

## Benefits of Using Native Plants

- Vital to songbirds, beneficial insects, and butterflies for food, nectar, homes & protection
- Better sustainability—low maintenance once established, requiring less water and no chemicals
- Increases plant biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Supports the pollinators we depend on for food and flowers
- Supports the natural beauty, uniqueness and character of our Ozark bioregion
- Attracts helpful species like the purple martin who eats over 1000 mosquitoes a day
- Generously shares our home ground with the creatures who lived here before us
- Non-invasive, won't take over like kudzu or Japanese honeysuckle
- Migratory birds & butterflies depend on native plants (Monarch butterflies require milkweed for reproduction; many birds feed on viburnum berries and seek cover in evergreen red cedars)

## How to Begin

- Learn more about the Ozarks and our natural flora and fauna!
- Make natives a focus in all or part of your home landscape
- Choose plants that benefit songbirds, butterflies & pollinators
- Reconsider pesticides & lawn chemicals. They kill butterflies, birds and pollinators; fish and amphibians are harmed by runoff.
- Never remove plants from the wild. The wild needs them.
- Ask your local nurseries to carry and label Ozark natives
- Teach others the importance of using native plants
- Protect local wild areas as important reserves of natural plants & wildlife
- Plant native trees for and with your grandchildren
- Learn about backyard habitat programs
- Celebrate Ozark natural heritage

## We Can Make a Positive Difference

As the Ozarks become more populated, less land is available for birds and wildlife. Yet we do not want to crowd out the birds, plants, wildlife and butterflies that make this region such a great place to live. Landscaping our own yards with native plants may not seem like much, but if more homeowners, landscapers, businesses, subdivisions, neighborhoods, developers, and even cities focused on native plantings, we could make a tremendous difference in preserving the natural beauty and integrity of Northwest Arkansas. ↪



[www.OzarksAlive.org](http://www.OzarksAlive.org)

Find plant lists, photos, helpful links, suggested reading and where to get more brochures at this new community website. This brochure—the first in a series on native plants and backyard habitat—was created as a community service by Fayetteville gardeners Cindi Cope & Leigh Wilkerson. Both are available to speak to your group or organization on native plant, butterfly, and habitat gardening. See [www.OzarksAlive.org](http://www.OzarksAlive.org)



**BOTANICAL GARDEN OF THE OZARKS**

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## The Ozark-Friendly Landscape

Using Native Plants for Beauty & Biodiversity



When you plant Ozark native trees and shrubs in your landscape, you support the beauty and biodiversity of Northwest Arkansas. Native plants are vital to the songbirds and butterflies we treasure. The pollinators—the bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats and beetles without which 70% of our food crops would falter—depend on native plants. Native species are low maintenance, requiring little or no pruning or fertilizer and less water once established.

Every day as you choose plants for your garden and yard, you have the chance to give a gift to yourself as well as our local ecosystem by using Ozark natives. Choose to celebrate the unique natural heritage of our region and support biodiversity. ↪



## What are Ozark native plants and why are they important?

Natives are the species that originated in a region and existed here before settlers arrived. Native plants have developed in a special balance with the birds, butterflies and wildlife in the eons they have coexisted. They are neighbors that have gotten to know each other and live in balance. Ozark native plants are naturally well-suited for the soils, climate and conditions found in these rugged hills and plateaus.

Generations of birds, butterflies and other wildlife have come to depend on native plants to exist in the area, bloom at certain times, and provide food or shelter at other times.

Migratory species also depend on native plants along their historical routes. A decrease in native plant species, combined with overall habitat loss has caused many songbird populations to seriously decline. Some people think that birdfeeders can make up the difference, yet songbirds require native insects to successfully raise young. A wren needs 500 insects in a single afternoon for her fledglings while a brown thrasher consumes 6000 insects in a day! Those native insects—which we rarely ever notice—require native plants. Once you have seen your garden flutter with the wings of colorful visiting birds and butterflies, you will never be content to garden for prettiness alone. ↪

*"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."*

↪ JOHN MUIR

## NATIVE TREES & SHRUBS

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	HT	REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL NOTES	SUN, SHADE
<b>Short/understory trees or large shrubs</b>					
Serviceberry	Amelanchier alnifolia	25'	shade, dry & moist	food for insects, mammals, birds	sun, pt shade
Flowering Dogwood	Cornus florida	25'	shade, dry	host for butterfly, food for birds	shade, pt sun
Eastern Redbud	Cercis canadensis	20'	shade, dry & moist	host for butterfly, food for birds	sun, pt shade
Pawpaw	Asimina triloba	20'	shade, moist	host for butterfly, food for birds & mammals	shade
Chokeberry	Prunus virginiana	20'	dry	nectar, insect food, summer fruit	sun/pt shade
Eastern Red Cedar	Juniperus virginiana	25'	dry, moist	dense branches provide cover, blue fruit	sun/pt shade
American Holly	Ilex opaca	30'	dry, moist	evergreen, insect food, berries for birds	sun/pt shade
Winterberry	Ilex verticillata	12'	moist, wet	berries for winter food for songbirds	sun/pt shade
Prairie Crabapple	Malus	20'	dry, moist	apples provide food for mammals & birds	sun
Red Buckeye	Aesculus pavia	20'	moist, wet	flowers are magnets for hummingbirds, nuts	shade/sun
Wafer Ash	Ptelea trifoliata	18'	dry, moist, clay	host for butterfly, nectar for insects, fruits	sun/shade
Sweet crabapple	Malus coronaria	30'	dry, moist	nectar, insect food, summer fruit	sun/pt shade
<b>Large tree</b>					
Black Cherry	Prunus serotina	65'	dry, moist, wet	host for butterfly, food for insects	sun/pt shade
Northern Red Oak	Quercus palustris	65'	dry, moist	host for butterfly, food for insects, acorns	sun/pt shade
White Oak	Quercus alba	65'	dry, moist	host for butterfly, food for insects, acorns	sun
Red Maple	Acer rubrum	55'	dry, moist, wet	insect food, host for butterflies, seeds	sun, pt shade
Sugar Maple	Acer saccharum	65'	dry, moist	host for butterfly, seeds, food for insects	sun, pt shade
River Birch	Betula nigra	30'	moist, wet	insect food, host for butterflies, seeds	sun, pt shade
Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis	60'	dry, moist	songbirds flock to fruit, host for butterflies	sun, pt shade
Sassafras	Sassafras albidum	45'	dry, moist	host for butterfly, insect food, fall fruit	sun/pt shade
Tulip Poplar	Liriodendron tulipifera	80'	moist	host for butterfly, nectar for insects, seeds for birds	sun/pt shade
Black Gum	Nyssa sylvatica	40'	dry, moist, wet	songbirds love fruit, host for butterflies	sun/pt shade
<b>Small to medium shrubs</b>					
Spicebush	Lindera benzoin	7'	shade, moist	host for butterfly, food for insects & birds	shade
Elderberry	Sambucus canadensis	10'	moist, wet	pollen, fruits for mammals & songbirds	sun/shade
Purple Beautyberry	Callicarpa americana	4'	dry, moist	nectar for insects, purple berries the birds feast on	sun/shade
Gray Dogwood	Cornus racemosa	8'	dry, moist	songbirds eat berries, nectar, branches hide nests	shade/sun
Buttonbush	Cephalanthus occidentalis	10'	moist, wet	nectar for butterflies, hummingbirds, nutlets for birds	sun/shade
Eastern Witch Hazel	Hamamelis virginiana	10'	moist	pollen, food for deer, rabbits, seeds for birds	sun/shade
Ninebark	Phycocarpus opulifolius	8'	dry, moist	nectar for butterflies, hummingbirds, seeds for birds	sun/pt shade
Southern Arrowwood	Virburnum dentatum	8'	moist	fruits for birds, nectar for butterflies, seeds for birds	sun/pt shade
New Jersey Tea	Ceanothus americanus	3'	dry, tolerates clay	nectar for birds and butterflies, summer fruit	sun/pt shade
Blue Muffin Viburnum	Virburnum dentatum	4'	dry, tolerates clay	fruit for birds, nectar for butterflies	sun/pt shade
American Cranberry Viburnum	Viburnum trilobum	10'	moist, wet	fruit for birds, nectar for butterflies	sun/pt shade

*There are many varieties of the plants listed. Many varieties will support wildlife. Avoid varieties with a foreign country or region listed in the name. Our native animals need native plants to survive.*

**FOR FLOWERS & MORE, SEE WEBSITE AND UPCOMING BROCHURES.**