

Landscaping with Native Shrubs & Small Trees

Native shrubs and understory trees (like dogwood and redbud) may be planted in yards which have established trees.

Reasons to use natives include:

- wildlife are adapted to natives, not just mammals and birds but fungi, insects & soil microbes
- they don't require as much fertilizer or pesticides
- they require little watering and can tolerate local temperatures and rainfall—consider temperatures and rainfall when moving a plant with a more southern home range
- they increase diversity in the yard because most native species are rarely planted in home landscapes
- non-natives—Bradford pear and yews—are not unusual any more; natives are less used and more interesting for the landscape
- you have a good feeling when you return the property to native plants

Why are native shrubs overlooked?

- tradition of using non-native trees and shrubs in landscaping
- the desire and tradition to have the showiest plants
- native shrubs may not be available

Some choices

- **Ohio buckeye/red buckeye** - hummingbirds use the flowers
- **serviceberry** - one of the earliest flowering trees
- **pawpaw** - unusual flower and edible fruits
- **American beautyberry** - a Missouri endangered species, has purple berries
- **New Jersey tea** - leaves can be used to make tea
- **buttonbush** - wetland plant, tolerates wet areas like septic fields
- **redbud** - does well in most soil conditions
- **yellowwood** - uncommon but adaptable
- **alternate leaf dogwood** - hardier than flowering dogwood
- **swamp, gray, rough leaf and flowering dogwoods**
- **American hazelnut** - will form a hedge
- **native smoke tree** - nice fall foliage
- **hawthorn** - attractive fruit used by wildlife but susceptible to cedar apple rust
- **leatherwood** - very slow growing but has interesting very flexible twigs
- **strawberry bush** - makes a nice shrub--native in southern Missouri
- **wahoo** - purple bloom and red fruit
- **Ozark witchhazel** - blooms in January-February while **eastern witchhazel** blooms in November—the twigs were used for witching for water and it takes 2 years from flower to fruit

- **shrubby St. John's wort** - a multi-branched shrub with golden flowers
- **deciduous holly** - a wide tolerance for soil moisture but remember only the female plants have berries
- **American holly** - also native to Missouri, it's at the north edge of its range
- **spicebush** - an understory tree that can withstand moist conditions-has yellow flowers and bright red berries
- **wafer ash** - member of the citrus family
- **Indian cherry** - glossy foliage and can be planted in full sun to partial shade
- **fragrant sumac** - flowers in March, nice fall foliage, sometimes the leaves are mistaken for poison ivy
- **golden current** - related to the gooseberry but without the thorns--it has very fragrant flowers
- **Carolina or pasture rose** - good choice for dry sites
- **blackhaw** - fruits that stay on late in the year.



To Read More About Landscaping with Native Shrubs

Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri, Don Kurz,
Missouri Department of Conservation, 1997.

Trees of Missouri, Don Kurz, Missouri
Department of Conservation, 2003.

Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of Arkansas, Carl G.
Hunter, The Ozark Society Foundation,
1995.

Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People,
Dave Tylka, Missouri Department of
Conservation, 2002



For native plant suppliers check the
Grow Native! website at:
<http://www.grownative.org>

About the Missouri Native Plant Society

MoNPS is devoted to the conservation
and study of plants growing wild in
Missouri, to the education of the public
about the significance of the native
flora and its habitat, and to the
publication of related information.
MoNPS was founded in 1979.

Our chapters are:

Hawthorn (Columbia)
Kansas City
Osage Plains (Clinton)
Ozark (West Plains)
St. Louis

For more information on MoNPS, becoming a
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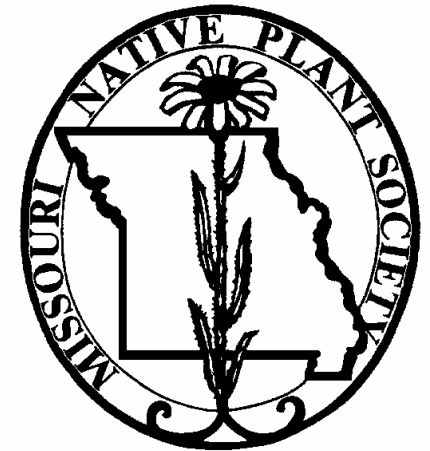
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or check our website at:
http://www.missouri.edu/~umo_herb/monps

This is one in a series of information
brochures on native plants in Missouri.
Check our website for new brochures
as they become available.

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Missouri Native Plant Society