



## CHESAPEAKE WILDLIFE HERITAGE

P.O. Box 1745  
Easton, Maryland 21601  
Phone: (410) 822-5100  
Fax: (410) 822-4016  
[www.cheswildlife.org](http://www.cheswildlife.org)  
[info@cheswildlife.org](mailto:info@cheswildlife.org)

## WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY NATIVE PLANTS

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### DECIDUOUS TREES:

Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) Wet loving tree that produces dark blue fruit in the fall. Birds normally strip tree of fruit early. Early fall leaf color normally bright red.

Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) The berries produced by this tree in July and August are a favorite food of more than 40 bird species. These wide spreading, medium-sized trees grow 30-60 feet tall, depending on species. (Note: Do not plant near drive way or clothesline -- berries can stain.)

\* **White Mulberry (*M. Alba*) is an invasive non-native and should be avoided.**

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) Grows to 40 feet tall, flowers in the spring to attract pollinators and produces red fruits from August - November which are a favorite of wintering bluebirds.

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) Grows to 100 feet tall, tolerates shade and produces nuts which are consumed by Blue Jays and many other birds and small mammals. Provides cavities for nesting.

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) Understory tree which produces dark fruit which is eaten early in the fall by many birds. Bright yellow fall foliage.

Serviceberry or Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*) Medium-sized trees, 25 to 60 feet tall, that grow masses of white or pinkish flowers in spring. Fruit appears in summer. Favorite food of flying squirrels

Oaks assorted, (*Quercus spp.*) Large but slow growing. Produces acorns, which are consumed by a variety of wildlife. Oaks are popular nesting trees for many birds.

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) Large shade tree, develops seedhead that is consumed by a variety of birds.

Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) Large tree, fruits develop from the tulip shaped flowers. Provides seeds, nectar (especially for Hummingbirds) and cavities for nesting.

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### EVERGREEN TREES:

Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) Offers cover, nest sites, and winter food for birds. Usually grows 50- 90 feet tall. Small cones that resemble berries are favorite food of Cedar Waxwings and many other birds. Excellent screen tree.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) Provides late fruit and cover for winter. Grows to about 60 feet tall in full sun but will tolerate light shade.

Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginiana*) Large tree that provides seeds, winter cover, and nesting habitat. Good screen tree. (Well drained soils only)

## DECIDUOUS SHRUBS :

Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) This shrub's showy white flowers attract pollinators. Late fruit eaten by many birds.

Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) This shrub has brilliant red foliage and clusters of hairy red fruit that persist throughout winter and are eaten by many birds, such as Bluebirds, Cardinals.

Viburnums - (*Viburnum spp.*) A large genus of easy to grow shrubs with white flowers in spring, followed by red, yellow, blue, or black berries. Birds eat the berries and find cover in the branches. Cranberry and Blackhaw are included in this family.

Possum-haw (*Viburnum nudum*) Showy white/cream flowers, fruit eaten by many birds

Blueberries (*Vaccinium sp.*) & Blackberries (*Rubus spp.*) are devoured by over 100 species of birds and other small creatures. Small birds such as the Common Yellow Throat nest in thickets.

Native Rose (*Rosa spp.*) Not only provide flowers for pollinators they produce large fruits called hips that are rich in vitamin C. Provides escape cover and nesting thickets.

Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) Produces white fruit that are consumed by a variety of birds. The flowers attract pollinators. The red stems make for wonderful winter landscape.

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidental*) Fragrant globe flowers that attract many butterflies. Fruits are hard nut-like clusters that are eaten by many larger birds including Wood Ducks.

Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) Flat top white flower clusters that attract many pollinators. Berries can be used in jellies, pies and wine but best used by the birds.

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) Leaves very spicy-aromatic when crushed. Yellow flowers appear before leaves in spring. Host plant for the caterpillars of the Spicebush swallowtail butterfly.

## EVERGREEN SHRUBS:

Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) Slow growing evergreen shrub that provides berries and thick nesting habitat for many birds.

Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) Thick cover for nesting and fruit for many birds.

Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) Semi-evergreen shrub grows fragrant berries, which stay on the plant year round and are a preferred food of Tree Swallows, Catbirds, bluebirds, and many other bird species.

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**VINES:**

Wild Grapes (*Vitis spp.*) These climbing vines provide superb fruit, eaten by more than 50 bird species. Provide excellent cover.

Native Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) Provides berries, cover and nectar from coral blossom. Do not confuse with the non-native, invasive Japanese Honeysuckle which has a white or pale yellow bloom.

**NATIVE GRASSES:**

Grasses not only look attractive as part of the landscape, but also provide seed that is consumed by many birds. The clumpy growth of the grasses provide travel lanes for ground nesting birds, such as Bobwhite Quail.

Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*)

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Little Blue Stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Big Blue Stem (*Andropogon gerardi*)

**CHESAPEAKE WILDLIFE HERITAGE** is dedicated to creating, restoring and protecting wildlife habitat, and establishing a more sustainable agriculture through direct action, education and research in partnership with private and public landowners.

CWH is a member supported non-profit organization. Please join us as we work to increase wildlife habitat in the Mid-Shore area by filling out our membership form and mailing it back to us with your tax- deductible donation. Thank you for your interest and support.

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Mail to: **CHESAPEAKE WILDLIFE HERITAGE**, P.O. Box 1745, Easton, Maryland 21601

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