



Plant Suggestions - Shrubs

Heart of Uwchlan Project

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)



Multi-seasonal shrub noted for its very early, **fragrant, yellow flowers, bright red berries, and excellent yellow autumn color**. It is useful as an understory shrub, in shrub borders, rain and rooftop gardens, and for massing and naturalizing in sun to shade with moderately dry to **wet soils**. All parts emit a spicy fragrance when bruised. Spicebush has high value for wildlife. **Tolerant of clay soils, periodic flooding, and salt. Host plant for the Spicebush swallowtail and other larvae.**

Common Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*)



Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) has many common names, including Carolina allspice, strawberry-bush, sweet bubbly, sweet Betsy and spicebush. As these names indicate, it is valued for the sweet, often fruity fragrance of its flowers. Sweetshrub is native along the east coast from Pennsylvania south to northern Florida and west to Mississippi. A dense, rounded deciduous **shrub** with a suckering habit which grows 6-9' (less frequently to 12') tall with an equal or slightly greater spread. Features very **fragrant, brown to reddish-brown flowers** (2" across) which bloom at the ends of short branchlets in May.

Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)



species of birds. . . . provides year-round wildlife cover.

An **evergreen holly shrub** valued for its clean habit; attractive, fine foliage; and **tolerance of wet sites**. Inkberry is used as an accent plant and for shrub borders, screening, massing, hedging, rain and rooftop gardens, naturalizing, **erosion control, and along waterways in residential, park, and other projects**. . . . A rich, moist, well-drained acid soil in full sun is best for vigor and form, but it **will grow in almost any soil**. It **will tolerate wet, heavy soils**, and it tolerant of moderate drought and **periodic flooding**. . . . **Sexes are separate**, so at least one male plant must be present for female plants to produce berries. . . . **tolerates salt, soil compaction, erosion, wet soil, and air pollution**. Deer do not favor it. Inkberry is a pollen and nectar source for native bees. The berries on female plants provide abundant fruit for many different

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) (also known as black alder)



A deciduous shrub holly notable for its profusion of small red berries on female plants from mid-autumn through winter. It is used for borders, massing, hedging, rain gardens, erosion control, and **along stream banks, where it forms thickets**. Winterberry is excellent in the early-winter garden with a background of evergreens or snow. The branches are frequently used in holiday decorations. Prefers a soil rich in organic matter, but **will tolerate wet, heavy soils and periodic flooding**, as well as moderate drought. Sexes are separate . . . **Requires a male plant** in the area for berries to form on female plants. The berries on female plants provide abundant fruit for many different species of birds. Is a pollen source for bees and supports insect larvae.

Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)



Nice compact foliage, creamy white flowers in spring, dark blue **berries have high fat content and thus are good for migrating songbirds.. Provides food, cover, and nesting sites for butterflies and moths.** Per internet, name arrowwood comes from Native Americans using the strong shoots which developed from the roots for the shafts of their arrows. Prone to deer per *Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States*, Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge

Groundsel Bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*)



An attractive deciduous to partially evergreen shrub with showy silver seeds in autumn. It is appreciated for its autumn seed display, along with its **high tolerance of salt, dry and wet sites, and other difficult soil conditions.** Use as a specimen in a dry border, and rain and rooftop gardens, in buffer strips, **around parking areas**, and for massing and naturalizing in seaside and roadside plantings. Prefers moist, well-drained soil. It does **not tolerate clay soils** or full shade. For fruiting on female plants, male plants must be in the area. Groundsel bush provides shelter for wildlife and supports migrating monarch butterflies. Birds sometimes eat the seeds. . . . it combines well with sumac spp. Plume-like billowy seed heads in autumn

resemble silver paintbrushes. **Usage: drainage and retention ponds, especially near roads or parking lots. Important nectar source for migrating monarch butterflies.**

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*)



A medium-sized, deciduous shrub valued for its **showy berry display** and adaptable culture, particularly its shade tolerance. It is useful for massing and naturalizing, as a woodland border along water's edge, in rain gardens, and rooftops. It is moderately tolerant of airborne and soil salt. American beautyberry is a good plant for wildlife. Sandy loam seems to suit it best, but **it tolerates clay soils.** The most profuse berries and dense form occur in full sun. . . will take hard pruning, even to the ground. Flowers attract insects, including butterflies, and it is a larval food source.

Beautyberry fruit is an autumn and winter food source for many bird species, small mammals, and deer. It provides wildlife color as well.

Red Twig Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*); also Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)



Medium-sized, multi-seasonal deciduous shrub whose bright red (or yellow) stems are **excellent for winter interest.** Use in a moist shrub border, rain gardens, rooftops, massing, and for the woodland edge. **Good for erosion control and slope stabilization and along streams.** It is effective for residential, park, high, and golf course projects. It is an excellent plant for wildlife. Attracts butterflies and other pollinators. Birds and mammals eat the fruit. Deer may browse, but it is generally not a preferred plant.

Fothergilla spp



Dwarf Fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii*) is a valuable compact ornamental shrub used for hedges and borders to provide multi-season interest in the landscape. Fragrant, creamy white, fuzzy, bottlebrush flowers cover the low, mounded, dense form in spring, followed by thick, toothy blue-green leaves in summer. Fall foliage is a brilliant medley of yellow, red, and orange. They are appreciated in rain gardens, rooftops, and a shrub border in formal and informal settings. . . . grow best in moist, rich, acid soil with good drainage and bloom best in full sun. They are also salt tolerant. Flowers attract butterflies and other pollinators.

Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)



The oakleaf hydrangea is an exquisite, boldly textured shrub. It is noted for its foliage; showy, white, persistent flowers; and good autumn color. Useful for massing, the back of a border, or as a hedge. Prefers shade . . . grows best in moist, loamy soils but **will tolerate clay soils**. Prefers slightly acid soils, but is tolerant of alkaline soils . . . tolerant of salt.

Hazel Alder (*Alnus serrulata*)



Multi-stem, suckering deciduous shrub. Male and female catkins flower in early April before leaf growth. Fruit is cone-like. Thick, fibrous roots are **excelling at stabilizing loose, eroding soil, especially on streambanks**. Hosts 255 species of caterpillars. **One of the best wetland shrubs for wildlife**. Similar invasive species is *Alnus incana*, speckled alder – so purchase plants from reliable source. A long-time favorite for wetland and stream

restoration projects, gaining appreciation in ornamental garden settings.

Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*).



Deciduous shrub, flowers in spring. **Tolerates boggy soils and clay**. A good if aggressive border in rain gardens, swales, and **wet natural plantings. Excellent in stream and wetland/shrubland restoration projects**. Cultivar ‘Brilliantissima’ is popular.

Black Chokeberry (*A. melanocarpa*)



Aronia melanocarpa, commonly called black chokeberry, is an open, upright, spreading, somewhat rounded but leggy, suckering, deciduous shrub that typically grows 3-6’ tall. It is **native to low woods, swamps, bogs and moist thickets** but occasionally to dry upland areas. Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Plants have a wide range of soil tolerance including boggy soils. Best fruit production usually occurs in full sun. Remove root suckers to prevent colonial spread.

Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*)



Thrives in moist soil. Extremely early bloomer, crucial pollen source for spring bees. **Roots good at stabilizing soil and filtering water.** Male plants are most suitable for ornamental and ecological plantings, but females necessary for most restorations. **A good plant for stream banks, swales, and wet areas** in need of a showy border.

American Elder - Elderberry (*Sambucus Canadensis*)



Flowers attractive to butterflies and beetles, fruit is highly prized by birds. All parts except flowers and ripe drupes are toxic. Does best in moist soils. Fruit ripens in late summer.

Buttonbush - *Cephalanthus occidentalis*



Buttonbush is a somewhat coarse, deciduous shrub with an open-rounded habit that typically grows 6-12' (infrequently to 20') tall. It is most frequently occurring in wet open areas, low woods, thickets, swamps, upland sink-hole ponds, river bottomland and stream/pond margins. Tiny, tubular, 5-lobed, fragrant white flowers appear in dense, spherical, long-stalked flower heads (to 1.5" diameter) in early to mid-summer. Long, projecting styles give the flower heads a distinctively pincushion-like appearance. **Flower heads are very attractive to bees and butterflies.** Flower heads mature into hard **spherical ball-like fruits** consisting of multiple tiny two-seeded nutlets. Fruiting heads usually persist throughout the winter. Ovate to elliptic glossy bright green leaves (to 6" long) are in pairs or whorls. Leaves emerge late in spring (May).

Reference:

Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States, Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge