

BLACK OAK

Quercus velutina

A small to medium sized species within the “red oak group.” Its name comes from its very dark bark, which may look black when wet. However its inner bark is yellow, leading to its alternative name, the yellow oak.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 40 to 60 feet tall
- 30 to 40 feet spread
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to dry, well-drained, slightly acidic soils
- Large open crown
- Fall foliage is yellow-brown to reddish orange

Wildlife Benefits

Serves as a host plant for hundreds of butterfly and moth caterpillars, including:

- Hairstreaks
- Sleepy Duskywing
- Horace's
- Imperial moth

Serves as a host plant for other insects, including the Northern walkingstick

Its acorns are food source for many native birds and mammals.

Its catkins and bark provide shelter for bees



OHIO BUCKEYE

Aesculus glabra

A medium sized deciduous tree. It produces a small brown nut that resembles a deer's eye. It's the state tree of Ohio but is also native from Pennsylvania to Nebraska and as far south as Georgia and Texas.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 20 to 40 feet tall
- 20 to 40 feet spread
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist/well-drained, acidic soil
- Round crown
- Yellow fall foliage and greenish flowers in mid-Spring

Wildlife Benefits

Feeds squirrels, beetles, moths, and butterflies, but many parts of the tree are poisonous

Also attracts Ruby Throated Hummingbirds to pollinate

Attracts and feeds many kinds of bees such as:

- Bumblebees
- Long-horned Bees
- Mason Bees
- Long-tongued Bees
- Anthophorine Bees

Buckeye pollen and nectar are poisonous to honeybees



EASTERN REDBUD

Cercis canadensis

A uniquely branching deciduous tree. Sometimes known as the harbinger of spring, it produces bright pink or purple flowers in early spring. It can also be identified by unique heart-shaped leaves.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 20 to 30 feet tall
- 25 to 35 feet spread
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist/well-drained soil
- Irregular and multi-stemmed shape
- Pale yellow fall foliage and pink/purple flowers in early Spring

Wildlife Benefits

Provides food for many insects early in the season before other plants bloom

Hosts the Henry's elfin butterfly and the lo moth

Birds and other small animals use redbud seed pods as a food source

Attracts and feeds many kinds of bees such as:

- Bumblebees
- Mason Bees
- Honeybees
- Sweat Bees
- Mining Bees



SERVICEBERRY

Amelanchier arborea

Called a common or downy serviceberry, sometimes known as Juneberry. It's a tall shrub or small tree. Produces white flowers in spring, red or purple berries in summer, bright fall leaves, and gray bark in winter.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 15 to 25 feet tall
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist/well-drained, acidic soil
- Narrow shape
- Bright red fall foliage and distinct white spring flowers

Wildlife Benefits

Feeds about 124 species of butterfly caterpillar such as:

- Viceroy
- Striped Hairstreak
- Red Spotted Purple

35+ bird species are known to eat their berries

Berries are commonly eaten by people or used in jellies

Blooms early in spring and attracts honeybees and other native bees with an early source of pollen and nectar



SMOOTH SUMAC

Rhus glabra

A large deciduous shrub. It's native to the eastern part of the U.S. Trees with female flowers produce large clusters of fruit. Fruit is edible, tastes sour, and has been used to make a lemonade-like drink.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 9 to 15 feet tall
- 9 to 15 feet spread
- Full sun to part shade
- Dry, moist, or sandy soil
- Irregular multi-stemmed shape
- Yellow to purple fall foliage and red berries present from summer to winter



Wildlife Benefits

Long lasting berries attract many animals including birds, deer, rabbits, moths, and butterflies

Host to Red-Banded Hairstreak butterfly larvae and caterpillars

Sumacs also host beetles, borers, and aphids

Attracts many species of bees and wasps including:

- Honeybee
- Carpenter Bee
- Four toothed Mason Wasps
- Green Metallic Bee



BLACK WALNUT

Juglans nigra

A large, wide-branching hardwood deciduous tree. Known for dark wood and a lack of branches on the lower trunk. Highly valued for its wood which is used to make furniture and other wood products. Produces nuts edible for humans and wildlife.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 50 to 75 feet tall
- 30 to 50 feet spread
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, alkaline soil
- Round crown shape
- Yellow fall foliage and clustered green flowers

Wildlife Benefits

Hard-shelled nuts are difficult for most wildlife to eat but serve as a food source for squirrels

Attracts and hosts Banded Hairstreak butterfly caterpillars

Preferred host of luna moths and regal moths

While not heavily reliant on bees for pollination, walnuts produce large amounts of pollen which attracts bees to the flowers



CHINQUAPIN OAK

Quercus muehlenbergii

A medium to large sized deciduous tree in the white oak group. Named for the resemblance of its foliage to Chinkapin or dwarf chestnut trees. Produces small acorns. Has glossy, narrow, coarse-toothed leaves.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 50 to 80 feet tall
- 50 to 70 feet spread
- Full sun
- Moist, alkaline soil
- Pyramidal or round crown shape
- Yellow or brown fall foliage and inconspicuous green flowers

Wildlife Benefits

Acorns provide winter food source for deer, turkey, and other wildlife

Attracts many kinds of butterflies and birds including hummingbirds

Hosts Imperial moths, Gray Hairstreak butterflies, and many other butterfly species

Small flowers attract bees and provide pollen



KENTUCKY COFFEETREE

Gymnocladus dioica

A tall deciduous tree. Formerly the state tree of Kentucky. Produces large seed pods that contain brown seeds which resemble coffee beans. The seeds have been used to brew a coffee-like drink.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 60 to 75 feet tall
- 40 to 50 feet spread
- Full sun
- Dry or wet alkaline soil
- Irregular or oval crown shape
- Yellow fall foliage and greenish white flowers



Wildlife Benefits

Because the seeds and seed pods are toxic, few animals consume them



Giant sloths (like Rusty), mastodons, and other large extinct animals probably consumed and distributed Kentucky Coffeetree seeds

Hosts larvae of Bicolored and Bisected honey locust moths



Flowers attract pollinators like bees and hummingbirds



PAWPAW

Asimina triloba

A small understory tree. Produces purple flowers in spring along with sweet fruit that tastes like bananas with additional citrus and vanilla flavors. Popular food source for humans and wildlife.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 15 to 20 feet tall
- 15 to 20 feet spread
- Full sun to partial shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Multi-stemmed crown shape
- Yellow-green fall foliage and purple spring flowers

Wildlife Benefits

Important host for Zebra Swallowtail butterflies whose larvae will only eat Pawpaw leaves

Also hosts the Pawpaw Sphinx moth whose caterpillars eat Pawpaw leaves

Fruit is eaten by squirrels, possums, raccoons, and many kinds of birds

Flowers pollinated by flies, beetles, and other insects attracted to their scent and color



SHAGBARK HICKORY

Carya ovata

A large tree of great character. The grey to brown bark peels off in thin sections, curling at the ends. Produces large, edible hickory nuts. Wood was formerly used to make wheels and spokes for wagons and early automobiles.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 60 to 80 feet tall
- 40 to 60 feet spread
- Full sun to shade
- Dry to moderate soil
- Oval shape
- Rich yellow and golden brown fall color

Wildlife Benefits

Important host plant for Hickory Hairstreak and Banded Hairstreak butterflies

Exclusive host plant for Angus Underwing, Judith Underwing, and Residua Underwing moths

Peeling bark creates perfect homes for bats

Nuts are readily eaten by birds and mammals, including turkeys, ducks, foxes, chipmunks, and rabbits



BITTERNUT HICKORY

Carya cordiformis

A large deciduous tree. Blooms in the spring with catkins, which are slender, wind-pollinated flowers. Produces hard-shelled, bitter nuts that are inedible to humans but a favorite food source for wildlife.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 60 to 80 feet tall
- 40 to 60 feet spread
- Full sun but tolerates shade in its youth
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Tall, slender trunk with a broad pyramid-shaped crown
- Golden yellow fall foliage

Wildlife Benefits

The luna moth, regal moth, and several underwing moths require hickory leaves as food

Rabbits, beavers, and small rodents will feed on the bark of bitternut hickory trees

Many animals, such as deer, squirrels, and mice consume bitter nuts

Bitternut hickory provides nesting sites for a variety of cavity-nesting birds



AMERICAN HORNBEAM

Carpinus caroliniana

A small, deciduous understory tree. Has smooth, bluish-gray bark and a distinctive fluted trunk. Blooms in spring with separate male and female catkins. Produces small nuts that are not edible for humans but are eaten by wildlife.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 20 to 35 feet tall
- 20 to 30 feet spread
- Partial to full shade
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils but tolerates a wide range
- Typically found in forest understories, near streams, swamps, and ravines
- Leaves turn orange to scarlet in the fall

Wildlife Benefits

Nuts, buds, and catkins are eaten by songbirds, turkeys, and squirrels

Beavers frequently harvest hornbeam due to its availability in wet habitats

Provides cover and habitat for small mammals and nesting birds

Leaves and twigs are eaten by deer, rabbits, and beavers



PIGNUT HICKORY

Carya glabra

A tall deciduous tree with a narrow, upright crown. Blooms in spring with catkins. Produces hard-shelled, pear-shaped nuts that range from sweet to bitter. While the nuts are technically edible, they're mostly enjoyed by wildlife.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 65 to 98 feet tall
- 30 to 50 feet spread
- Full sun to partial shade
- Prefers dry to moist, well-drained loamy soils
- Common in upland oak-hickory forests, rocky slopes, and bottomland woods
- Yellow-gold fall foliage



Wildlife Benefits

Nuts are eaten by squirrels, chipmunks, black bears, raccoons, foxes, and birds like wild turkeys and woodpeckers

Provides den sites for squirrels and cover for various mammals

Leaves and twigs are eaten by deer and rabbits

Sprouts readily after fire or cutting, contributing to forest regeneration



PERSIMMON

Diospyrus virginiana

A medium-sized deciduous tree with glossy, leathery leaves. Produces flowers in spring and sweet fruit in the fall. When unripe, the fruit is extremely bitter—but after a frost, it becomes sweet and is often used in jams, baked goods, or even homemade beer.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 30 to 80 feet tall
- 20 to 35 feet spread
- Full sun to part shade
- Tolerates a wide range of soils, but prefers deep, moist bottomlands
- Distinct dark bark with a checkered, “alligator skin” appearance
- Bright orange fall fruit and yellow autumn foliage



Wildlife Benefits

Fruits are eaten by deer, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, foxes, skunks, turkeys, and many bird species

Deer eat sprouts and young shoots

Flowers attract bees and are a useful nectar source for honey production



RED OAK

Quercus rubra

A tall, fast-growing deciduous tree with dark bark and a rounded crown. In spring, it produces separate male and female flowers, and by fall, it bears large, acorns that ripen every other year.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 65 to 115 feet tall
- 40 to 70 feet spread
- Full sun to light shade
- Prefers deep, well-drained loamy or silty soils
- Beautiful red fall foliage and rugged, furrowed bark



Wildlife Benefits

Acorns are a valuable food source for deer, squirrels, wild turkeys, mice, and many birds



Young shoots and leaves are eaten by deer and rabbits

Provides important shelter and nesting sites for a variety of forest animals



WHITE OAK

Quercus alba

A tall deciduous tree with light gray, scaly bark and a wide, rounded crown. Produces acorns annually. White oak wood is so watertight and strong that it's traditionally used to make barrels for aging wine and whiskey.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 80 to 100 feet tall (up to 150 feet in exceptional cases)
- 50 to 80 feet spread
- Full sun to light shade
- Prefers deep, well-drained loamy soils; tolerates a wide range
- Leaves turn deep red to violet-purple in fall



Wildlife Benefits

Acorns feed over 180 bird and mammal species, including deer, squirrels, turkeys, and ducks

Twigs and young shoots are eaten by deer, especially in recently cleared areas

Mature trees often develop cavities used by nesting birds and small mammals

Oak flowers support pollinators in spring, and occasional acorn mast events—when trees produce a lot of acorns all at once—help fuel entire forest food webs



PECAN

Carya illinoensis

A tall deciduous tree known for its delicious nuts and high-quality wood. Pecan trees produce catkins in the spring and begin bearing nuts in the fall. These smooth-shelled nuts are sweet and widely enjoyed by humans and wildlife alike. Some pecan trees can keep producing nuts for over 300 years!

Characteristics & Habitat

- 70 to 100 feet tall (can reach up to 150 feet in rich bottomlands)
- Spread of 40 to 75 feet
- Full sun
- Prefers deep, well-drained alluvial soils
- Leaves turn yellow to bronze in fall



Wildlife Benefits

Nuts are eaten by squirrels, raccoons, foxes, deer, and many birds



Squirrels also help disperse seeds across long distances

Spring flowers are wind-pollinated but provide early habitat structure



Large, mature trees offer nesting space for birds and shelter for small mammals



WAHOO

Euonymus atropurpureus

A small, deciduous tree or large shrub known for its red fruit and vibrant fall color. Though modest in spring, it comes alive in autumn when bright capsules split open to reveal scarlet seeds

Characteristics & Habitat

- 12 to 25 feet tall
- Spreads 15 to 20 feet
- Prefers part shade to light sun
- Thrives in moist, well-drained loamy soils, often near streams or in open woodlands
- Native to central and eastern U.S., scattered in woodlands, thickets, and riparian areas
- Leaves turn red or yellow in fall



Wildlife Benefits

Fruits are eaten by birds and small mammals in fall and winter

Dense branching provides shelter for wildlife

Flowers attract some pollinators like bees, beetles, and flies

Serves as a native understory species that adds ecological diversity in forested landscapes



HAZELNUT

Corylus americana

A dense, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with rounded leaves. Produces male catkins in late winter and small, edible nuts in early fall. Native Americans used hazelnuts in soups and ground them into flour for a nutrient-rich bread.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 3 to 10 feet tall
- Spread of 5 to 10 feet
- Full sun to part shade
- Prefers moist, well-drained loamy soils; tolerates dry, rocky, or clay soils
- Found along woodland edges, thickets, stream banks, and prairie-forest transitions
- Native to eastern and central North America



Wildlife Benefits

Hazelnuts are a favorite of squirrels, deer, turkeys, woodpeckers, and grouse

Leaves, twigs, and catkins are eaten by deer and moose



Dense growth provides excellent cover and nesting habitat for small mammals and birds



BLACKHAW VIBURNUM

Viburnum prunifolium

A slow-growing deciduous shrub or small tree with upright branches and a rounded crown. Produces white flowers in spring, followed by deep purple fruits in fall that are edible and favored by wildlife.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 12 to 15 feet tall
- Spread of 8 to 15 feet
- Full sun to part shade (blooms best with sun)
- Tolerates a wide range of well-drained soils and pH levels
- Leaves turn vibrant red to purple in fall



Wildlife Benefits

Fruits attract songbirds, wild turkeys, and small mammals

Flowers provide nectar for bees and butterflies

Dense form offers nesting and cover for birds

Tolerates drought and urban conditions, making it valuable in restoration plantings



WILD PLUM

Prunus americana

A small deciduous tree or large shrub known for its fragrant white flowers in early spring and tart, colorful fruits in late summer. Wild plum fruits were prized by many Indigenous nations and early settlers who used them fresh, dried, or turned into sauces, jellies, and even traditional medicines

Characteristics & Habitat

- 15 to 25 feet tall
- Spread of 10 to 20 feet
- Full sun to part shade
- Tolerates a wide range of soils; prefers well-drained loams
- Found along woodland edges, riverbanks, roadsides, and in prairies



Wildlife Benefits

Fruits are eaten by deer, foxes, birds, and black bears



Dense, thorny thickets provide nesting and cover for birds and small mammals



Roots help prevent erosion and stabilize soil, especially in disturbed areas



SHELLBARK HICKORY

Carya Laciniosa

A tall, slow-growing deciduous tree with shaggy bark and large, compound leaves. It produces the largest nuts of all hickories, which are sweet, edible, and a favorite of wildlife.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 60 to 100 feet tall (can reach up to 120 feet)
- Spread of 40 to 70 feet
- Full sun to partial shade
- Prefers deep, moist, fertile loams, especially near rivers and floodplains
- Bark peels in long, thick plates; yellow to golden-brown fall foliage



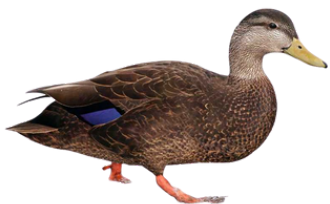
Wildlife Benefits

Nuts are eaten by squirrels, raccoons, deer, turkeys, and ducks



Flowers are wind-pollinated; young shoots are eaten by deer

Thickets and young groves provide shelter for birds and small mammals



Squirrels help disperse nuts, contributing to seedling growth in natural areas



BLACK CHERRY

Prunus serotina

A fast-growing deciduous tree with glossy leaves, fragrant white flower spikes in spring, and dark cherries in late summer. Black cherry fruits have been used to flavor brandy and rum and the tree's bark was once brewed as a cough remedy in Appalachian medicine.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 50 to 80 feet tall (can reach 100+ feet in forests)
- Spread of 30 to 60 feet
- Full sun preferred; tolerates part shade
- Grows best in well-drained, moist soils but adapts to a variety of habitats
- Common in old fields, woodland edges, and forest openings



Wildlife Benefits

Fruits are eaten by over 30 bird species, plus bears, foxes, raccoons, and squirrels

Flowers attract bees and butterflies in late spring

Seeds are dispersed by birds, helping the species colonize disturbed sites

Young trees and saplings are eaten by deer and rabbits



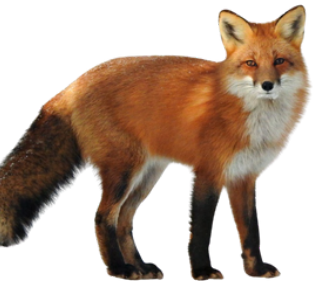
SUGAR MAPLE

Acer saccharum

A fast-growing deciduous tree with shiny, toothed leaves and fragrant white flower spikes in spring. Produces clusters of dark cherries in late summer, valued by wildlife and for their use in jellies, wine, and brandy.

Characteristics & Habitat

- 50 to 80 feet tall (can reach 100+ feet in forests)
- Spread of 30 to 60 feet
- Full sun to partial shade
- Tolerates a range of well-drained soils; prefers moist, rich sites
- Common in old fields, open woods, and disturbed areas



Wildlife Benefits

Fruits feed birds, bears, foxes, raccoons, and squirrels



Flowers attract pollinators in the spring

Seeds are widely dispersed by birds and mammals



Sprouts vigorously after cutting or fire, aiding forest recovery

