

Create Your Own State Park Native Plant Selections

Native Maryland Understory Tree & Shrub Recommendations

Planting Trees & Shrubs for Birds, Butterflies & Wildlife

The following list of Maryland native understory trees and shrubs are commonly found throughout the state. Including native trees and plant species in your yard contributes to the native wildlife food web. Your yard can provide habitat and a food source for birds, insects, as well as for other native wildlife. These plants were selected for their important value to pollinators, birds, and wildlife. You may attract some new visitors from your neighborhood natural community into the habitat you have created in your own yard!

Understory Tree or Shrub Species	Pollinator, Bird, Wildlife Value
Paw Paw	Host plant for the Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly and
Asimina triloba	Pawpaw Sphinx Moth. High wildlife value- provides
	food for wildlife and birds.
Sassafras	Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly host plant. High
Sassafras albidum	wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds.
	Spring and Fall color.
Flowering Dogwood	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife, birds
Cornus florida	and butterflies. Migratory birds feed on berries in
	the fall. Large white blooms in the spring!
Sweet Bay Magnolia	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly host plant. High
Magnolia virginiana	wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds.
Spicebush	Spice Bush Swallowtail Butterfly host plant. High
Lindera benzoin	wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and birds.
Serviceberry or Shadbush	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and
Amelanchier canadensis	birds.
Northern Bayberry	High wildlife value- berries are food for many birds.
Myrica pennsylvanica	
Arrowwood Viburnum	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife,
Viburnum dentatum	butterflies and birds.
Elderberry	High wildlife value- provides food for wildlife and
Sambucus canadensis	birds.
Winterberry holly	High wildlife value- berries are food for many birds.
llex verticillata	Red berries persist into the winter.

Additional Resources:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed, 2012. https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf
- Doug Tallamy. Bringing Nature Home. Timber Press, 2018.



