

## 2026 Asheville SPRING Online Native Plant/Shrub Species Descriptions

### **NATIVE AZALEAS:**

**Coastal Azalea (R. atlanticum) 3 Gal. - \$40**



Coastal azalea is a compact, woody, deciduous shrub in the Ericaceae (blueberry family). Typically, it matures to 2 to 3 feet tall and wide, but infrequently rises to as much as 6 feet tall. This azalea is native to coastal plain areas from New Jersey and Pennsylvania south to Georgia.

It prefers full sun to partial shade, consistent moisture, and well-drained sandy soil. Mulching the soil with needles, bark, or compost will help it stay moist and manage a consistent soil temperature.

**Plumleaf Azalea (R. prunifolium) 1 Gal. - \$15**



Growing 8 to 12 feet tall and 6 to 8 feet wide, it has an erect, spreading, and open habit. The genus name derives from the Greek words rhodo, which means rose, and dendron, meaning tree.

This azalea prefers a cool, shady site, but can be grown in partial shade where it will be protected from afternoon sun. It prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soils and does not tolerate dense clay. If you have clay soil, amend with organic material, because the roots may rot if soil does not drain well. Plant the root ball high in the soil to help with drainage issues. Avoid overwatering and over-fertilizing. Pruning, if desired, may be done after flowering.

If you have the space, grow this late summer bloomer as a specimen in a pollinator garden where it will attract bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. Otherwise, it does well in a naturalized or woodland area.

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**Sweet Azalea (R. arborescens)** 1 Gal. - \$15



**Water Use:** Medium

**Light Requirement:** Part Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist

**Soil pH:** Acidic (pH<6.8)

**CaCO<sub>3</sub> Tolerance:** None

**Soil Description:** Moist, well-drained soils.

**Conditions Comments:** Sweet azalea is tall and fast-growing for a native azalea. It is one of the hardiest native white azaleas, and one of the last azaleas to bloom in the spring. Drought sensitive, it requires moist, partially shaded sites.

### LEUCOTHOE:

**Scarletta (Leucothoe fontanesiana)** 1 Gal. - \$15



Best grown in moist, acidic soils, although it can be grown in a variety of soil types. It grows best in partial shade but can also be grown in full shade or full sun if it has consistent moisture. It does not tolerate drought or windy conditions. Although hardy to USDA Zone 5, this shrub should be planted in a protected location and given a good mulch in some areas to ensure winter survival. Plants will sucker to form colonies over time. It can be severely pruned to manage height.

From late April into June, bell-shaped, white flowers that are almost fluorescent appear in the leaf axils (where the leaf joins the stem), usually towards the tips of the branches. These flowering clusters can be quite showy and fragrant. Plants exposed to fall and winter sun will show nice color.

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### **SMALL TREES:**

**Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*) 3 Gal. - \$40



Eastern redbud is a deciduous, ornamental tree in the bean family (Fabaceae). It is native to eastern North America and may grow up to 20 to 30 feet tall and 20 to 35 feet wide.

The tree is pH adaptable and can tolerate full sun or part shade and moderately fertile clay or sandy soil. It does not tolerate heat or drought, which can stress the tree, or wet soils. It does not tolerate root disturbance, so plants should be placed in their permanent positions as soon as possible and should be kept well-watered until established. Because its branches tend to break, the tree should be sited in a relatively protected area. Regular watering, fertilization, and pruning out dead branches as needed will keep the tree vigorous.

Eastern redbud is a flowering tree that blooms before the leaves appear. In early spring, clusters of rose pink to light purple flowers mature and attract many pollinators, including butterflies, and bees.

**Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier arborea*) 3 Gal. - \$40



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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### ORNAMENTAL GRASSES:

**Appalachian Sedge (*Carex appalachica*) 1 Gal - \$15**



Appalachian Sedge is an ideal option for dry, shaded, or otherwise difficult sites. The leaves are uncommonly fine, so although the blades are 12 to 18 inches long, they cannot support themselves. This creates a lovely “weeping” appearance that readily undulates with the slightest breeze. It grows in dense tufts with a mound height of about 6 inches. In early spring, tiny flowering stalks shoot beyond the foliage with little starbursts of light green blooms. These plants grow slowly but steadily to form attractive colonies.

**Purple Love Grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*) 1 Gal.- \$15**



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

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### FERNS:

#### **Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) 1 Gal - \$15**



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.

#### **Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) 1 Gal - \$15**



Lady Fern is a native perennial upright fern that can reach 2-5 feet in height. The leaves are a bright green, with a fine-textured lacy appearance, and single fronds can measure up to 1' wide and 3' in length. The frond stalks are green to purple or red in color. Lady Fern is native to the continental US and Alaska. This graceful fern is a lovely addition to any moist shade gardens. The lacy light green foliage provides a striking contrast to other wide, dark-leaved shade-tolerant plants.

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### Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) 1 Gal - \$15



This fern prefers moist, well-drained, humus, rich soil in partial to full shade with protection from the wind. It has a broad, erect crown densely covered with light brown scales. It produces a large, single crown and does not spread. It is easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in part shade to full shade. The fern typically forms a vase-shaped clump up to 3 feet tall (but usually smaller). This is a woodland fern most often found in shaded crevices of rocky ledges and bluffs. Features grayish-green, deeply cut, leathery fronds (15 to 20 inches long).

### **SHRUBS:**

#### **'Mt Airy' Witch Alder** (*Aronia arbutifolia*) 3 Gal. - \$40



Plant in acidic soils with high organic matter that are consistently moist but with good drainage. The best flowering occurs in full sun, but it tolerates part shade conditions. With beautiful leathery green foliage, interesting bottle-brush flowers in the spring, and great red, yellow, or purple fall color, this compact shrub brings long-lasting seasonal interest to the landscape. Growing slowly to 3 to 6 feet tall and about as wide, this multi-stemmed shrub has a rounded, compact habit.

'Mount Airy' fothergilla spreads by suckers, which can be removed if this is not desirable. The fragrant flowers appear before blue-green leaves in spring and last 10 to 14 days. Leaves are bright yellow to orange to red to purple in fall, colors often combined on the same leaf.

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### Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* 'Bluecrop') 3 Gal.- \$40



Best grown in acidic (pH of 4.8 to 5.2), organically rich, medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Shallow, fibrous roots need constant moisture and good drainage. Plants appreciate a good organic mulch. Although blueberries are self-fertile, cross-pollination produces the best fruit crop (larger berries and larger yields).

### Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon* 'Pilgrim') 3 Gal.- \$40



Large Cranberry is native low-growing vine, ground cover or trailing evergreen shrub and is usually grown in wet bog conditions. They spread by rhizomes and can be difficult to transplant. Requirements are full sun and moist but well-drained soils and they can tolerate periodic flooding. Soil pH needs to be 4.0-5.2. The plants are grown commercially as a food crop and the berries mature in August-November. This plant is intolerant of heat and drought. Ornamentally it can be used as a ground cover for boggy or marshy areas with acidic soils.

### Black Chokeberry (*Aronia mel. 'Autumn Magic'*) 3 Gal. - \$40



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.

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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.

### **Red Chokeberry (Aronia arbutifolia) 3 Gal. - \$40**



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

### **Hearts a bursting (Euonymus americanus) 3 Gal.- \$40**



A low-maintenance, deciduous, suckering, perennial shrub native to the southeastern and southern states. Its common name derives from the showy warty capsules that split open to

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reveal red-orange seeds in the fall. The specific epithet is Latin for “American.” It is a member of the bittersweet family (Celastraceae).

The shrub can be grown in a wide variety of soils, including clay, and tolerates both drought and wet soils to a degree. It tolerates being planted near black walnut trees. It frequently sustains damage from deer that eat the foliage and twigs.

### **Annabelle Hydrangea** (*H. arborescens* 'Annabelle's) 3 Gal. - \$40



Broadleaf, deciduous shrub, fast growing to 3 to 6 ft (0.9-1.6 m) high with a similar spread, forming a rounded mound. Leaves opposite, simple, ovate to elliptic, 5 to 20 cm long and 5 to 15 cm wide, dark green above and pale green below, strongly serrated, base rounded or cordate, tip has a gradual taper (acuminate). Flower clusters are green at first and then dull white, large, broadly rounded, symmetrical, a foot (30 cm) in diameter; long lasting, a month or more, then gradually turn brown. Sun to partial shade.

### **Ruby Slippers Dwarf Oakleaf** (*H. quercifolia* 'Ruby Slippers') 3 Gal. - \$40



Zone: 5 to 9 Height: 3.00 to 4.00 feet Spread: 3.00 to 5.00 feet Bloom Time: June to July Bloom

Description: White maturing to ruby red Sun: Full sun to part shade Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low Suggested Use: Hedge Flower: Showy, Good Cut, Good Dried Leaf: Good Fall

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### Dwarf Sumac (*Rhus aromatica* 'Gro Low') 3 Gal.- \$40



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 leemony 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.

### Pink Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Ruby Spice') 3 Gal.- \$40



*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

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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

### **PERENNIALS:**

**Aster (Symphyotrichum ob. 'October Skies')** 1 Gal-\$15



*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.

**Aster (Symphyotrichum lateriflorus 'Lady in Black')** 1 Gal-\$15



An elegant 3-4' mound of purplish-black strappy leaves smothered in red-centered tiny white daisies in late summer and early fall. A stronger, more statuesque sister of *Aster 'Prince'* that will

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thrive in average soil in sun or part shade, but shows best foliage coloration in full sun. Thousands of flowers per plant—a butterfly's dream!

### Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma* 'Jacob Cline') 1 Gal-\$15



Bee Balm 'Jacob Cline' is known for its enormous flowers and disease resistance. It is a clump forming perennial boasting vibrant red flowers borne on dense, globular terminal heads. Blooming for weeks from mid-summer to early fall, they rest on a whorl of decorative dark-purplish bracts and attract scores of butterflies and hummingbirds. The vibrant color is set off by the dark green foliage. Dark green leaves have an aroma of mint and basil. Best grown in rich, medium to wet, moisture-retentive soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers rich, humusy soils in full sun, although some afternoon shade is appreciated in hot summer climates.

### Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*) 1 Gal-\$15



Larger blue flag iris, is a perennial in the Iridaceae (iris) family native to Canada and the United States spanning south from Nova Scotia into the middle and northeastern United States to Virginia. The specific epithet, *versicolor*, is derived from this plant's ability to produce many-colored blooms while the common name, "flag", comes from an old English word (flagge) for reeds and refers to its natural preference to wetlands.

It prefers to grow in rich, moist soils and thrives in full sun while it tolerates partial shade. Plants can be grown in up to 4 inches of standing fresh water.

The sword shaped blue-green clumping leaves reach 2 to 2.5 feet tall topped with a mass of blue lavender to white blooms. The blooms are formed of three upright inner standards and three distinctly marked sepals or falls. The leaves are narrow and strap-like 1 inch wide and up

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to 24 inches long crossing at the base to be fan-like. Though the fruit forms as a capsule, this plant propagates best by division of the rhizomes after blooms fade. Prune back the leaves after the first frost to just above the crown.

### Blunt Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*) 1 Gal- \$15



*Pycnanthemum muticum*, commonly called mountain mint or short-toothed mountain mint or clustered mountain mint, is a clump-forming aromatic perennial that typically grows 1-3' tall. It is native to Eastern North America (Maine to Michigan to Illinois and Missouri south to Florida and Texas) where it typically grows in grassy open places, meadows, fields, low woodland areas and occasionally in dry upland woods, but not in alpine areas as somewhat inaccurately suggested by its common name. In Missouri, it is only found in the far southeastern corner of the State.

### Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* 'Ruby Star') 1 Gal-\$15



*Echinacea purpurea*, commonly called purple coneflower, is a coarse, rough-hairy, herbaceous perennial that is native to moist prairies, meadows and open woods of the central to southeastern United States (Ohio to Michigan to Iowa south to Louisiana and Georgia). It typically grows to 2-4' tall. Showy daisy-like purple coneflowers (to 5" diameter) bloom throughout summer atop stiff stems clad with coarse, ovate to broad-lanceolate, dark green leaves. Good fresh cut or dried flower. The dead flower stems will remain erect well into the winter, and if flower heads are not removed, the blackened cones may be visited by goldfinches or other birds that feed on the seeds.

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**Coneflower (Echinacea pur. 'White Swan') 1 Gal - \$15**



'White Swan' is not as cold hardy or vigorous as its common purple relative, but it makes up for this with its unique, beautiful, pure white flowers. A tall plant with large, dark green leaves and a large, 3-4" flower with white, broad, silky petals that surround a dark brown/bronze cone. Plants are tough and heat and drought tolerant once established. Their roots have famous medicinal qualities, they make great, long lasting, cut flowers and attract numerous butterflies and small birds.

**Dwarf Gayfeather (Liatris microcephala) 1 Gal- \$15**



An exceptional, compact native with fine-textured, deep green grassy leaves. Smallhead blazing star sends up numerous spikes with tassel-like rosy purple flowers in August and September. Unique to the genus, the flowers open from top to bottom on the spike in a slow unfurling of brilliant color. Excellent as a cut flower. Tolerant of clay and drought, very low maintenance. Loved by butterflies!

**Foamflower (Tiarella cord. 'Running Tapestry') 1 Gal- \$15**



Foamflower is a small, delicate, native herbaceous perennial native to the Eastern Seaboard, including North Carolina. It is a member of the saxifrage family (Saxifragaceae). It is found

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naturally in moist forests, coves and well-drained bottomlands. The species epithet is compounded from Latin words meaning “heart-shaped leaf.”

Foamflower is best grown in shade, from dappled shade to full shade. It is not tolerant of drought conditions and needs moist, neutral or slightly acidic, humus-rich soils. Damaged foliage can be cut back at the beginning of the growing season and will be replaced with fresh, unblemished leaves.

### NY Ironweed (*Vernonia novaboracensis*) 1 Gal- \$15



Ironweed is an herbaceous native perennial wildflower in the Aster family (Asteraceae) and is found in all areas of NC.

It may grow 5 to 8 feet tall and prefers rich moist acidic soils but will grow in average moist to wet soils in full sun. Propagate by seed.

The deep purple flowers appear in clusters from mid-summer to mid-fall on strong stems. This low-maintenance wildflower naturalizes easily and is adaptable to garden conditions. This plant was selected as the 2004 NC Wildflower of the Year, a program managed by the North Carolina Botanical Garden with some financial support from the Garden Club of North Carolina. Native bees nest in the dead, hollow stems, so gardeners are encouraged to cut back dead stems to 12 to 24 inches and allow them to remain standing until they disintegrate on their own.

### Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*) 1 Gal- \$15



If you’re looking for a showy red perennial that does a great job attracting hummingbirds, then Royal Catchfly is for you! One of the few ‘red’ native prairie plants, it can provide beautiful red blooms from early to mid-Summer and is drought tolerant.

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### Swamp Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) 1 Gal- \$15



A shrubby, moisture loving plant in the hibiscus family that provides big, showy flowers from midsummer to autumn. The plant performs well along pond edges or other damp areas. This stunning, low-maintenance plant is available in a range of colors, including pink, peach, white, red, lavender, and bi-color varieties.

### Tall Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana') 1 Gal- \$15



Found by and named after Jeana Prewitt of Nashville, TN, this selection possesses outstanding mildew resistance with varying shades of sweetly scented, lavender-pink flowers, vibrant midsummer through early autumn. Foliage remains clean green while flower clusters create a tiered effect along upright, multi-stemmed branches. Expect a flurry of pollinator activity!

### Threadleaf Tickseed, (*Coreopsis* v. 'Zagreb') 1 Gal- \$15



Threadleaf tickseed is a native perennial in the daisy family that grows in dense bushy clumps. It may grow 2-3 feet tall with a similar spread. Plants thrive in infertile sandy and rocky soils and

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tolerate drought, low levels of salt, infertile soil, heat, and humidity. If the soil is too rich or moist, stems become weak and plants tend to flop. The clumps will spread by rhizomes and can be divided every 2-3 years. It will also self-seed. Shearing the plant after blooming will sometimes produce fall flowers.

### Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) 1 Gal- \$15



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.