



‘TOP’ NATIVE SHRUBS & VINES

By Pat Curran

Usually long-lived, disease/pest resistant, generally winter-hardy, won't spread too much;
'Native' to the Northeast or nearby states

Native Shrubs for Sun

Aesculus parvifolia, bottlebrush buckeye
Aesculus pavia, red buckeye
Aralia spinosa, devil's walking stick
Aronia arbutifolia 'Brilliantissima', red chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa 'Viking', black chokeberry
Calycanthus floridus 'Athens', sweetshrub
Ceanothus americanus, New Jersey tea
Cephalanthus occidentalis, buttonbush
Chionanthus virginicus, fringetree
Myrica pensylvanica, bayberry
Physocarpus opulifolius 'Diabolo', ninebark
Picea glauca 'Conica', dwarf Alberta spruce
Potentilla fruticosa 'Abbotswood'
Sambucus pubens, American red elder
Shepherdia species, buffaloberry

Comments

showy summer blooms; suckers;
showy blooms even when young;
showy but suckers!!
great fall color & fruit
edible fruit, fall color
fragrant May flowers; selection of native species
adaptable, hardy, pollinator favorite
prefers damp or wet places; pollinator favorite
beautiful specimen; dioecious#
dioecious#; salt-tolerant; suckers
dark-leaved cv. of native tall shrub
'dwarf' misleading; 10' by 10'
long-blooming smaller shrub
takes cold locations; fruit for birds
dioecious#; resistant to drought, salt, cold, high pH

Native Shrubs That Will Take Light Shade (Shade Tolerance or Preference Varies)

Clethra alnifolia 'Ruby Spice', summersweet	spreads by suckers; fall color;
Diervilla sessilifolia, southern bush honeysuckle	suckers and self-layers; good for slopes
Dirca palustris, leatherwood	early-bloomer for moist shade
Fothergilla major 'Mt. Airy'	fragrant early flowers; good fall color; suckers
Hamamelis vernalis 'Sandra', vernal witchhazel	spring bloomer; fall color
Hamamelis virginiana & 'Mohonk Red', witchhazel	fall bloomer & fall foliage
Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'	no pH issue; blooms on 'new' wood
Hydrangea quercifolia, oakleaf hydrangea	showy flowers and fall foliage;
Ilex glabra, inkberry	dioecious# evergreen holly
Ilex verticillata 'Winter Gold', winterberry	dioecious# deciduous holly
Leucothoe fontanesiana, drooping leucothoe	evergreen for foliage and flower
Lindera benzoin, spicebush	dioecious#; spring bloom
Magnolia virginiana, sweetbay magnolia	damp-tolerant; fragrant flowers
Ptelea trifoliata, wafer-ash, hoptree	adaptable; takes heavy shade; suckers; hops substitute
Rhododendron prinophyllum, roshell azalea	very hardy deciduous azalea;
Rhododendron viscosum, swamp azalea	very hardy deciduous azalea;
Rubus odoratus, flowering raspberry	large magenta flowers and striking leaves
Staphylea trifolia, American bladdernut	native; suckers; nice foliage
Symphoricarpos albus, snowberry	white fruit
Xanthorhiza simplicissima, yellowroot	tall native groundcover; suckers
Zenobia pulverulenta 'Woodlanders Blue', dusty Zenobia	for moist acid soil



Native Vines for Sun

Lonicera x brownii ‘Dropmore Scarlet’, scarlet trumpet honeysuckle
Lonicera x heckrottii, goldflame honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens ‘Sulphurea’, trumpet honeysuckle
Wisteria frutescens ‘Aunt Dee’, American/Kentucky wisteria

Comments

twining vine; extra winter hardy
twining vine
twining vine
twining;
provide strong structure

Native Vines for Light Shade

Aristolochia macrophylla, Dutchman’s pipe

Comments

twining vine for foliage

dioecious: separate male and female plants; both are needed for female plant to produce fruit

Reference:

Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening & Cultivation, Donald J. Leopold (professor at SUNY ESF, Syracuse)

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses, Sixth Edition, Michael Dirr (invaluable and comprehensive, but no color pictures)

Dirr’s Encyclopedia of Trees & Shrubs, Michael Dirr (great color pictures, but not as comprehensive)

Shrubs & Vines for American Gardens, Trees for American Gardens, 2 books by Donald Wyman (older references with great plant lists, but do not use USDA hardiness zones)

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Author: Pat Curran – Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County