Suggested Native Trees and Shrubs

The following list of native trees and shrubs is a suggested guideline for use on Arden leaseholds. The Trustees, and the Arden Forest Committee, support the increased use of native plants to enhance the plant community for Arden for the benefit of its residents, animals, birds, and insects. Some suggestions for plants for wet area, under power lines and shade are at the end of the document.

**Acer negundo**   Boxelder

*Form:* Short trunk, often multi-stemmed with sprouts along trunk. 30 to 60 feet in height and 1 to 2½ feet in diameter.
*Leaves:* Opposite, pinnately compound with 3 to 7 leaflets, light green; leaflets are 2 to 4 inches long, coarsely toothed, and may have one or two lobes; the 3-leaflet form resembles poison ivy.

**Acer rubrum**   Red Maple Also known as Swamp Maple or Soft Maple

*Form:* Medium sized tree up to 90 feet. In forest, trunk usually clear for some distance, in the open the trunk is shorter and the crown rounded.
*Leaves:* Opposite, simple, 3 to 5 palmate lobes with serrated margin, sinuses relatively shallow (but highly variable), 2 to 4 inches long; green above, whitened and sometimes glaucous or hairy beneath. into long, fine scaly plates.

**Alnus serrulata**   Hazel alder

*Form:* Large shrub or small tree to 6 m (20 ft) tall and 15 cm (6 in) in diameter.
*Leaves:* Elliptical or obovate, 2-4.4 in long and 1.2-2.8 in wide, finely serrate, with 3-12 nearly straight parallel veins on each side, glabrous dull green above, pale green and usually hairy on veins below.
*Fruits:* Cone like, short-stalked in clusters of 4-10, elliptical, 0.4-0.6 in long, brown, hard, remaining attached.

**Amelanchier canadensis**   Shadblow

One of the first native trees with showy flowers to bloom, serviceberry has slightly fragrant, white flowers in drooping clusters that are quite conspicuous because they appear before the leaves emerge. The nectar attracts butterflies and other pollinators. Flowers give rise to very flavorful, purple-black, berrylike fruits relished by both songbirds and people. Edible berries resemble blueberries in size and color and can be used in jams, jellies and pies. The colorful fall foliage is a blend of orange, gold, red and green. Benefits: very early to bloom; Nectar attracts butterflies and other pollinators; Provides first crop of native berries for birds; Good fall color.
Betula nigra  River Birch

In cultivation, it can be trained as either a single trunk or multi-trunked tree. As a single trunk tree, it develops a pyramidal habit when young, but matures to a more rounded shape typically growing 40-70' tall. Multi-trunked trees form a more irregular crown and are generally considered to be the superior growth habit for this species. Salmon-pink to reddish brown bark exfoliates to reveal lighter inner bark. Leathery, diamond-shaped, medium to dark green leaves (1.5-3.5" long) with doubly toothed margins turn yellow in fall. Monocious flowers appear in drooping, brownish male catkins and smaller, upright, greenish female catkins.

Carpinus caroliniana  American Hornbeam, Ironwood or Musclewood

A deciduous tree 35 to 40 feet high with a spread of 20 to 25 feet with medium texture and a slow to medium growth rate. It is usually single-stemmed with a spreading to rounded form. It may occur as a multi-stemmed, bushy tree. An unusual feature is the smooth, hard branches and trunk, which acquire a muscle-like rippled (Ironwood) appearance with age. It should be used much more in home landscapes. An understory tree often occurring in wet areas, it appears to tolerate both excess moisture and moderate drought. It develops a pleasing shape without much pruning. Fall color is variable, ranging from yellow to orange or red. Seeds are eaten by birds.

Cephalanthus occidentalis  Button Bush

Hundreds of tiny, tubular creamy white flowers are packed into large showy flower heads, which dangle from the bush in August. Butterflies and other insects find the nectar irresistible. The fragrant flower heads mature into round fruits each containing hundreds of nutlike seeds that are eaten by waterfowl and other birds such as quail. Many birds use this deciduous shrub as a nesting site. Tremendous source of nectar for hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators; Waterfowl and other birds relish the seed; Provides protective cover for all kinds of birds; Adapts to many soil types, except dry ones; Thrives in bogs and very wet conditions.

Carya cordiformis  Bitternut Hickory Also known as Swamp Hickory.

Form: Slender straight trunk with a broad pyramid-shaped or rounded crown. Typically, 50 to 70 feet in height and 1 to 2½ feet in diameter.
Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound, 7 to 10 inches long with 7 to 9 long, oval, toothed leaflets, dark yellow-green above and lighter below.

Carya ovata  Shagbark Hickory Also known as Scalybark Hickory or Shellbark Hickory.

Form: Tall, straight trunk with an open round or oblong crown. Commonly 60 to 80 feet in height and 1 to 2½ feet in diameter; may exceed 120 feet in height.
Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound, 8 to 14 inches long with 5 (rarely 7) leaflets that are tapered, oval, smooth and finely-toothed; end leaflet is largest.
Bark: Light gray, separating into thick plates a foot or more long, which curl outward at both ends. Older trees develop a distinctive shaggy trunk.
**Cercis canadensis**  **Eastern Redbud**

Leafless horizontal branches are smothered in small deep pink flowers in early spring. Its early nectar and pollen attracts a large number of specialized native bees and butterflies such as elfins. Red-purple, pea-shaped seedpods follow the flowers. The seedpods provide food for doves, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, quail and other birds. The heart-shaped leaves become a quilt of yellow and green in fall. Benefits: Very early to bloom; Nectar and pollen attracts butterflies and other pollinators; Seeds in small pea-pods provide food for birds; Good fall color; Lovely as a single specimen or multi trunked specimen in masses.

**Cornus florida**  **Flowering dogwood**

A small tree, up to 30 ft. in height and 35 ft. across, but the typical size is more like 15 ft. tall and 15-20 ft. across. It has a short trunk and a full, rounded crown with horizontal branches often in layered tiers, spreading wider than its height. The bark on mature trees is broken up into small square blocks. It has opposite, deciduous which turn red and purple in autumn. It blooms in the spring for 2-3 weeks. Clusters of bright red football shaped fruits, about a half inch long, follow the flowers and often persist into winter.

**Cornus sericea**  **Red twig Dogwood**

An upright-spreading, suckering shrub that typically grows in the absence of pruning to 6-9’ tall with a slightly larger spread. Dark green leaves (2-5” long) acquire interesting shades of red to orange eventually fading to purple in autumn. Reddish stems turn bright red in winter and are particularly showy against a snowy backdrop. Tiny, fragrant, white flowers appear in flat-topped clusters in late spring. Fruit is quite attractive to birds and is generally considered to have as much if not more ornamental interest than the flowers.

**Fagus grandifolia**  **American Beech**

Form: Thick trunk and a broad, rounded crown. 60 to 80 feet in height
Leaves: Alternate, simple, 2 to 6 inches, oblong to oval and pointed, with small incurving teeth on the edges; bright yellow in autumn, later turning light tan and often remaining on the tree until spring.

**Hamamelis virginiana**  **American Witchhazel**

This small tree or tall shrub is often multi-trunked and usually grows 10-15 ft. tall but can reach 35 ft. in height. Its fragrant, yellow flowers with strap-like, crumpled petals appear in the fall, persisting for some time after leaf drop.

**Ilex opaca**  **American holly**

Form: A small tree to 40 feet, with a thick crown and pyramidal form, usually with branches to the ground.
Leaf: Alternate, simple, evergreen, elliptical, 2 to 4 inches long, spiny toothed margin, thickened and leathery, shiny dark green above, much paler below.
Fruit: Berry-like drupe, red, rarely yellow when ripe, 1/4 inch in diameter, containing ribbed nutlets; maturing in fall and persisting on tree into winter. Only female trees have fruit, usually there are enough male trees in the neighborhood to ensure fruit.
**Ilex verticillata** Winterberry

A deciduous holly that is slow growing, with an upright-rounded habit. In the wild, it often suckers to form large thickets or colonies but can be pruned to form a small tree. Inconspicuous greenish-white flowers appear in late spring and give way to a crop of bright red berries in late summer to fall. Berries are quite showy and persist through most of the winter, hence the common name. Nectar is especially attractive to small native bees; cedar waxwings, bluebirds and robins savor the bright red berries that hold well into winter.

**Juniperus virginiana** Eastern Red Cedar

This evergreen conifer is the best bird attracting tree in Eastern North America. Its 25’ pyramidal form provides dense cover year round, and its shredding bark is used by many birds for nest construction. Female trees produce round, gray or bluish berry-like cones which 80 species of birds adore. Cedar waxwings earned their common name because of their reliance on the fruit. Benefits: Dense evergreen provides year round cover and nesting sites for many birds; 80 species of birds feed on the fruit; Host plant for olive hairstreak butterfly; Fragrant foliage and wood.

**Kalmia latifolia** Mountain laurel

A multi-stemmed broadleaf evergreen shrub or small tree. It is noted for its excellent spring flowers and quality year round foliage. It typically grows as a dense rounded shrub to 5-15’ tall, opening up and developing gnarly branches with age. Flowers appear in terminal clusters (corymbs to 6” across), typically covering the shrub in late May-June for several weeks with an often exceptional bloom. Each flower (to 1” across) is cup shaped with five sides and ranges in color from rose to white with purple markings inside. If not dead-headed, flowers give way to non-showy brown fruits (3/16” dehiscent capsules) that persist into winter. Elliptic, alternate, leathery, glossy evergreen leaves (to 5” long) are dark green above and yellow green beneath and reminiscent to the leaves of rhododendrons. All parts of this plant are toxic if ingested.

**Leucothoe fontanesiana** Dog hobble, drooping leucothoe, fetterbush

A suckering, multi-stemmed, broadleaf evergreen shrub with arching branches. It typically grows in a mound to 3-6’ tall and as wide. Drooping spikes of waxy, urn-shaped, creamy white flowers droop from the leaf axils in spring (May). Leathery, lanceolate, evergreen leaves (to 5” long) have serrulate margins and taper to a long point. Forest or natural areas in wet woodlands, along stream banks; landscape as cultivated woody ornamental shrub.

**Lindera benzoin** Spicebush

This is a wonderful broad, rounded multi-stemmed shrub covered with fragrant yellow flowers in early spring. The flowers open before the leaves emerge and are held close to the branches. Aromatic light green leaves turn yellow-gold in fall. Birds feed on the brilliant red fruits available in late summer on female plants. These berries are one of the best sources of energy for long distance migratory birds. Excellent source of nectar for butterflies and other pollinators in early spring. Host plant for spicebush and tiger swallowtail butterflies. Fragrant flowers and foliage. Provides cover, nesting sites and red berries for various birds. Deer resistant. Ideal plant for shade situations.
**Magnolia virginiana**  
**Sweetbay Magnolia**  
It typically grows as either a 15-20' tall tree with a spreading, round-ed crown or as a shorter, suckering, open, multi-stemmed shrub. Features cup-shaped, sweetly fragrant (lemony), 9-12 petaled, creamy white, waxy flowers (2-3" diameter) which appear in mid-spring and sometimes continue sporadically throughout the summer. Oblong-lanceolate shiny green foliage is silvery beneath. Foliage is evergreen to semi-evergreen in the South, but generally deciduous further north. Cone-like fruits with bright red seeds mature in fall and can be showy.

**Nyssa sylvatica**  
**Black Gum**  
A slow-growing, deciduous tree with a straight trunk and rounded crown. Small, greenish-white flowers appear in spring and are not showy, but they are an excellent nectar source for honey bees, native bees and other pollinators. Insect-eating birds such as kinglets, phoebes, pine warblers and others visit the tree to feed on the small insects it attracts. Flowers give way to oval, 1/2" long, dark blue fruits that are attractive to a variety of birds. Foliage turns spectacular scarlet, yellow and orange in the fall. Will grow in wet as well as dry soils.

**Pinus strobus**  
**Eastern White Pine**  
A rapid-growing, long-lived, needled evergreen that is pyramidal in its early years but matures to a broad oval habit with an irregular crown. Blue-green needles are soft to the touch. The evergreen needles provide good year round cover for all types of birds, including hawks and owls. Brown, 4-8" long cones are produced when trees reach (about) 10' tall. The seeds, bark and foliage are eaten by wildlife.

**Quercus alba**  
**White Oak**  
Also known as Stave Oak

**Quercus rubra**  
**Northern Red Oak**

**Form:** Tall, clear, sometimes stocky trunk and rounded, spreading crown. 80 to 100 feet in height and 3 to 4 feet in diameter.

**Leaves:** Alternate, simple, 4 to 7 inches long, with 7 to 10 rounded lobes; depth of the sinuses between lobes varies from shallow to almost reaching the midrib; leaf base wedge shaped where it joins the leaf stem.

**Fruit:** Egg-shaped to oblong acorn, ¼ inch long, light chestnut brown when ripe, maturing in one season; cap warty and bowl-shaped, covering ¼ of the acorn and detaching at maturity.

**Form:** Straight trunk and rounded, relatively narrow crown. 70 to 90 feet in height and 2 to 3 feet in diameter.

**Leaves:** Alternate, simple, 5 to 8 inches long, with 7 to 11 sharply pointed and bristle-tipped lobes; fall color deep red.

**Fruit:** ¼ to 1 inch, nearly round acorn, covered ¼ or less by a shallow cap resembling a beret; acorns mature in two seasons.
**Rhododendron periclymenoides**  
Pinxterbloom Azalea

A deciduous shrub that is native to moist woods, swamp margins and open areas from Massachusetts to South Carolina and Tennessee. It is a dense, bushy, suckering shrub that typically grows 2-6’ (less frequently to 10’) tall. Clusters of soft pink to white to lavender, slightly fragrant, funnel-shaped flowers (to 1.5” across), each with 5 long curved stamens, bloom in April immediately preceding the emergence of the foliage. Oblong to elliptic green leaves. Synonymous with, and formerly known as R. nudiflorum.

**Rhamnus caroliniana**  
Carolina buckthorn

A deciduous shrub or small tree that typically grows to 10-15’ (infrequently to 30’) tall. It is noted for its bright shiny green leaves and edible fruits. Elliptic to oblong, glossy dark green leaves (to 2-6” long) have 8-10 pairs of prominent veins and finely toothed to untoothed margins. Leaves retain green color long into fall before eventually turning an unexciting yellow-green. Somewhat insignificant, creamy-green flowers in small axillary clusters bloom in spring (May-June). Flowers are followed by edible berry-like drupes (1/3” across) which ripen to a very showy red before finally maturing in September-October to black. Birds are very attracted to the fruit. No serious insect or disease problems. Possible landscape uses include hedge, privacy screen, windbreak and backdrop for perennial plantings.

**Rhus aromatic**  
Fragrant sumac

A deciduous dense, low-growing, rambling shrub which spreads by root suckers to form thickets in the wild. Typically grows 2-4’ tall (less frequently to 6’) and spreads to 10’ wide. Trifoliate, medium green leaves turn attractive shades of orange, red and purple in autumn. Leaves and twigs are aromatic when bruised (hence the species name). Although smaller, the leaves resemble in appearance those of the related poison ivy (Rhus radicans). However fragrant sumac is a totally non-poisonous plant. Fruit is attractive to wildlife.

**Sassafras albidum**  
Sassafras

Form: 20 to 40 feet in height and 1 to 1½ feet in diameter. : Small tree with an irregular, often twisted trunk and flat-topped crown, often forming thickets  
Leaves: Alternate, simple, 4 to 6 inches long, with smooth edges and three distinct leaf forms: oval, mitten-shaped and 3-lobed; fragrant when crushed; fall color yellow, orange or crimson.

**Ulmus rubra**  
Slippery Elm

A medium sized, coarse-textured, somewhat weedy, deciduous tree that typically grows to 40-60’ (less frequently to 100’) tall with a vase-shaped to broadly-rounded crown. It is distinguished by its downy twigs, red-hairy buds (particularly noticeable in winter) and slimy red inner bark (rubra meaning red). Insignificant small reddish-green flowers appear in spring before the foliage emerges. Flowers give way to single-seeded wafer-like samaras (each tiny seed is surrounded by a flattened circular papery wing). Seeds mature in April-May.
**Viburnum dentatum**  
*Arrowwood*

Flat-topped clusters of white flowers, 4" across, bloom in spring. The flowers are a good source of nectar for butterflies, native bees and other pollinators. Flowers give way to blue-black, berries, which are loved by birds and other wildlife. This 6-10 ft. upright, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub has glossy, dark green leaves. The leaves turn yellow, orange or red in fall. Fragrant flowers provide nectar for butterflies and other pollinators; Larval food source for spring azure butterfly; Plants provide good nesting sites, berries, and cover for birds; Excellent fall color; Grows well in moist soil.

**Viburnum prunifolium**  
*Blackhaw Viburnum*

A large, (6-12 ft.) upright, multi-stemmed, densely twiggy deciduous shrub that can be pruned to grow as a small tree. Creamy white flowers in flat-topped clusters to 4.5" across appear in spring. Flowers provide nectar for butterflies, native bees and other pollinators. Flowers give way to blue-black, berry-like fruits, which are a good source of food for birds and wildlife in fall and early winter. This handsome plant has glossy dark green leaves changing to shades of red and purple in fall.

**Viburnum trilobum**  
*American Cranberry Viburnum*

A large, (6-12 ft.) upright, multi-stemmed, densely twiggy deciduous shrub. Flat-topped clusters of white flowers up to 4" across bloom in May, providing nectar for butterflies, native bees and other pollinators. Flowers are followed by clusters of brilliant red fruit staying on the plant into late winter when they are finally eaten by birds. New leaves have a reddish cast while fall foliage is yellow through red-purple.
Resources

http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=HAVI4
http://www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/DENDROLOGY/SYLLABUS/factsheet.cfm?ID=28
http://www.dof.virginia.gov/trees/
http://www.abnativeplants.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=plants.plantDetail&plant_id=62
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/poison/Leucofo.htm
http://www.gnps.org/resources/Native_Plants_4_Ga/img33.html
http://www.tjhsst.edu/~dhyatt/azaleas/periclymenoides.html
http://www.floridata.com/ref/C/cornus_f.cfm
http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/

Sources of Native Plants

The following nurseries grow native plants as a portion of their inventory. Most local nurseries inventory a few native plants. This list includes mailorder (M), retail (R) and wholesale (W) sources.

Forestfarm (M) 990 Tetherow Road Williams, OR 97544 (503) 846-6963
London Grove Nurseries (W) P.O. Box 663 Avondale, PA 19311 (610) 268-2091
Natural Landscapes (R,W) 354 N. Jennersville Road West Grove, PA 19390 (610) 869-3788
Simpson Nurseries (W) 1504 Wheatland Rd. P.O. Box 2065 Vincennes, IN 47591 (812) 882-2441
Sylva Native Nursery & Seed Co. (R,W) 1927 York Road Timonium, MD 21093 (301) 560-2288
Transplant Nursery (R) Parkertown Road Lavonia, GA 30553 (404) 356-8947
Woodlanders, Inc. (M) 1128 Colleton Avenue Aiken, SC 29801 (803) 648-7522