

Native Tree/Shrub Descriptions

American Hornbeam or Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) 3-gal. \$25

Ironwood is a very common bottomland tree in our area. It is a medium-sized tree, which typically grows on riverbanks, field edges, and mixed hardwood forests. Ironwood is shade tolerant and will grow on sites where other trees are shaded out. It is highly valued by wildlife, producing a large crop of small "nutlets" that spread with the aid of an attractive leafy "bract" attached to each seed. The ironwood is also called musclewood, because the bark stays smooth and the trunk takes on a "muscular" look, even when old.

American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) 3-gal. \$25

American sycamore is one of the largest hardwood trees in the southeast. It grows best near a source of water in full sun, but can grow in partial shade and on drier sites. Planted often in stream restoration, sycamore grows very rapidly once established and shades streams with its enormous leaves. The patchy grey and white bark is also very attractive and the leaves turn yellow-gold in the fall.

Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) 3-gal. \$25

Arrowwood viburnum is a medium-to-large leggy shrub that does well in moist to dry sites, preferring full sun, but partial shade is tolerated. White clusters of flowers attract pollinators and the dark blue berry-like fruits are favorites of birds. Foliage is attractive and sometimes has red fall color.

Azalea Native, Piedmont (*Rhododendron canescens*) 1-gal. \$18 – **NEW!**

Piedmont or Southern Pinkster azalea is a large (6-8 ft) shrub with showy pink to rose blooms appearing in late spring and putting on quite a show while benefitting pollinators and providing a sweet aroma. Great for borders or as a showpiece in landscapes. Deciduous.

Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) 1-gal. \$18 – **NEW!**

Black Chokeberry is a flowering shrub in the rose family. Attractive white flower clusters in spring turn to richly colored black berries in summer that persist well into fall. 3-season interest and small size make it a great landscape shrub for full to partial sun. Tolerant of drier conditions and high value to wildlife. Fruits are also edible for humans, touted as a superfood because of high antioxidants. Used for jams because of a slight bitter taste.

Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) 3-gal. \$25

Blackgum is a medium to large common tree of coves and ridges. Dark blue fruits mature in summer and are a good wildlife food source. Large trees are almost always hollow giving rise to the expressions "bee gums" or "rabbit gums." Early fall leaf color is a striking dark red.

Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*) 1-gal. \$18 – **NEW!**

Bottlebrush buckeye is a mound-shaped, thicket-forming, deciduous shrub, 6-12 ft. tall. Lowest branches are horizontal and often rest on the ground. Leaves turn from dark-green to yellow-green in fall. Tall, cylindric spikes of feathery white flowers with pink stamens and red anthers bloom in the heat of early summer after other eastern buckeyes have finished. The smooth seed is enclosed by a bright yellow husk. This buckeye is unique for retaining its

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foliage, in good condition, well into fall. It is more tolerant of disease and insects than most buckeyes. Leaves may become quite colorful in fall; seemingly dependent on environmental conditions. Excellent for borders, as a specimen, or under shade trees.

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) 1-gal. \$18; 3-gal. \$25

Buttonbush is a multi-stemmed shrub that thrives in wet areas along streams and in wetlands. Deciduous leaves are oppositely arranged on corky stems. Buttonbush thrives with periodic inundation and can be observed sprouting roots in standing water. Flowers are attractive white, round “button-shaped” and very popular with pollinators, like butterflies. Buttons mature to seed clusters relished by wildlife. This is a great overall ornamental and wildlife shrub for wet areas.

Christmas Fern *Polystichum acrostichoides* 1-gal. \$12 – **NEW!**

Christmas fern gets its name from its ability to hold its green fronds much longer than other ferns, right through the holiday season! It is a robust, leathery fern with glossy, green fronds most of the season. Lives happily in full shade. Silvery fiddleheads appear in early spring.

Clethra, Ruby Spice (*Clethra alnifolia*) 3-gal. \$25

Clethra is a low growing, mounding shrub that works well in sun to partial shade and is a great planted bed border. Ruby spice is a cultivar that boasts large clusters of highly fragrant pink and white flowers, that are very attractive to pollinators. The smaller size of this cultivar makes it a good choice when space is limited. Great for butterfly gardens working together with native perennials.

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) 1-gal. \$18

Eastern redbud is one of the most attractive native flowering trees of the spring, boasting mounds of fragrant lavender colored flowers borne close to the stem before the leaves emerge. The tree is small and leaves emerging during and after flowers are large, heart shaped, and glossy. Great spring pollinator tree.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) 1-gal. \$18; 3-gal. \$25

Elderberry is a common large shrub with multiple stems and attractive fern-like foliage, often found in wet areas. Large white flower clusters in spring give way to large clusters of small dark red-black berries savored by birds and wildlife. Weak corky structure; can be trimmed back to the ground in winter to retain shape.

False Indigo-Bush, Dwarf (*Amorpha nana*) 1-gal. \$18 – **NEW!**

Dwarf False indigo-bush is smaller (max 3 feet tall) than its larger cousin and is a low shrub in the pea family. In spring, attractive purple flowers with yellow stamens are borne in clusters at the tips of branches. These flowers attract pollinators and have a very pleasant fragrance. Fruits are small legumes containing two or three hard black seeds. Nitrogen fixer.

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Grey Twig Dogwood *Cornus racemosa* 3-gal. \$25

Grey Twig dogwood is a shrubby, multi-stemmed small deciduous tree that specializes in poorer soil conditions and can be trained to a single stem small tree OR a multi-stemmed shrub and managed at any height. Max height is 10-12 feet. Grows well in sun or shade, with more flowering/fruiting in sunny conditions. This plant boasts high pollinator value in late spring with white clusters of flowers and high food value for wildlife with attractive white berries borne on bright red stems in late summer/early fall. Ornamentally, gray twigs contrast with dark red to purplish leaves in fall.

Persimmon (Common) (*Diospyros virginiana*) 1-gal. \$18

Common persimmon is a widely found small understory tree that rarely becomes a canopy species. Leaves are glossy dark green and typically spotted with black, and turn an attractive red in fall. Female trees produce a small, edible fruit relished by many species of wildlife and edible to humans once ripened completely to a soft state to take away the astringency. Female trees in fruit will, once discovered by wildlife, be visited very often in the fall and become a good place to view them. Multiple plants will ensure better fruit set. Dioecious.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) 3-gal. \$25

Red maple is the most common hardwood tree in the southeast. It will grow almost anywhere, from shade to full sun and moist to dry soils. Red maple is very beautiful in all seasons, having tiny red flowers in very early spring, rich green foliage in summer, and beautiful red, yellow, and orange leaves in fall. Red maple is planted most often because of its beauty, but is also a very hardy and easy to establish tree, making it valuable for restoration efforts as well.

Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) 3-gal. \$25

Red mulberry is a medium-sized wide-crowned tree found commonly in lowland areas. Female trees produce an abundance of large sweet edible berries that are relished by people and wildlife. In order to ensure fruit, planting 3-5 trees is recommended, since only female trees produce fruit. It is necessary to have male trees for pollination.

River Birch (*Betula nigra*) 3-gal. \$25

River birch is a medium-sized tree used often in bank stabilization because of its large root system and fast growth rate. It is also used as an ornamental because of its beautiful peeling paper bark. River birch does best near water, but can be planted away from water and will do fine, if it is watered during warm weather until new growth appears. River birch likes full sun to partial shade.

Serviceberry (Apple) (*Amelanchier x grandifolia*) 1-gal. \$18 – **NEW!**

Apple serviceberry is a small understory deciduous hardwood tree common on drier sites and in bottomlands. Very early in the spring, abundant white flowers are a sign of spring, giving this tree its common name. Dark red to black fruits are very valuable wildlife food. It is a great ornamental tree and an excellent native alternative to cultivars of callery pear (e.g. Bradford Pear). This particular species is a natural hybrid between downy and Allegheny serviceberry.

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Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) 2-gal. \$20; 3-gal. \$25

Spicebush is a large common shrub occurring in bottomlands and along streams. The leaves and fruit have a pleasant spicy scent when crushed. The leaves are smooth and dark green with a shiny appearance. Bright yellow flowers appear in very early spring, before the leaves. Female plants bear large amounts of bright red edible berries in early fall, containing a single dark seed and consumed by wildlife. Fall leaf color is bright yellow.

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) 3-gal. \$25

The deciduous Sugar Maple is a landscape standout! Leaves turn yellow, burnt orange, red or a combination of all three in fall. Tolerates shade. Likes well-drained, moderately moist, fertile soil. Grows to 60'-75' with a 40'-50' spread. Do not plant in confined areas.

Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) 3-gal. \$25

Sweetshrub is another smaller flowering shrub that is native to drier woodlands. Very fragrant maroon flowers appear in spring just after bud break. Leaves are dark green, glossy in appearance and attractive. Large fragrant flowers give way to interesting wrinkled dry capsules each containing 10-12 large shiny dark brown seeds. The seeds are enjoyed by wildlife as a food source in late summer when they mature. Great plant for dappled sun to shade in understories.

Switchgrass "Shenandoah" (*Panicum virgatum*) 1-gal. \$12 – **NEW!**

Shenandoah switchgrass is a tall prairie grass that is native to North America. The Shenandoah switchgrass is prized for its small clump, showy flowers, and winter form. Shenandoah switchgrass has airy plumes of reddish flowers that rise above the foliage during the summer. The grassy leaves are green with red on the tips. Some leaves can even have a touch of steely blue color. In the fall, it changes from burgundy to yellow, for year-round interest.

Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*) 3-gal. \$25

Winged Elm is a bottomland elm, similarly to other elms species it has large, sandpapery leaves with toothed margins and distinct venation. Typically forms a dense crown for good shade and produces an abundance of papery samaras (seeds) in spring. Wind pollinated. Rough furrowed bark and a straight bole are attractive in winter. Fall color orange to yellow. Twigs possess corky "wing" growths that resemble sweetgum, giving it its common name.

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) 1-gal. \$18 – **NEW!**

Witch hazel is a small understory tree/large shrub with very early yellow flowers, blooming even before spring in late February/early March. The spidery appearance of the flowers is a welcome splash of color in an otherwise drab season. The flowers give way to interesting capsules that upon maturing in late summer split open with an audible pop, hurling the seed away from the plant. Known for its medicinal properties, witch hazel is a popular native ornamental shrub as well.

Written by MountainTrue Western Regional Program Coordinator, Tony Ward (tony@mountaintrue.org)