




Audubon at Home Top 10 Native Plant Lists – Canopy & Understory Trees

Name	Image	Features, Size	Wildlife Value	Moisture, Sunlight	Natural Habitat
<p>Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">Photo by James L. Reveal, Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.</p>	<p>Urban tolerant</p> <p>Tolerates salt, drought</p> <p>Fast growing</p> <p>Medium to tall canopy tree, 40 – 75 ft.</p>	<p>High - fruit, caterpillar host, nectar and pollen source</p>	<p>Dry to moist soil</p> <p>pH -- very strongly acidic to neutral</p> <p>Full sun (young trees tolerate shade)</p>	<p>Woods, edges, fencerows</p>
<p>Eastern Redbud (<i>Cercis Canadensis</i>)</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">Photo by Seelig, R.A. Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.</p>	<p>Tolerates drought, nutrient poor soils</p> <p>Edible flowers</p> <p>Small tree with showy spring flowers, 20 – 35 ft.</p>	<p>Seeds, nectar and pollen source; provides understory habitat</p>	<p>Dry to moist</p> <p>pH very strongly acidic to slightly alkaline</p> <p>Part sun to shade</p>	<p>River bottoms and stream banks</p>
<p>Flowering Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)</p>	 <p style="font-size: small;">Photo by Cooper, G.A., Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.</p>	<p>Showy spring flowers, red fruit in fall, fall color</p> <p>Small to medium tree, 20 – 50 ft.</p>	<p>High - fruits, caterpillar host; provides understory habitat</p>	<p>Dry to moist</p> <p>pH -- strongly acid to neutral</p> <p>Part sun, but will tolerate sunnier situations</p>	<p>Woods, wood openings, slopes</p>

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)



Photo by WVU Herbarium, Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.

Interesting corky bark projections with age

Adaptable, tolerates urban conditions - range of soil types, including dry to wet soils and flooding, salt

Medium to large canopy tree, good shade tree
40 – 100 ft.

High - edible berries, caterpillar host, nesting sites

Dry to wet soils

pH – slightly acidic to slightly alkaline

Full sun to for shade

Floodplains, wooded slopes, along streams

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)



Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database/ USDA SCS. 1991. *Southern wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species*. South National Technical Center, Fort Worth.

Hardy - tolerates soil compaction, winter flooding, drought, salt; good lawn, street and shade tree

Medium-large canopy tree, more compact form than other large oaks
50 – 80 ft.

High - acorns, caterpillar host, nesting cavities

Moist to wet soil

pH -- very strongly acidic to neutral

Full sun

Bottomlands, upland flats

River birch (*Betula nigra*)



Paul Cox, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Exfoliating bark provides visual interest

Tolerates urban conditions - soil compaction, heat, poorly drained soil; somewhat drought tolerant

Medium canopy tree, 50 – 75 ft.




High - seeds, flower buds eaten by birds, other animals; caterpillar host; bark shelters overwintering insects


Moist to wet soil (more tolerant of drier soils than other birches)

pH – strongly to slightly acidic

Full to part sun

Riparian areas, swamps

<p>Shadbush (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>)</p>	 <p>Photo by WVU Herbarium Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.</p>	<p>Small understory tree with early spring flowers</p> <p>Tolerates limited root space, low soil oxygen, salt</p> <p>Edible berries</p> <p>15 – 25 ft.</p>	<p>Early summer fruit, caterpillar host, pollen and nectar source</p> <p>58 species of wildlife use, including 35 birds</p>	<p>Dry to moist</p> <p>pH – moderately acidic to slightly alkaline</p> <p>Part-sun to shade</p>	<p>Stream banks, swamps, slopes</p>
<p>Sweet Crabapple (<i>Malus coronaria</i>)</p>	 <p>Photo by Cooper, G.A., Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.</p>	<p>Ohio State Univ. Extension describes it as “a tough survivor in urban situations”, tolerates a range of soil types</p> <p>Can be disease prone and should not be planted near red cedar</p> <p>Small fruiting tree with fragrant flowers, 10 – 30 ft.</p>	<p>High - fruits, caterpillar host, nectar and pollen source</p>	<p>Moist soils</p> <p>pH neutral – alkaline</p> <p>Full sun to light shade</p>	<p>Forest edges, fields, along streams</p>
<p>White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>)</p>	 <p>J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database</p>	<p>Tolerates salt</p> <p>Very sensitive to soil compaction, not for high traffic areas</p> <p>Very large canopy tree, needs space, 75 – 100 ft.</p>	<p>High - acorns, caterpillar host, nesting cavities</p>	<p>Dry to moist soil (tolerates thin, dry soils)</p> <p>pH -- very strongly acidic to neutral</p> <p>Full to part sun</p>	<p>Dry to moist woods</p>

<p>Witch Hazel (<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>)</p>	 <p>Albert F.W. Vick, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center</p>	<p>Unusual strap-like yellow petals on flowers; flowers in fall</p> <p>Tolerates salt</p> <p>Sensitive to soil compaction</p> <p>Small tree, 15-30 ft.</p>	<p>Caterpillar host; late season pollen and nectar source; caterpillar host; cover for birds and small animals</p>	<p>Dry to moist</p> <p>pH – moderately to slightly acidic</p> <p>Part sun to shade</p>	<p>Moist or dry woods and brushy fields</p>
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<p>Sources:</p>	<p><i>Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants</i>, Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2010</p> <p>Digital Atlas of Virginia Flora, http://www.biol.vt.edu/digital_atlas/</p> <p>Native Plant Information Network, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, The University of Texas at Austin, http://www.wildflower.org/explore/</p> <p><i>Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed</i>, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2003, http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/plant/377.htm</p> <p><i>Native Species Planting Guide for New York and Vicinity</i>, Danielle Luttenberg, Deborah Lev, Michael Feller, Natural Resources Group, City of New York Parks & Recreation, 1993</p> <p>Plants Database, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Dept. of Agriculture, http://plants.usda.gov</p> <p>Plant Image Collection, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, http://persoon.si.edu/PlantImages/</p> <p><i>Wild Urban Plants of the Northeast: A Field Guide</i>, Peter del Tredici, Comstock Associates, 2010</p>
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