

TOP 10



SCAN HERE FOR PLANT
LISTS AND OTHER
GREAT RESOURCES!

SHOWY NATIVES FOR A SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

Selected by Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, these plants are excellent choices for your home garden landscape. They are non-invasive, are resistant to disease and insects which eliminates the need to use pesticides, and require little or no watering or fertilization once established.

TREES



Photo © Vanessa Richins

Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)

This lovely, southwestern PA native, has multiple trunks and reaches 15 – 25 feet tall and wide. Showy, slightly fragrant, five-petaled white flowers in drooping clusters appear in early spring and are followed by edible purple-to-black berries that birds love. Bronze-purple tinge leaves emerge in the spring, turning red orange in fall. They grow in part to full sun in moist, well-drained soil.



Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

This southwestern PA native tree, often multi-stemmed, reaches 20 – 30 feet in height. Reddish-purple flowers bloom along the stems, starting at a young age. Performs well in full sun to light shade in average garden soil.



Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

This stately 50 – 70 feet tall southwestern PA native deciduous conifer has bright yellow-green new foliage which turns a soft sage-green in summer, and then a russet orange-brown in fall. Globular 1 inch cones start out green, and then turn to purple and later brown over a year. It prefers moist, acid soil but is very adaptable to drier soil. It grows best in full sun.



Photo © Tom Potterfield

Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

This small tree has a wide spreading habit and typically grows 12 – 20 feet tall. Fringetree is spring-blooming, fragrant flowers feature airy, 4 – 6 inch long clusters of fringe-like, creamy white petals. The blue-black fruit attracts birds. It prefers moist, well-drained soil and full sun.



Photo © Dr. Dave Lindbo

Big Leaf Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*)

Named for its huge 12 – 32 inch long leaves, which are green on top and silver on the bottom, this tree produces 8 – 10 inch creamy-white fragrant flowers in May. Blooms are followed by 3 inch long rose-colored fruits. This beautiful specimen tree reaches 30 – 40 feet tall and prefers full sun to partial sun. It is native to southwestern PA.

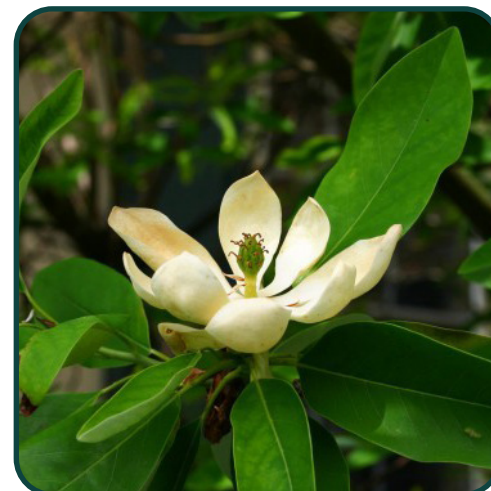


Photo © SBJohnny

Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)

This upright 10 – 30 foot high and wide deciduous shrubby tree features red-purple leaves and small white-to-pink flowers in late spring/early summer. Providing season-long interest, it can be grown in full sun to part shade in a variety of soils.

SHRUBS



Photo © Paul g. Wiegman

Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*)

This exceptional wide-spreading, suckering shrub reaches 8 – 12 feet in height and 8 – 15 feet in width. Medium to dark green summer foliage turns yellow-green in fall. Outstanding white, upright, 8 – 12 inch flower panicles bloom in late June to July. Plant this southwestern PA native in moist, well-drained soil enriched with organic matter in full sun to shade. Especially nice for massing.



Photo © haurumano

Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)

This large, deciduous shrub, 3 – 10 feet tall and wide, has an upright habit. Oak-shaped leaves are deep green and turn crimson and bronze-purple in fall. Huge, papery, white flower panicles bloom in summer, dry to rose-pink to tan, and provide interest throughout the winter, as does the exfoliating, copper-brown bark. Plant in moist soil, and full sun to part shade.



Photo © Batlin

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

This rounded, 6 – 12 foot tall and wide shrub has glossy green summer foliage. In June, it grows unique, creamy white flowers in crowded, globular heads resembling pin cushions, 1 ¼ inches across. It should be grown in moist to wet areas in a naturalized setting or a shrub border in full sun to partial sun. This southwestern PA native plant attracts bees and butterflies.



Photo © Joel Perkovich

Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite')

'Red Sprite' is a 3 – 4 feet tall deciduous shrub that is ideal for a smaller landscape. A female selection, this variety produces bright red berries in fall that remain on the plant through winter. Fruit set requires the male, 'Jim Dandy,' for pollination. It prefers moist, acid soil.

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PERENNIALS



Photo © Olga Ostrokhova

Black Cohosh

(*Actea racemosa*)

Black cohosh is a fragrant, showy perennial native to southwestern PA, growing 4 – 7 feet tall. In the summer, small, white flowers with long, thread-like petals bloom, attracting pollinators and birds. It grows best in partial to full shade with acidic, moist soil. To maximize growth, protect black cohosh from strong winds.



Photo © Cal Ford and Natasha De Vere

Eastern Bluestar

(*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)

This easy-to-grow, clump-forming plant grows 2 – 3 feet high and produces star-shaped blue blossoms in spring. In fall, the willow-shaped leaves turn bright yellow. Eastern bluestar attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and carpenter bees. It thrives in full sun to part shade.



Photo © Ben WurstBergsma

Blue False Indigo

(*Baptisia australis*)

This upright plant can reach 3 feet in height. Blooming in early summer, its bright, lupine-like flowers spring from stalks that rise a foot above the plant. Blue false indigo makes a dense, shrub-like clump of very attractive blue-green foliage that stands up to heat. Large enough to use as a single specimen. It prefers full sun and room to spread.



Photo © Hardyplants

Garden Phlox

(*Phlox paniculata*)

This flowering plant is native to southwestern PA and is a showy addition to any garden. In mid-summer to mid-fall, pink, purple, and white flowers bloom in clusters. The dainty and fragrant flowers attract a variety of birds, making it an ideal choice for bird gardens. Garden phlox grows best in moist soil and full sun. This plant grows to be 2 – 4 feet in height and 2 – 3 feet in spread.



Photo © Ben Wurst

Butterfly Weed

(*Asclepias tuberosa*)

This southwestern PA native perennial is 1 – 2 ½ feet tall and 1 – 1 ½ feet wide. It blooms from June to August with showy, bright yellow-orange flowers. Deer-resistant, it also attracts hummingbirds and butterflies, including monarchs and queens. This plant does well in poor, dry soils. Another showy Asclepias species, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) grows lovely pink flowers and can reach up to 5 feet tall. Contrastingly to butterfly weed, swamp milkweed does well in moist to wet soils.



Photo © KarAn

Joe Pye Weed

(*Eutrochium maculatum*)

This tall perennial is native to damp meadows in northern and eastern PA and can grow between 5 – 7 feet. It does best in full sun and prefers moist soil. Blooming in July, the magnificent mauve clustered bloom continues to impress with beautiful seed heads. Joe Pye is the perfect pollinator plant and attracts all kinds of insects, including butterflies, bees and beetles. There are several cultivated varieties that have a shorter stature.



Photo © Steve Hillebrand, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Cardinal Flower

(*Lobelia cardinalis*)

This upright 2 – 4 feet tall southwestern PA native is a short-lived perennial which features scarlet flower spikes in mid to late summer. Cardinal flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies, and resistant to deer and rabbits. They will move around the garden spreading seeds to areas that best suit their growth.



Photo © Johnx12

Spotted Bee Balm

(*Monarda punctata*)

This spreading bee balm is a gorgeous addition to your butterfly garden. Habituated to a variety of soil conditions, spotted bee balm fares fine in extended droughts! This southwestern PA native plant has light pink bracts which provide long lasting color on their flower spikes throughout the summer. Spotted bee balm, related to culinary mint, is fragrant. Other bee balms such as *Monarda fistulosa* and *Monarda didyma* have light purple and scarlet red flowers, respectively.



Photo © Cboile19

Dutchman's Breeches

(*Dicentra cucullaria*)

These distinct-looking wildflowers are native to southwestern PA. Dutchman's breeches have fern-like leaves and in the spring, grow white to pink flowers that resemble the shape of a boomerang. It grows best in acidic, moist soil and partial to full shade. These flowers attract pollinators, birds, and small mammals. Dutchman's breeches do not grow to be very big, with a maximum height and spread of 1 foot.

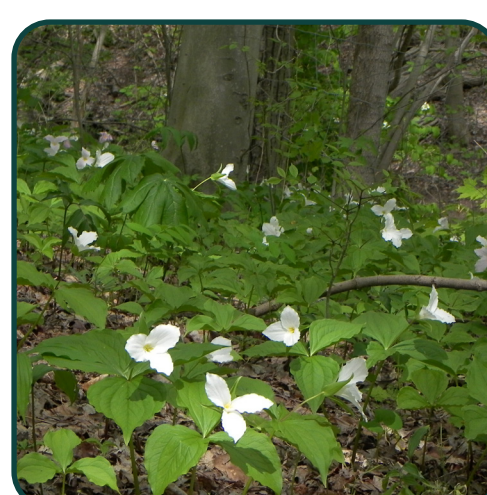


Photo © Cboile19

Trillium

(*Trillium* species)

Trillium species are part of the Liliaceae (lily) family, and many types are native to southwestern PA. While some types of Trilliums are showy, others have elusive flowers. Among those native to PA are *Trillium grandiflorum*, *T. erectum*, and *T. sessile*. *Trillium grandiflorum* is the tallest of the bunch at 1 – 1.5 feet tall and has white flowers in contrast to the red and copper flowers of *Trillium erectum* and *T. sessile*. All 3 grow best in moist soil and partial to full shade.

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