

# Plant This, Not That

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NATIVE PLANTS

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# Resources

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[extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://extension.umd.edu/hgic)  
[marylandgrows.umd.edu](http://marylandgrows.umd.edu)

[extension.umd.edu/learn/ask-gardening](http://extension.umd.edu/learn/ask-gardening)

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[extension.umd.edu/mg](http://extension.umd.edu/mg)

# What's Native?

A plant species that was indigenous to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed at the time of European settlement.

# Why Plant Natives?

- More resilient & hardy, “right plant, right place”
- Less maintenance, once established
- Habitat restoration
- Beauty with a purpose

**One yard at a time, we can  
restore our fractured native  
landscape—it's all up to us!**

# GOAL

## Encouraging you....

- To seek out native plant alternatives for some of the popular, at times, invasive non-native plants
- To see that native plants can achieve the same aesthetic goals
- To consider using native plants when replacing damaged/dying plants, planning a new gardening bed/landscape design, or problem solving

# Explanation of Terms

- **Common names**: Non-Latin names. Regional differences can be confusing.
- **Latin names**: *Genus & species*, most accurate term
- **Straight species**: Occurs naturally and is usually superior for habitat formation. Greater genetic variation than cultivars.
- **Cultivars**: Natural hybrids or cultivated hybrids selected for specific trait(s). Individuals of the same cultivar are genetically identical or very similar to each other. Designated by single apostrophes.
- Beware of drastic changes to flower shape/size (in some cultivars) which can inhibit the beneficial insects.
- **Invasive species**: “Alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health” (*Presidential Executive Order 13112, 2/3/99*).



# Bradford Pear, *Pyrus calleryana*

Spring



Fall



**Invasive, non-native, weak-wood, short-lived**

**Goal: Small, full sun, native tree with white spring blooms, fruit and fall color**

# Washington Hawthorn, *Crataegus viridis*, 'Winter King'

Spring



Fall



**Ht: 25-35'. Spread: Same. Full Sun. Gorgeous white blooms in spring. Medium to dry moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Drought resistant, once established. Medium growth rate. Deciduous. Good fall colors of yellow-green to golden yellow with berries that ripen from green to orange to red. Attractive bark in winter. Most disease-resistant hawthorn.**

# Washington Hawthorn, 'Winter King'

Berries in winter



Silvery bark



**4 season interest!**

**Red berries persist thru winter. Edible for birds.**

**Best native alternative to Bradford Pear!**

# Serviceberry, *Amelanchier canadensis*

Spring



Fall



**Ht: 15-30'. Spread: Same. Part sun to full shade. Medium to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Good for wet areas. Medium growth rate. Early spring, white bloom. Produces early summer berries which are tasty for birds and humans. Deciduous. Fall color orange to red. Multiple trunks common. Deer resistant.**

# Norway Maple, *Acer platanoides*

Summer



Fall



**Invasive, non-native. Large tree with shallow, weak roots. Dense shade-inhibits all growth below it.**

**Goal: Large, full sun tree with attractive fall foliage and fast growth rate. Lawn shade tree.**

# Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*

Summer



Fall



**Ht: 40-100' Spread: 30-75'. Full sun to part sun. Medium to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Good for wet areas. Fast growth rate. Deciduous. Fall colors range from red to orange. Very adaptable. Many attractive cultivars available such as 'October Glory' and 'Red Sunset'. Will develop some surface roots, so choose site carefully. Long-lived. Deer resistant.**

# Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos*

Summer

Fall



**Ht: 80-100' Spread: Same. Full sun to part sun. Medium to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Medium growth rate. Deciduous. Yellow to orange/red fall color. Acorns for wildlife. Long-lived. Small leaves rarely need raking. Deer resistant.**

# Burning Bush, *Euonymus alatus*

Summer



Fall



Non-native, invasive. Large shrub, full sun to part sun, used for fall color.

Goal: Large native shrub, full sun, with gorgeous fall color.



# Virginia Sweetspire, *Itea virginica*, 'Henry's Garnet'

Early Summer



Fall



Ht: 3-5'. Spread: Same. Full sun to full shade. Medium to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Good for wet areas. Medium growth rate. Pretty white blooms in June. Produces seed capsules for wildlife. Fall foliage ranges from red to purple. Will sucker to form thickets. Dwarf cultivars also available- 'Little Henry': 2-3' ht and spread.

# Witch Alder, *Fothergilla* 'Mount Airy'

Spring



Fall



**Ht: 3-5'. Spread: Same. Full sun to part sun. Medium moisture. Medium growth rate. Fragrant (honey scent) and profuse April/May blooms. Attractive fall foliage. Will sucker to form colonies. SE native. Deer resistant.**

# Barberry, *Berberis thunbergii*

Spring/Summer



Fall



**Non-native, invasive. Full sun, maroon foliage and good fall color. Spiny, painful thorns!**

**Goal: Full sun native, maroon foliage, good fall color, NO THORNS!**

# Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius*, 'Summer Wine'

Spring/Summer



Fall



**Ht: 4-6' Spread: Same. Full sun to part sun. Medium to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Medium growth rate. Attractive spring blooms. Adaptable, drought-resistant shrub, once established. Will sucker to form thickets. Produces edible seeds for birds. Cascading habit. 'Diablo', 'Summer Wine' cultivars for purple/maroon leaves. Attractive peeling bark. Fall foliage ranges from orange to red. NO THORNS!**

# **Problem Solving with Natives**

**\*Screening & privacy with evergreens**

**Mixed borders are best!**

**\*Wet areas & rain gardens**

# For privacy, instead of the over-used...

Leyland Cypress



Privet, *Ligustrum spp.* (**invasive**)  
& Redtip (*Photinia spp.*)



Goal: Fast growing, full sun, large, evergreen, deer resistant native plants

# American Arborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis*



Sizes range from dwarf to giant. Evergreen. Full sun to part sun. Medium moisture. Fast growing and drought-resistant, once established. Low maintenance. Hardy. Birds consume seeds in cones. Many cultivars readily available. Do not use in high deer population areas.

# Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*



**Ht: 50-75' Spread: 35-50' Full sun. Medium to dry moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Hardy/adaptable to many soils & habitats. Medium to fast growth. Evergreen. High wildlife value. Berries consumed by birds. Used as windbreaks on farms for years. Long-lived. Deer resistant, but rut damage is possible.**



# Eastern White Pine, *Pinus strobus*



**Ht: 75-100' Spread: 50-75' Full sun. Medium to dry moisture. Medium to fast growth. Evergreen. High wildlife value. Birds consume seeds in cones. Best for large areas. Note: Over time, the lower branches will thin out. Better to use as a down hill screen than an uphill screen. Deer resistant.**

# American Holly, *Ilex opaca*



**Ht: 15-20' Spread: 18-40' Full sun to full shade. Medium moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Slow to medium growth. Evergreen. Birds eat berries. Prickly leaves. Many cultivars & hybrids available. Male & female specimens may be required for fruit production. Long-lived. Deer resistant.**

# **Southern Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora***



**Ht: 60-80' Spread: 40' Full sun to part sun. Medium moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Slow to medium growth. Evergreen. Large, white blooms produce seed pods which can be eaten by wildlife. SE native. Deer resistant. Smaller cultivars available-'Little Gem'**

# Inkberry Holly, *Ilex glabra*

Evergreen

Black berries in winter for birds



Ht: 6-10' Spread: Same. Full sun to full shade. Medium to dry moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Hardy! Slow growth rate. Evergreen. Spine-less leaves. High wildlife value. Male & female plants required. Dwarf cultivars available-'Shamrock', 'Compacta'-Good for foundation plantings. Deer resistant.

# Now into the wet area dilemma...



# River Birch, *Betula nigra*

Summer



Fall



**Ht: 50-75' Spread: 35-50'. Full sun to part sun. Medium to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Fast growth rate. Golden yellow fall foliage. Attractive peeling bark. Multiple trunks common. 'Heritage' or 'Dura-heat' cultivars. Also good substitute for Weeping Willow (non-native) trees. Deer resistant.**

# Sweetbay Magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana*



**Ht: 12-30' Spread: Same. Full sun to full shade. Medium to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Medium growth rate. Aromatic (lemony) white blooms in spring. Produces seed pods for wildlife. Deciduous. All parts fragrant! Multiple trunks common. Deer resistant.**

# **Wax Myrtle, *Morella (Myrica) cerifera* or *pensylvanica***



**Ht: 5-15' Spread: same. Full sun to part sun. Dry to wet soil. Large evergreen shrub. Tolerates clay soil and brackish conditions. Very hardy and adaptable. Medium to fast growth rate. Berries eaten by birds. Need male and female plants. Fragrant bayberry scent! Nitrogen fixer-no fertilizer needed. Can be evergreen screen. Deer resistant.**



# Summersweet, *Clethra alnifolia*

Summer



Fall



**Ht: 6-12' Spread: same. Part sun to full shade. Medium to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Medium growth rate. Fragrant blooms in late summer. Produces seed capsules for wildlife. Deciduous. Yellow fall foliage. Many attractive cultivars available for size and bloom color. Deer resistant.**

# Winterberry Holly, *Ilex verticillata*

Summer



Fall/Winter



Ht: 6-12' Spread: same. Full sun to full shade. Medium to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Slow growth rate. Deciduous. Spine-less leaves. Berries provide late winter bird food. Need male and female plants. High wildlife value! Many attractive cultivars available. Must match male & female for berries on cultivars. 'Winter Red', 'Red Sprite'. Deer resistant.

# Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*

Spring/Summer



Fall Berries



**Ht: 10-15' Spread: same. Full sun to full shade. Dry to wet moisture. Tolerates clay soil. Hardy/Adaptable. Medium to fast growth. Provides fall berries for birds. High wildlife value. Deciduous. Fall colors range from red to purple. 'Blue Muffin' & 'Chicago Lustre' cultivars-smaller size. Deer resistant.**

# Where to buy native plants?

- Major Retail Chains—limited
- Local Independent Nurseries---always look and ask for special orders. Slowly improving native plant selections.
- Maryland Native Plant Society---Lists native plant nurseries in MD and sales.  
[www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org) Also on Facebook

# Native Plant Sales

- Chesapeake Natives: Non-profit nursery at Rosaryville State Park in Upper Marlboro. Sales on various weekends and by appointment.
- Adkins Arboretum: On the eastern shore of MD. Maintain a native plant nursery and hold periodic sales.
- Irvine Nature Center: Owings Mills, MD., NW of Baltimore. Last Saturday in August, they hold a big native plant sale and seminar. 8 vendors from VA, MD and PA—Great selection!
- National Arboretum: Annual native plant sale in D.C. every spring
- MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALES: Calvert & Charles Co.

# More Native Plant Sources

- Stadler Nursery: Frederick, MD location grows many native trees and shrubs and sells them for very reasonable prices--smaller sizes.
- Nature by Design: Native plant nursery, Alexandria,VA
- Arbor Day Foundation: \$10 membership comes with 10 native seedlings to plant. Patience & protection required!
- Investigate mail order nurseries.
- “Marylanders Plant Trees” initiative: \$25 rebate on native tree purchases of at least \$50 at participating nurseries!

# Remember...

- \*\*Email or call nurseries close to you and ask for a specific plant.
- \*\*Do not dig up or purchase plants wild-collected; use only nursery-propagated or responsibly seed-collected native plants.

**More requests will create more demand in the local nurseries that, hopefully, they will work harder to meet!**

# Reference Material

1. US Fish & Wildlife Service, NATIVE PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT AND CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING, Chesapeake Bay Watershed, 2003/2005.
2. Tallamy, Douglas W., BRINGING NATURE HOME, Timber Press, 2009.
3. Dirr, Michael A., DIRR'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TREES & SHRUBS, Timber Press, 2011.



# Additional Native Plants for Consideration

1. Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*
2. Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*
3. White Fringe Tree, *Chionanthus virginicus*
4. Tupelo/Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*
5. Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*
6. Mountain Laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*
7. Oakleaf Hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia*, SE native
8. Bottlebrush Buckeye, *Aesculus parviflora*, SE native
9. Sweetshrub/Carolina Allspice, *Calycanthus floridus*, SE native
10. American Beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*
11. *Viburnums-acerfolium, nudum, prunifolium*
12. Red Chokeberry, *Aronia pyrifolia*
13. Black Chokeberry, *Aronia melanocarpa*
14. Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*
15. Elderberry, *Sambucus nigra*
16. Gray Dogwood, *Cornus racemosa*
17. Fragrant Sumac, *Rhus aromatica*
18. Highbush Blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum*

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**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**