



Create Your Own State Park Native Plant Selections



Native Maryland Understory Tree & Shrub Recommendations

Planting Trees & Shrubs for Birds, Butterflies & Wildlife

The following list of Maryland native understory trees and shrubs are commonly found throughout the state. Including native trees and plant species in your yard contributes to the native wildlife food web. Your yard can provide habitat and a food source for birds, insects, as well as for other native wildlife. These plants were selected for their important value to pollinators, birds, and wildlife. You may attract some new visitors from your neighborhood natural community into the habitat you have created in your own yard!

Understory Tree or Shrub Species	Pollinator, Bird, Wildlife Value
Paw Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	Host plant for the Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly and Pawpaw Sphinx Moth. High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds.
Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly host plant. High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds. Spring and Fall color.
Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife, birds and butterflies. Migratory birds feed on berries in the fall. Large white blooms in the spring!
Sweet Bay Magnolia <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly host plant. High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds.
Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spice Bush Swallowtail Butterfly host plant. High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds.
Serviceberry or Shadbush <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds.
Northern Bayberry <i>Myrica pennsylvanica</i>	High wildlife value- berries are food for many birds.
Arrowwood Viburnum <i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife, butterflies and birds.
Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds.
Winterberry holly <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	High wildlife value- berries are food for many birds. Red berries persist into the winter.

Additional Resources:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed, 2012.
<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf>
- Doug Tallamy. Bringing Nature Home. Timber Press, 2018.



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