



Why Plant Native Trees and Shrubs?

« Shrubs »

Native trees and shrubs, which are woody plants, as well as herbaceous perennials, naturally occur in the region in which they evolved. They are adapted to local soil, rainfall, and temperature conditions, and have developed natural defenses to many insects and diseases. Using native plants helps preserve the healthy balance and beauty of natural ecosystems.

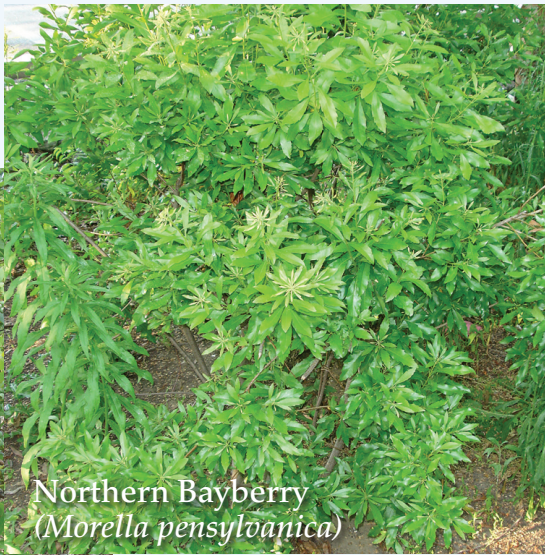
Native Trees and Shrubs:

- **Clean Our Air.** They take our waste product, carbon dioxide, and give us oxygen.
- **Clean Our Water.** They slow, absorb, and filter polluted runoff, and are essential to keep our waterways clean.
- **Save Natural Resources, Maintenance, and Expense.** Once established, native trees and shrubs will thrive without added water, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- **Save Tax Dollars.** Planting native trees and shrubs reduces the cost of controlling polluted runoff.
- **Protect Soil.** They hold soil in place with their root system and add nutrients each fall with their leaves. They are crucial to sustaining and replenishing our soil.
- **Add Beauty.** Planting native trees and shrubs adds beauty to our individual yards and our entire community.
- **Increase Property Values.** Native trees and shrubs can increase property values by 15 percent or more.
- **Provide Food and Habitat for Wildlife.** Many wildlife species—especially essential pollinators—have co-evolved with native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials and are dependent on them.
- **Are Cool.** They cool the air, land, and water with leafy shade and moisture and help save money on energy costs.
- **Fight Global Warming.** Planting native trees and shrubs helps offset greenhouse gases.

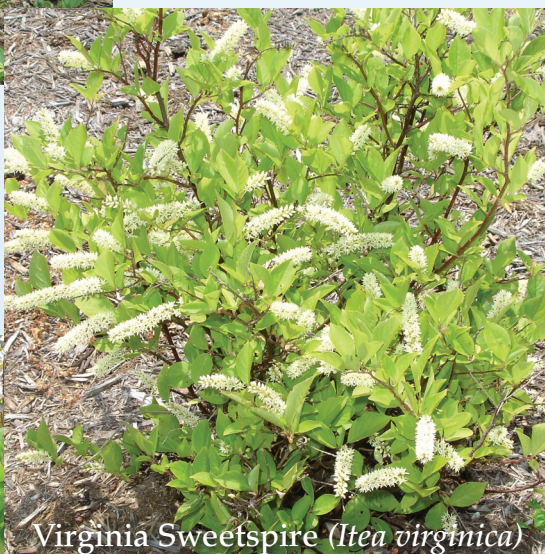
Trees »



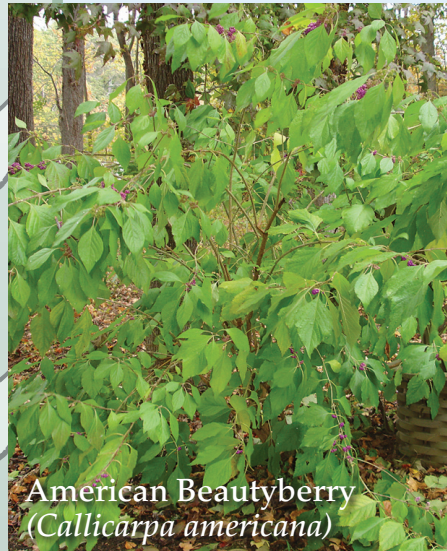
Highbush Blueberry
(*Vaccinium corymbosum*)



Northern Bayberry
(*Morella pensylvanica*)



Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)



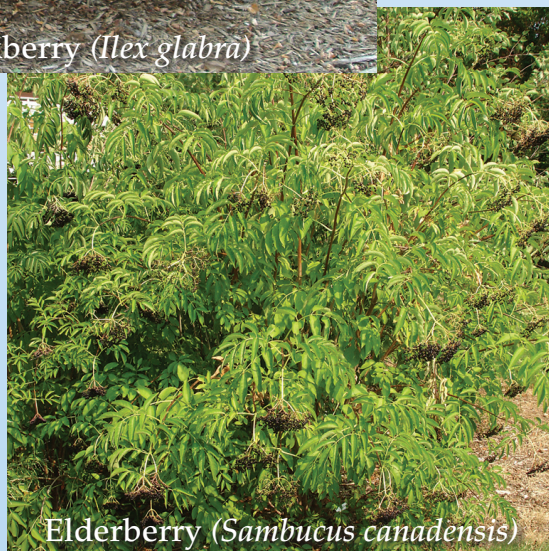
American Beautyberry
(*Callicarpa americana*)



Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)



Black Chokeberry
(*Photinia melanocarpa*)



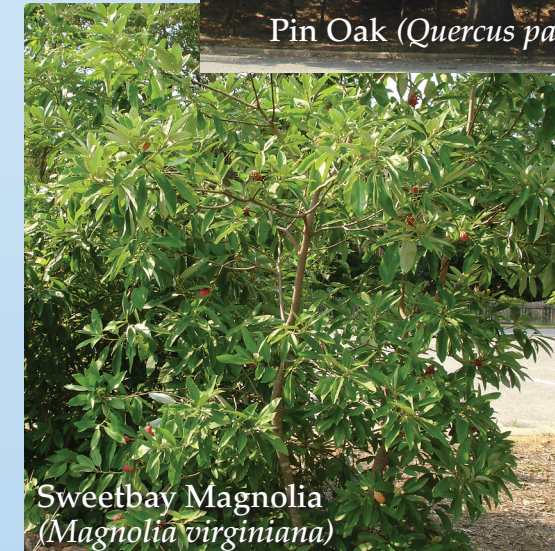
Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)



Buttonbush
(*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)



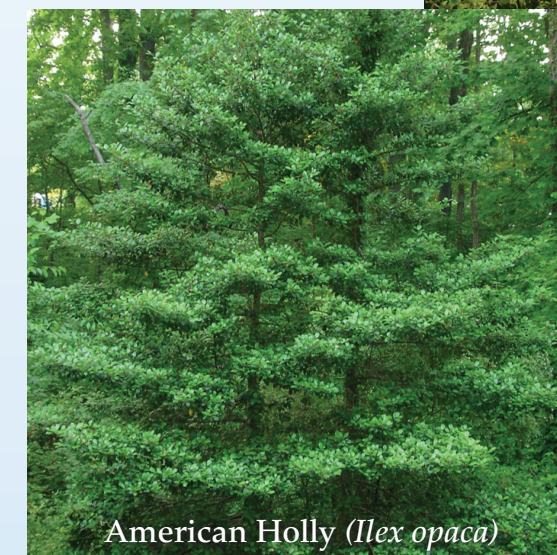
Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)



Sweetbay Magnolia
(*Magnolia virginiana*)



Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)



American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)



River Birch (*Betula nigra*)



Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)



Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)



Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)