



Native Trees and Shrubs for Wet (Riparian) Sites in Southeastern PA and Northern DE

Shrubs:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growing Requirements, Benefits to Wildlife
American Elder, Common Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Wet soils; part shade. Dense and fast-growing; berries eaten by birds, twigs eaten by mammals. Bloom time: May-June
Black Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> [Syn. <i>Photina melanocarpa</i>]	Moist soils; full sun to part shade. A small shrub, 3-6 feet high, with red fall foliage and persistent black berries. Bloom time: May
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Moist to wet soils; full sun to part shade. Tall shrub with spherical flower heads. Seeds eaten by waterfowl; shelter for wildlife; attracts bees. Bloom time: June-Aug.
Common Witch-Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Moist to dry soils; shade to part shade. A tall shrub (10-20 feet high) with fragrant yellow fall flowers. Seeds eaten by birds and small mammals. Bloom time: October-November
Gray dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Moist to dry soils; full sun to full shade. Large shrub, slow-growing. Fruit eaten by birds and mammals. Bloom time: May-June
Highbush Cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Well-drained, moist soils; sun to part shade. Full foliage and bright red berries. Berries attract birds, foliage provides cover for wildlife. Bloom time: May-June
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Moist to wet soils; part shade. Mound-shaped, colony forming shrub. Berries persist into winter; attract birds. Bloom time: May-July
Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> [syn. <i>Photinia floribunda</i>]	Moist to wet soils; full sun to part shade. Small spreading shrub; brilliant fall color. Birds will eat fruit. Bloom time: May
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Moist to wet soils; shade to part shade. Large shrub with creamy white flowers. Attracts birds. Bloom time: April-June
Smooth Alder, Hazel Alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Wet to moist soils; full sun to part shade. Large (8-12 feet high) wetland shrub. Glossy green leaves turn yellow-red in fall. Provides nesting cover for birds. Bloom time: March-April



Southern Arrowwood; Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Moist to wet soils; full sun to part shade. Mid-sized shrub, dark red fall foliage. Provides cover for wildlife; fruit eaten by birds. Bloom time: May-July
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Wet to moist soils; shade to part shade. Bright red berries in fall; twigs and fruit eaten by birds and mammals Bloom time: March-May
Swamp Azalea	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Moist to wet soils; part shade. Colorful fall foliage; fragrant white flowers attract birds. Bloom time: May-August
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Wet to moist soils; sun to part shade. Slow-growing ornamental with fragrant flowers; low wildlife value. Bloom time: April-July
Winterberry Holly, Common Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Wet to moist soils, full sun to part shade. Mid-sized shrub with bright red berries that attract birds. Bloom time: April-July

Trees:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growing Requirements, Benefits to Wildlife
American Linden, Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Moist to dry, well-drained soils; full sun to part shade. Large shade tree with heart-shaped leaves. Fragrant white flowers attract bees and birds. Bloom time: April-July
American Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Wet to moist soils; full sun. Large shade tree, 75-100 feet high; attracts birds. Bloom time: March-April
Black Birch, Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>	Moist, well-drained soils; sun to part shade. Colorful fall foliage; provides food for birds and mammals. Bloom time: April-May
Black Gum, Sour Gum, Black Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Moist soils; full sun to part shade. Brilliant red autumn color and blue fruit. Fruits, twigs and foliage are food for birds and animals. Bloom time: April-June
Common Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Moist to dry, well-drained soils; full sun to part shade. Large tree, 60-100 feet high, with orange to purple berries. Provides food and shelter for wildlife. Bloom time: April
Common Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Moist, well-drained soils; full sun to part shade. Aromatic understory tree; fruit attracts birds and mammals. Bloom time: April-June
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Moist, well-drained soils; full sun to part shade. Small rounded tree. Showy pink flowers attract birds. Bloom time: March-May
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Wet to dry soils; full sun to part shade. Large tree with colorful fall foliage. Attracts birds and other wildlife. Bloom time: May-June
Pagoda Dogwood, Alternate-leaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Moist soils; part shade. Small understory tree. Fruit attracts birds. Bloom time: May-June



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Common Name	Scientific Name	Growing Requirements, Benefits to Wildlife
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Moist, well-drained soils; full sun to shade. Understory tree with large leaves; edible fruit attracts mammals and birds. Host plant for butterflies. Bloom time: April-May
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Moist soils; full sun to part shade. Dark red fall foliage; acorns provide food for wetland birds and mammals. Bloom time: March-May
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Wet to dry soils; full sun to part shade. A mid-sized, short-lived tree. Turns bright yellow in fall. Young trees provide cover and food for birds and mammals. Bloom time: April -May
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Moist soils; full sun to full shade. Bright red fall foliage. Bloom time: March-April
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	Wet to moist soils; full sun to part shade. Fast-growing shade tree; Seeds benefit birds and small mammals, host plant for butterflies. Bloom time: February-March
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Wet to moist soils; full sun. Large canopy tree, turns golden yellow in fall. Seeds eaten by birds and small mammals. Bloom time: April-May
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Wet to moist soils; full sun to part shade. Long-lived shade tree; Attracts birds and mammals for acorns and cover. Bloom time: March-April