, erosion, black walnut, rabbit, clay soil, dry soil, and shallow rocky soil.

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Pink Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Ruby Spice') 3 Gal.- \$35



Clethra alnifolia 'Pink Spire', also called 'Pink Spire' summersweet or 'Pink Spire' sweet pepperbush, is a coastal wetland shrub native to the eastern United States. As for most summersweet, the real draw for 'Pink Spire' is the flowers, and this cultivar produces a profusion of fragrant pink-hued flower spikes that bloom from mid to late summer. Flowers are attractive to pollinators of all kinds, but especially butterflies and hummingbirds, and with their attractive pink shade, these blooms add further interest to the garden than pure white varieties; golden leaves in autumn add further multi-season interest.

'Pink Spire' summersweet is a standard sized *Clethra* variety, and grows to three to eight feet tall with a spread of four to six feet wide. Since most 'Pink Spires' are multi-stemmed, it is important to choose a large enough planting location, but this cultivar displays beautifully when planted in mass, when mixed into perennial borders, or when used in rain gardens or wetland restoration projects. Naturally found in coastal wetland areas or floodplains, *Clethra alnifolia* grows best in wetter areas with acidic, sandy soils and full sun exposure, but is not at all picky, and will tolerate drier soils as well as perpetually wet clay soils, and even those with some salt content. Native to Eastern Shore, Native to Maryland, and Native to U.S. **Mature Plant Height:** Very Tall: 73" and up. Deciduous. Sun (6+ hours) and Part Shade/Sun (4-6 hours of sun). Soil Moisture: Medium to Wet. Soil Type: Acidic and Sand. Bloom Time: Summer. Flower Color: Pink. Foliage color: Green Features: Attracts Butterflies, Attracts Pollinators, Attracts Hummingbirds, Host Plant for Butterflies or Moths, Erosion Control, Fragrant, and Fall Color Tolerances: Deer Tolerant, Shade Tolerant, Clay Soil Tolerant, Wet Soil Tolerant, Flood Tolerant, and Salt Tolerant Garden Type: Pollinator Garden, Woodland Garden, Wetland Restoration, Rain Garden, and Border/Screen

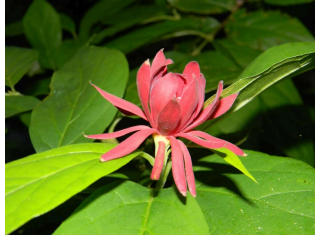
Dwarf Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird') 3 Gal.- \$35



Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird' is an award-winning shrub with abundant, beautiful and fragrant white flower spikes. However, the habit eventually tends to flop and appear unkempt. It spreads by underground stems to make large clumps, but can be restrained when necessary. This plant can suffer in full sun and/or dry soils, but can bloom well in shade.

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Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) 3 Gal.- \$35



Carolina allspice, is an erect to rounded deciduous native shrub in the Calycanthaceae family. It is found in the south east growing in shady woodlands and along streambanks. It grows 6-12' tall with an equal or slightly greater spread. It is commonly called sweetshrub and strawberry bush in reference to the showy fragrant blooms which have been described as combining hints of pineapple, strawberry, and banana. Sweetshrub grows best in average to rich, well-drained soil in anywhere from full sun to deep shade. It prefers some shade in hot summer afternoons and it will grow lankier and less dense in shade than in sun. It is tolerant of a wide range of soil textures and pH but prefers rich loams. Plant it 3 to 5 feet from other shrubs to give it adequate room to grow. It blooms in early spring before leaves emerge, with the leaves, and sporadically thereafter.

Prune immediately after flowering to shape or maintain compactness. It has a suckering habit meaning those suckering branches need to be maintained unless you want this plant to naturalize in your landscape. Prune the plant to shape immediately after flowering. Note that next season's flowers are produced on new and old wood. Propagate this plant by seed.

It can tolerate brief periods of flooding, but it struggles in sandy soil and drought conditions. It withstands cold and heat, insect and disease pests, fire, and deer browsing. Plant it as a specimen or near a patio or walkway to enjoy its fragrance. Its form makes for a good screen or privacy hedge or plant it in the back of a shrub border or in a foundation planting. Consider this native in your cutting, sensory, or woodland garden.

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ORNAMENTAL GRASSES:

Pink Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) 1 Gal - \$12



Muhly grass is an absolute showstopper source of late-season color. As a native ornamental grass, it is a great complement to those landscape beds with fading summer annuals. The delicate plumes of flower panicles create a striking pink haze above the dark green, glossy foliage.

This perennial is attractive individually but makes a big show when used in a mass planting. Delicate pink flowers mature on long, narrow, wiry leaves in the fall. The grass produces tiny, purplish seeds. Pink muhly grass can reach a height of 4 feet and a width of 3 feet. Give it plenty of sunshine and transplant it into well-drained soil.

A North American native, pink muhly grass sounds too good to be true. Long-lived, with little to no insect or disease pests, and highly resistant to deer grazing, this ornamental grass is perfect for the low-maintenance garden. Muhly grass tolerates heat, humidity, drought, and poor soil and is highly salt tolerant. It is adaptable to home or commercial landscapes. Plant in groups or masses for fall season color.

Purple Love Grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*) 1 Gal.- \$12



Hardiness Zone: 4-11 Height: 18-24 Inches Spread: 2-3 Feet Spacing: 12 Inches Bloom Color: Violet

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Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah') 1 Gal.- \$12



Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah' is a spectacular red switchgrass. Its upright foliage becomes red tinted during the growing season, culminating in a dazzling red-leaved show in fall. *Panicum* are renowned for being drought tolerant and easy to maintain. They also provide food and shelter to wildlife. Our native *Panicum* have been studied in Europe where cultivars were reintroduced into North America. *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah' is one of these: it was discovered by Hans Simon in Germany from a seedling of *Panicum virgatum* 'Hänse Herms'.

FERNS:

Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) 1 Gal - \$12



Christmas fern is a rhizomatous subterranean, decumbent, woody, densely scaly-scruffy evergreen in the Polypodiaceae family. Found growing in rich rocky woods, along stream banks, in swamps or thickets to a height of 2 to 3 feet in a fountain-like form.

The leaves are known as fronds and these fronds have many leaflets and grow directly from the ground in a clump, so no bark is present. No flowers are produced. The fern produces black spores on the underside of the leaf but not all fronds are fertile. The fertile fronds are narrower at the tip. Curled fiddleheads of new leaves emerge silvery in the spring.

It is best grown in organically rich, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in part shade to full shade.

This fern will not spread or naturalize, however its clumps will increase in size over time.

It provides winter cover near the ground for songbirds who also use parts and scale-like hairs in nest construction.

In mass plantings, it makes an excellent plant to combat soil erosion on slopes.

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Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*) 1 Gal-\$12



Cinnamon fern is a NC native fern in the *Osmundaceae* family, which occurs in the moist, boggy ground along streams and on shaded ledges and bluffs. It typically grows in clumps to 2-3' tall, but with constant moisture can reach 6' in height. Separate spore-bearing, stiff, fertile fronds appear in early spring, quickly turning brown. The familiar "fiddleheads" also emerge from the base of the plant and unfurl into large, erect, pinnately-compound, yellowish-green, sterile fronds (2-4' long) which remain attractive throughout the summer and turn yellow in autumn. The common name of this plant is in reference to the cinnamon-colored fibers found near the frond bases. Osmunda fiber used in the potting of orchids comes from the roots of these ferns.

It is easily grown in medium to wet soils in part shade to full shade. Prefers moist, rich, humusy, acidic soils, but adapts to lesser conditions. This plant has compact, horizontal rhizome, its growth is vigorous. It may go dormant with dry soil. It is slow to establish but long-lived.

Lady in Red Fern (*Athyrium ang. forma rubellum* 'Lady in Red') 1 Gal - \$12



Strong-growing and dependable, the lady ferns are great garden plants. Tough and easy to grow, this beauty is the right choice for perennial borders and woodlands alike. A breathtaking flush of new fronds appears in the spring, with new leaves appearing throughout the season for a continuously fresh look. Lady fern flourishes in bright shade and moist, rich, organic soil. While it does tolerate wet feet, it does not tolerate clay. *Athyrium* tolerates sun if kept cool and moist.

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PERENNIALS:

Aster (Symphyotrichum ob. 'October Skies') 1 Gal-\$12



Aster oblongifolius 'October Skies', now *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* 'October Skies', is an intensely floriferous, low-growing selection of aromatic aster. It forms a bushy habit of 2' tall by 2' wide and is covered with 1" blue-lavender flowers beginning late summer through to fall. Related to *Aster* 'Raydon's Favorite,' it grows slightly more compact and starts blooming two weeks earlier. This plant has great potential as a groundcover. Grow in full sun in average to dry soil. Cut back after flowering to prevent the spread of variable seedlings.

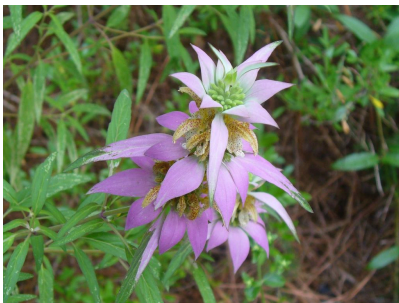
Blue Lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica) 1 Gal- \$12



Great Blue Lobelia is a herbaceous perennial that may grow 3 to 4 feet tall. The leaves are alternate with a toothed margin. Blue flowers first mature in mid-summer and continue into early fall. The flowers are larger than other Lobelias and have stripes on the tube portion.

This plant provides late summer bloom to the perennial border, wild garden, native plant garden, woodland garden, or naturalized planting. It is also effective near ponds or streams.

Spotted Bee Balm (Monarda punctata) 1 Gal-\$12



Spotted beebalm is a native herbaceous perennial to the eastern U.S. and typically occurs in full sun

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areas with dry soil in prairies, sandy areas, rocky woodlands, and coastal plains. It is a clump-forming, mint family member that features branching or simple, square stems which rise typically to 1'-2' tall sometimes 3'-4'.

Drought tolerant member of the Lamiaceae (mint-square stems) family. Makes excellent cut flowers. Remove spent flowers to improve plant appearance and possibly to prolong bloom. Spreads by runners to form large clumps, but is not considered to be too aggressive.

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) 1 Gal - \$12



It is easily grown in rich, medium to wet soil in full sun to part shade. The soil should never be allowed to dry out, and it will tolerate brief flooding. Although it will tolerate full sun in northern climates, it appreciates partial afternoon shade in hot summer climates of the lower Midwest and South. Root mulch should be applied in cold winter climates to protect the root system and to prevent root heaving. Mulch will also help retain soil moisture. If desired, this plant can be grown in a 1 gallon or larger container using rich, moist potting soil.

This plant is effective in moist areas of woodland/shade gardens, wet meadows, or along streams or ponds. Also water gardens and rain gardens. It also adds late summer bloom and height to borders as long as the soil is kept uniformly moist. It attracts hummingbirds and butterflies making it a welcome addition to a pollinator garden.

Dwarf Columbine, (*Aquilegia can.* 'Little Lanterns') 1 Gal- \$12



One of the sweetest woodland wildflowers, known for its red flowers with yellow centers that hang like drifts of softly illuminated lanterns in April and May. It is a relatively short-lived perennial. However, it can maintain its place in the landscape by self-seeding. The *Aquilegia* genus tends to hybridize quite easily, sometimes with *Aquilegia vulgaris* (European columbine). Hybrids of the native *A. canadensis* can be distinguished from European hybrids because they are always a shade of red.

Although there are many *Aquilegia* species native to the western United States, *Aquilegia canadensis* is the only species native to the east. It occurs naturally in rich rocky woods, north-facing slopes, cliffs, ledges, pastures, and roadside banks in partial shade and filtered sun.

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Foamflower (*Tiarella cord.* 'Running Tapestry') 1 Gal-\$12



Foamflower is a small, delicate native herbaceous perennial flower grown in gardens for its neat, interesting foliage and small spikes of creamy white flowers.

Despite its slow growth rate, Foamflower can be used as a groundcover as it spreads by underground rhizomes. A similar hybrid, Wherry's foamflower, forms clumps and does not spread by rhizomes.

An excellent ground cover for the heavy shade, and the airy white flowers attract pollinators. It spreads by slender runners to form colonies. It is not tolerant to drought conditions. It is found naturally in moist forests, coves, and well-drained bottomlands.

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) 1 Gal- \$12



Wild geranium is a woodland perennial flower in the Geraniaceae family that will naturalize in optimum growing conditions. This plant is found naturally in base-rich, mesic forests. The preference is for light shade to partial sunlight, moist to slightly dry conditions, and rich loamy soil with abundant organic matter. This plant also tolerates full sunlight if given sufficient moisture. It is easy to grow in cultivation and is one of the showiest of the native Cranesbills. During the hottest part of summer the foliage may decline and yellow. Shear back to reshape.

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Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) 1 Gal- \$12



Plant swamp milkweed in full sun to partial shade in soils with neutral to acidic pH. It is native to wet sites but adapts to drier sites in moist clay or loam soils.

The attractive pink to rose-purple flowers mature in mid-spring and last into early fall. The seed pods split open to release seeds that float on the wind. Milkweed is an important food source for Monarch butterfly caterpillars (*Danaus plexippus*), and the flowers are visited by many pollinators. It is resistant to browsing by deer.

Use as an accent or border in a meadow, native, or pollinator garden. It will be at home in a naturalized area or along a pond or stream where it can grow up to 5 feet tall and spread 2 to 3 feet wide.