**Native Shrubs for Plantings as Wildlife Food** *(excerpts)*

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This document is intended to be a comprehensive list of shrubs and some small trees native to Massachusetts that may be planted for wildlife, primarily for food but also for cover and nesting. A small number are not included because their fruits are apparently low in nutritive value (*Kalmia latifolia*; *Lyonia* *ligustrina*) or are poisonous to humans (Poison Ivy, Poison Sumac).

Our native wildlife and plants evolved over thousands of years into a deeply integrated system of food producers and food consumers, each species affecting and affected by each other. Planting alien species of shrubs and trees to enhance wildlife populations is unsupported by sufficient valid data to conclude that such non-native plants are superior to native species in nutritive value, etc.

The list is divided into four sections, reflecting basic ecological affinities of each species. Some species may grow well in broad tolerance of pH and shade, for example—so these species are listed more than once. I have also attempted to indicate in a general fashion the tolerance of each species for canopy cover by indicating each species’ preference for sun or shade.

**WET ACID SOILS**

● Speckled Alder (*Alnus rugosa* or *incana ssp. rugosa*) - sun

● Common Alder (*Alnus serrulata*) - sun

● Thicket Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*) - sun, light shade

● Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) - sun

● Red or Purple Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) - sun

● Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) - sun

● Dangleberry (*Gaylussacia frondosa*) - shade

● Smooth Winterberry (*Ilex Iaevigata*) - shade

● Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) - sun to light shade

● Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) - shade

● Sweet Gale (*Myrica gale*) - sun

● American Black Currant (*Ribes americanum*) - light shade, floodplain forests

● Common Gooseberry (*Ribes hirtellum*) - sun to light shade

● Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*) - sun to light shade

● Dewberry (*Rubus hispidus*) - sun to light shade

● Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) - sun to light shade

● Red-berried Elder (*Sambucus pubens*) - light to moderate shade, talus slopes

● Eastern Yew (*Taxus canadensis*) - shade

● Black Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium atrococcum*) - sun to shade

● Smooth Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) - sun to shade

● Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) - sun

● Velvetleaf Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*) - shade

● Maple-leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) - shade

● Hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides* or *alnifolium*) - shade

● Wild Raisin (*Viburnum cassinoides*) - light shade

● Sweet Viburnum (*Viburnum lentago*) - light shade

● Smooth or Northern Arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*) - sun to shade

● Summer Grape (*Vitis aestivalis*) - sun to light shade

● Riverbank Grape (*Vitis riparia*) - sun to light shade

**DRY ACID SOILS**

● Tall Shadbush (*Amelanchier arborea*) - light shade

● Smooth Shadbush (*Amelanchier laevis*) - light shade

● Running Shadbush (*Amelanchier stolonifera*) - sun

● Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) - sun

● Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) - sun to light shade

● Red or Purple Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) - sun to light shade

● Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) - light to moderate shade

● White Dogwood (*Cornus foemina* or *racemosa*) - sun

● American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) - shade to sun

● Beaked Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) - shade to sun

● Hawthorns (native *Crataegus* spp.) - light shade to sun

● Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*) - sun to shade

● Dangleberry (*Gaylussacia frondosa*) - light to moderate shade

● Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) - sun to light shade

● American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) - light to moderate shade

● Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) - sun

● Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*) - sun

● Horse Plum (*Prunus nigra*) - sun, light shade

● Fire or Pin Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*) - sun

● Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) - light shade, sun

● Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) - sun

● Dwarf Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus prinoides*) - sun

● Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) - sun

● Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) - sun

● Prickly Gooseberry (*Ribes cynosbati*) - shade

● Common Gooseberry (*Ribes hirtellum*) - sun, light shade

● Pasture Rose (*Rosa carolina*) - sun

● Virginia Rose (*Rosa virginiana*) - sun

● Allegheny Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*) - sun

● Wild Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus var. strigosus*) - sun

● Black Raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) - sun, light shade

● American Mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*) - sun, light shade

● Eastern Yew (*Taxus canadensis*) – shade

● Low Sweet Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) - sun

● Velvetleaf Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*) - light to moderate shade

● Deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*) - light shade

● Woodland Sweet Blueberry (*Vaccinium vacillans*) - light to moderate shade

● Maple-leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) - shade

● Wild Raisin (*Viburnum cassinoides*) - light shade

● Southern Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) - sun to light shade

● Summer Grape (*Vitis aestivalis*) - light shade, sun

**WET ALKALINE SOILS**

● Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) - sun, light shade

● Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) - sun, light shade

● Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) - sun to light shade

● Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) - shade

● American Black Currant (*Ribes americanum*) - light shade, floodplain forest

● Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*) - sun to light shade

● Dwarf or Running Raspberry (*Rubus pubescens*) - shade

● Red-berried Elder (*Sambucus pubens*) - light to moderate shade, talus slopes

● Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* and *atrococcum*) - sun to shade

● Sweet Viburnum (*Viburnum lentago*) - light shade

● Smooth or Northern Arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*) - sun to shade

● Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*) (NOT *V. opulus*) - light shade, sun

● Riverbank Grape (*Vitis riparia*) - sun to light shade

**DRY ALKALINE SOILS**

● Tall Shadbush (*Amelanchier arborea*) - light shade

● Alternate-leaved or Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) - light shade

● White Dogwood (*Cornus foemina* or *racemosa*) - sun

● Roundleaf Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*) - light shade, talus slopes

● Beaked Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) - shade to sun

● Hawthorns (native *Crataegus* spp.) - light shade to sun

● Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa* or *Pentaphylloides floribunda*) - sun

● Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) - light shade