

North Jersey Native Trees Shopping List



[Tsuga canadensis](#) **Eastern Hemlock**

Eastern Hemlock is a needled evergreen tree. It tolerates heavy shade, but is intolerant of heat, humidity, and drought. It is susceptible to woolly adelgid, an insect pest. Use Eastern Hemlock as a specimen tree, an accent plant, or plant in groups for a screen or hedge.



[Tilia americana](#) **American Basswood, American Linden**

American Basswood, or American Linden, is a large tree with fragrant, yellow flowers blooming in June. The nectar attracts butterflies, native bees, and honeybees. American Basswood is intolerant of air pollution and urban conditions; however, it is tolerant of drought and clay soils. Plant American Basswood in your yard as a specimen tree or shade tree.



[Thuja occidentalis](#) **Arborvitae, American Arborvitae**

Arborvitae is an evergreen tree, which offers winter interest to yards and landscapes. It tolerates a wide range of soils, but prefers moist, slightly alkaline loam. Use Arborvitae for a specimen, accent plant, or foundation tree, or group in hedges, shelter-belts, and privacy borders. It is susceptible to diseases and insects and to deer browse.



[Sassafras albidum](#) **Sassafras**

Sassafras is a slender, flowering tree. Yellow flowers blooming April- May provide a nectar source for bees. Fruits ripen in September and are attractive to birds. Male and female plants are needed to produce fruit. This tree has stunning fall foliage in shades of yellow, orange, scarlet, and purple. Sassafras is an important caterpillar host plant for Spicebush Swallowtail and Promethea Silkmoth . The best results are achieved if planted in groups. Use Sassafras in naturalized areas or as a specimen tree.



[Salix nigra](#) **Black Willow**

Black Willow is a fast-growing, flowering tree. Yellow-green flowers bloom April-May, providing a nectar source for native bees, honeybees, bumblebees, and beneficial predatory insects, which prey on garden pest insects. It is a caterpillar host plant for Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail , and Acadian Hairstreak. Black Willow has attractive, deeply furrowed bark. Use it as specimen tree in moist areas around your yard, or along streambanks for erosion control.



[Quercus velutina](#) **Black Oak**

Black Oak is a medium-tall, deciduous tree of the red oak group. Its shiny dark green leaves have deeply cut lobes. It prefers moist, organically-rich soil, but tolerates nutrient-poor, dry soil. Acorns provide food for birds and wildlife. Oaks are a major host to numerous beneficial insects, which in turn provide food for birds. It provides nesting space, cover, and shelter for wildlife. Use Black Oak as a street tree, shade tree in large lawns or parks, or in natural areas around your yard.



[Quercus rubra](#) **Red Oak, Northern Red Oak**

Red Oak is a medium-sized, deciduous tree. The acorns mature in early fall and provide food for birds and wildlife. Fall foliage is russet-red to bright-red, but occasionally yellow-brown. It prefers fertile, dry, sandy soil. Red Oak provides nesting space, cover, and shelter for wildlife. Oaks are a major host to numerous beneficial insects, which in turn provide food for birds. Use it as a specimen in your yard, a street tree, or lawn tree.



[Quercus montana](#) **Chestnut Oak**

Chestnut Oak is a medium-large, deciduous tree of the white oak group. It has oblong, toothed leaves, which turn orange-yellow or yellow-brown in fall. The acorns provide food for birds and wildlife. Oaks are a major host to numerous beneficial insects, which in turn provide food for birds. It provides nesting space, cover, and shelter for wildlife. Use Chestnut Oak in dry soils as a street tree or shade tree, and in parks or natural areas.



[Quercus palustris Pin Oak, Swamp Spanish Oak](#)

Pin Oak is a medium-sized, deciduous tree of the red oak group. Its dark green leaves turn deep red in fall. It tolerates poorly-drained soils and some flooding. Oaks are a major host to numerous beneficial insects, which in turn provide food for birds. It provides nesting space, cover, and shelter for wildlife. Use Pin Oak as a shade tree in the yard, park, or natural area, or as a street tree.



[Quercus coccinea Scarlet Oak](#)

Scarlet Oak is a large deciduous tree with a round, open canopy. Its scarlet-red leaf color develops in mid-November. Acorns provide food for birds and wildlife. Oaks are host to numerous insects, which in turn provide food for birds. Scarlet Oak provides nesting space, cover, and shelter for wildlife. Use Scarlet Oak in dry soil as a street tree or shade tree for your large yard, park, or natural area.



[Quercus bicolor Swamp White Oak](#)

Swamp White Oak is a medium-sized, wildlife-friendly, deciduous tree with a short trunk and broad crown. Fall foliage may be yellow-bronze or purple. Swamp White Oak grows naturally in swampy areas and prefers moist or wet soil, but is surprisingly drought-tolerant. Oaks are a major host to numerous insects, which in turn provide food for birds. Swamp White Oak provides nesting space, cover, and shelter for wildlife. Use Swamp White Oak as a street tree or shade tree for your large yard, park, or natural area.



[Quercus alba White Oak](#)

White Oak is a large, wildlife-friendly, deciduous tree. Mature White Oak trees are wide and spreading. It tolerates occasional flooding and drought, and has medium-high wind resistance. White Oaks are a major host to numerous insects, which in turn provide food for birds. White Oak provides nesting space, cover, and shelter for wildlife. Use White Oak as a shade tree for your large yard, neighborhood park, or naturalized area. It can be used as a street tree, but needs room to spread.



[Prunus serotina Black Cherry](#)

Black Cherry is a medium-large, wildlife-friendly, flowering shade tree. White flowers bloom in May, followed by small, edible berries. The fruit changes from red to black as it ripens in August-September. It is used for making wine and jelly. Fall foliage is yellow-red. Black Cherry offers much value for birds, butterflies, bees, and wildlife. It is a valuable host plant for butterfly and moth caterpillars. Use Black Cherry as a specimen tree or shade tree in your yard.



[Populus tremuloides Quaking Aspen](#)

Quaking Aspen is a medium-sized deciduous tree. It features beautiful, white bark, and deep-green "quaking" leaves, which tremble in the wind. Fall foliage is a rich golden-yellow. Quaking Aspen prefers cooler climates, and is intolerant of heat and humidity. Quaking Aspen provides birds with nesting material and food. It is a host plant for butterfly and moth caterpillars. Plant Quaking Aspen as a specimen tree or in woodlands and natural areas of your yard.



[Platanus occidentalis American Sycamore](#)

American Sycamore is a very large, deciduous tree, achieving massive height and girth. Sycamore features large, lobed, dark green leaves and irregularly exfoliating (peeling) bark, revealing an attractive pattern of jigsawed colors. Sycamore is tolerant of urban conditions and highly valued as a native tree. It is susceptible to anthracnose (a fungal plant disease), which causes temporary defoliation, but the leaves grow back quickly. Plant it as a specimen in your large yard, or as a street tree in your neighborhood.



[Pinus virginiana Virginia Pine, Jersey Pine, Scrub Pine](#)

Virginia Pine is a wildlife-friendly, small to medium, short-needed evergreen conifer. It prefers sandy soils, but does well in heavy clay, where it is difficult to grow other pines. The cones contain sharp-tipped scales, which house seeds eaten by birds and wildlife. Virginia Pine is a host plant for butterfly larvae (caterpillars) of the Eastern Pine Elfin (Callophrys niphon). Plant Virginia Pine along woodland edges or borders in your yard for added winter interest.



[Pinus strobus Eastern White Pine](#)

Eastern White Pine is a large, long-needed evergreen conifer, taller than it is wide. Bundles of five needles are soft to the touch and appear bluish-green. Eastern White Pine will start producing cones in 5-10 years.. It takes several years for Eastern White Pine to establish, then it grows quickly. Eastern White Pine is long-lived. It provides shelter and roosting space for birds. Plant this handsome specimen in your large yard for ornamental value.



[Ostrya virginiana Hophornbeam](#)

Hophornbeam is a small to medium deciduous tree. It is monoecious; insignificant, reddish-brown male flowers and greenish-yellow female flowers appear separately on the same tree. The male catkins persist throughout winter. The female catkins lead to uniquely-shaped seed pods resembling the fruit of hops. Plant Hophornbeam in your small yard or woodland garden, or use it as a street tree.



[Nyssa sylvatica Blackgum, Tupelo, Sourgum](#)

Blackgum is a medium-sized, flowering, deciduous tree, which offers many benefits for wildlife. Male and female flowers are on separate trees. Fertilized female flowers are followed by edible sour fruits, which provide an important food source for birds and wildlife. It is a host plant for many insects, which provide food for birds. It offers showy, red color in fall. Its medium-high wind resistance and tolerance to flooded and salty conditions makes it a valuable Jersey-Friendly tree for your yard!



[Morus rubra Red Mulberry](#)

Red Mulberry is a small to medium, deciduous tree. The fertilized female flowers bear juicy fruit edible to humans and wildlife. Red Mulberry is an important host plant for butterfly and moth caterpillars. Although the fruits can be messy on the ground, the benefits that this tree provides to wildlife far outweigh the nuisance; plant away from your house, buildings, or cars to avoid any staining. Try planting this wildlife-friendly tree in naturalized areas of your yard, or near the perimeter.



[Liriodendron tulipifera Tuliptree, Tulip Poplar, Yellow Poplar](#)

Tuliptree is a large, fast-growing, flowering, wildlife-friendly deciduous tree. Yellow-and-orange bicolor flowers blooming May-June are valued by bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Flowers lead to ornamental, cone-shaped fruits bearing numerous winged seeds. Large, tulip-shaped leaves give this tree its common name. It is favored by wildlife for nest sites, cover, and food. Tuliptree is a host plant for butterfly and moth caterpillars. Use it as a specimen tree or shade tree for your large yard or landscape.



[Liquidambar styraciflua Sweetgum](#)

Sweet Gum is a large, low-maintenance, wildlife-friendly deciduous tree. Hard, spherical, pointy seed pods house seeds that are an attractive food source for birds and wildlife. The seed pods may be considered unsightly litter by some, but the benefits to wildlife far outweigh this minor nuisance. Select its placement carefully, as it is intolerant of alkaline soils and shade. Use it as a specimen tree or shade tree in your yard. It can also be used as a stately street tree; however, clean-up of the gumballs must be managed.



[Juniperus virginiana Eastern Red Cedar](#)

Eastern Red Cedar is a wildlife-friendly evergreen tree. This dioecious species (separate male and female trees) has a pyramidal shape when young. Female trees produce small, round, gray to light-blue berry-like cones consumed by many birds and small mammals. Its aromatic wood is used in furniture, fences, and building materials. Use it as a specimen, grouping, or screening plant; good for windbreaks and hedges.



[Juglans nigra Black Walnut](#)

Black Walnut is a large deciduous tree with fragrant leaves and furrowed bark. It produces round, edible nuts in the fall; nuts can be messy when they fall to the ground. Black Walnut is the preferred host of luna and regal moths. Its roots produce chemicals called juglones, which deter growth of certain other plants; avoid planting it near fruit trees, flower beds, and vegetable gardens. Black Walnut wood is highly prized for furniture. Use it as a shade tree.



[Juglans cinerea Butternut, White Walnut](#)

Butternut is a medium-large, deciduous tree similar to Black Walnut, but it is usually a smaller, more cold-tolerant tree. This tree has sweet, edible, oval-shaped nuts. The roots produce chemicals called juglones, which are toxic to certain other plants; avoid planting it near fruit trees, flower beds, and vegetable gardens. Butternut is susceptible to canker, a fungal disease that is devastating this species in the wild. Use it as a shade tree.



[Ilex opaca American Holly](#)

American Holly is a wildlife-friendly evergreen tree with dark green, spine-tipped leaves and light gray bark. Its tiny flowers blooming May-June provide a nectar source for honeybees and butterflies. This tree is also a host plant for butterfly and moth caterpillars. A male must be in the area to pollinate females for fruit production. The red fruits and evergreen leaves add winter color to the yard. Use American Holly as a specimen tree or plant in groups in woodland gardens or hedges.



Gymnocladus dioicus

Kentucky Coffeetree

Kentucky Coffeetree is a deciduous tree that has large, compound leaves and brown bark with distinctive scale-like ridges. It is dioecious (separate male and female trees), blooming in the late spring. The female trees bear reddish-brown seed pods that persist into winter. Use Kentucky Coffeetree in large yards or parks. Its tolerance for drought and air pollution makes it a good urban tree.



Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis **Thornless Honeylocust**

Thornless Honeylocust is a large, fast-growing, urban-tolerant deciduous tree. Its small leaflets and open crown cast a light shade that permits shade-tolerant grasses and perennials to grow underneath, making it a good choice for filtered shade. The seed pods are a food source for birds and other wildlife. Protect the bark of young trees, since white-tailed deer and rabbits may eat the soft bark in winter. Use Thornless Honeylocust as a street tree, on slopes for erosion control, or for windbreaks.



Fagus grandifolia **American Beech**

American Beech is a large deciduous tree with smooth, light-gray bark and prominently veined, toothed, dark green leaves. The leaves turn a bronze color in the fall and remain on the tree well into winter. The nuts are an important food source for many species of birds and mammals. American Beech is a host plant for caterpillars. Its shallow root system can make it difficult to grow plants underneath. Give this tree ample space to grow. Use American Beech in large yards or parks.



Diospyros virginiana **Persimmon**

Persimmon is a deciduous tree known for its edible fruit. Its white to whitish-green, fragrant flowers bloom in the spring. A female tree needs a male in the area for pollination and fruit production. Persimmon fruit is a food source for wildlife. This tree is also a host for caterpillars. Persimmon tolerates drought, air pollution, and a variety of soil conditions; it grows well in urban environments. Use as a specimen tree with edible fruit.



Cornus florida **Flowering Dogwood**

Flowering Dogwood is a lovely, spring-blooming deciduous tree. This tree prefers moist, acidic, organic soils and grows best in partly shady areas of the yard. Water during periods of drought and mulch to keep roots moist. Stressed trees are susceptible to a variety of diseases (particularly anthracnose) and insect pests. Use as a specimen tree in small yards, and in woodland or wildlife gardens.



Cornus alternifolia **Alternateleaf Dogwood, Pagoda Dogwood**

Alternateleaf Dogwood is a small, deciduous tree, sometimes a shrub. Its horizontal branches give it a layered appearance. Clusters of fragrant, white flowers bloom May-June. The leaves turn red-purple in the fall. Water during periods of drought and mulch to keep the roots moist. Use as a specimen tree for small yards, or plant in masses in shrub borders or woodland gardens.



Cercis canadensis **Eastern Redbud**

Eastern Redbud is covered with dense clusters of lavender-pink flowers that bloom directly from branches before the leaves emerge, April-May. The heart-shaped, green leaves line the branches during summer, turning brilliant red, orange, and yellow colors in the fall. This tree has medium-high resistance to strong winds. Use as a specimen, street, or patio tree, or in woodland gardens and natural areas.



Celtis occidentalis **Common Hackberry**

Common Hackberry is a medium to large, wildlife-friendly deciduous tree. The dark purple fruits are valued by birds and wildlife as a food source. Berries can cause tree litter, so avoid planting this tree near walkways and sidewalks. Common Hackberry can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions and air pollution, making it suitable for urban areas. Use it as a lawn tree or street tree.



Carya ovata **Shagbark Hickory**

Shagbark Hickory is a large, deciduous tree, which gets its name from its long gray peeling "shaggy" bark. The medium-green, compound leaves turn a golden color in the fall. Spring flowers are followed by edible, hard-shelled nuts, which provide food for birds and other wildlife. People also enjoy eating the nuts. Give this large and lovely tree plenty of room to grow! Use Shagbark Hickory as a specimen tree or shade tree in large yards or in parks.



Carya glabra **Pignut Hickory**

Pignut Hickory is a large deciduous tree with yellowish-green leaves turning golden-yellow in the fall. Early settlers called this tree Pignut Hickory when they found their hogs would eat the nuts, which are too bitter for human consumption. It tolerates both dry and moist soils. Give this large tree plenty of room to grow! Use Pignut Hickory as a tall shade tree in large yards and in parks.



[Carya cordiformis](#) **Bitternut Hickory, Swamp Hickory**

Bitternut Hickory is a large deciduous shade tree distinguished by its bright yellow winter buds. The nuts are bitter and inedible for humans, but are consumed by wildlife. The medium green, compound leaves turn yellow in the fall. Bitternut Hickory prefers moist, organically-rich soil. Give this large tree plenty of room to grow! Use as a tall shade tree in large yards and in parks.



[Carya tomentosa](#) **Mockernut Hickory**

Mockernut Hickory is a large deciduous tree with yellowish-green leaves turning yellow in the fall. The difficulty in extracting the edible nuts from the husks led to its common name. The nuts are a food source for a variety of wildlife. Mockernut Hickory prefers moist, organically rich soil. Give this tree plenty of room to grow! Use it as a tall shade tree in large yards and in parks.



[Carpinus caroliniana](#) **Ironwood, American Hornbeam, Musclewood**

Ironwood is a small deciduous tree, which grows well in shady areas. Its smooth, gray bark has vertical grooves, giving the appearance of rippling muscles along the trunk. The dark-green leaves turn shades of yellow, orange, and red in the fall. Ironwood is a host for butterfly and moth caterpillars. It thrives in moist soils and tolerates periodic flooding. Use Ironwood as a shade tree, street tree, and understory tree in woodland gardens.



[Betula nigra](#) **River Birch**

River Birch is a large deciduous tree with pinkish-brown, peeling bark, which provides year-round ornamental interest. The dark green, diamond-shaped leaves turn yellow in the fall. It prefers moist to wet soils, and tolerates periodic flooding. An adaptable tree, it will also grow in drier soils. Give this large tree with an extensive root system room to grow! Use River Birch as a specimen tree, or plant it in wet areas, such as rain gardens or along edges of ponds or streams.



[Betula lenta](#) **Sweet Birch, Black Birch, Cherry Birch**

Sweet Birch is a large deciduous tree with reddish-brown to reddish-black bark. The cherry-like bark is smooth on young trees and scaly on mature ones. This tree does well in areas where the soil is shaded, cool, and moist. Trees planted in full sun should be mulched and watered during periods of drought. Give this tree plenty of room to grow! Use Sweet Birch as a canopy tree in woodland gardens, or as a shade tree in moist areas of a large yard or park.



[Aesculus flava](#) **Yellow Buckeye**

Yellow Buckeye is a large, deciduous tree. Erect clusters of yellow flowers bloom April-May. The round buckeye nuts turn brownish-red; the word "buckeye" comes from the light-colored scar on the nut, which gives the appearance of a deer's eye. The nuts are a food source for wildlife. This tree has orange fall foliage. Yellow Buckeye needs moist, well-drained, fertile soil. Use it as a shade or specimen tree. Avoid planting it near patios, sidewalks, or driveways, since the fruits, leaves, and twigs may cause tree litter.



[Acer saccharum](#) **Sugar Maple**

Sugar Maple is a slow-growing, medium-sized deciduous tree that can tolerate shade. Non-descript, greenish flowers bloom in April, followed by maple fruits (double-winged samaras). The impressive fall foliage offers brilliant yellow and orange colors. Use as a specimen tree or shade tree in the yard. It is intolerant of road salt and soil compaction, so avoid planting in areas with those challenging conditions.



[Acer saccharinum](#) **Silver Maple**

Silver Maple is a fast-growing, large deciduous tree. It gets its name from the silvery color on the undersides of its leaves. This tree has weak-wooded branches susceptible to breakage from high winds or heavy snow. Best used as a specimen or shade tree in areas of the yard where potential breakage will not be a nuisance. Silver Maple is often used in areas where other hardwoods will not grow, since it tolerates poor soils and wet conditions.



[Acer rubrum](#) **Red Maple, Swamp Maple, Scarlet Maple**

Red Maple is a medium-sized, cold-tolerant deciduous tree. It has attractive, bright red fall foliage. Clusters of red flowers bloom March-April. Nectar from the flowers is a valuable food source for native bees and honeybees. Hosted caterpillars provide an early spring food source for birds. Use as a specimen or shade tree in the yard, but not too close to sidewalks or driveways, since this tree has a shallow root system, which may cause buckling of pavement.



Acer nigrum Black Maple

Black Maple is a medium-tall deciduous tree with a rounded crown. Impressive fall foliage offers brilliant yellow and orange colors. The leaf and stem structure of this maple species are differentiated from other species by their wider, drooping leaves, waxy coating on twigs, and longer leaf stalks. Use as a shade tree or street tree.



Acer negundo Boxelder, Ashleaf Maple

Boxelder is a medium-sized, fast-growing deciduous tree. Its compound leaves are different from most other maples. This tree is a host for Boxelder bugs. While they are not harmful to the tree, they may become a nuisance by entering nearby homes for overwintering. Boxelder is susceptible to breakage, occurring either at the crotch of the tree, or where the wood itself is weak, usually along limbs. Best used as a specimen or shade tree in areas of the yard where tree litter and potential breakage will not be a nuisance.

Table adapted by Friends of Foote's Pond Wood from www.JerseyYards.org.
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Visit www.JerseyYards.org/plant/ for easily-accessed in-depth information about these trees and many other native NJ plants.

Additional Resources:

1. Native Plants for Small Yard: Easy, Beautiful Gardens that Support Local Ecology
https://lgnc.org/pdfdocs/brandes_book.pdf

This is a delightful 60-page garden design manual from the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. It includes nine very adaptable garden designs supported with options for sun or shade and suggestions regarding alternative plants

2. Home Grown National Parks
<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

This website promotes this major national initiative fostered by Dr. Doug Tallamy of the University of Delaware. It has connections to many excellent webinars and writings.

3. Tree Benefits Estimation tools
<http://mytree.itreetools.org> or <http://planting.itreetools.org> or <http://design.itreetools.org>.

"i-Tree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban and rural forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. The i-Tree tools can help strengthen forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying forest structure and the environmental benefits that trees provide.... individual trees, parcels, neighborhoods, cities, and even entire states."



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