

Native Understory Trees



Wild Plum Tree

Prunus americana

Height: 15 – 25 ft.

Spread: 15 to 25 ft.

Soil: Well-drained; Tolerates clay, alkaline

Light: Full sun to part shade

Moisture: Average well drained

Zone: 3 – 8

Features pure white, fragrant blooms in the early spring. Redberries follow blooms. Red fall color. Host to Red-spotted Purple butterfly.



Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

Height: 15 to 30 ft.

Spread: 15 to 30 ft.

**Soil: Average; Well-drained
slightly acidic**

Light: Full sun to part shade

Moisture: Medium to low

Zone: 5 – 9

**Showy blooms in early spring
and red berries in fall. Attracts
butterflies, but especially of
value to native bees.**



Fringe Tree

Chionanthus virginicus

Height: 12 to 20 ft.

Spread: 12 to 20 ft.

Soil: Average to moist; well drained

Light: Full sun to part shade

Moisture: Medium; intolerant of prolonged dry periods

Zone: 3 – 9

Especially suited for urban situations. Beautiful, fringe-like white blooms in early spring. Purple berries loved by birds in fall. Good fall color as well.



Red Buckeye

Aesculus pavia

Height: 10 to 40 ft. (15 common)

Spread: 10 to 40 ft.

Soil: Average; Tolerates clay and limestone

Light: Partial Shade

Moisture: Medium

Zone: 4 – 8

Flowers in mid-spring with blooms that are attractive to hummingbirds. Over watering leads to leaf spot. Seeds poisonous if eaten.



Pawpaw

Asimina trioba

Height: 20 to 40 ft. (25 average)

Spread: 15 to 30 ft.

Soil: Rich in organic matter

Light: Shade when young; full sun when mature

Moisture: Average to moist

Zone: 5 – 8

Dark green leaves that hang downward. Edible fruit appears in late summer that is quickly eaten by wild animals.



Witch Hazel

Hammamelis virginiana

Height: 15 to 20 ft.

Spread: 15 to 20 ft.

Soil: Average; well drained

Light: Full sun to part shade

Moisture: Average

Zone: 3 – 8

Bright yellow, fragrant blooms appear October through December, often remaining on stems throughout the winter months.

