

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 wildlife habitat gardens, 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 (excessive water and fertilizer just to stay alive) 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 have been planted by the birds; many native plants are spread by birds as the seeds from fruits or cones they've eaten pass through their system.

Key

- # number of NJ bird species that feed on (fruits, seeds, cones, catkins) – sources on page 3
- 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

Red Cedar, <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> (c)	32	Scrub Oak, <i>Q. ilicifolia</i> (c)	29
PINES, <i>Pinus</i> spp.	27	Willow Oak, <i>Q. phellos</i> (c)	29
Pitch Pine, <i>Pinus rigida</i> (c)	28	Pin Oak, <i>Q. palustris</i>	29
White Pine, <i>P. strobus</i>	35	Red Oak, <i>Q. rubra</i>	29
Scrub Pine, <i>P. virginiana</i> (c)	35	American Hackberry, <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (w)	25
Shortleaf Pine, <i>P. echinata</i>	35	Dwarf Hackberry, <i>Celtis tenuifolia</i> (s)	25
HICKORIES, <i>Carya</i> spp.	19	American Elm, <i>Ulmus americana</i>	18
Pignut Hickory, <i>Carya glabra</i>	19	Red Mulberry, <i>Morus rubra</i> (c)	44
Shagbark Hickory, <i>C. ovata</i>	19	Tulip Tree or Yellow Poplar, <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	10
Mockernut Hickory, <i>C. tomentosa</i> (c)	19	Sassafras, <i>Sassafras albidum</i> (c)	23
Butternut, <i>Juglans cinerea</i>	11	Sweet Gum, <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (c)	21
Black Walnut, <i>J. nigra</i>	18	SERVICEBERRIES, <i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	38
BIRCHES, <i>Betula</i> spp.	24	Juneberry, Shadbush, Shadblow, Serviceberry,	
Black or Sweet Birch, <i>Betula lenta</i>	13+	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> (c)	26+
Yellow Birch, <i>B. lutea</i> (n)	13+	Downy Serviceberry, <i>A. arborea</i>	19+
Gray Birch, <i>B. populifolia</i> (c)	14+	Black Cherry, <i>Prunus serotina</i> (c)	53
American Hornbeam or Ironwood,		Pin or Fire Cherry, <i>P. pensylvanica</i>	42
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	10	Chokecherry, <i>P. virginiana</i>	43
American Beech, <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	25	Crab Apple, <i>Malus</i> spp.	26
OAKS, <i>Quercus</i> spp.	29	American Holly, <i>Ilex opaca</i> (c)	13+
White Oak, <i>Quercus alba</i> (c)	29	MAPLES, <i>Acer</i> spp.	14
Post Oak, <i>Q. stellata</i> (c)	29	Box Elder, <i>Acer negundo</i> (w)	4+
Black Oak, <i>Q. velutina</i> (c)	29		
Spanish Oak, <i>Q. falcata</i> (c)	29		

– Continued on reverse side –

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Trees (continued):

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

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	Coral Honeysuckle, <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> (c)	1

Key

. number of NJ bird species that feed on (fruits, seeds, cones, catkins) – **sources below**

SOURCES – The foundation for Patricia Sutton's research on bird dependence on seeds, cones, catkins, fruits, and berries of our native trees, shrubs, and vines, was the following books, coupled with her own many observations over time:

Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Attracting Birds (A Manual for the Northeast), by Richard M. DeGraaf and Gretchin M. Witman. University of Massachusetts Press, 1979.

Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Attracting Birds, Second Edition Revised, by Richard DeGraaf. University Press of New England, 2002.

American Wildlife & Plants (A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits), by Alexander Martin, Herbert Zim, and Arnold Nelson. Dover Publications, Inc., 1951. One can look up a specific bird (or animal) and learn the native plants it feeds on, or one can look up a native plant and learn the birds and animals that feed on it.

Patricia Sutton's personal observations at world famous Cape May (where so many migrants concentrate) and elsewhere.

**ADDENDUM to Pat Sutton's
"New Jersey's Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines That are Beneficial to Birds"**

National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder utilizes Doug Tallamy's data. This site is highly educational, not only sharing the number of butterfly and moth species that need to lay their eggs on specific plants, but also includes a gallery of the top 15 species that do so: <https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org/>

Following the same order as species presented on my list of NJ's Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines That are Beneficial to Birds" I've gone to the website above and noted below the # of caterpillar species that use the following native trees, shrubs, and vines as a Host Plant. So, beyond their fruits, seeds, cones, and catkins being utilized by birds, you'll see that many of these natives are also very important host plants to butterflies and moths (so providing a future for our butterflies and moths, and sources of caterpillars for hungry birds).

TREES	# Caterpillar Species that Use this as a Host Plant	SHRUBS	# Caterpillar Species that Use this as a Host Plant
Red Cedar	35	Common Waxmyrtle	106
Pitch, White, Scrub, & Shortleaf Pine	232	N. Bayberry	106
Pignut, Shagbark, & Mockernut Hickory	239	Speckled & Smooth Alder	212
Butternut	139	Common Spicebush	13
Black Walnut	139	Hawthorns	155
Black, Yellow, & Gray Birch	357	Beach Plum	414
American Beech	134	Red & Black Chokeberry	5
Oaks	513	Pasture, Meadow, Virginia, & Swamp Rose	120
Hackberries	42	Purple-flowering Raspberry, Black & Red Raspberry, Alleghany Blackberry, & Dewberry	148
American Elm	192	Winged, Smooth, & Staghorn Sumac	59
Tulip Tree	20	Smooth Winterberry	45
Sassafras	34	Inkberry	45
Sweet Gum	37	Gray, Alternate-leaved, Silky, & Red-osier Dogwood	117
Serviceberries	109	Huckleberries	42
Black Cherry	414	Highbush Blueberry	277
Crab Apple	275	Lowbush Blueberry	277
American Holly	45	Common Elderberry	32
Box Elder, Red, Silver, & Sugar Maple	286	Arrowwood Viburnum	110
Sour Gum / Black Tupelo	36	(& other native viburnums)	
Flowering Dogwood	117	E. Baccharis / Groundsel-tree	20
Persimmon	48		
VINES			
Greenbriars	19		
Poison Ivy	13		
Virginia Creeper	30		
Fox, Summer, Riverbank, & Frost Grape	70		
Trumpet Creeper	6		
Coral Honeysuckle	30		