

ARKANSAS' FLOWERING SHRUBS GARDENERS GO NATIVE!

Pulaski County Master Gardeners
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Almost all of Arkansas' native shrubs are worthy of cultivation for the beauty of their flowers, fruits, and foliage, as well as for their interest as representatives of our wild flora. In general, they are hardier and more durable than most of our exotic plantings, demanding relatively little care, even in the heat and drought of summer. And it's a pleasure, when you close the garden gate behind you, to meet these natives again, at home in the woods and fields. Here are some noteworthy species:

Buckeyes

Red Buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*

Ohio Buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*

French-Mulberry, Beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*

Button Bush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Sweetspire, Virginia-Willow, *Itea virginica*

Alder, *Alnus serrulata*

Hazelnut, *Corylus americana*

Elderberry, *Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis*

Blueberries

Farkleberry, Sparkleberry, *Vaccinium arboreum*

Mayberry, *Vaccinium elliottii*

Deerberry, *Vaccinium stamineum*

Blackberries, Bramble

Highbush Blackberry, *Rubus argutus*

Dewberry, *Rubus trivialis*

Sumacs

Smooth Sumac, *Rhus glabra*

Winged Sumac, *Rhus copallina*

Fragrant Sumac, *Rhus aromatica*

Carolina Rose, Wild Rose, *Rosa carolina*

Rusty Blackhaw, *Viburnum rufidulum*

Possum Haw, Deciduous Holly, *Ilex decidua*

Strawberry Bush, *Euonymus americanus*

Wafer-Ash, Hop Tree, *Ptelea trifoliata*

Alien Invasives

Chinese Privet, *Ligustrum sinense*

Multiflora Rose, *Rosa multiflora*

Many of these species are available from Mary Ann King's native plant nursery, Pine Ridge Gardens, in London, Arkansas. You can browse her on-line catalog at: www.pineridgegardens.com.

Carl Hunter's superbly photographed book on Arkansas' woody plants, *Trees, Shrubs & Vines of Arkansas*, is no longer in print, however, used copies are available on-line.

Food for thought from Douglas W. Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home* (2007):

USING NATIVES INSTEAD OF ALIENS IN OUR GARDENS HELPS TO RECREATE THE FUNCTIONING ECOSYSTEMS THAT WE HAVE ELIMINATED FROM SO MANY ACRES OF NORTH AMERICA.

In lower 48 states: 3-5% of land remains undisturbed; 95-97% taken & modified. 53-56% of that modified land = cities and suburbs. U.S. lawns cover an estimated 40 million acres, an area ca. 8X the size of New Jersey.

Reconciliation Ecology: the redesign of human habitats for the accommodation of other species.

THERE IS NO INHERENT CONFLICT BETWEEN CREATING A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN AND ESTABLISHING A FUNCTIONING, SUSTAINABLE GARDEN ECOSYSTEM BY DIVERSITY OF NATIVES.

See chapter 7: The Cost of Using Alien Ornamentals.

From Janet Marinelli's *Stalking the Wild Amaranth* (1998): Native plants challenge us to be not only gardeners but informed participants in the living landscape. The ecosystem concept is the key to the future of the garden.

From Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*: Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech.

It is often said that everywhere the conservation/preservation/native gardening folks go nowadays, they meet Thoreau coming back. His message in a nutshell: 'Simplify! Simplify! Keep your accounts on your thumbnail.'