

NEW JERSEY'S NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS & VINES THAT ARE BENEFICIAL TO BIRDS

by Patricia Sutton

Native trees, shrubs, and vines are the key to successful backyard habitats, offering critical food and cover to our wildlife. Native vegetation will thrive with the least amount of care. Non-native ornamentals require a great deal of care (watering, chemicals for insect pests, fertilizing) and tend not to thrive as readily as native vegetation. This should be a prime consideration with successive drought years and water shortage problems. Many non-native ornamentals have no food value to our wildlife. Be sure to include native evergreens, key in providing cover year-round (safe refuge from predators and bad weather, safe nesting sites, and a safe place to roost through the night).

If an area is left alone (not mowed, left brushy) native trees, shrubs and vines will appear (as if on their own). In actuality they been planted by the birds; many native plants are spread by the birds as seeds from the fruits or cones they've eaten pass through their system.

Key ★ = best choices for Cape May Point

- # number of NJ bird species that feed on (fruits, seeds, cones, catkins)
- no notation hardy statewide
- ★ (c) statewide (unless otherwise noted) **AND** adaptable to coastal areas
- (s) southern species -- not reliably hardy in North Jersey
- (n) northern species -- may not thrive where summers are hot
- (w) wetland species -- will do best in wet situations
- + indicates additional species known to feed on family of plant
- ** highly important secondary food source (insects : warblers)

Trees

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Red Cedar, <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> (c) 32 PINES, <i>Pinus</i> spp. 27 ★ Pitch Pine, <i>Pinus rigida</i> (c) 28 White Pine, <i>P. strobus</i> 35 Scrub Pine, <i>P. virginiana</i> (c) 35 Shortleaf Pine, <i>P. echinata</i> 35 HICKORIES, <i>Carya</i> spp. 19 Pignut Hickory, <i>Carya glabra</i> 19 Shagbark Hickory, <i>C. ovata</i> 19 ★ Mockernut Hickory, <i>C. tomentosa</i> (c) 19 Butternut, <i>Juglans cinerea</i> 11 ★ Black Walnut, <i>J. nigra</i> 18 BIRCHES, <i>Betula</i> spp. 24 Black or Sweet Birch, <i>Betula lenta</i> 13+ Yellow Birch, <i>B. lutea</i> (n) 13+ ★ Gray Birch, <i>B. populifolia</i> (c) 14+ American Hornbeam or Ironwood, <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> 10 American Beech, <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> 25 OAKS, <i>Quercus</i> spp. 29 ★ White Oak, <i>Quercus alba</i> (c) 29 ★ Post Oak, <i>Q. stellata</i> (c) 29 ★ Black Oak, <i>Q. velutina</i> (c) 29 ★ Spanish Oak, <i>Q. falcata</i> (c) 29 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Scrub Oak, <i>Q. ilicifolia</i> (c) 29 ★ Willow Oak, <i>Q. phellos</i> (c) 29 Pin Oak, <i>Q. palustris</i> 29 Red Oak, <i>Q. rubra</i> 29 American Hackberry, <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (w) 25 ★ Dwarf Hackberry, <i>Celtis tenuifolia</i> (s) 25 American Elm, <i>Ulmus americana</i> 18 ★ Red Mulberry, <i>Morus rubra</i> (c) 44 Tulip Tree or Yellow Poplar, <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> . 10 ★ Sassafras, <i>Sassafras albidum</i> (c) 23 ★ Sweet Gum, <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (c) 21 SERVICEBERRIES, <i>Amelanchier</i> spp. 38 ★ Juneberry, Shadbush, Shadblow, Serviceberry, <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> (c) 26+ Downy Serviceberry, <i>A. arborea</i> 19+ ★ Black Cherry, <i>Prunus serotina</i> (c) 53 Pin or Fire Cherry, <i>P. pensylvanica</i> 42 Chokecherry, <i>P. virginiana</i> 43 Crab Apple, <i>Malus</i> spp. 26 ★ American Holly, <i>Ilex opaca</i> (c) 13+ MAPLES, <i>Acer</i> spp. 14 Box Elder, <i>Acer negundo</i> (w) 4+
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- Continued on reverse side -

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Trees (continued):

★ Red Maple, <i>A. rubrum</i> (c) 5+	★ Sour Gum or Black Tupelo, <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> (c) ... 34
Silver Maple, <i>A. saccharinum</i> (w) 4+	Flowering Dogwood, <i>Cornus florida</i> (c) 37
Sugar Maple, <i>A. saccharum</i> 5+	★ Persimmon, <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> (s, c) 15

Shrubs

★ Common Waxmyrtle, <i>Myrica cerifera</i> (s, c) ... 25	HOLLIES, <i>Ilex</i> spp. 29
★ Northern Bayberry, <i>M. pensylvanica</i> (c) 25	★ Smooth Winterberry, <i>Ilex laevigata</i> (c, w) 7+
Speckled Alder, <i>Alnus rugosa</i> (w) 15	★ Inkberry, <i>I. glabra</i> (c) 9+
Smooth Alder, <i>A. serrulata</i> (w) 15	DOGWOODS, <i>Cornus</i> spp. 34
Common Spicebush, <i>Lindera benzoin</i> 15	Alternate-leaved Dogwood, <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> . 34
Wild Black Current, <i>Ribes americanum</i> (n) ... 15	Silky Dogwood, <i>C. amomum</i> (w) 18+
HAWTHORNS, <i>Crataegus</i> spp. 19	Red-osier Dogwood, <i>C. stolonifera</i> 18+
★ Beach Plum, <i>Prunus maritima</i> (c) **	HUCKLEBERRIES, <i>Gaylussacia</i> spp. 24
★ Red Chokeberry, <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> (c, w) ... 12	Black Huckleberry, <i>Gaylussacia baccata</i> .. 12+
★ Black Chokeberry, <i>A. melanocarpa</i> (c) 7	Dangleberry, <i>G. frondosa</i> 13+
ROSES, <i>Rosa</i> spp. 25	BLUEBERRIES, <i>Vaccinium</i> spp. 36
★ Pasture or Carolina Rose, <i>Rosa carolina</i> (c) ... 25	★ Highbush Blueberry, <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (c) .. 16+
Meadow or Smooth Rose, <i>R. blanda</i> 25	Lowbush Blueberry, <i>V. angustifolium</i> 8+
Virginia Rose, <i>R. virginiana</i> 25	ELDERS, <i>Sambucus</i> spp. 46
★ Swamp Rose, <i>R. palustris</i> (c, w) 25	★ Common Elder or Elderberry,
BRAMBLES, <i>Rubus</i> spp. 49	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i> (c, w) 33+
Purple-flowering Raspberry, <i>Rubus odoratus</i> (n) 49	Snowberry, <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> 8
Black Raspberry, <i>R. occidentalis</i> 49	Coralberry, <i>S. orbiculatus</i> 15
Red Raspberry, <i>R. idaeus</i> 49	VIBURNUMS, <i>Viburnum</i> spp. 23
Alleghany Blackberry, <i>R. allegheniensis</i> (c) 49	★ Arrowwood, <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> (c) 12+
Dewberry, <i>R. flagellaris</i> (c) 49	Mapleleaf Viburnum, <i>V. acerifolium</i> 10+
SUMACS, <i>Rhus</i> spp. 33	Withe-rod, <i>V. cassinoides</i> (n, w) 9+
★ Winged or Dwarf Sumac, <i>Rhus copallina</i> (c) ... 31	Nannyberry, <i>V. lentago</i> (c) 11+
Smooth Sumac, <i>R. glabra</i> 31	Cranberry Viburnum, <i>V. trilobum</i> 6+
Staghorn Sumac, <i>R. typhina</i> 31	

Vines

Common Greenbrier, <i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> (c) .. 20	Fox Grape, <i>Vitis labrusca</i> (c) 51
Cat Greenbrier, <i>S. glauca</i> (c) 19	Summer Grape, <i>V. aestivalis</i> (c) 51
Poison Ivy, <i>Rhus radicans</i> (c) 34	Riverbank Grape, <i>V. riparia</i> 51
American Bittersweet, <i>Celastrus scandens</i> (c) 15	Frost Grape, <i>V. vulpina</i> 51
★ Virginia Creeper, <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> (c) 37	★ Trumpet Creeper, <i>Campsis radicans</i> (c) 2
GRAPES, <i>Vitis</i> spp. 51	