

Native Trees and Shrubs

Acadiana Native Plant Project

www.greauxnative.org

List produced by Lawrence Rozas, PhD



Instead of That		Plant This	
Names	Why Not	Names	Why
Althea, Rose of Sharon (<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>)	Non-native shrub (12' X 6') introduced to U.S. from Asia; invasive in some states of the Southeastern U.S.	Native Red Hibiscus, Texas Star (<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>)	Native shrub-like perennial (7' X 6') with hemp-like leaves and scarlet flowers that bloom throughout summer; supports native caterpillars and pollinators; attracts hummingbirds
		Saltmarsh Mallow (<i>Kosteletskya virginica</i>)	Native shrub-like perennial (5' X 6') with pink or white blooms all summer; thrives in full sun and tolerates any soil conditions; supports native caterpillars and pollinators; attracts hummingbirds
Boxwood (<i>Buxus harlandii</i> , <i>B. microphylla</i> , <i>B. sempervirens</i>)	Non-native shrubs from Europe, north Africa, and Asia; susceptible to nematode damage, root fungus, and stem rot; diseases are a serious problem.	Walter's Viburnum (<i>Viburnum obovatum</i> 'Walteri')	A cultivar (6' X 8') of Little-leaf Viburnum, a native shrub of the Northeastern Gulf Rim; produces white clusters of flowers in early spring; tolerates a wide variety of soil types; dense, small leaves; nearly evergreen in southern part of the state; makes an excellent screening hedge; provides food for native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Bradford Flowering Pear, Gallery Pear (<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>)	Non-native tree (40' X 25') introduced from Asia by U.S. Department of Agriculture; highly invasive, especially in Northeast U.S.; Weak wood, vulnerable to wind damage and fireblight; little to no wildlife value	Mexican Plum (<i>Prunus mexicana</i>)	Native tree (20' X 10') with many attractive characteristics: prodigious bloomer February - March; only native plum with fragrant flowers; trunk develops attractive peeling bark as tree matures; especially valuable provider of nectar to native bees; and supports the larvae of a great diversity of lepidopterans including Tiger Swallowtail, Red Spotted Purple, and Cecropia Moth. Fruit eaten by birds and small mammals; also can be made into preserves.
		American Fringe Tree, Grancy Greybeard (<i>Chionanthus virginica</i>)	Attractive, native tree (25' X 15'); produces fragrant panicles of fringe-like, white flowers March - April; dioecious and male flowers are more showy; tolerant of most soil types; flowers best in full sun; produces pollen, nectar, and fruit for butterflies, other native insects, and birds

		Serviceberry, Shadbush (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>)	Small native tree (12' X 6') with fragrant, white flowers that bloom in early spring; striking autumn foliage color; produces pollen, nectar, and fruit for butterflies, other native insects, and birds
		Flowering Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)	Beautiful, small native tree (20' X 12'); very popular, but not easily cultivated, especially in the lower South; requires high, soft shade and well-drained, acidic soils; vulnerable to drought conditions and susceptible to anthracnose disease; established trees produce lovely white or pink bracts in early spring and red fruit in fall; pollen, nectar, and fruit support butterflies, other native insects, and birds
Burning Bush (<i>Euonymus alatus</i>)	Non-native deciduous shrub (15' X 10') introduced from Asia in 1860s; Not well adapted to the lower South, where winters are too mild and rainfall too high for this species	Possumhaw (<i>Viburnum nudum</i>)	Native shrub (7' X 5') tolerant of any soil conditions; thrives in part shade; attractive fall foliage (yellow, orange, red); plant supports native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
		American Beauty Berry (<i>Callicarpa americana</i>)	Native shrub (6' X 6') tolerant of most soil conditions and any light exposure from shade to full sun; yellow foliage color in fall; attractive purple (or white) fruit clusters in fall/winter; plant supports native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleia davidii</i>)	Non-native shrub (5' x 5') introduced from Asia; invasive in 20 U.S. states; no support for caterpillars	Arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>)	Native shrub (8' X 6') with creamy-white flowers that bloom in spring; attractive fall foliage color; produces pollen, nectar, and fruit for butterflies, other native insects, and birds
		Summersweet (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>)	Large (10' X 6') native shrub with fragrant, creamy-white flowers that bloom in summer; attractive autumn foliage color; produces pollen and nectar for butterflies and other native insects; food for caterpillars
		Virginia Sweetspire (<i>Itea virginica</i>)	Small native shrub (5' X 4'); attractive as understory plant within naturalistic landscapes; stoloniferous, therefore will quickly spread, especially within raised flower beds; tolerates wet soils, part shade to full sun; spikes of frilly white flowers produced in spring; attractive orange-red foliage in fall; produces pollen, nectar, and fruit for butterflies, other native insects, and birds

		Buttonbush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>)	Native, wetland shrub (9' X 7'); tolerates flooded soils, but can be successfully grown anywhere; attractive in a garden setting; flowers best in full sun; white, spherical flowers bloom in summer and attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators;
Coralberry (<i>Ardisia crenata</i>), Japanese Ardisia or Marlberry (<i>Ardisia japonica</i>)	Evergreen shrubs (Coralberry 2' - 6'; Japanese Ardisia <1') introduced from Asia by the nursery trade; Coralberry is listed as a noxious weed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council and is documented to have escaped cultivation in Louisiana. Marlberry may also become a threat to natural areas in the state.	Strawberry Bush (<i>Euonymus americana</i>)	Native shrub (5' X 3') with dark green foliage; tolerates most soil conditions and thrives in part shade; attractive fall foliage; fruit also attractive and provides food for native birds and mammals; supports native caterpillars
		Florida Anise, Star Bush (<i>Illicium floridanum</i>)	Evergreen native shrub (7' X 6') with aromatic leaves; reddish orange star-shaped blooms appear in spring; thrives in part shade and moist loamy soils; spreads slowly by underground shoots.
		Elliot's Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium elliotii</i>)	Native shrub (3' - 10' tall) produces urn-shaped, white to pink flowers in spring; blueberries May - June. Tolerates wet to dry conditions and sun to part shade. Leaves turn red to provide attractive fall color. Fruit eaten and dispersed by birds and small mammals.
Crape Myrtle (<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>)	Non-native shrub or small tree (20' X 15') introduced from China; vulnerable to mildew sooty mold, and aphids; difficult to remove once established; no support for pollinators or birds	Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum (<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>)	Small native tree (12' X 10') with glossy green leaves and clusters of white flowers that bloom in spring; striking fall color when leaves turn orange to burgundy; flowers, foliage, and fruit support native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Drake Elm, Chinese Elm, Lacebark Elm (<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>)	Non-native, tree (35' X 20') from China and Japan; newly planted tree susceptible to wind damage if not staked for support	Cedar Elm (<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>), Winged Elm (<i>Ulmus alata</i>)	Both of these Louisiana native species have similar characteristics. They make excellent shade trees (45' X 30') worthy of more widespread use in the landscape: they are tolerant of most soil conditions and resistant to Dutch elm disease; they are drought tolerant, clean, and neat. Both produce seeds that attract songbirds, Cedar Elm in fall, Winged Elm in spring.
Chinese Holly (<i>Ilex cornuta</i>), Japanese Holly (<i>Ilex crenata</i>)	These Asian species continue to be sold in the nursery trade. Their fruit is eaten by birds that disperse the plants to natural areas. Both species are included in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States. The Japanese Holly does not do well in the high humidity and summer heat of the deep South. The Chinese Holly is susceptible to several pests (mites, white flies, scale) and diseases such as leaf rot and mildew.	American Holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>), Yaupon (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>), Deciduous Holly (<i>Ilex decidua</i>), Winterberry (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>)	Louisiana is home to 12 native holly species that possess a range of attributes from which to select plants best suited for specific garden settings. For example, American Holly is tree size (30' X 12'), whereas Winterberry (12' X 8') has a shrub-like growth form. American Holly does best in well-drained garden soils, but Yaupon (15' X 12'), Deciduous Holly (12' X 8'), and Winterberry tolerate most soil types and any moisture regime. Most of the native hollies

			are evergreen, but Deciduous Holly and Winter Berry lose their leaves in winter, and the remaining fruit presents a brilliant splash of color. Hollies provide food for many native birds including Cedar Waxwing, Rufous-sided Towhee, American Robin, and Red-bellied Woodpecker.
Mimosa (<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>)	Non-native tree (25' X 25') introduced to U.S. in 1745 from Asia; Invasive throughout Southeastern U.S.; difficult to control once established	Sweetbay Magnolia (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>)	Native, nearly evergreen tree (30' X 20'); leaves light green above and silvery white below; flowers, which bloom in spring, emit outstanding fragrance; thrives in full sun and tolerates most soil types; provides cover for wildlife and support for native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Nandina (<i>Nandina domestica</i>)	Non-native shrub (8' X 4') introduced to U.S. from Asia in early 1800s; Invasive in Southeastern U.S.; planted widely as an ornamental and often escapes to natural areas; shade tolerance allows this plant to invade woodlands	Strawberry Bush (<i>Euonymus americana</i>)	Native shrub (5' X 3') with dark green foliage; tolerates most soil conditions and thrives in part shade; attractive fall foliage; fruit also attractive and provides food for native birds and mammals; supports native caterpillars
Russian Olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>), Thorny Olive, Silverthorn, or Russian Olive (<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>)	Non-native tree (15' - 20' X 18' - 20') from Asia; invasive, noxious weed in some parts of the U.S.; susceptible to powdery mildew	Walter's Viburnum (<i>Viburnum obovatum 'Walteri'</i>)	A cultivar (6' X 8') of Little-leaf Viburnum, a native shrub of the Northeastern Gulf Rim; produces white clusters of flowers in early spring; tolerates a wide variety of soil types; dense, small leaves; nearly evergreen in southern part of the state; makes an excellent screening hedge; provides food for native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Chinese Privet or Common Privet (<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>), European Privet (<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>); Waxleaf or Japanese Ligustrum (<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>)	The privets are non-native shrubs or small trees (15' - 20' tall) introduced from China and Europe; aggressively invasive throughout the U.S.; difficult to remove once established; form dense thickets replacing native vegetation important for wildlife. The Waxleaf Ligustrum is a non-native, small evergreen tree (20' X 15') introduced from Japan and Korea; invasive to many parts of the U.S.; leaves and berries are poisonous when ingested; some are allergic to its pollen; white flies are a major problem. Birds eat their seeds and spread Ligustrums to natural areas. Ligustrums provide little to no support for pollinators or nesting birds.	Walter's Viburnum (<i>Viburnum obovatum 'Walteri'</i>)	A cultivar (6' X 8') of Little-leaf Viburnum, a native shrub of the Northeastern Gulf Rim; produces white clusters of flowers in early spring; tolerates a wide variety of soil types; dense, small leaves; nearly evergreen in southern part of the state; makes an excellent screening hedge; provides food for native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
		Ms. Schiller's Delight Viburnum (<i>Viburnum obovatum 'Ms. Schiller's Delight'</i>)	A cultivar of Little-leaf Viburnum, which reportedly does not run, but maintains a compact, rounded shape (6' X 5'), ideal for use in flower beds. This shrub also produces white clusters of flowers in early spring; tolerates a wide variety of soil types; dense, small leaves; nearly evergreen in southern part of the state; provides food for native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds

		Southern Wax myrtle (<i>Morela pumila</i>)	Native evergreen tree (15' X 12') that produces wax-covered fruit eaten by many birds, especially yellow-rumped warbler; tolerates a wide variety of soil types; makes an excellent screening hedge
Macartney Rose (<i>Rosa bracteata</i>), Cherokee Rose (<i>Rosa laevigata</i>), Multiflora Rose (<i>Rosa multiflora</i>)	Non-native roses introduced from Asia and invasive in Louisiana. Multiflora Rose was first introduced as rootstock for ornamental roses, then later planted as an impenetrable "living fence" to contain livestock. Cherokee Rose and Macartney Rose were introduced as ornamentals. All three species are very aggressive colonizers of pastures, fields, and woodland edges. Birds consume the fruit and help to disperse the plants.	Swamp Rose (<i>Rosa palustris</i>)	Native shrub (7' X 12') with arching canes that bear pink roses in summer; tolerates any soil type, even heavy clay; blooms best in full sun. Not aggressive as introduced species. Its relatively small hips (fruit) are eaten by many native birds including Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Dark-eyed Junco, American Goldfinch, Fox Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Pileated Woodpecker. Plants also provide thick cover for birds.

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