



The Arboretum
State Botanical Garden of Kentucky

University of Kentucky and Lexington Fayette Urban County Government



Native Shrubs at The Arboretum

“This day John Stewart and I had a pleasing ramble. We passed through a great forest, on which stood myriads of trees, some gay with blossoms, others rich with fruits. Nature was here a series of wonders, and a fund of delight. Here she displayed her ingenuity and industry in a variety of flowers and fruits, beautifully colored, elegantly shaped, and charmingly flavored.”

— Daniel Boone (From John Filson’s Kentucke, 1784.)

Discovering

The purpose of this brochure is to help visitors locate and appreciate the many species of native shrubs that grow in The Walk Across Kentucky Collection. The Arboretum currently is home to over 70 species, and the collection continues to grow as new plants become available. (There are over 100 shrubs native to Kentucky.)

What is a shrub?

Shrubs are perennial plants that have woody stems, and may often have multiple stems. Some shrubs eventually grow to the size of a small tree (under 20 feet.) Others, such as mountain tea, may be very small (under 4 inches.) Vines are plants that either trail along the ground, or climb other plants or structures for support. Some vines develop woody stems and are included in this brochure. Woody vines are marked with an *.

Why are shrubs important?

Shrubs are often overlooked and under-appreciated, but are of great interest because of their beauty, form, and function. Shrubs make up an important vegetative layer in the structure of natural systems such as woodlands, savannahs, wetlands, glades, barrens, and even prairies. Many of our native birds and other important animals depend on the native shrub layer for nest building, food, and refuge.

Native Shrubs

Each shrub and vine species develops characteristic form when grown under favorable conditions. With practice, one can easily learn to identify the various species by paying attention to differences in the shape of leaves, winter buds, crown outline, flowers, or stem texture. With appropriate care and pruning, many shrubs age gracefully, adding distinctive and irreplaceable character to our landscape.

Shrubs provide versatile tools for ecologists, designers, and gardeners. In the human dominated landscape, they are used as specimens, screens, foundation plantings, erosion control, fruit production, wildlife plantings, and as components of naturalistic plantings. Shrubs can be good choices for home owners with “small spaces,” or for planting under power lines, where trees should not be planted.

With an open mind, a curious attitude, and sharp eye, discovering and learning about native shrubs can be an enjoyable and satisfying undertaking.



Photos provided by: Betty Hall Photography

For More Information

Trees and Shrubs of Kentucky. Mary E. Wharton and Roger W. Barbour. The University Press of Kentucky, 1973.

Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Urban and Rural America. Gary L. Hightshoe. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1988.

Guide to Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of Tennessee. B. Eugene Wofford and Edward W. Chester. The University of Tennessee Press, 2002.

Manuel of Woody Landscape Plants. Michael A. Dirr. Stipes Publishing Company: 4th Edition, 1975.

Contact Us

The Arboretum
500 Alumni Drive
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: 859-257-6955

<http://www.uky.edu/Arboretum>

The Arboretum is open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Admission is free. The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitors Center is open M-F from 8:30 to 4:00.

Funding for brochures provided by Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Appalachian Plateau

common alder (*Alnus serrulata*)
downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
roundleaf serviceberry (*Amelanchier sanguinea*)
devil's walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*)
red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)
paw paw (*Asimina triloba*)
Carolina allspice (*Calycanthus fertilis*)
Chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*)
redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*)
hearts-a-bursting (*Euonymus americanus*)
mountain tea (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*)
witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
Virginia-willow (*Itea virginica*)
mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)
spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
great rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*)
pinxter flower azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)
winged sumac (*Rhus copallina*)
smooth sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
rose-acacia (*Robinia hispida*)
flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*)
steeplebush (*Spirea tomentosa*)
Appalachian spirea (*Spirea virginiana*)
bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*)
withe-rod viburnum (*Viburnum cassinoides*)

Shawnee Hills

indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*)
buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
silky dogwood (*Cornus obliqua*)
swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*)

Mississippi Embayment

Eastern swamp privet (*Forestiera acuminata*)
wild honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)*
wild plum (*Prunus americana*)

Native Shrubs of Kentucky in The Arboretum



The shrub collection receives new editions on a regular basis. Please see curator for additional information.

Knobs

American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)*
Virgin's bower clematis (*Clematis virginiana*)*
silky dogwood (*Cornus ammomum*)
flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
wild hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*)
silky willow (*Salix sericea*)
maple-leaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)
staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*)
snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)
arrow wood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)

Pennyrile

American fringe-tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
red haw (*Crataegus mollis*)
shrubby St. John's-wort (*Hypericum prolificum*)
sweet crabapple (*Malus coronaria*)
Cumberland mock-orange (*Philadelphus hirsutus*)
Appalachian mock-orange (*Philadelphus inodorus*)
Chickasaw plum (*Prunus angustifolia*)
Carolina buckhorn (*Rhamnus caroliniana*)
fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*)
staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)

Bluegrass

paw paw (*Asimina triloba*)
rough-leaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*)
wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*)
moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*)*
red mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)*
wild goose plum (*Prunus munsoniana*)
gooseberry (*Ribes cynosbati*)
black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*)
black elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)
poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)*
frost grape (*Vitis vulpina*)*
black-haw viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*)
prickly-ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*)
Kentucky viburnum (*Viburnum molle*)
Lance-leaf buckhorn (*Rhamnus lanceolata*)