

Plant This Not That



Using Native Trees and Shrubs
to Increase Diversity and Improve Habitat

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



Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida
Zone: 5-9
Soil: medium moisture
Light: full sun/part shade
Height: 15-30 feet
Flowers: white
Bloom: April-May



Highbush Cranberry

Viburnum trilobum
Zone: 2-7
Soil: medium
Light: full sun/part shade
Height: 8-15 feet
Flowers: white
Bloom: May-June



New Jersey Tea

Ceanothus americanus
Zone: 4-8
Soil: dry to medium
Light: full sun/part shade
Height: 2-3 feet
Flowers: white
Bloom: May-July

Not That



Amur Maple

Acer ginnala

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



Blue Spruce

Picea pungens

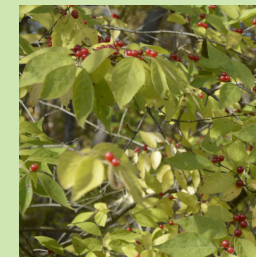
- Not native to the Midwest
- Suffers from multiple fungal diseases including Rhizosphaera needle cast



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 than native berries



Butterfly Bush

Buddleja

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



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



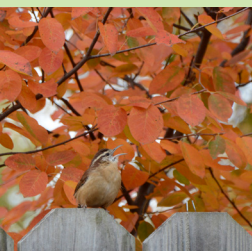
Paw Paw

Asimina triloba
Zone 5-9
Soil: wet, well drained
Light: full sun
Height: < 25 feet
Flowers: white
Bloom: March - May
Edible fruit



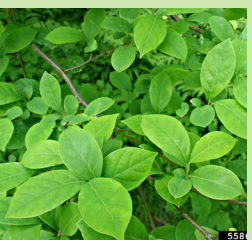
Red Oak

Quercus rubra
Zone: 4 - 8
Soil: medium - dry
Light: full sun/part shade
Height: 50 - 75 feet
Flowers: yellow/green
Bloom: May



Serviceberry

Amelanchier spp.
Zone: 4-8
Soil: wet/medium/dry
Light: full sun/part shade
Height: 10-25 feet
Flowers: white
Bloom: April-June



Spicebush

Lindera benzoin
Zone: 4-9
Soil: medium to wet
Light: full sun
Height: 6-12 feet
Flowers: white/yellow
Bloom: April-May

Sources:

- ag.purdue.edu/hla/pubs/HO/HO-220.pdf
- living.thebump.com/pawpaws-bloom-5938.html
- www.arborday.org/trees/treeguide/treedetail.cfm?itemID=787
- www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=libe3

Not That



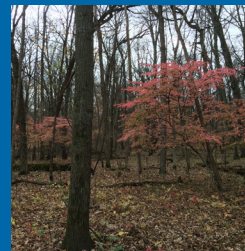
Autumn Olive

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

Euonymus alatus
• Popular landscape shrub
• Escapes from yards into woodlands where it crowds out growth of native plants



Japanese Barberry

Berberis thunbergii
• Commonly sold and planted in landscaping
• Extremely invasive and decreases the quality of habitat in woodlands



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Trees Forever's mission is to plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community and promoting stewardship. Part of promoting stewardship is keeping our native ecosystems healthy and thriving by planting a diverse mix of native species.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

