

Native Plant Spring Catalog 2025

Sweet Green Arbor & Native Landscape Services



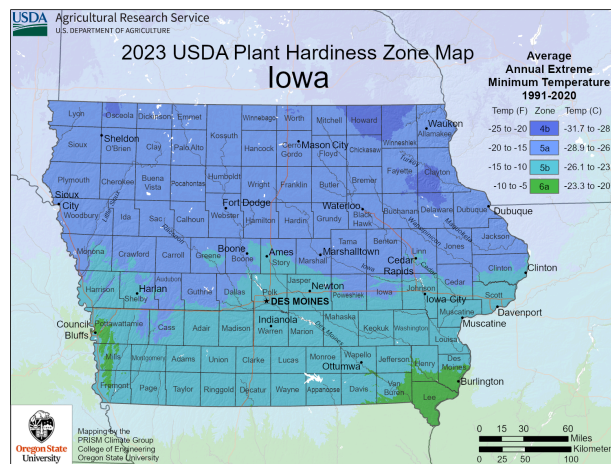
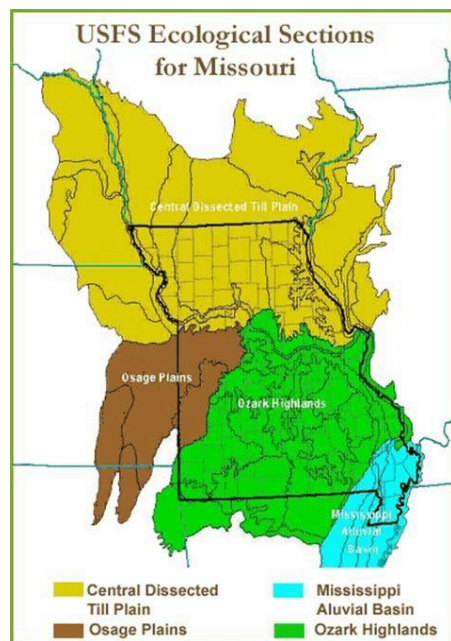
Doing our part to support the HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK® - A grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and reviving ecological networks.

What is a Native Plant?

Most of the plants on this list are native species that grow in our eco-region, which includes northern Missouri, as well as southern Iowa. We feel it is an important distinction to make that eco-regions are classified according to climatic factors and soil types and do not follow political boundaries such as county lines nor state lines. While some of these plants may not be historically accurate (growing in Jefferson County in the last 500 years), they should nonetheless contribute to the function of the ecosystem in your landscape by providing a food source for native species of insects and birds. We also include a few plants that are native to adjacent eco-regions that we consider to be 'good neighbors'.

Keystone trees, shrubs and perennials are noted on the order form. This term refers to plants that support the greatest number of moths and butterflies and other important pollinators.






The map on the left shows that Fairfield, IA is in the yellow area called the Central Dissected Till Plain which extends from southern Iowa through northern Missouri. The natural vegetation of our region is a grassland/savanna/forest mosaic with wider forested strips along the streams compared to areas to our north.



The plant hardiness zone maps for the United States and Iowa were updated in 2023 to include climate data since 2012. This has resulted in the warmer zone 6 moving into 4 counties in southeast Iowa noted in green. Jefferson County is in zone 5B, which means that the average minimum temperature in winter is -15 degrees F. Since this is an average, it may sometimes get slightly colder or warmer than -15 in any particular year. This data does not include wind-chill temperatures, which are 'feels-like' temperatures rather than an actual temperature.

Our supplier of plant material is primarily Forrest Keeling Nursery in Elsberry, Missouri, which specializes in native plants for our eco-region. Perennials are produced in 1 gallon containers and trees and shrubs in 3 gallon or 5 gallon containers. While anyone may make the 3 hour drive south from Fairfield and purchase from this nursery, we are offering to make the drive for you and pick up plants listed in the catalog.

Sweet Green Natives and Arbor Services
612 W. Kirkwood Ave., Fairfield, IA 52556,
Andrew Nash, phone **641-919-2222**

	Perennials
	<p><i>Agastache foeniculum</i> - Anise Hyssop NEW!</p> <p>Violet flower spikes appear on 3 to 4' stems from July through September. One of the best plants for pollinators, it is much loved by bees and butterflies. The foliage has the distinctive aroma of anise and is used in flavoring teas. Native to northern Iowa. Hardy zones 4-8. It often self sows. Deer and rabbit resistant.</p>
	<p><i>Amorpha canescens</i> - Lead Plant</p> <p>Up-facing spikes of dark indigo flowers appear in summer atop silvery-green pinnate compound leaves. It grows very slowly to 30 inches tall and ultimately is shrubby. A long-lived, heat and drought tolerant, Iowa native. Hardy zones 2-9.</p>
	<p><i>Amsonia illustris</i> - Shining Blue Star</p> <p>Small, light blue, star-shaped flowers bloom in open cymes on plants with narrow, glossy 5" long leaves. Blooms late spring, growing 3 feet tall. Prefers sun. Hardy zones 5-9. Native to Missouri. Deer resistant. Easy to grow.</p>
	<p><i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> - Columbine</p> <p>Orange-red pendant flowers bloom in late spring over several weeks. A favorite of hummingbirds. The foliage is mostly evergreen. Grows 24-30" in any porous or well-drained garden soil. Native to the entire Midwest and Eastern United States. Hardy zones 3-8. Deer resistant.</p>
	<p><i>Asarum canadense</i> - Wild Ginger NEW!</p> <p>Deciduous, fuzzy, light green heart-shaped leaves grow on a ground cover that gets 4-6" tall and 12-18" wide from spreading rhizomes. Blooms are inconspicuous and appear underneath the leaves. Grows best in partial to full shade in humus-rich soil. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 3-9. Deer and rabbit resistant.</p>



***Asclepias incarnata* - Swamp Milkweed**

Pink, mauve or white flowers appear in July and August above

3 foot tall foliage. Needs plentiful moisture and full sun. Very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 3-7. Deer resistant.



***Asclepias tuberosa* - Butterfly Milkweed**

Butterfly milkweed is a tuberous rooted, Iowa native perennial which occurs in dry open woods, glades, prairies, fields and roadsides throughout the State. It typically grows in a clump to 1-2.5' tall and features umbels of bright orange flowers atop upright, hairy stems with narrow, lance-shaped leaves. Unlike many of the other milkweeds, this species does not have milky-sapped stems. Flowers give way to prominent, spindle-shaped seed pods (3-6" long) which split open when ripe, releasing numerous silky-tailed seeds for dispersal by the wind. Long bloom period from late spring throughout the summer. Flowers are a nectar source for hummingbirds, butterflies and many other pollinators, and leaves are a food source for monarch butterfly caterpillars.



***Athyrium angustum forma rubellum* -**

Northern Lady Fern (Lady in Red) NEW!

One of our best native ferns with 30" bright red stems that create a lacy contrast. It may need 2 seasons before the red stems appear. Best when planted in open, moist woodlands in humus-rich soil. Hardy zones 3-9. Deer and rabbit resistant.



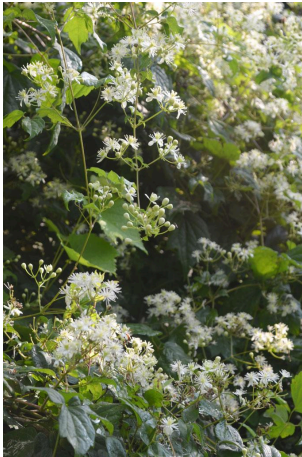
***Baptisia alba* - White Wild Indigo**

Graceful milky-white spires appear in late spring above blue-green foliage. Best planted with shorter perennials in front to hide its naked stems. Grows 3 feet tall in full sun in a variety of soils. Native to Iowa. Older foliage is deer resistant. Long-lived.



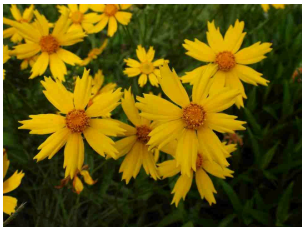
Baptisia australis - **Blue Wild Indigo**

3 foot tall flower spikes, bearing lavender-blue, pea-shaped blossoms, rise above a shrub-like plant with bluish-green foliage in late spring. Full sun. Older foliage is deer resistant. Slow growing, but worth the wait. Long-lived. Missouri native.



Clematis virginiana - **Virginia Bower Vine**

This vigorous, twining vine has masses of small white flowers in autumn, similar to Autumn Clematis. It blooms on new wood, so it blooms reliably every year. Native to eastern Iowa, it typically occurs in moist woodlands. It can sprawl to 20'. The compound leaves have 3 to 5 toothed leaflets. Hardy zones 3 to 8.



Coreopsis lanceolata - **Lanceleaf Tickseed**

A tidy perennial, usually no more than 2 feet tall when its golden flowers appear in midsummer. It likes hot, dry sites. Deer resistant. Native to Missouri.



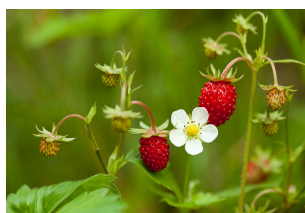
Echinacea pallida - **Pale Purple Coneflower**

This is the most common coneflower found in Iowa prairies. Thin, pendulous pale rose-pink petals appear around a central orange cone in July. The tap root makes this plant the most heat and drought tolerant of the coneflowers. Hardy zones 3-9. Somewhat deer resistant.



***Echinacea purpurea* - Purple Coneflower**

This very popular perennial is native across the Midwest. It grows best along the forest edge in partial shade. While not long-lived, it self-sows. 3 foot tall stems have showy rosy-pink ray flowers that surround an orange cone in midsummer. Hardy zones 3-8. Somewhat deer resistant.



***Fragaria virginiana* - Wild Strawberry NEW!**

Known for its tasty, sweet red berries in June, it also forms a wonderful ground cover with trifoliate leaves and spring flowers that have 5 single petals surrounding a yellow center. Best to grow in open woodlands. While many birds and animals will eat the berries, the foliage is usually not eaten. Hardy zones 3-9. Native to Iowa.



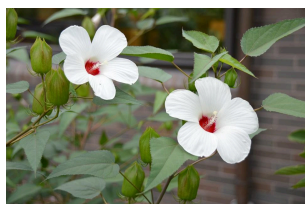
***Geranium maculatum* - Wild Geranium NEW!**

Pink flowers appear in May above palmate leaves produced from a spreading rhizome that forms a ground cover. Best planted in open woodlands in humus-rich soils. May go dormant when there is a drought. Hardy zones 4-9. Native to Iowa. Deer and rabbit resistant.



***Heliopsis helianthoides* - Oxeye Sunflower**

Oxeye sunflower typically grows 3-4 feet tall with daisy-like golden petals that surround a brownish-yellow cone. Flowers bloom in July and August and are very attractive to butterflies and pollinators. Hardy zones 3-9. Protect from deer and rabbits. Very easy to grow. Native to Iowa.



***Hibiscus laevis* - Halberd-leaved Rose Mallow NEW!**

This shrub-like herbaceous perennial grows 4 to 6' tall in one season. Large white or pink flowers bloom from August to September. The halberd-shaped leaves resemble spears. Native to Iowa, it grows along streams or in wetlands. Hardy zones 4 to 9. Rabbit and deer resistant.



Iris virginica v. shrevei - **Southern Blue Flag**

This wetland plant is native to Iowa and in June features violet-blue flowers with falls that are crested with yellow and white. Flower color can vary considerably from very light blue to purple. It grows 2 feet tall. Deer resistant.



Liatris aspera - **Rough Blazing Star**

Button-like clusters of purple flowers bloom in late summer on stems 24-30 inches tall. It prefers dry, upland sites in full sun. Hardy zones 3-8. Deer resistant. Native to Iowa.



Lobelia cardinalis - **Cardinal Flower NEW!**

Scarlet-red flower spikes appear from August to September. It typically grows in wetlands or moist soils to about 3' tall. Somewhat short-lived, it is very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 3 to 9.



Lobelia siphilitica - **Great Blue Lobelia**

3 foot tall blue spires are produced in late summer. A favorite flower of bumblebees. Tolerant of a wide range of soils, but likes moisture. Deer resistant. Hardy zones 3-8. Not long-lived, but self sows. Native throughout the Midwest.



Matteuccia struthiopteris - **Ostrich Fern NEW!**

This vigorous fern grows 3 to 4' tall and spreads to form a ground cover in moist, shady areas. Like all ferns it is deer and rabbit resistant although rabbits may eat the fiddleheads in early spring. When that happens it usually grows back. It may go dormant during droughts. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 3-7.



Monarda fistulosa - **Wild Bergamot**

Light lavender-purple flowers are elegantly arranged in a whorl around a rounded flower head in midsummer. The flowers attract many bees and butterflies. The fragrant foliage can be brewed as a tea. Grows best in an open, sunny site. Hardy zones 3-8. Deer resistant.



Ostrya virginiana - **Hophornbeam**

Hophornbeam, is a deciduous, Iowa native tree which usually occurs in dry soils, upland woods and bluffs throughout the State. A small to medium-sized, understory tree with a generally rounded crown. Leaves turn yellow in autumn and often drop early. Reddish-brown male flowers and greenish female flowers appear as separate catkins on the same tree. Flowers are not particularly showy. Female catkins are followed by drooping clusters of seed-bearing pods which somewhat resemble the fruit of hops. Also commonly called ironwood because of its extremely hard and dense wood. Hardy zones 3-9.



***Panicum virgatum* - Switchgrass**

Switchgrass, is a Iowa native grass which was an important component of the tallgrass prairie which once covered large areas of the State. It occurs in both wet and dry soils in prairies and open woods, throughout most of the State. Switchgrass is generally noted for its stiff, columnar form, and typically retains its vertical shape throughout the growing season. It is a clump-forming, warm season grass which typically grows to 3' tall. When in flower, flower panicles may bring the total plant height to 6'. The foliage clump is topped in mid-summer by finely-textured, pink-tinged, branched flower panicles which hover over the foliage like an airy cloud. Panicles turn beige as the seeds mature in fall with the seed plumes persisting well into winter. Seeds are a food source for birds in winter.



***Penstemon digitalis* - Foxglove Beardtongue**

In late spring, showy white flowers appear like foxgloves on upright stems 30 inches tall. The flowers attract many pollinators including mason bees and hummingbirds. Hardy zones 4-9. Deer resistant. Native in most of the Midwest.



***Phlox divaricata* - Woodland Phlox**

Fragrant, soft-blue flowers appear in mid-spring on a plant about 18 inches tall. It often goes dormant in summer and needs protection from rabbits and deer. Pollinated by many moths and bumblebees. A classic woodland wildflower native to Iowa. Hardy zones 3-8.



Phlox paniculata - **Summer Phlox**

Fragrant, large panicles of showy pink or white flowers appear on 4 foot tall stems from July into September. Plant in an open location to avoid mildew and protect from rabbits and deer. Hardy zones 4-9. Native to Missouri. A butterfly favorite!



Pycnanthemum tenuifolium - **Slender Mountain Mint**

The tiny white flowers appear in showy flat clusters on 24 inch stems in midsummer. An essential plant for habitat restoration, it provides a nectar source for more pollinators and beneficial insects than most other plants. Hardy zones 3-7. Deer resistant. Native to Iowa.



Ratibida pinnata - **Gray-headed Coneflower**

Pendant, pure yellow ray flowers hang below a brown oval cone. The flowers bloom from mid to late summer and are a favorite of bees. Easy to grow. Hardy zones 3-8. Iowa native.



Rudbeckia fulgida - **Orange Coneflower**

Very popular because of its long-lasting golden-yellow ray flowers with dark brown cones that cover the plant from late July through mid September. It grows 2-3 feet tall in mesic soils. Native to Illinois and Missouri. Hardy zones 3-9. Somewhat deer resistant.



Rudbeckia subtomentosa - **Sweet Coneflower**

Very showy flowers have golden-yellow ray flowers surrounding a brown cone. It's best suited to the back of the border as it gets 4-5 feet tall. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 3-9. Somewhat deer resistant.



Schizatrachyrium scoparium - **Little Bluestem**

This grass stays just 2-3 feet tall with blue-green leaves in spring and summer that turn a rich reddish-orange in autumn. It holds this warm color well through winter. Seeds have whitened feathery hairs that are illuminated when backlit. Native throughout the Midwest. Deer resistant.



Silphium integrifolium - **Rosinweed**

Rosinweed is a herbaceous perennial native to Iowa prairies. It grows just 3 to 5 feet tall. Flowers resembling small sunflowers appear in corymb-like inflorescences in mid-summer. Each flower features yellow rays and a yellow center disk. Hardy zones 4-8.



***Silphium perfoliatum* - Cup Plant**

Cup plant, is a coarse, sunflower-like, Iowa native plant which occurs in meadows and prairies. It typically grows on tough, erect stems to 4-8' tall and is distinguished from the other silphiums by its square/quadrangular stems and pairs of cup-forming leaves. Flower heads featuring light yellow rays and darker yellow center disks bloom in summer on the upper part of the plant. Hardy zones 3-9.



***Solidago speciosa* - Showy Goldenrod**

Terminal clusters of small yellow flowers are borne on reddish stems in late summer. An important pollinator plant, it is also drought and deer tolerant. It grows 36 inches tall, hardy zones 3-8. Iowa native.



***Sorghastrum nutans* - Indian Grass NEW!**

This is our most common prairie grass in Southeast Iowa. It survives wildfires and regrows with renewed vitality. A warm season grass, the most growth appears in summer when it reaches 5 to 6 feet tall. The tan inflorescence appears late summer with branched clusters of spikelets. In October the entire grass turns a warm orange-tan. Deer and rabbit resistant. Hardy zones 4 to 9.



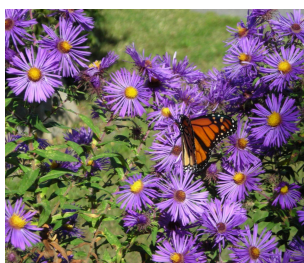
Sporobolus heterolepis - **Prairie Dropseed**

This grass produces a nice fountain-like tuft of leaves, 18-30 inches tall. Flowering occurs from late summer into early fall with airy inflorescences that smell like popcorn. It turns golden in autumn. Hardy zones 3-9. Iowa native. Deer resistant.



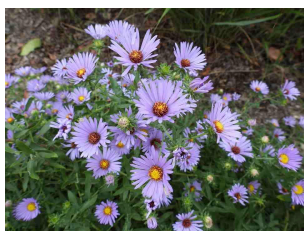
Symphyotrichum laeve - **Smooth Blue Aster**

Light lavender-blue flowers have yellow to red centers in the fall. This aster usually grows just 2-3 feet tall and makes a fitting addition to the perennial border. Iowa native. Hardy zones 4-9.



Symphyotrichum novae-angliae - **New England Aster NEW!**

This common prairie perennial typically grows 3-5' tall with an upright habit. In late summer, daisy-like flowers with purple rays and yellow centers appear. The flowers are very attractive to butterflies. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 4 to 8.



Symphyotrichum oblongifolium - **Aromatic Aster**

Violet-blue ray flowers have yellow centers in October. The fuzzy green foliage is fragrant. Grows 24-30" tall by 3 feet wide. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 3-8.



Tiarella cordifolia 'Running Tapestry' - **Foamflower NEW!**

Tiarella is spreading ground cover with airy white flowers about 5" tall that bloom from May to June. At cool temperatures the leaves have attractive purplish veining. Native to the eastern US. Grows best in light shade. Hardy zones 4 to 9. Deer and rabbit resistant.



Vernonia fasciculata - **Prairie Ironweed**

The fuchsia-purple flowers are a lively part of the prairie color scheme in late summer. Impervious to heat and drought. Very attractive to many pollinators. Grows 2-4 feet tall. Hardy zones 4-9. Iowa native. Deer resistant.



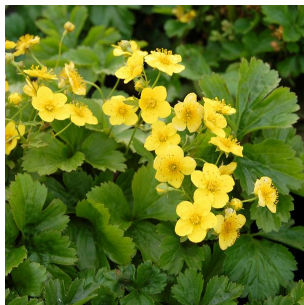
Veronicastrum virginicum - **Culver's Root NEW!**

Culver's root typically reaches 3-5' tall when in bloom. Lance-shaped leaves are in whorls (3-7 leaves per whorl) on the stems. Dense, slender, 9" long spikes (racemes) of tiny, tube-like, white flowers open from the top down from late spring to early summer atop strong, upright stems. Blooms can extend well into the summer. Smaller, branching, erect, lateral racemes give the plant a candelabra-like effect when in full bloom. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 4-8.



Viola sororia - **Common Violet NEW!**

This common Iowa native wildflower occurs in open woods, glades and streambanks. Heart-shaped leaves appear in early spring with blue-violet flowers. Each flower rests atop its own leafless stalk. It often spreads by underground rhizomes to form a colony. Fritillary butterfly caterpillars require violets for food. Hardy zones 3-7.



Waldsteinia fragarioides - **Barren Strawberry NEW!**

This is a mat-forming ground cover that spreads by rhizomes creeping just below the soil surface. 5-petaled yellow flowers bloom singly or in clusters in spring above trifoliate leaves with wedge-shaped leaflets. Flowers and leaves appear on separate stalks. The foliage is evergreen, but it tends to bronze up in cold winter climates. Grows best in dappled shade. Native to the eastern United States, but not Iowa. Hardy zones 4 to 7. Deer and rabbit resistant.



Zizia aurea - **Golden Alexander NEW!**

Golden Alexander, is an Iowa native perennial which occurs in small colonies in open, moist woods, meadows, glades and prairies. It features flat-topped clusters of tiny yellow flowers in late spring atop stems growing to 3' tall. Hardy zones 3-8.



Trees and Shrubs



Acer saccharum - **Sugar Maple**

Iconic for the orange-red fall color and its production of maple syrup. It is also an important **keystone tree** that supports many caterpillars. It prefers moist, well-drained soil. Intolerant of road salt or compacted clay soil. It grows 50-80 feet tall. Hardy zones 3-8. Protect from deer when young.



Amelanchier arborea - **Downy Serviceberry NEW!**

This is the tallest and most common of all the serviceberry species. White flowers appear in early spring before the leaves appear and then are followed by red berries that eventually turn dark purple. The berries are a favorite of birds. It grows 30 to 40 feet tall. The leaves turn scarlet-red in fall. Native to eastern Iowa. Hardy zones 4-8.



Amelanchier laevis - **Allegheny Serviceberry**

White flower clusters bloom in early spring and produce edible berries in early summer that are a favorite of both birds and people. It grows 20 to 25 feet tall. Hardy zones 4-8. Native to eastern Iowa.



Aronia melanocarpa - **Black Chokeberry New!**

Black chokeberry, is an open, upright, spreading, somewhat rounded deciduous shrub that typically grows 3-6' tall. It is native to moist, open woods in the eastern United States and Canada. Clusters of white flowers appear in May above glossy dark green leaves with finely toothed margins. In autumn black autumn berries contrast the red fall color. The name refers to the tart and bitter taste of the fruit which can be made palatable when made into jams. Hardy zones 3-8. Protect from deer.



Betula nigra - **River Birch New!**

As the name implies, this tree is often found growing next to a river or stream. This **keystone tree** is the most heat tolerant birch and is also resistant to bronze birch borer. The bark on young trees has exfoliating papery curls that reveal cream to salmon colored shades beneath. It grows 40-50 feet tall at maturity. Hardy zone 4-9. Iowa native. Deer resistant.



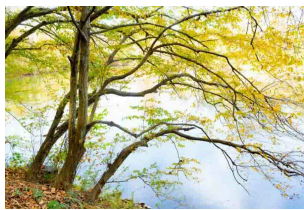
***Celtis occidentalis* - Hackberry**

Hackberry is a medium to large sized deciduous tree that typically grows 40-60' tall with upright-arching branching and a rounded spreading crown. Mature gray bark develops corky ridges and warty texture. Insignificant female flowers give way to berry-like drupes maturing to deep purple. Fruits are attractive to birds. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 2-9.



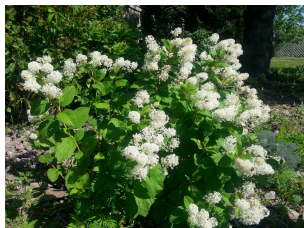
***Cercis canadensis* - Redbud NEW!**

Redbud, is a deciduous, often multi-trunked understory tree with a rounded crown that typically matures to 20-25' tall. It is loved for its stunning pea-like rose-purple flowers which bloom profusely on bare branches in early spring before the foliage emerges. The flowers are followed by flattened pods in summer. Leaves turn pale yellow in fall. The flowers provide an early-season nectar source for hummingbirds. The seeds and flower buds are also eaten by songbirds. Caterpillars and other insects which feed on redbuds are also a source of food for birds. Hardy zones 5-8. Native to Iowa. Deer resistant.



***Carpinus caroliniana* - American Hornbeam NEW!**

American hornbeam is a slow-growing, deciduous, small to medium-sized understory tree with an attractive picturesque form. It is native to eastern Iowa where it is typically found in rich moist woods, growing 20-35' tall. The smooth gray trunk has distinctive muscle-like fluting that has given rise to the common name of musclewood. Flowers appear in spring in separate male and female catkins, with the female catkins giving way to distinctive clusters of winged nutlets. Serrated, dark green leaves turn shades of yellow, orange and red in fall. Hardy zones 3-9.



***Ceanothus americanus* - New Jersey Tea**

This tidy shrub grows just 2-3 feet tall and has showy white clusters of flowers in June. The leaves were used as a tea substitute in colonial times. Slow growing, but worth the wait. Protect from deer and rabbits. Hardy zones 4-8. Native from Iowa to New Jersey. One of Andrew's favorites.

	<p><i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> - Buttonbush NEW!</p> <p>Buttonbush is a somewhat coarse, deciduous shrub with an open-rounded habit that typically grows 6-12' tall. In Iowa it is found most commonly in wet open areas. Fragrant white flowers appear in early to mid-summer. Long, projecting styles give the flower heads a distinctively pincushion-like appearance. Flower heads are very attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, and other insect pollinators. Flowers mature into hard spherical ball-like fruits consisting of multiple tiny two-seeded nutlets that persist throughout the winter. Hardy zones 5-9.</p>
	<p><i>Clethra alnifolia</i> 'Ruby Spice' - Pink Summersweet</p> <p>Summersweet, is a deciduous shrub that is native to swampy woodlands and stream banks in the eastern US. It is a rounded, suckering, densely-branched, deciduous shrub that typically grows to 3-6' tall and is noted for producing a mid to late summer bloom of sweetly fragrant white flowers which appear in narrow, upright panicles. 'Ruby Spice' is a pink flowering selection of the species that was found in Connecticut by Andy Brand. Dark green leaves turn attractive shades of yellow to golden brown in fall. The flowers are very attractive to butterflies and bees. Hardy zones 4-8. Protect from deer.</p>
	<p><i>Cornus florida</i> - Flowering Dogwood</p> <p>The May flowers are actually white bracts that appear like white butterflies before the leaves emerge and hold steadfast for at least 2 weeks. The fall color is a long-lasting purplish-red. It has a tiered branching pattern with blocky bark and grows to 20 feet tall. It requires humus-rich, but well-drained solid and adequate moisture. In Iowa it is best to plant the tree on the east side of the house where it has afternoon shade and protection from winter winds that can destroy the flower buds. Hardy zones 5b to 9. Protect from deer. Native to Missouri where it is the state tree.</p>



Cornus racemosa - **Gray Dogwood**

This **keystone shrub** is able to grow in poor soil and its spreading nature make this 8-10 foot shrub useful for creating hedges and thickets. The white flowers and white berries contrast nicely with the reddish stems. Purplish fall color is appealing with asters and goldenrods. Hardy zones 4-8. Native to Iowa.



Corylus americana - **American Hazelnut**

This **keystone shrub** was once the most common shrub found in Iowa at the time of European settlement. The catkin flowers dangle from the branches in spring and turn into edible hazelnuts inside a papery husk by fall. Fall color is mottled shades of orange and yellow. Squirrels and birds love the nuts. It grows 8-12 feet tall and spreads to form thickets in either sun or shade. Somewhat deer resistant once established. Hardy zones 4-9.



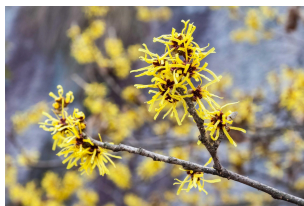
Fothergilla 'Mount Airy' - **Witch Alder**

White, honey-scented spiky flowers appear in early spring on a shrub that stays just 3-5 feet tall. The leaves turn attractive shades of yellow to orange-red in fall. It grows in either sun or shade and it's deer resistant and adaptable. Hardy zones 5-8. Native to the Southeast United States.






Hamamelis vernalis - **Vernal Witch Hazel**

Vernal witch hazel, is native to the Ozark Plateau extending from southern Missouri through northwestern Arkansas to eastern Oklahoma. It grows best on wooded hillsides where it spreads by suckers to form colonies.. It typically grows to 6' tall. Clusters of yellow flowers appear in late winter prior to the emergence of the foliage.



Hamamelis virginiana - **Common Witch Hazel**

This is the only shrub native to Iowa that blooms in the fall. It has sweetly fragrant, small yellow flowers that often bloom when the leaves turn yellow, making the origin of the scent unknown until close inspection. It's best to grow witch hazel in shade in humus-rich soil that stays adequately moist. It grows 15 to 18 feet tall. Hardy zones 3-8.

	<p><i>Juniperus virginiana</i> - Eastern Red Cedar</p> <p>Eastern red cedar, is native to Iowa growing in fields, pastures and fence rows throughout the state. It is a broadly conical, sometimes columnar, dense, evergreen conifer that typically grows to 30-50' tall. The wood is reddish-brown and aromatic, and is commonly used for cedar chests. Dark blue-green scale-like foliage often turns purplish in winter. This is a dioecious species with female trees producing round, gray to blackish-green berry-like cones that ripen in fall the first year. The berry-like cones are attractive to many birds. Hardy zone 2 to 9. Deer resistant.</p>
	<p><i>Juglans nigra</i> - Black Walnut</p> <p>Black walnut is a large deciduous shade tree that typically grows 75 to 100 feet tall. The wood from this tree is highly valued for its dark color and is made into cabinets and furniture. The walnuts are edible, though hard to extract from the shell. Black walnut roots produce a chemical toxic to azaleas, rhododendron, blueberries, tomatoes, peppers and potatoes. Most native plants are not affected. Deer and rabbit resistant. Native to Iowa. Hardy zones 4-9. Keystone tree.</p>
	<p><i>Lindera benzoin</i> - Spicebush</p> <p>Spicebush, is a Missouri native deciduous shrub with a broad, rounded habit which typically grows 6-12' tall in moist locations. Clusters of tiny, aromatic, greenish-yellow flowers bloom along the branches in early spring before the foliage emerges. Male flowers are larger and showier than the female ones. Flowers of female plants give way to bright red drupes which mature in fall and are attractive to birds. Female plants need a male pollinator in order to set fruit. Green leaves turn an attractive yellow in autumn and are spicy when crushed. The caterpillar of the spicebush swallowtail butterfly feeds on the leaves of this shrub. Hardy zones 5 to 9. Very deer resistant.</p>



Nyssa silvatica - **Black Gum, Tupelo**

The fall color of this tree is a blazing scarlet-red, but it's also noted for its horizontal tiered branching with blocky bark. It grows up to 50 feet tall with insignificant flowers in spring. Small, blue-black fruit appear on female trees in fall if a male tree is nearby. Native to Missouri, but hardy zones 5-9. It needs adequate moisture.



Physocarpus opulifolius - **Ninebark**

Another useful Iowa native shrub that can easily grow 6 to 10 feet tall in any soil type, sun or shade. In late spring after the leaves emerge, clusters of nectar-rich white flowers attract plenty of beneficial insects. In winter the shrub displays attractive bark that exfoliates into pale tan papery strips. Hardy zones 2-8. Protect from deer when young.



Pinus strobus - **White Pine**

White pine is a rapid-growing, long-lived, needled evergreen tree that is native to northeastern Iowa. Although pyramidal in its early years, it matures to an irregular crown. It grows 50-80' tall, and sometimes taller. Bluish green needles are soft to the touch and appear in bundles of five. Cylindrical, brown cones are produced after 5-10 years. It produces a 'pine-fresh' aroma. Hardy zones 3-8.



Prunus americana - **American plum**

This **keystone tree** is the most widespread native plum, found across the entire Midwest. When in bloom in early spring, the fragrant white flowers are crowded with bees and spring butterflies. The trees spread to form thickets and grow 15-18 feet tall. In early fall, yellow to rosy purplish plums appear. Fall color of the leaves is yellow to orange-red. Hardy zones 3-8. Protect from deer when young.



Prunus angustifolia - **Chickasaw plum**

Another **keystone tree**, very similar to American plum, but slightly shorter. It forms thickets and has white flowers in early spring, followed by edible plums in fall. Hardy zones 5-8. Missouri native. Protect from deer when young.



Prunus serotina - **Wild Black Cherry**

This **keystone** species is one of the largest of the cherries, typically growing to 50-80' tall with a narrow-columnar to rounded crown. Fragrant white flowers in slender pendulous clusters appear with the foliage in May. Flowers are followed by drooping clusters of small red cherries that ripen in late summer to dark purple-black. Fruits are attractive to wildlife. The foliage turns attractive shades of yellow and rose in fall. Mature trees develop dark scaly bark. Hardy zones 3-9.



Prunus virginiana - **Chokecherry**

A small **keystone** cherry tree that grows to 20 feet all with elongated white flower clusters in spring that turn into pea-sized purple-black fruit by fall. The fruit is a favorite of birds and the foliage supports a large number of caterpillar species. Fall color is golden yellow to orange. It's easily grown in most soil types in either sun or shade. An Iowa native species, it's hardy zones 2-8. Protect from deer when young.







Quercus alba - **White Oak**

White oak is a large deciduous tree that typically grows 50 to 80 feet tall on dry, upland soil. Pyramidal when young, the branches spread with age to form a wide canopy. Leaves turn a russet-red color in fall. The leaves often persist on the tree in winter, especially when young. Produces acorns in fall. Hardy zone 3-8. Protect from deer when young. One of our best Iowa **keystone trees**.



Quercus bicolor - **Swamp White Oak**

While this **keystone tree** tolerates wet sites, it also tolerates compacted, urban soils as well! It gets 50 to 60 feet tall with wonderful corky bark. This Iowa native is long-lived and has a pyramidal shape when young. Hardy zone 3-8. Protect from deer when young.

	<p><i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> - Bur Oak</p> <p>This is the classic, keystone tree species of the Midwest! It tolerates just about every site, as well as extremes in drought, heat and cold that we experience in Iowa. Long-lived, it eventually reaches 80 feet tall and just as wide if grown in the open. It has the largest leaves and acorns of all oaks. The dappled shade and deep roots of oaks allow perennials to grow abundantly underneath it. Hardy zone 3-8. Protect from deer when young.</p>
	<p><i>Quercus palustris</i> - Pin Oak</p> <p>This keystone oak is the fastest growing tree of the genus. Pyramidal in youth, it has a more oval crown when mature. It tolerates both wet sites and compacted urban soils. It grows 50 to 70 feet tall with leaves that turn russet-red in fall. The leaves tend to last through the winter which provides birds with cover from winter winds. Native to Iowa, it's hardy zones 4 to 8.</p>
	<p><i>Quercus prinoides</i> - Dwarf Chinkapin Oak</p> <p>If your landscape is too small for most oak trees, but you still want an oak as a keystone ecological species, then dwarf chinkapin oak is for you! It is a shrubby oak that usually grows only about 8 to 15 feet tall. Great burnt orange to red fall color. Tolerates drought and heat. Native to southern Iowa. Protect from deer when young. Hardy zones 4-8.</p>
	<p><i>Quercus rubra</i> - Red Oak</p> <p>Red oak is a medium sized, deciduous keystone tree with a rounded to broad-spreading crown. Typically grows to a height of 50-75'. Dark, lustrous green leaves with 7-11, toothed lobes are sharply pointed at the tips. The leaves turn a beautiful russet-red in autumn. Insignificant flowers in separate male and female catkins appear in spring. Acorns with flat, saucer-shaped cups mature in early fall. Hardy zone 4-9.</p>



Rhus aromatica - **Fragrant sumac**

This is the easiest, most useful Iowa native shrub to grow. The small yellow flowers are not showy, but turn into red fruits later that can be used for a pink tea that is similar to lemonade. It can be trimmed into formal shapes, growing 4 to 5 feet tall and twice as wide. Heat, drought and deer resistant. Nice crimson fall color. Hardy zones 3-9.



Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low' - **Dwarf Fragrant Sumac**

This is similar to fragrant sumac in every way, except it is a dwarf form that stays just 2 feet tall. It spreads to form a ground cover that is heat, drought and deer resistant. Hardy zones 3-9.



Rhus copallina - **Flameleaf sumac**

Grown mainly for its intense red foliage color, it's best when mass planted and allowed to roam and form thickets at the edge of the woods or by the road. Yellow flowers bloom in terminal pyramidal panicles in late spring to early summer, with separate male and female flowers usually occurring on separate plants. Pollinated female flowers produce showy fruiting clusters. Each cluster contains numerous hairy, berry-like drupes which ripen in autumn. The fruit is attractive to wildlife. Native to Missouri and eastern US. Hardy zones 4 to 9.



Ribes americanum - **Wild Black Currant NEW!**

American black currant is a thornless, erect native shrub with showy yellow flowers in early spring followed by edible black berries in mid-summer. It is an excellent choice for moist, shady sites. Hardy zones 3-7. Native to Iowa.



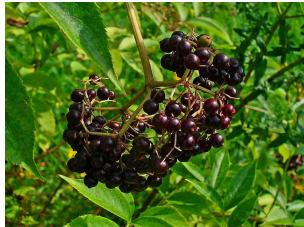
***Ribes aureum* - Golden Currant NEW!**

Golden currant is an upright, rhizomatous, leathery-leaved, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub that typically grows to 3-7' tall with a slightly smaller spread. It is native to prairies and forest edges. Yellow-to-orange flowers bloom in April-May and have a clove scent. Drooping clusters of glossy, black, edible currants ripen mid to late summer. Hardy zones 4-8. Native to western Iowa.



***Salix nigra* - Black Willow NEW!**

Black willow is a medium to large, fast-growing, deciduous **keystone** tree that typically grows to 30-60' tall on a spreading, rounded or irregular crown. It is native throughout Iowa in moist to wet soils of floodplains, river banks, swamps, marshes, and ponds. Tiny yellowish-green flowers appear in catkins in early spring as the leaves emerge. Fruits are reddish-brown capsules. Grows best in large, natural settings. Hardy zones 4-9.



***Sambucus canadensis* - Elderberry**

The huge, flat clusters of lacey white flowers in midsummer are gorgeous and become abundant displays of dark purple edible fruit from late summer into fall. The shrub grows 6 to 10 feet tall with foliage and stems that are highly toxic. Needs ample moisture to perform well, otherwise it is not picky about soil type. Native to Iowa. Deer resistant. Hardy zones 3-9.



***Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* - Coralberry**

The flowers in mid to late summer are not showy but are visited by bumblebees and produce reddish to pinkish-rose berries in fall that linger after the leaves drop. The shrub grows about 2-3 feet tall and spreads widely to form a ground cover. Commonly appears in Iowa woodlands. Hardy zones 2-7. Deer resistant.



***Vaccinium 'Bluecrop'* - Bluecrop Highbush Blueberry NEW!**

Bluecrop highbush blueberry produces light blue blueberries which ripen mid to late July. Ovate, dark green leaves turn attractive shades of red in fall. Reddish stems can be attractive in winter. Birds love the fruit, so plants may need to be covered with netting as the fruit begins to ripen in order to protect the crop. Hardy zones 5-7. Native in eastern US. Plant with 'Jersey' for best yields.



Vaccinium 'Jersey' - **Jersey Highbush Blueberry NEW!**

Jersey highbush blueberry produces light blue blueberries which ripen mid to late July. Ovate, dark green leaves turn attractive shades of red in fall. Reddish stems can be attractive in winter. Birds love the fruit, so plants may need to be covered with netting as the fruit begins to ripen in order to protect the crop. Hardy zones 5-7. Native in eastern US. Plant with 'Bluecrop' for best yields.



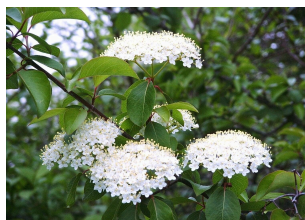
Viburnum dentatum - **Arrowwood**

White flat-topped flowers appear in late spring. Flowers produce blue-black berries in late summer. Grows 6 to 10 feet tall with scarlet-red fall color. Native in eastern US. Hardy zones 3-8. Deer resistant.



Viburnum lentago - **Nannyberry**

This large growing, native Iowa **keystone shrub** can reach 15-18 feet tall and produces white flat-topped flowers in spring followed by blue-black fruits in fall. Hardy zones 2-8. Protect from deer when young.



Viburnum prunifolium - **Blackhaw**

Easy to grow in a wide range of sites up to 12-15 feet tall. White flat-topped flowers appear in spring and then turn into blue-black fruit in fall. Hardy zones 2-9, it is native to southern Iowa. Heat and drought tolerant. Protect from deer when young.