

PLANT THIS



Sassafras
Sassafras albidum
Zone 4-9
Soil medium
Light full - partial
Height 30 - 60 feet
flowers yellow
Bloom April - May



Bald Cypress
Taxodium distichum
Zone 4-10
Soil wet - dry
Light full sun
Height 50 - 70 feet
fall color burnt orange



Highbush Cranberry
Viburnum trilobum
Zone 2-7
Soil medium
Light full - partial
Height 8 - 15 feet
flowers white
Bloom May - July



New Jersey Tea
Ceanothus americanus
Zone 4-8
Soil dry - medium
Light full - partial
Height 2 - 3 feet
flowers white
Bloom May - July



Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida
Zone 5-9
Soil medium
Light full - partial
Height 15 - 30 feet
Bloom April - May

NOT THAT



Amer Maple
Acer ginnala

- Has invasive traits and has potential to spread
- Prolific seed producer
- Crowds out native shrubs and trees



Callery Pear
Pyrus calleryana

- Multiple cultivars sold as ornamental flowering trees
- Rapidly becoming invasive
- Provides little value to wildlife



Exotic Bush Honeysuckle
Lonicera maackii

- Shades out native plants, shrubs, and trees
- Their fruits provide less nutrients to wildlife



Butterfly Bush
Buddleja

- Invasive, non-native flowering plant that spreads easily
- Does not actually support caterpillars



Blue Spruce
Picea Pungens

- Not native to the Midwest
- Suffers from multiple fungal diseases including Rhizosphaera needle cast

NATIVE VS. INVASIVE

Native plants provide more benefits for the environment than non-native plants, including better forage and habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Non-native plants are often invasive and provide little environmental benefit.

Invasive plants, shrubs and trees wreak havoc on ecosystems by crowding out beneficial, native vegetation. These invasive species continue to spread despite efforts to control them. Unfortunately, many of them are still sold in nurseries or are spread inadvertently by human activity.

DIVERSITY IS KEY

The best long-term plan for healthy forests and ecosystems is diversity of native species. Our native ecosystems face many threats, including natural disasters, invasive pests, disease and more. With a monoculture of one or two plants, one pest or disease can easily wipe out a large chunk of habitat. A good example of this is emerald ash borer, which has killed most ash trees in Illinois.

With our current overabundance of maple trees, Asian long-horned beetle, though not currently found in Illinois, feeds on maples and poses a very serious threat. We can prevent future catastrophes by planting a diversity of native species. You can help by planting natives that are not heavily populated in your area.

PLANT THIS



Paw Paw
Asimina triloba
 Zone 5-9
 Soil wet
 Light full
 Height 10 - 25 feet
 flowers white
 Bloom March - May
 Edible fruit



Red Oak
Quercus rubra
 Zone 4-8
 Soil medium - dry
 Light full - partial
 Height 50 - 75 feet
 flowers yellow/green
 Bloom May



Serviceberry
Amelanchier spp.
 Zone 4-8
 Soil wet - dry
 Light full - partial
 Height 10 - 25 feet
 flowers white
 Bloom April - June



Spicebush
Lindera benzoin
 Zone 4-9
 Soil medium - wet
 Light full
 Height 6 - 12 feet
 flowers yellow/white
 Bloom April - May

Trees Forever's mission is to plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community, and promoting stewardship.

NOT THAT



Autumn Olive
Elaeagnus umbellata

- Drought resistant shrub that can take over grasslands and woodland edges
- Shades out other beneficial shrubs and plants



Norway Maple
Acer platanoides

- Has a dense tree canopy that shades out early blooming woodland flowers



Burning Bush
Eunymus alatus

- Escapes from yards into woodlands where it crowds out growth of native plants



Japanese Barberry
Berberis thunbergii

- Extremely invasive and decreases the quality of habitat in woodlands

PLANT THIS NOT THAT



Using Native Trees and Shrubs to Increase Diversity and Improve Habitat



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📧 www.TreesForever.org