

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

SPECIES EATEN BY EASTERN BLUEBIRDS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED

by Patricia Sutton v.2023

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). **Many of our native plants are key caterpillar plants for our butterflies and moths. This being the case, native plants are also providing caterpillars to hungry insect-eating birds, including Eastern Bluebirds, caterpillars that these insect-eating birds are NOT finding on non-native plants.**

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) **B sources on back of this page**

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	American Hackberry, <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (w)	25
PINES, <i>Pinus</i> spp.	27	Dwarf Hackberry, <i>Celtis tenuifolia</i> (s)	25
Pitch Pine, <i>Pinus rigida</i> (c)	28	American Elm, <i>Ulmus americana</i>	18
White Pine, <i>P. strobus</i>	35	Red Mulberry, <i>Morus rubra</i> (c)	44
Scrub Pine, <i>P. virginiana</i> (c)	35	Tulip Tree or Yellow Poplar, <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	10
Shortleaf Pine, <i>P. echinata</i>	35	Sassafras, <i>Sassafras albidum</i> (c)	23
HICKORIES, <i>Carya</i> spp.	19	Sweet Gum, <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (c)	21
Pignut Hickory, <i>Carya glabra</i>	19	SERVICEBERRIES, <i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	38
Shagbark Hickory, <i>C. ovata</i>	19	Juneberry, Shadbush, Shadblow, Serviceberry,	
Mockernut Hickory, <i>C. tomentosa</i> (c)	19	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> (c)	26+
Butternut, <i>Juglans cinerea</i>	11	Downy Serviceberry, <i>A. arborea</i>	19+
Black Walnut, <i>J. nigra</i>	18	Black Cherry, <i>Prunus serotina</i> (c)	53
BIRCHES, <i>Betula</i> spp.	24	Pin or Fire Cherry, <i>P. pensylvanica</i>	42
Black or Sweet Birch, <i>Betula lenta</i>	13+	Chokecherry, <i>P. virginiana</i>	43
Yellow Birch, <i>B. lutea</i> (n)	13+	Crab Apple, <i>Malus</i> spp.	26
Gray Birch, <i>B. populifolia</i> (c)	14+	American Holly, <i>Ilex opaca</i> (c)	13+
American Hornbeam or Ironwood,		MAPLES, <i>Acer</i> spp.	14
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	10	Box Elder, <i>Acer negundo</i> (w)	4+
American Beech, <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	25	Red Maple, <i>A. rubrum</i> (c)	5+
OAKS, <i>Quercus</i> spp.	29	Silver Maple, <i>A. saccharinum</i> (w)	4+
White Oak, <i>Quercus alba</i> (c)	29	Sugar Maple, <i>A. saccharum</i>	5+
Post Oak, <i>Q. stellata</i> (c)	29	Sour Gum or Black Tupelo, <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> (c)	34
Black Oak, <i>Q. velutina</i> (c)	29	Flowering Dogwood, <i>Cornus florida</i> (c)	37
Spanish Oak, <i>Q. falcata</i> (c)	29	Persimmon, <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> (s, c)	15
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		

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Shrubs			
Common Waxmyrtle, <i>Morella cerifera</i> (s, c)	25	HUCKLEBERRIES, <i>Gaylussacia</i> spp.	24
Northern Bayberry, <i>M. pensylvanica</i> (c)	25	Black Huckleberry, <i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	12+
Speckled Alder, <i>Alnus rugosa</i> (w)	15	Dangleberry, <i>G. frondosa</i>	13+
Smooth Alder, <i>A. serrulata</i> (w)	15	BLUEBERRIES, <i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	36
Common Spicebush, <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	15	Highbush Blueberry, <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (c)	16+
Wild Black Current, <i>Ribes americanum</i> (n)	15	Lowbush Blueberry, <i>V. angustifolium</i>	8+
HAWTHORNS, <i>Crataegus</i> spp.	19	ELDERS, <i>Sambucus</i> spp.	46
Beach Plum, <i>Prunus maritima</i> (c) **		Common Elder or Elderberry,	
Red Chokeberry, <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> (c, w)	12	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i> (c, w)	33+
Black Chokeberry, <i>A. melanocarpa</i> (c)	7	Snowberry, <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	8
ROSES, <i>Rosa</i> spp.	25	Coralberry, <i>S. orbiculatus</i>	15
Pasture or Carolina Rose, <i>Rosa carolina</i> (c)	25	VIBURNUMS, <i>Viburnum</i> spp.	23
Meadow or Smooth Rose, <i>R. blanda</i>	25	Arrowwood, <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> (c)	12+
Virginia Rose, <i>R. virginiana</i>	25	Mapleleaf Viburnum, <i>V. acerifolium</i>	10+
Swamp Rose, <i>R. palustris</i> (c, w)	25	Naked Withe-rod, <i>V. nudum</i> (n, w)	9+
BRAMBLES, <i>Rubus</i> spp.	49	Nannyberry, <i>V. lentago</i> (c)	11+
Purple-flowering Raspberry, <i>Rubus odoratus</i> (n)	49	Cranberry Viburnum, <i>V. trilobum</i>	6+
Black Raspberry, <i>R. occidentalis</i>	49	Vines & Weed	
Red Raspberry, <i>R. idaeus</i>	49	Common Greenbrier, <i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> (c)	20
Alleghany Blackberry, <i>R. allegheniensis</i> (c)	49	Cat Greenbrier, <i>S. glauca</i> (c)	19
Dewberry, <i>R. flagellaris</i> (c)	49	Poison Ivy, <i>Rhus radicans</i> (c)	34
SUMACS, <i>Rhus</i> spp.	33	American Bittersweet, <i>Celastrus scandens</i> (c)	15
Winged or Dwarf Sumac, <i>Rhus copallina</i> (c)	31	Virginia Creeper, <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> (c)	37
Smooth Sumac, <i>R. glabra</i>	31	GRAPES, <i>Vitis</i> spp.	51
Staghorn Sumac, <i>R. typhina</i>	31	Fox Grape, <i>Vitis labrusca</i> (c)	51
HOLLIES, <i>Ilex</i> spp.	29	Summer Grape, <i>V. aestivalis</i> (c)	51
Smooth Winterberry, <i>Ilex laevigata</i> (c, w)	7+	Riverbank Grape, <i>V. riparia</i>	51
Inkberry, <i>I. glabra</i> (c)	9+	Frost Grape, <i>V. vulpina</i>	51
DOGWOODS, <i>Cornus</i> spp.	34	Trumpet Creeper, <i>Campsis radicans</i> (c)	2
Gray Dogwood, <i>Cornus racemosa</i>	34	Coral Honeysuckle, <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> (c) .	1
Alternate-leaved Dogwood, <i>C. alternifolia</i>	34		
Silky Dogwood, <i>C. amomum</i> (w)	18+		
Red-osier Dogwood, <i>C. stolonifera</i>	18+		

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SOURCES B 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.