# **Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia and Greene Counties**



# Native Tree and Shrub Profiles

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## Oak, Quercus spp.

Types: Red, White, Swamp White, Scarlet, Pin, Black, Chinkapin

Landscape: Large, stately, long-lived tree (75-100 Ft.); fall color, acorns

**Insects:** Very important for supporting diverse insect populations. Hosts to more than 500 caterpillar moth/butterfly species

Attracts: Acorns eaten by Northern flicker, Red-bellied woodpecker and blue jay

## Cherry, Prunus spp.

Types: Black cherry, chokecherry, pin cherry, American plum

**Landscape:** Small to large tree (35-75 ft.). Nice pendulous flowers. Tolerates many soil types.

**Insects:** Supports more than 450 caterpillar species. Host to plant to many beautiful butterfly species. Mid-season Pollinator plant.

**Birds:** Fruits are consumed by more than 47 species of birds, including: flicker; mockingbird and rose-breasted grosbeak

#### Willow, Salix spp.

**Types:** Pussy, peach leaved, pear, shiny, beaked, black

Landscape: Small to medium tree (20-50 ft.). Wet sites; attractive catkins, easy to propagate

**Insects:** Host to more than 450 caterpillar species including viceroy, comma and mourning cloak butterflies. Nectar for early spring pollinators.

**Birds:** Buds of native willows eaten by ruffed grouse. Favorite nesting plant for goldfinches

**Types:** River, sweet, water, yellow

## Birches, Betula spp.

Landscape: Usually 50-75 ft. at maturity. Attractive bark, catkins

**Insects:** Host to more than 400 caterpillar species

**Attracts:** Seeds and flower buds are favorite food of pine siskin, white sparrow, titmice, purple finch, goldfinch and towees.

## Maples, Acer spp.

Types: Red, sugar, boxelder, striped

Landscape: Large tree (75-100 Ft.); fall color. Tolerant of many soil conditions.

**Insects:** Host to more than 285 caterpillar species, including 68 species of inchworms. Host to cecropia moth. *Rubra* flowers support early season pollinators

**Birds:** Seeds eaten by evening and pine grosbeaks, purple finch, pine siskin and northern cardinal. Insect eating birds like orioles, wrens and warblers gather insects from foliage.

# Hawthorn, Crataegus spp.

Types: Green ('Winter King'), Washington, Cockspur

**Landscape:** Small tree (20-35 ft.). Beautiful clusters of small white flowers, followed by colorful fruit. Shade intolerant.

**Insects:** Spring pollinator plant. Host to more than 150 caterpillar species including red-spotted purple butterfly.

**Birds:** Fruit eaten by at least 35 species including: cedar waxwing; robin; rose breasted grosbeak. Favorite nesting site for robins, cardinals, bluejays.

#### Dogwoods, Cornus spp.

Types: Flowering, pagoda, gray, silky, red twig

Landscape: Large shrubs and small trees. Beautiful spring flowers and fruit.

**Insects:** Host to spring azure butterfly

Birds: Fruit is valuable for more than 35 species - flicker, pileated woodpecker, thrush

# Serviceberries, Amelanchier spp.

Types: Common, downy, smooth, apple, Canadian, arborea

**Landscape:** Large shrub to large understory tree (20-50 ft.). Early spring flowering, attractive berries and fall color

**Insects:** Host plant to striped hairstreak, and viceroy butterflies as well as luna and small-eyed sphinx moth

**Birds:** Fruits in June attract at least 19 bird species including hairy woodpecker, wood thrush, gray catbird, cedar waxwing and rose-breasted grosbeak

#### Viburnums

**Types:** Arrowwood, nannyberry, blackhaw, rusty blackhaw, mapleleaf, nudum, witherod, hobblebush

**Landscape:** Varying sizes depending upon species. Generally flat-topped flowers, attractive fruit and fall color

**Insects:** Host to plant to spring azure and Baltimore checkerspot butterflies. Spring to midseason pollinator plant.

**Birds:** Fruits are consumed by many birds including eastern bluebird, red-eyed vireo, flicker, rose-breasted grosbeak, northern catbird

# Buckeyes, Aesculus spp.

Types: Red, yellow, bottlebrush

**Landscape:** Large shrub, small tree (6-20 ft.). Beautiful long, tubular flowers and attractive seeds

**Insects:** Supports Spring (Red) and Summer (Bottlebrush) bees and butterflies. Host to several leafhopper species

Birds: Red is magnet for hummingbirds in Spring

# Spicebush, Lindera benzoin

**Landscape:** Medium shrub (6-12 ft.). Shade tolerant. First flowers of Spring. Need male and female plants for fruit.

**Insects:** Host plant to Spicebush Swallowtail butterflies. Early pollinator flower

**Birds:** Especially useful to migrating birds because of the fat content of its berries. At least 24 species consume, including northern bobwhite, northern flicker, catbird and thrushes.

# Winterberry, *llex verticillata*

Types: Many cultivars, eg. Winter Red and Winter Gold

**Landscape:** Medium shrub (6-12 ft.) Can take wet conditions. Beautiful fruit persists through winter. Need male and female plants for fruit.

**Birds:** Desiccated fruit eaten by many birds in late winter/early spring including cedar waxwing, robin, northern mockingbird, gray catbird.

## Buttonbush, Cephalanthus occidentalis

**Landscape:** Medium shrub (6-12 ft.) with glossy leaves can take very wet areas. Beautiful spherical flowers in mid-summer with round "nutlet" seed pods in fall.

Insects: Great pollinator plant in mid-season. Large butterfly attracting.

**Birds:** Nutlets eaten by 24 species of birds including robins and towee.