



TREES, SHRUBS, AND VINES THAT ATTRACT WILDLIFE



Thomas G. Barnes
Associate Extension Professor

Thomas G. Barnes, Associate Extension Professor

This publication lists woody plants that can be used to attract wildlife into urban environments. Many of the species listed may not be available at a local nursery, so you must be persistent in your efforts to locate them at native plant nurseries. You might have better luck if you contact native plant nurseries that stock some of the more unusual and harder-to-find materials.

- When designing landscapes for urban environments keep in mind the following principles:
- Use native plants whenever possible.
 - Consider the ecological growing requirements of the plant so it can be placed in a similar habitat.
 - Reduce the amount of lawn area and replace with woody plants and a variety of wildflowers.
 - Use a variety of different plant groups and types (Figure 1).
 - Use a variety of plant species within each group.
 - Use a variety of plants that will flower and produce fruit at various times of the year.
 - Plant in clusters (Figure 2).
 - Plant conifers or dense tall shrubs on the north and northwest locations if at all possible (Figure 3).
 - Follow proper planting techniques (Figure 4).
 - Maintain your plants after planting.

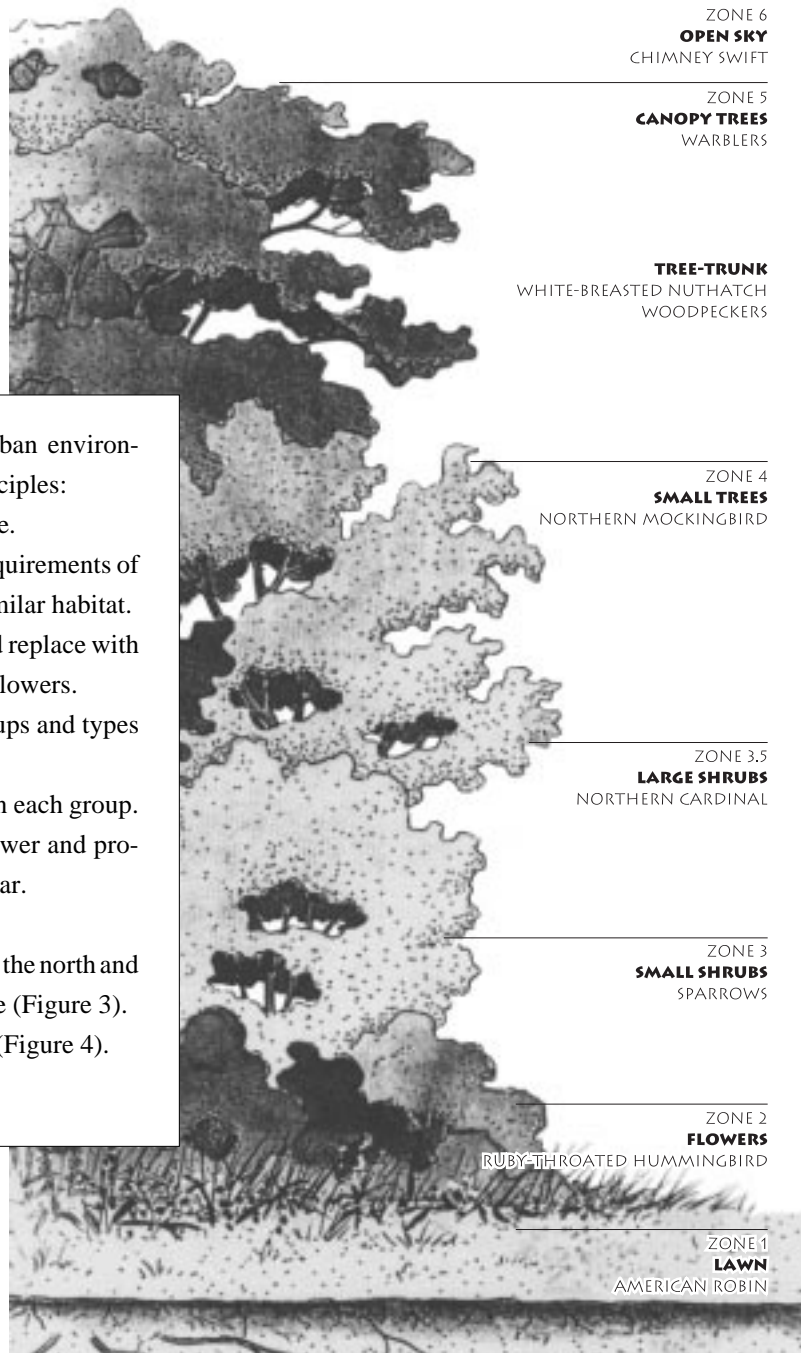


FIGURE 1. PLANT VARIETIES PROVIDE FOR DIVERSITY OF FEEDING NICHES FOR DIFFERENT BIRD SPECIES.

In addition to the species listed in this report, there are other native trees that help protect genetic diversity or have showy blooms or interesting foliage. Many of these species may not be particularly attractive to wildlife, but they definitely add interest to the urban landscape. These species include our state tree, the Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*), as well as leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), wild hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), American snowbell (*Styrax americana*), Carolina silverbell (*Halesia carolina*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), wisteria (*Wisteria macrostachya*), and yellowwood (*Cladrastis lutea*).

FIGURE 2.
CLUSTERING OF VIBURNUMS.

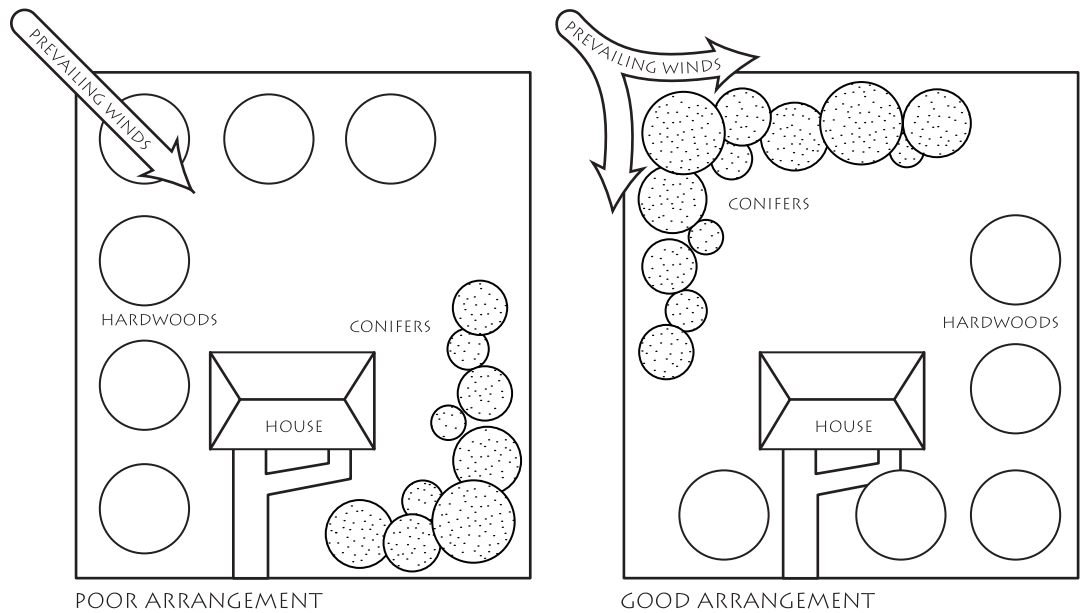


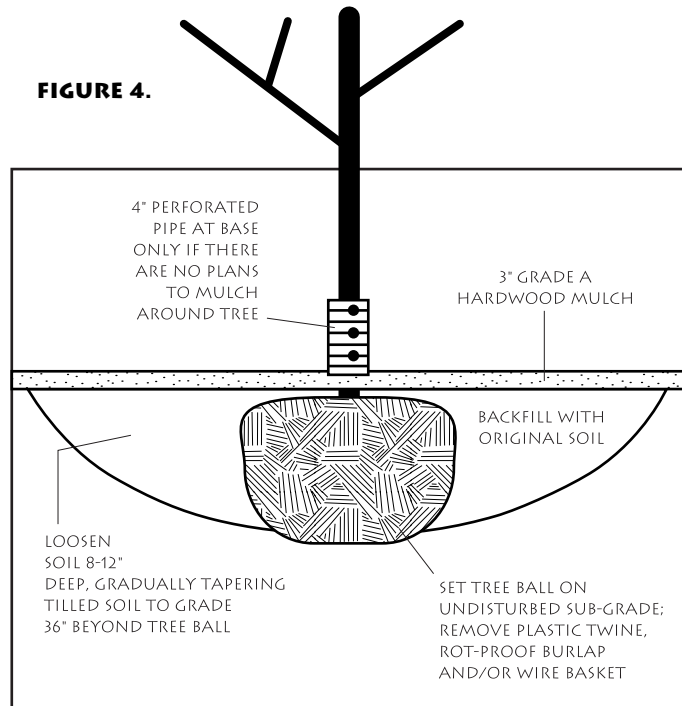
FIGURE 3.
THE GOOD ARRANGEMENT ON THE RIGHT IS PREFERRED FOR BACKYARD PLANTING.

The most ideal situation involves planting a recently dug balled-and-burlapped tree with a sufficiently sized root ball into noncompacted, well-drained soil with 50 percent solid material and 50 percent pore space. Before trees are purchased and planted, it is important to assess the planting site, make design and site modifications, choose plants that match the specific site, and use good transplanting techniques.

Note the following ideal planting techniques:

- The surface soils are better aerated when the surface diameter is increased and the sides of planting holes are tapered.
- The tree is placed at the depth grown in the nursery, and no deeper! Look for the root collar, and remove soil if necessary.
- A 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch replaces turf around the tree base, ideally to the drip line of the tree. Grass roots compete significantly with tree roots and impair tree growth. An 8-foot circle of mulch quadruples root development of newly planted trees.
- There is no “pimple” of excess mulch; 4 to 6 inches of mulch is **never** good; it rots the bark of the tree trunk.
- There is no excessive saucering.
- If mulch is not used and turf is grown up to the base of the tree, the trunk should be protected from a lawn mower, string trimmer, or tractor with perforated pipe at the tree’s base. Check annually, and remove when the tree outgrows it.
- No stakes are used. Stakes are unnecessary in 99.9 percent of plantings.
- There is no tree wrap because tree wrap encourages fungi/bacteria to grow in the dark, humid environment under it.
- A 4-inch perforated pipe can be installed and connected to a drainage area only if the clay is extremely heavy or the soil waterlogged.

FIGURE 4.



Once the trees are established they will need to be pruned. For information on pruning, ask your Cooperative Extension Agent for publication HO-45, *Pruning Landscape Trees*. For more information on growing nut trees, ask for publication ID-77, *Nut Tree Growing in Kentucky*.

In the following pages, the trees, vines, and shrubs are listed by group. Within each group, the listings are alphabetical by scientific name. The scientific name is first, followed by the common name in parentheses.

More than 30 feet tall when mature

MAPLE

Acer spp.

- A. NIGRUM* (BLACK)
- A. NEGUNDO* (BOX ELDER)
- A. PENNSYLVANICUM* (STRIPED)
- A. RUBRUM* (RED)
- A. SACCHARINUM* (SILVER, WATER)
- A. SACCHARUM* (SUGAR)

NOTES

Opposite leaf arrangement; distinctive winged seeds called samaras; brilliant orange to red fall foliage in sugar, black, and red maples; grows best in full sun to partial shade. Cultivars of **red maple** suitable for Kentucky include Armstrong, Autumn Flame, Bowhall, Columnare, Edna Davis, Gerling, Karpick, Northwood,

October Glory, Red Skin, and Red Sunset. Cultivars of **sugar maple** suitable for Kentucky include Bonfire, Caddo, Commemoration, Columnare, Green Mountain, Legacy, Steeple, and Sweet Shadow. Silver or water maple is not recommended because it has been overplanted in the landscape, reseeds, is weak-wooded, trashy, and self-destructs in ice and wind storms.



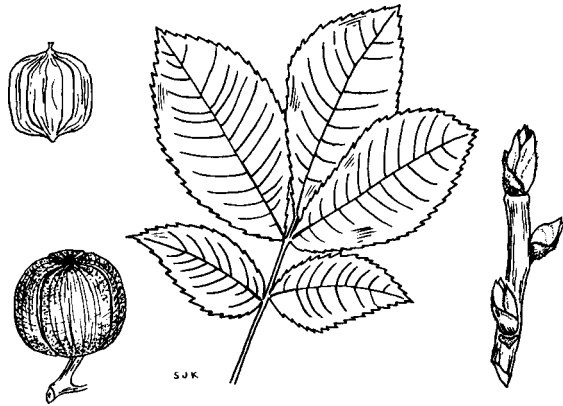
BUCKEYES

Aesculus spp.

- A. DISCOLOR* (RED AND YELLOW)
- A. GLABRA* (OHIO)
- A. OCTANDRA* (YELLOW, SWEET)
- A. PAVIA* (RED)

NOTES

Flowers are used as a nectar source by hummingbirds. One of the first species to produce leaves in spring. No exceptional fall color.



HICKORIES

Carya spp.

- C. AQUATICA* (WATER)
- C. GLABRA* (PIGNUT)
- C. ILLINOENSIS* (PECAN)
- C. LACINIOSA* (BIG SHAGBARK, BIG SHELLBARK, KINGNUT)
- C. OVALIS* (SWEET PIGNUT, SMALL-FRUITED)
- C. OVATA* (SHAGBARK, SHELLBARK)
- C. TOMENTOSA* (MOCKERNUT, WHITE)

NOTES

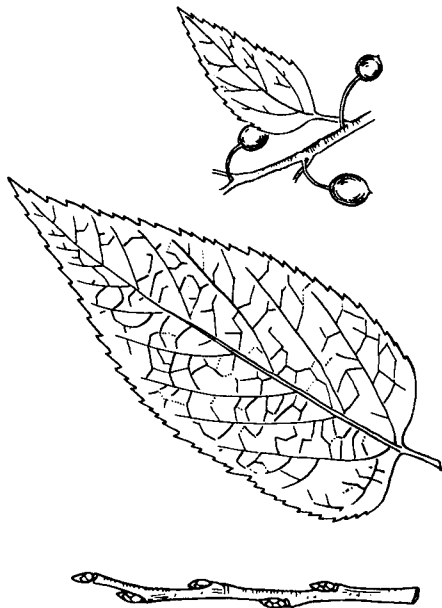
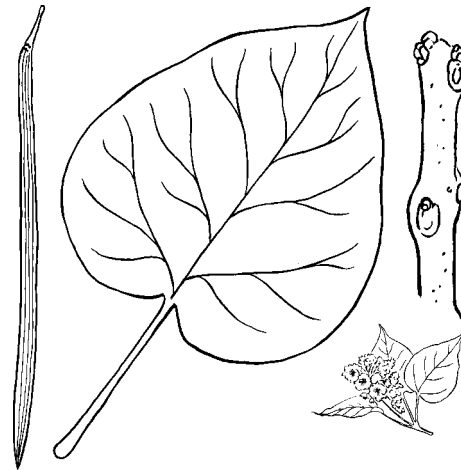
Shagbark, pecan, big shagbark, pale, and sweet pignut have edible nuts; subject to disease; slow growing; nuts can be self-fruitful in some cases, but allowing for cross pollination is better. Varieties of **shagbark hickory** recommended for Kentucky include Yoder #1, Bridewater, Silvas, Wurth, Grainger, Wilcox, Porter, and Wilmoth. Varieties of **shellbark** recommended for Kentucky include Fayette, Bradley, Chetopa, Keystone, Lindauer, Neilson, Stauffer, Stephens, and Totten. Varieties of **pecans** recommended for Kentucky include Chickasaw, Fisher, Greenriver, Hodge, Kentucky, Major, Mohawk, Posey, and Shoshone. Larval food for hickory hairstreak and banded hairstreak butterflies. Squirrels love these nuts!

CATALPA ▶

Catalpa speciosa (northern catalpa, cigar tree)

NOTES

Larval food for tiger swallowtail butterfly; flowers are used as a nectar source by hummingbirds.



HACKBERRY

Celtis spp.

- C. LAEVIGATA* (SUGARBERRY, SMOOTH HACKBERRY)
- C. OCCIDENTALIS* (COMMON)
- C. TENNUIFOLIA* (DWARF)

NOTES

Gray to brown warty bark; small red fruits when ripe; unattractive light yellow fall foliage; common along fencerows, roadsides, and old fields. Larval food for snout, question mark, mourning cloak, tawny emperor, and hackberry butterflies. Extension horticulturalists do not recommend planting common hackberry because it reseeds and has a witch's broom type of growth.

PERSIMMON

Diospyros virginiana (common)

NOTES

Orange fruits ripening in fall can be eaten by humans; red to yellow fall foliage; common along the edges of woodlands, old fields, and fencerows. The sexes are separate, and both male and female trees must be present to obtain fruit. Deer, turkeys, raccoons, and squirrels love these large fruits.



BEECH

Fagus grandifolia (American)

NOTES

Retains brown fall foliage through the winter; three-angled nuts; shade tolerant. Squirrels love this nut. Larval food for early hairstreak butterfly.



ASH

Fraxinus spp.

- F. AMERICANA* (WHITE)
- F. PENNSYLVANICA* (GREEN)
- F. QUADRANGULATA* (BLUE)
- F. PROFUNDA* (PUMPKIN)

NOTES

Medium-sized tree; opposite leaf arrangement; winged seeds; brilliant yellow fall foliage for green ash and red to maroon color for white ash; grows best in full sunlight. Cultivars of **green ash** suitable for Kentucky include Bergeson, Emerald, Newport, Patmor, Summit, and Urbanite. Cultivars of **white ash** suitable for Kentucky include Autumn Purple, Autumn Applause, Champaign County, Rosehill, and Skyline. Extension horticulturalists do not recommend green ash because of storm damage problems. Larval food for tiger swallowtail, hickory hairstreak, and mourning cloak butterflies.



WALNUTS

Juglans spp.

J. CINEREA (BUTTERNUT, WHITE WALNUT)

J. NIGRA (BLACK WALNUT)

NOTES

Butternuts are not recommended except in the mountains at high elevations because they are susceptible to bacterial canker that results in a short-lived tree, usually fewer than 20 years; self-fruitful, although they perform better when cross pollinated. Cultivars recommended for Kentucky include Clermont, Emma K, Farrington, Myers, Sparrow, and Stabler. Extension horticulturalists do not recommend planting black walnut because it is the last to produce leaves in the spring, first to drop leaves in the fall, the nuts are messy, and there is juglone toxicity to other plants. Larval food for banded hairstreak butterfly. Squirrels love these nuts!



SWEET GUM

Liquidambar styraciflua

NOTES

Star-shaped leaves turning red to purple in autumn; female flower forms the hard, spiny gum balls that encase the seeds. Cultivars suitable for Kentucky include Festival and Rotundiloba.

YELLOW POPLAR

Liriodendron tulipifera
(tulip poplar, tulip tree)

NOTES

Our state heritage tree; lyre-shaped leaves; undistinctive yellow fall foliage; distinctive greenish white flower marked with orange in spring. Larval food for tiger swallowtail and spicebush swallowtail butterflies.



MAGNOLIA

Magnolia spp.

- M. ACUMINATA* (CUCUMBER TREE)
- M. FRASERI* (FRASER'S)
- M. MACROPHYLLA* (BIG LEAF)
- M. TRIPETALA* (UMBRELLA)

NOTES

Large white flowers in late spring to early summer; cones open in late summer to release bright red seeds; mostly understory trees. Exceptionally large showy blooms in May.



GUM

Nyssa spp.

- N. AQUATICA* (TUPELO GUM, WATER TUPELO)
- N. SYLVATICA* (SOOR GUM, BLACK GUM, BLACK TUPELO)

NOTES

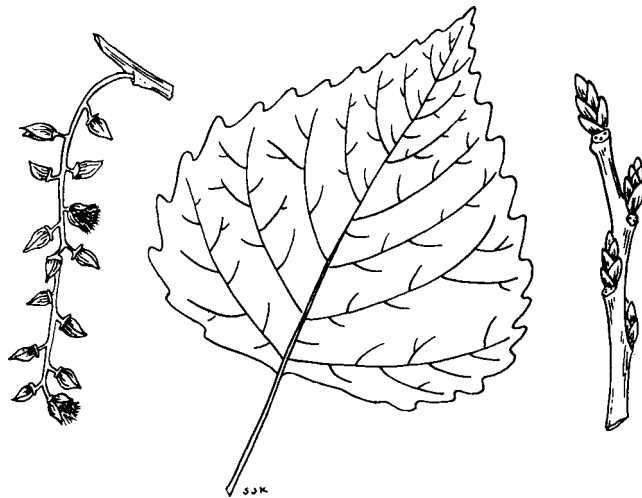
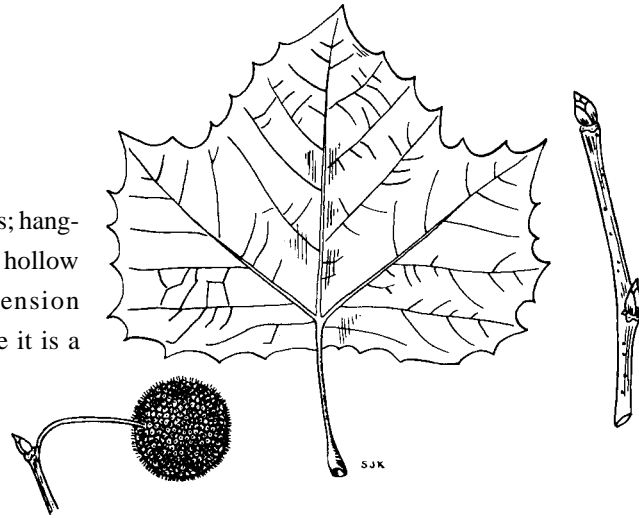
Deeply furrowed blocky bark; dark blue fruits usually in clusters from midsummer persisting to early winter; deep red and purple fall foliage is one of first to turn color. A long taproot makes it difficult to transplant.

SYCAMORE

Platanus occidentalis

NOTES

Bark in pattern of browns and whites; shallow-lobed leaves; hanging fruits; brown fall foliage. Large trees often become hollow and are used as nesting sites for wildlife. Extension horticulturalists do not recommend this species because it is a trashy tree.



COTTONWOOD

Populus spp.

- P. DELTOIDES* (EASTERN COTTONWOOD)
- P. GRANDIDENTATA* (BIG-TOOTHED ASPEN)
- P. HETEROPHYLLA* (SWAMP COTTONWOOD)

NOTES

Fast-growing; toothed leaves; seed capsule matures in late spring; each seed attached to a tuft of white hair; brilliant yellow fall foliage. Extension horticulturalists do not recommend eastern cottonwood because of surface roots and cottony seeds. Larval food for mourning cloak, red-spotted purple, vice-roy, and tiger swallowtail butterflies.



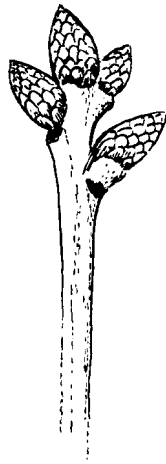
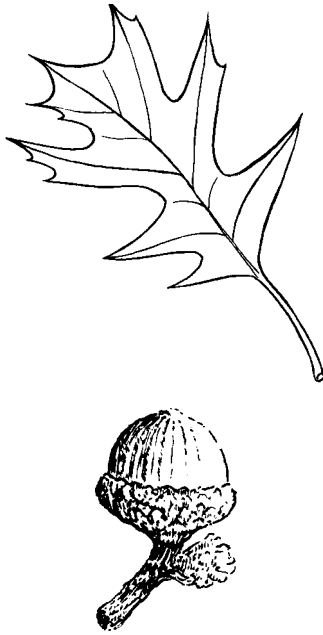
CHERRY

Prunus spp.

- P. SEROTINA* (BLACK CHERRY)
- P. VIRGINIANA* (CHOKE CHERRY)

NOTES

White blossoms in spring; small red fruits in late summer; yellow-orange fall foliage; found frequently in open areas, old fields, fencerows, and pastures. Among our most important wildlife food plants; fruit can be used for wine or jelly. Extension horticulturalists do not recommend black cherry because it reseeds, stains walks, and is considered a nuisance in landscape beds and fencerows. Larval food for tiger swallowtail, coral hairstreak, striped hairstreak, red-spotted purple, and spring azure butterflies. Birds love the seeds from these plants!



OAK

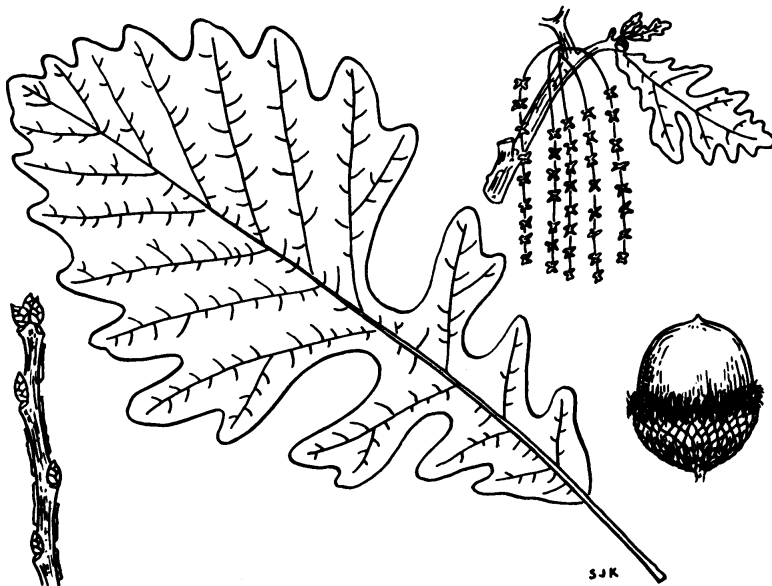
Quercus spp.

- Q. ALBA* (WHITE)
- Q. BICOLOR* (SWAMP WHITE)
- Q. FALCATA* (SOUTHERN RED)
- Q. IMBRICARIA* (SHINGLE)
- Q. LYRATA* (OVERCUP)
- Q. MACROCARPA* (BUR)
- Q. MARILANDICA* (BLACKJACK)
- Q. MICHAUXII* (SWAMP CHESTNUT, BASKET, COW)
- Q. PRINUS* (CHESTNUT, MOUNTAIN CHESTNUT, ROCK CHESTNUT)
- Q. MUEHLENBERGII* (CHINQUAPIN, YELLOW)
- Q. NIGRA* (WATER)
- Q. PAGODA*
- Q. PALUSTRIS* (PIN)
- Q. PHELLOS* (WILLOW)
- Q. RUBRA* (NORTHERN RED)
- Q. SHUMARDII* (SHUMARD)
- Q. STELLATA* (POST)

NOTES

Lobed leaves; fruit as acorns; found in wide range of habitats; wide variety of fall foliage from red to yellow to purple; the white, willow, and pin oaks are relatively fast-growing oaks; white oak is difficult to transplant because of a long taproot. Pin oak is not recommended because it is over-planted, has scale problems, and has drooping branches that must be removed every year. Larval food for Juvenal's duskywing, Horace's duskywing, Edward's hairstreak, white M hairstreak, banded

hairstreak, sleepy duskywing, and northern hairstreak butterflies. The red oak group usually is a consistent producer of acorns. White oaks do not produce acorns as consistently; however, wildlife prefer white oak acorns. Excellent source of energy for squirrels, deer, turkeys, raccoons, and numerous other wildlife species.



SJR

LOCUST ▶

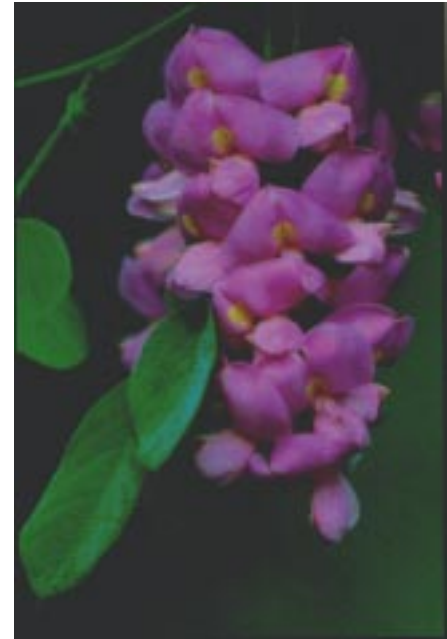
Robinia spp.

R. HISPIDA VAR. ROSEA (ROSE-ACACIA, BRISTLY)

R. PSEUDOACACIA (BLACK)

NOTES

Bristly locust is a thorny, medium-sized shrub with purple flowers. Larval food for the Zarucco duskywing, common sulphur, silver-spotted skipper, and dreamy duskywing butterflies. Extension horticulturalists do not recommend planting black locust because it produces a great number of suckers from its roots.



SASSAFRAS

Sassafras albidum

NOTES

Leaves can be without lobes or have two or three lobes; early summer blue-black fruits; fall foliage brilliant red, yellow, and orange; common in open fields, fencerows, and wood edges; tree parts used in tea and candy; difficult to transplant because of a long taproot; female tree bears fruit. Larval food for the spicebush and palamedes swallowtail butterflies.

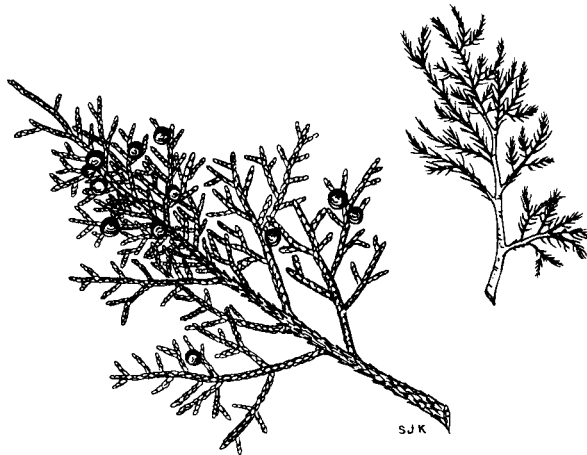


HOLLY

Ilex opaca (American)

NOTES

Not a coniferous tree; glossy green leaves with spiny margins; white flowers followed by bright red fruits persisting until late winter. Cultivars suitable for Kentucky include Cecile, Chief Paduke, Indian Maiden, Julie Koehler, Judy Evans, Klein #1, Lady Alice, Maryland Dwarf, Richards, and Virginia Giant. Sexes are separate, and both male and female trees must be planted to obtain fruit. Larval food for Henry's elfin butterfly. The berries provide a late winter food source for birds when other berries may not be available.



JUNIPER, RED CEDAR

Juniperus virginiana (eastern)

NOTES

Blue fleshy cones form the berries in autumn; shade tolerant; pioneer plant found commonly in poor soil sites; cultivars suitable for Kentucky include Burkii, Canaerti, and Hillspire. Larval food for the olive hairstreak butterfly. Birds relish the blue berries.

SPRUCE

Picea spp.

P. ABIES (NORWAY)

P. GLAUCA (BLACK HILLS; CULTIVAR DENSATA)

P. PUNGENS (COLORADO; CULTIVARS GLAUCA, HOOPSII, THOMPSONII, MOERHEIMII, KOSTERI, AND FAT ALBERT)

NOTES

Not native to Kentucky. Spruce trees can be used in the landscape, but they do not reproduce; primarily used for wildlife cover.





PINE ▲

Pinus spp.

P. ECHINATA (YELLOW, SHORTLEAF)

P. RIGIDA (PITCH)

P. STROBUS (WHITE)

P. VIRGINIANA (VIRGINIA, SCRUB)

NOTES

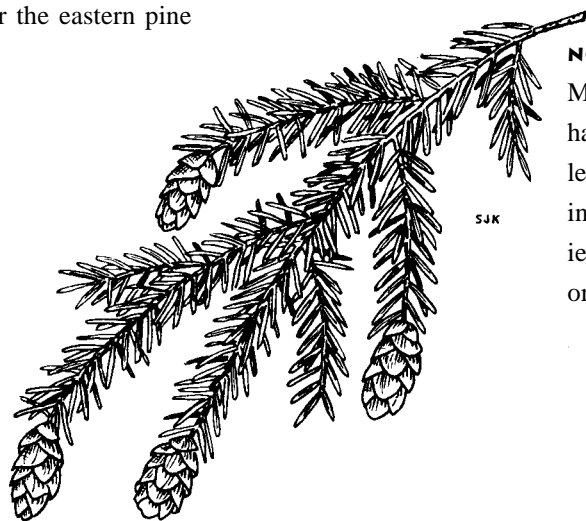
Larval food for the eastern pine elfin butterfly.

EASTERN HEMLOCK

Tsuga canadensis

NOTES

Medium to large evergreen trees; small cones hang from end of branchlets; mature cones release winged seeds; common in cool, moist slopes in Eastern Kentucky; very shade tolerant; varieties recommended for Kentucky include Pendula or Weeping Hemlock and Sargentii.



10 to 30 feet tall

ALDER

Alnus serrulata (common)

NOTES

Large shrub; flowers are hard, brown catkins; common along streams and damp areas; grows best in partial shade.



◀ **SERVICEBERRY, JUNE BERRY, SARVIS, SHADBUSH, SHADBLOW**

Amelanchier spp.

A. ABOREA (DOWNY)

A. LAEVIS (SMOOTH)

NOTES

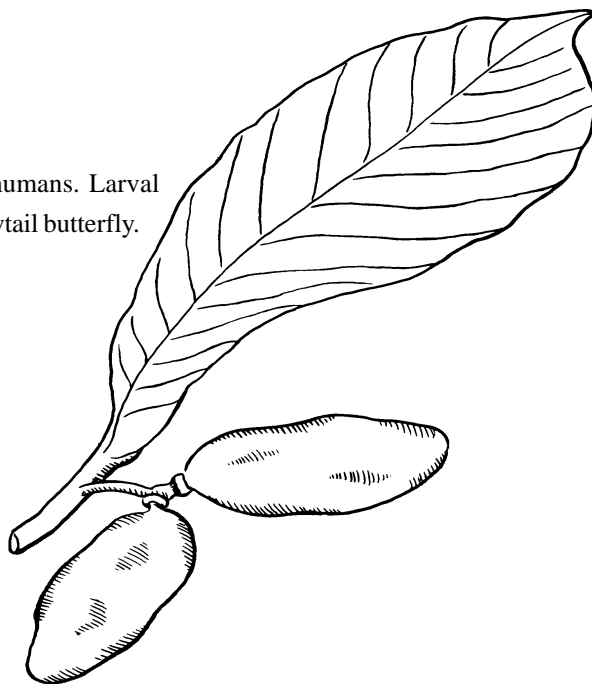
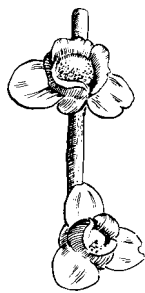
Small tree or large shrub; among the first woody plants to produce dainty white flowers in the spring; purple applelike fruits in June; gold to red-orange fall foliage; adapted to planting along ponds, rivers, and streams; will grow in full sun, partial shade, or full shade. The cultivar, Autumn Sunset, of **downy serviceberry** is recommended for Kentucky. Cultivars of **smooth serviceberry** suitable for Kentucky include Prince Charles and Cumulus. Probably the best summer fruit for birds; they absolutely love these berries!

PAWPAW

Asimina triloba

NOTES

Fruits are edible by humans. Larval food for zebra swallowtail butterfly.



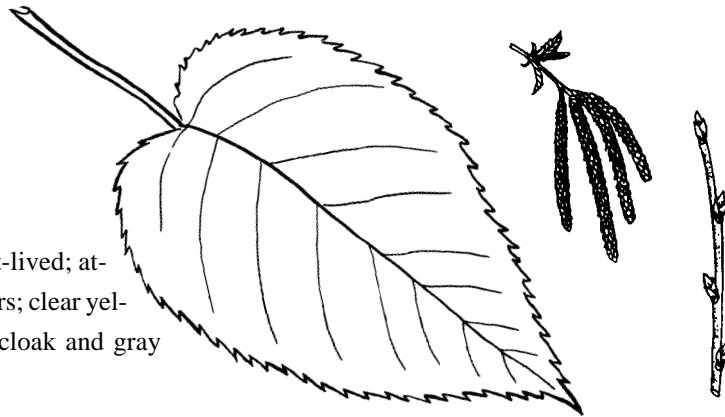
BIRCH

Betula spp.

- B. LENTA* (SWEET)
- B. LUTEA* (YELLOW)
- B. NIGRA* (RIVER)

NOTES

Small- to medium-sized tree; relatively short-lived; attractive, flaky bark; hard, brown catkin flowers; clear yellow fall foliage. Larval food for mourning cloak and gray comma butterflies.



DOGWOOD

Cornus spp.

- C. ALTERNIFOLIA* (ALTERNATE LEAF)
- C. AMOMUM* SSP. *AMOMUM* (SILKY)
SSP. *OBLIQUA* (PALE)
- C. DRUMMONDII* (ROUGH LEAF)
- C. FLORIDA* (FLOWERING)
- C. FOEMINA* (STIFF)
- C. RACEMOSA* (GRAY)

NOTES

Small herbaceous plants and shrubs, as well as small trees; large, showy white flowers in midspring; bright red berries in fall; crimson autumn foliage; common understory tree; slow growing; varieties of flowering dogwood recommended for Kentucky include Cherokee Chief, Cherokee Princess, Cloud Nine, First Lady, Pendula, Purple Glory, Rainbow, Rubra, Summertime, Sweetwater, and Welchii. Larval food for the spring azure butterfly. Birds love the berries!



HAWTHORN

Crataegus spp.

- C. CRUS-GALLI* (COCKSPUR)
- C. MOLLIS* (RED HAW)
- C. PHAENOPYRUM* (WASHINGTON)

NOTES

Species of hawthorns are numerous, complex, and difficult to separate; there are more than two dozen species in the state; small trees or shrubs; spines along branches; red fruit remain on tree until late winter; common on roadsides and old farmland. Larval food for the gray hairstreak butterfly. Birds love these berries!

BURNING BUSH

Euonymus spp.

E. AMERICANA (STRAWBERRY BUSH, HEARTS-A-BURSTING-WITH-LOVE)

E. ATROPURPUREA (WAHOO, BURNING BUSH)

E. OBOVATA (RUNNING STRAWBERRY BUSH, RUNNING EUONYMUS)

NOTES

Tall treelike shrub; branches have two to four corky wings making them appear square; small yellow flowers in spring; purple-capped pods open in fall displaying three orange-red seeds; brilliant red fall foliage; grows best in full sunlight. Birds love the berries.



HOLLY

Ilex spp.

I. DECIDUA (SWAMP HOLLY, POSSUM HAW)

I. MONTANA (MOUNTAIN WINTERBERRY)

I. VERTICILLATA (WINTERBERRY)

NOTES

Glossy green leaves with spiny margins; white flowers followed by bright red fruits persisting until late winter. Cultivars of **possum haw** suitable for Kentucky include Council Fire, Pocahonta, and Warren's Red; cultivars of **winterberry** suitable for Kentucky include Afterglow, Sunset, and Winterred. Larval food for Henry's elfin butterfly.

SPICEBUSH

Lindera benzoin

NOTES

Deciduous shrub; spicy aroma from crushed leaves; red berries in late summer; clear yellow fall foliage; grows best in rich moist soil. Larval food for spicebush and tiger swallowtail butterflies. Birds will eat the red berries.

CRAB APPLE, APPLE

Malus spp.

M. ANGUSTIFOLIA
M. CORONARIA (WILD)
M. IOENSIS

NOTES

Large shrub or small tree; often branches bear small spines; early spring pinkish-white flowers; yellow fall foliage; cedar waxwings are known to prefer Red Jade cultivar. Cultivars suitable for Kentucky that resist diseases and insects include David, Harvest Gold, Jewelberry, Red Jade, Red Jewel, and Prairiefire. In general, crab apples are not good bird food but do provide excellent food for raccoons, opossums, squirrels, and deer. Larval food for the gray hairstreak, spring azure, red-spotted purple, viceroy, tiger swallowtail, and striped hairstreak butterflies.

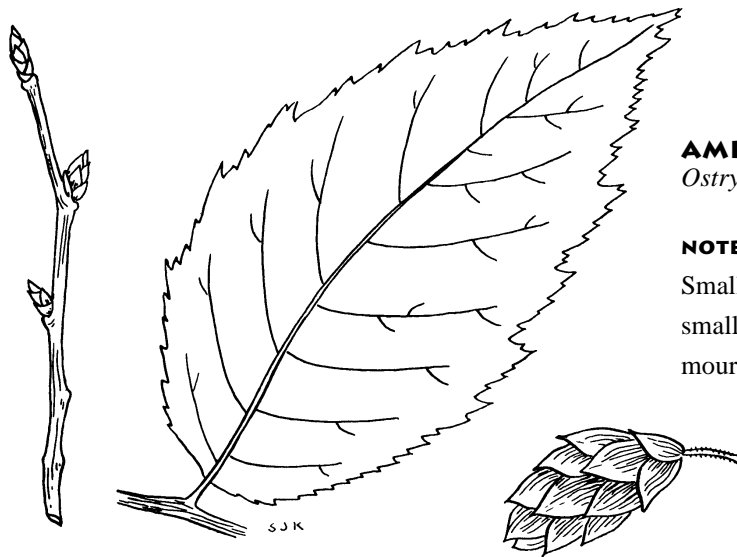


MULBERRY

Morus rubra (red)

NOTES

Heart-shaped or variably lobed leaves; red to dark purple fruits in late spring; clear yellow fall foliage; grows best in full sun; the fruits are edible by humans and wildlife love them; they can become invasive in some cases. Sexes are separate, and male and female trees must be planted to obtain fruit. This species has been known to attract the most spectacular flocking of birds of any fruiting tree. Larval food for the mourning cloak butterfly.



AMERICAN HOPHORNBEAM

Ostrya virginiana

NOTES

Small- to medium-sized tree; catkin flowers producing small nutlet fruits in late summer. Larval food for the mourning cloak and red-spotted purple butterflies.



PLUMS

Prunus spp.

- P. AMERICANA* (WILD PLUM)
- P. ANGUSTIFOLIA* (CHICKASAW PLUM)
- P. MUNSONIANA* (WILD GOOSE PLUM)

NOTES

White blossoms in spring; small red fruits in late summer; yellow-orange fall foliage; found frequently in open areas, old fields, fencerows, and pastures. Among our most important wildlife food plants; fruit can be used for wine or jelly. Birds go wild over these berries!

BUCKTHORN

Rhamnus spp.

- R. CAROLINIANA* (CAROLINA)
- R. LANCEOLATA* (LANCE LEAF)

NOTES

Large shrub or small tree; lustrous, dark green foliage; clusters of red berries in fall eventually turn black; yellow fall foliage; grows best in full sun to part shade. Can become invasive.

SUMAC ▶

Rhus spp.

- R. AROMATICA* (FRAGRANT)
- R. COPALLINUM* (WINGED, SHINING)
- R. GLABRA* (SMOOTH)
- R. HIRTA* (STAGHORN)

NOTES

Large shrub or small tree; wine-red panicles of fruit in late summer to fall; scarlet fall foliage. Can be an invasive or aggressive plant in landscapes. Larval food for the red-banded hairstreak butterfly. The berries of sumac are poisonous to humans at any stage and are generally not eaten by birds until late in the winter when other food sources have perished.



ELDERBERRY

Sambucus spp.

S. CANADENSIS (COMMON)

S. PUBENS (RED-BERRIED ELDER)

NOTES

Large shrub or small tree; white flowers in early spring to frost; purple-black berries on red stems; grows best in moist soil; berries can be used in making jellies and wine. Birds love these early fall berries.



BLACK HAW

Viburnum spp.

V. ACERIFOLIUM (MAPLE LEAF)

V. DENTATUM VAR. DENTATUM (ARROW WOOD)

VAR. LUCIDUM

V. MOLLE (KENTUCKY VIBURNUM)

V. NUDUM VAR. NUDUM (POSSUM HAW)

VAR. CASSINOIDES (WITHE ROD)

V. PRUNIFOLIUM (BLACK HAW)

V. RAFFINESQUIANUM (ARROW WOOD)

V. RUFIDULUM (SOUTHERN BLACK HAW)



NOTES

Large shrub or small tree; dark green, glossy foliage; creamy white flowers in late spring; clusters of dark blue fruit with white sheen in fall; grows in full sunlight to part shade. Larval food for spring azure butterfly. Birds absolutely relish these berries!

CHOKEBERRY

Aronia spp.

A. ARBUTIFOLIA (RED)

A. MELANOCARPA (BLACK)

NOTES

Deciduous shrub; shiny red berries that last into the winter. Larval food for the striped hairstreak butterfly. Berries are generally not preferred by birds, but they will eat them in late winter when other food is not available.



BUTTONBUSH ▲
Cephalanthus occidentalis (buttonbush)

NOTES
One of top ten butterfly nectar plants.

FILBERT (AMERICAN HAZELNUT)
Corylus americana

NOTES
Easily propagated as seedlings; there are some named varieties, but these are generally not as hardy, and often their flowers are killed during the winter. Nuts are relished by humans and wild mammals alike.

HUCKLEBERRY
Gaylussacia spp.

G. BACCATA
G. BRACHYCERA (BOX)

NOTES
Semi-evergreen shrub; flowers in late winter to early spring; small black fruits ripen unevenly and last for two to three months; fruits are similar to blueberries and can be eaten by humans, although they contain many seeds. Larval food for the brown elfin and Henry's elfin butterflies.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL
Kalmia latifolia

NOTES
Requires acid soil and looks best when grown in combination with *Rhododendron* species; leaves are poisonous to livestock and humans. A great nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.



ROSE

Rosa spp.

R. CAROLINA (CAROLINA)

R. PALUSTRIS (SWAMP)

R. SETIGERA (CLIMBING)

NOTES

Upright, trailing, or climbing shrubs; thorny stems; red berries eaten by birds.

RHODODENDRON AND AZALEAS

Rhododendron spp.

R. ARBORESCENS (SMOOTH AZALEA)

R. CALENDULACEUM (FLAME AZALEA)

R. CATAWBIENSE (PURPLE RHODODENDRON, MOUNTAIN ROSEBAY)

R. CUMBERLANDENSE (RED AZALEA)

R. MAXIMUM (GREAT RHODODENDRON)

R. PERICLYMENOIDES (PINXTER FLOWER, PINK AZALEA)

R. PRINOPHYLLUM (ROSE AZALEA)

NOTES

Rhododendrons are evergreen; azaleas are deciduous shrubs; brilliantly colored flowers from late spring to early summer; oblong fruits; frequently understory shrubs; need acidic soil and soil amendments if grown outside the Cumberland Plateau region. Larval food for the striped hairstreak and gray comma butterflies. Excellent source of nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies. Honey produced is generally regarded as poisonous to humans.



GOOSEBERRIES

Ribes spp.

R. CYNOSBATI (PRICKLY)

R. MISSOURIENSE (MISSOURI)

NOTES

Larval food for the gray comma butterfly. Berries are edible by humans.





RASPBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, DEWBERRIES

Rubus spp.

- R. ALLEGHENIENSIS* (BLACKBERRY)
- R. FLAGELLARIS* (DEWBERRY)
- R. HISPIDUS* (SWAMP DEWBERRY)
- R. OCCIDENTALIS* (BLACK RASPBERRY)
- R. ODORATUS* (FLOWERING RASPBERRY)
- R. PENNSILVANICUS*

NOTES

Some references list as many as 90 species of *Rubus* in Kentucky; the species are difficult for most people to tell apart. The species listed above are the most common. Most of the species are thorny shrubs growing from 2 to 9 feet tall. Fruits occur in a cluster of fleshy drupelets; roots are perennial; orange-red fall foliage; fruits are edible by humans except for flowering raspberry. If you want some to eat, keep the birds away from this plant!



BLUEBERRY

Vaccinium spp.

- V. ARBOREUM* (FARKLEBERRY)
- V. PALLIDUM* (LOWBUSH)
- V. SIMULATUM*
- V. CORYMBOSUM* (HIGHBUSH)
- V. STAMINEUM* (DEERBERRY, SQUAWBUSH)

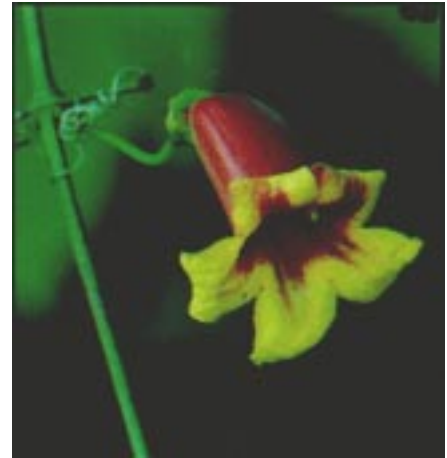
NOTES

Bell-shaped, white flowers; blue-purple fruits in summer; must have an acidic soil; grows best in full sun to partial shade. Excellent fall color. Larval food for brown elfin, Henry's elfin, striped hairstreak, and spring azure butterflies.

CROSS VINE ▶
Bignonia capreolata

NOTES

Excellent source of nectar for hummingbirds.



TRUMPET VINE
Campsis radicans (trumpet creeper)

NOTES

Vigorous, woody, deciduous climbing vine; orange and scarlet flowers; good ornamental; can escape and become invasive. Excellent source of nectar for hummingbirds.

BITTERSWEET
Celastrus scandens

NOTES

Commonly used for fall decorations. Berries hang on into late winter when birds will eat them.





OLD MAN'S BEARD, VIRGIN'S BOWER
Clematis virginica

NOTES

Butterflies and hummingbirds will use as a nectar source.

TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE ▼
Lonicera sempervirens

NOTES

Excellent nectar source for hummingbirds.



PASSIONFLOWER

Passiflora spp.

P. INCARNATA

P. LUTEA

NOTES

Larval food for Gulf fritillary butterfly.





VIRGINIA CREEPER
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

NOTES

Small white flowers in early summer; small grapelike berries in fall; crimson fall foliage; be careful where planted because it can escape and become invasive. Birds love the berries.



GREENBRIER ▶
Smilax spp.

- S. BONA-NOX* (BRISTLY)
- S. GLAUCA* (SAWBRIER, CATBRIER)
- S. ROTIFOLIA* (GREENBRIER)
- S. TAMNOIDES* (HISPID)

NOTES

Thorny stems can be hazardous; difficult to find at nurseries; difficult to transplant because of a long taproot.

GRAPE
Vitis spp.

- V. AESTIVALIS* (SUMMER)
- V. CINEREA* VAR. CINEREA (GRAYBARK, SWEET WINTER) VAR. BAILEYANA (BAILEY'S)
- V. LABRUSCA* (FOX)
- V. PALMATA* (CATBIRD)
- V. RIPARIA* (RIVERBANK)
- V. ROTIFOLIA* (MUSCADINE)
- V. VULPINA* (FROST)

NOTES

Heart-shaped leaves; small flowers in long clusters; purple berries; common in many habitats; can be harmful to trees because the vine can grow up a tree and shade the tree with its broad leaves. Many cultivated species and varieties are available at nurseries.





SUPPORTING AGENCIES
U.S. Forest Service
Kentucky Division of Forestry
University of Kentucky, Cooperative Extension Service (RREA Funding)

Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, C. Oran Little, Director of Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Lexington, and Kentucky State University, Frankfort. Copyright © 1998 for materials developed by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. This publication may be reproduced in portions or its entirety for educational or nonprofit purposes only. Permitted users shall give credit to the author(s) and include this copyright notice. Publications are also available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.ca.uky.edu>.
Issued 2-98, 2,000 copies.