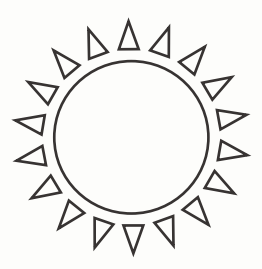


10 Native Wetland Plants



Water gardens can bring calming sounds and peaceful views. In containers or ponds, with plants that can vary from full sun to partial shade, there are many native plants to make your water garden shine.

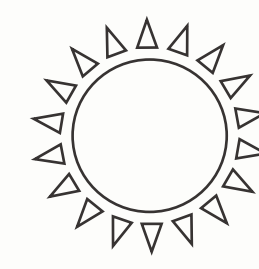
Find this list online at www.USBG.gov/NGfavorites



Golden club *Orontium aquaticum*



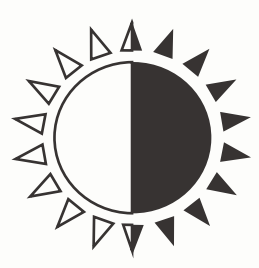
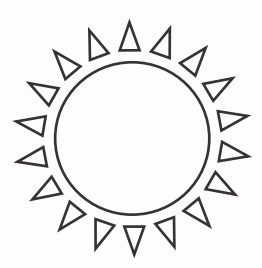
Yellow, club-like inflorescences rise in early spring followed by handsome blue-green leaves. Non-spreading and a great choice for small ponds.



Yellow pond-lily *Nuphar advena*



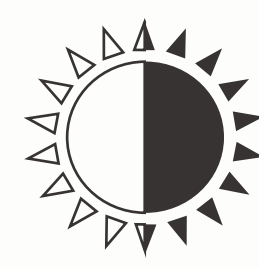
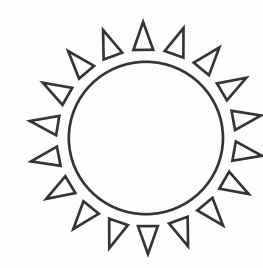
Simple, elegant yellow flowers rise just above the water, complimenting the floating, arrowhead-shaped leaves of this water lily relative.



Morningstar sedge *Carex grayi*



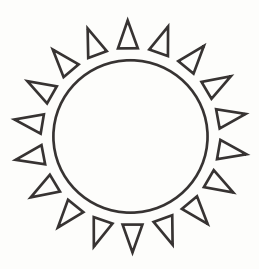
In summer, wands of inflated, spiny pale green fruit give this species another common name, mace sedge, because of their resemblance to medieval clubs. Semi-evergreen grassy leaves bring winter beauty.



Virginia iris *Iris virginica*



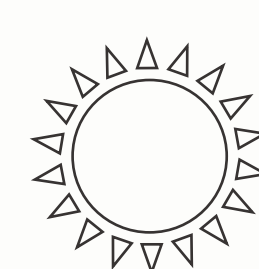
Purple spring growth is followed by fans of bright green leaves and graceful lilac-blue flowers. Related species *I. versicolor* (northern blue flag) and *I. prismatica* (slender blue iris) are equally lovely.



Pickernelweed *Pontederia cordata*



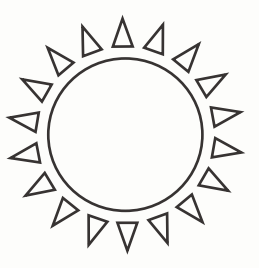
A summer beauty featuring tall leaves and stalks of lilac-blue flowers. Attractive to bees and butterflies, including the native bee *Dufourea novae-angliae*, for which it is the sole nectar source.



Rose mallow *Hibiscus moscheutos*



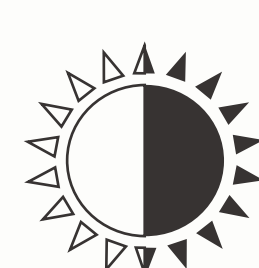
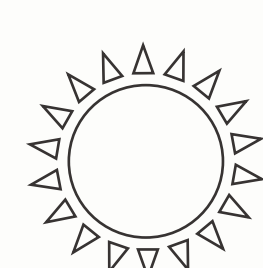
Cultivated worldwide with many stunning hybrids, this American native species features large white or pink flowers that are spectacular in summer.



Duck potato *Sagittaria latifolia*



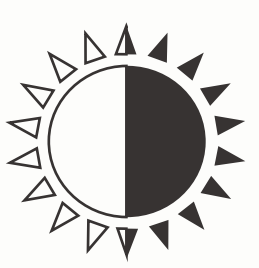
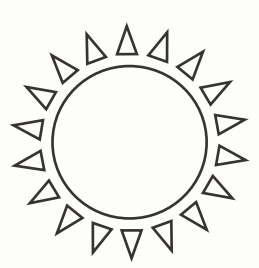
Robust, arrow-shaped leaves are complimented by white flowers that bloom throughout summer. The common name is a nod to the edible underground tubers.



Cardinal flower *Lobelia cardinalis*



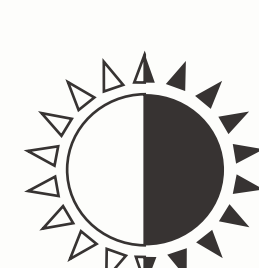
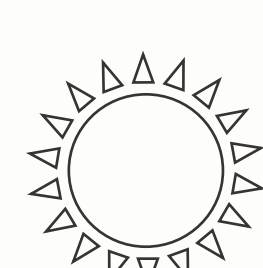
A mid-summer showstopper with intensely red blooms, cardinal flower's nectar is a favorite of hummingbirds who pollinate the flowers while probing for food.



Swamp rose *Rosa palustris*



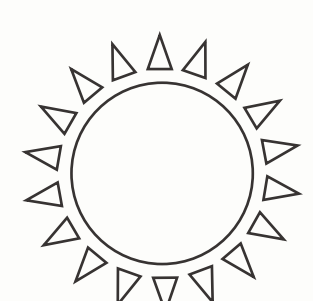
Soft-pink spring flowers give way to showy red fruits ("hips") in fall and winter. Glorious red fall foliage on shiny mahogany twigs makes for an all-season beauty.



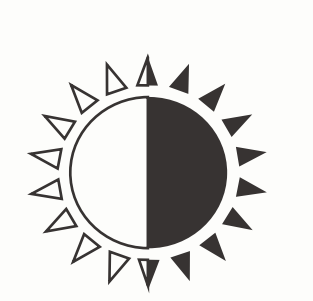
Buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis*



Globes of white, fragrant flowers peak in June, attracting pollinators including Swallowtail butterflies. A large shrub, it is great for rain gardens due to its preference for average-to-wet soils.



Full Sun

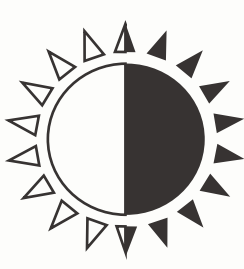
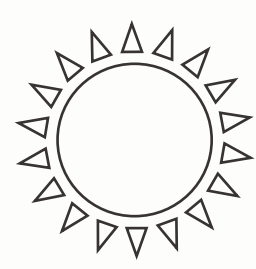


Part Shade

10 Native Plants for Critters

Plants are important sources of food and shelter for many birds, mammals, and insects. Here are 10 of our favorite native plants to help bring animals to your garden.

Find this list online at www.USBG.gov/NGfavorites

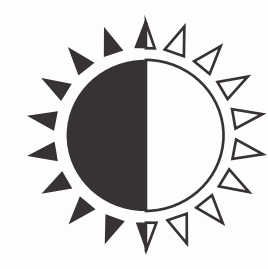


Serviceberry, shadbush

Amelanchier spp.



Spring flowers supply nectar to early pollinators, and leaves are favored by many butterfly larvae including the beautiful Red-spotted Purple butterfly (*Limenitis arthemis*). Creatures great or small, feathered or furred favor the tasty fruit.

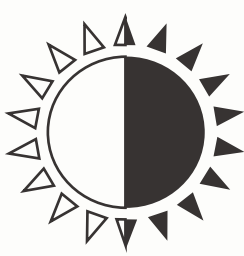
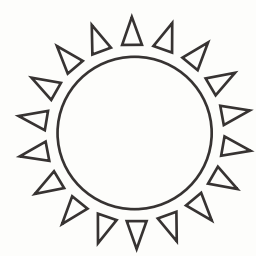


Pawpaw

Asimina triloba



A small tree with large leaves that bears the biggest edible fruit of any American native plant. For delicious and abundant fruit that is sought after by both humans and animals alike, plant two or more grafted cultivars because this tree is not self-fertile.

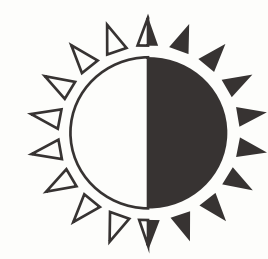
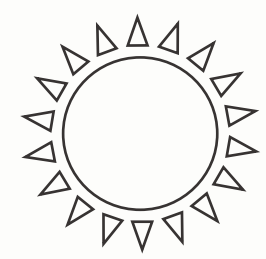


Swamp titi

Cyrilla racemiflora



Early summer white blooms teem with bees, followed by yellow-brown fruits in late summer and a long show of brilliant scarlet fall foliage. Hardy north of its native range in the southern United States.

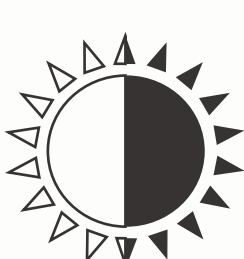
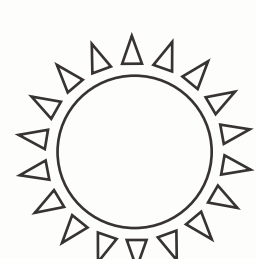


Swamp milkweed

Asclepias incarnata ssp. *pulchra*



Clusters of dusty-rose flowers highlight this pollinator magnet, which also serves as a good larval host for the Monarch butterfly.

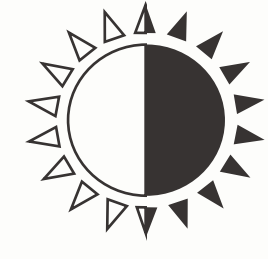
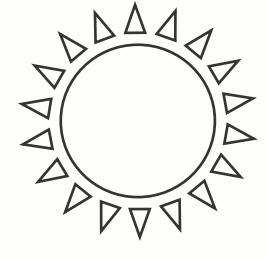


Yadkin River goldenrod

Solidago plumosa



Extremely rare, this late season goldenrod provides nectar for a bevy of pollinators via wide plumes of golden flowers on red-purple stems.

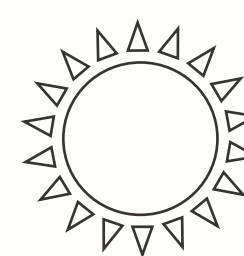


American beautyberry

Callicarpa americana



Soft-yellow autumn leaves make way for spectacular clustered purple fruits in autumn and winter that are relished by birds.

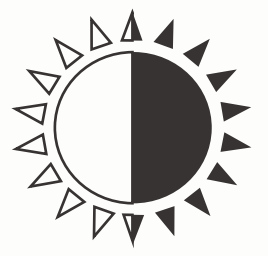
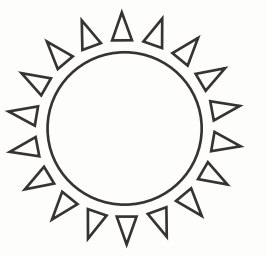


Oak

Quercus spp.



Oaks provide food for more butterfly and moth larvae than any other tree genus in North America, and there are oak species native to just about every climate and soil type.

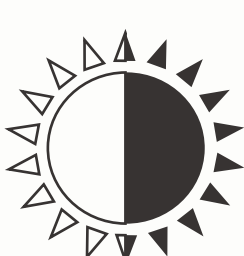
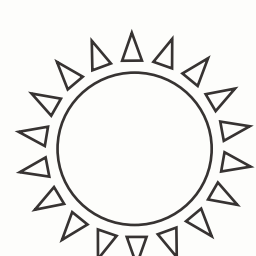


Winterberry holly

Ilex verticillata



In the winter season when resources are scarce, this holly's shiny red berries soften over the cold months and offer food to birds in need of a meal.

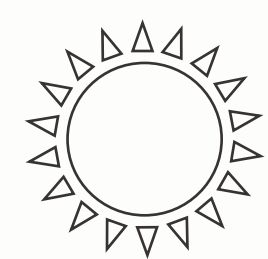
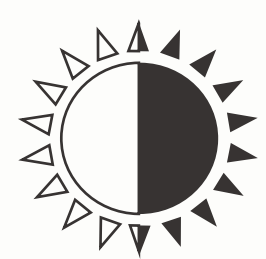


Wild senna

Senna hebecarpa



Showcasing tall spikes of golden flowers from mid-to-late summer, wild senna is popular with bumble bees and is an important larval host for Sulphur butterflies.

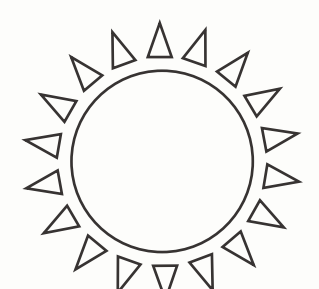


Golden Alexanders

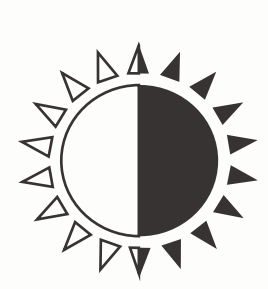
Zizia aurea



A native host for Black Swallowtail butterfly larvae, golden Alexanders attract a bounty of pollinators with late spring golden flower clusters.



Full Sun



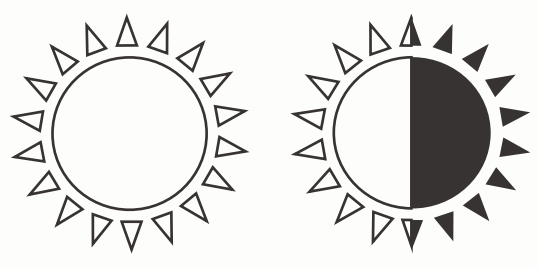
Part Shade

10 Native Wildflowers



Native wildflowers have evolved to thrive in a variety of local conditions: very hot, dry, humid, or wet. Here are 10 of our favorite native wildflowers to try in your garden.

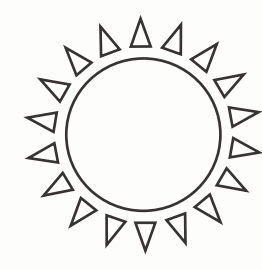
Find this list online at www.USBG.gov/NGfavorites



Common dittany *Cunila origanoides*



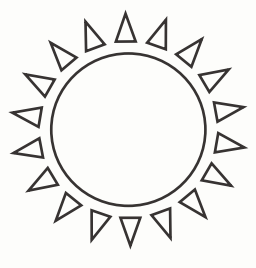
Tidy and compact this dry land species has lilac flowers, in autumn, sometimes called “frost flowers” for opening on chilly mornings. Crush its leaves to produce an earthy, spicy aroma.



Butterfly weed *Asclepias tuberosa*



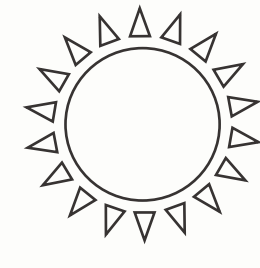
Drought-tolerant with clusters of delightfully bright orange flowers that bloom from late spring to early autumn and attract butterflies. The plant is also a host for Monarch butterfly larvae.



Anise-scented goldenrod *Solidago odora*



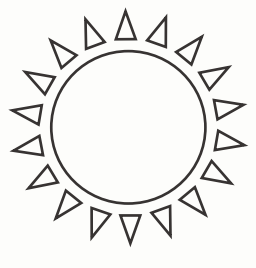
Slower to spread than other goldenrod species, this goldenrod thrives in sun and well-drained soils. Beyond being beautiful, its glossy, licorice-scented leaves are also used in herbal teas.



Eastern bluestar *Amsonia tabernaemontana*



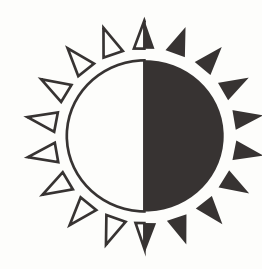
Ice-blue flowers in spring and bright yellow foliage in autumn make this neatly clumping plant a knockout. For dry, sandy soils, try the finer-textured *A. ciliata* (fringed bluestar).



Trailing phlox *Phlox nivalis*



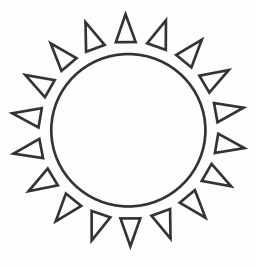
For a pop of white-to-pink in early spring, seek out this slowly spreading, evergreen groundcover. Its flowers sometimes open earlier, bringing a splash of color during mild winter weather.



Crested iris *Iris cristata*



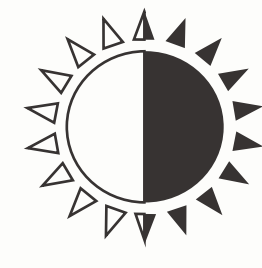
Tiny creeper that naturally thrives in dry, wooded environments and impresses with a profusion of blue, lilac, or lavender spring flowers.



Rattlesnake plantain *Eryngium yuccifolium*



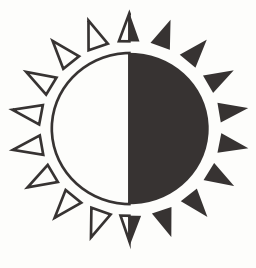
Rosettes of gray-green foliage highlight greenish-white globes of summer flowers that are a favorite of many pollinators.



Bowman's root *Gillenia trifoliata*



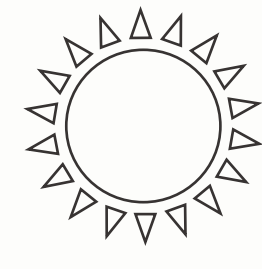
Shrubby, shade-loving perennial features reddish-purple fall foliage and delicate, stary white spring flowers.



Smooth aster *Symphyotrichum laeve* 'Bluebird'



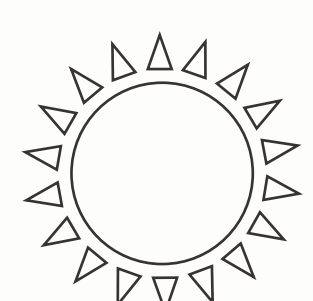
Attractive clumps of blue-green foliage on graceful stems yield abundant late-summer flowers featuring violet-blue rays with vibrant yellow centers.



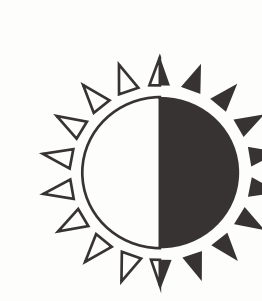
Swamp sunflower *Helianthus angustifolius*



Late season golden blooms are accented against dark green leaves on this beautiful perennial.



Full Sun



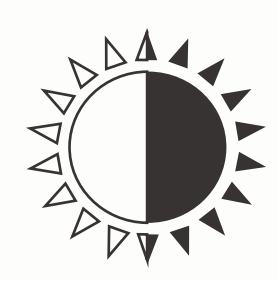
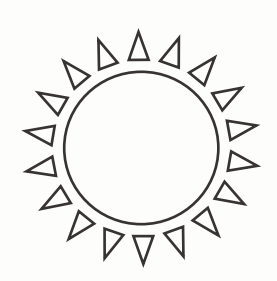
Part Shade

10 Native Shrubs



Shrubs can form a foundation for a garden. Some shrubs are great for their foliage, while others provide additional flowers to the garden. Here are 10 of our favorite native shrubs to try in your garden.

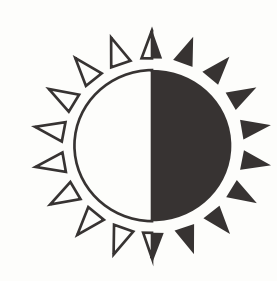
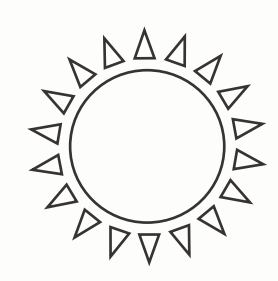
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Southern wax myrtle *Myrica cerifera*



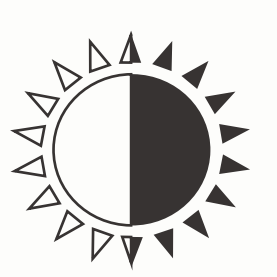
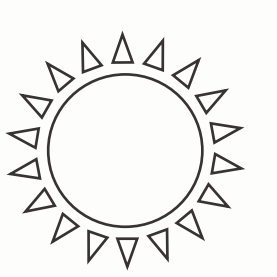
Pale-green foliage abounds on this large evergreen that is happiest in poor soils and needs little attention. The crushed leaves offer a warm scent similar to eucalyptus, and female specimens have gray-blue, wax-coated berries.



Ninebark *Physocarpus opulifolius*



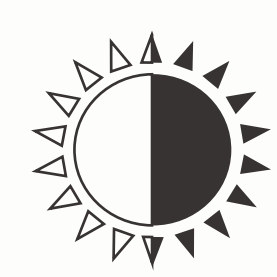
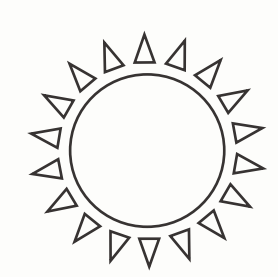
Bright green leaves showcase round, white clusters of flowers in the late summer and early spring. Mature branches feature peeling bark, showcasing layers of red-to-light brown inner bark, most visible and vibrant during the winter.



Possum haw viburnum *Viburnum nudum*



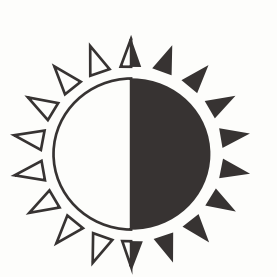
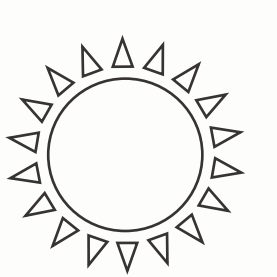
Clusters of flat-topped white blooms transition to colorfully ripening fruits through late summer into autumn. Smooth and shiny burgundy foliage joins this autumnal display.



Shrubby St. John's wort *Hypericum prolificum*



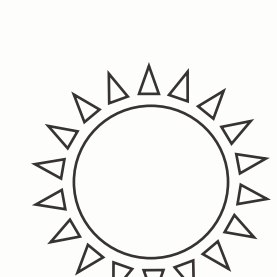
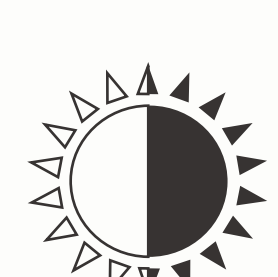
A profusion of bright gold summer flowers sprinkled across a palate of dark green leaves make this compact and soil-adaptable plant a fine addition to any landscape.



Dwarf witchalder *Fothergilla gardenii*



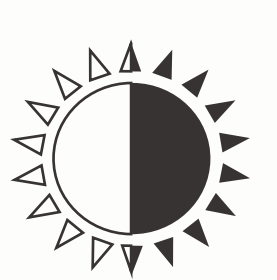
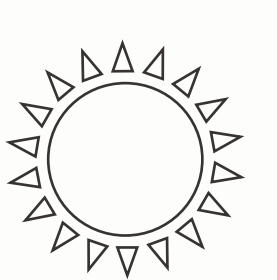
This slow-growing dwarf ornamental is amenable to a variety of garden environments, featuring white bottlebrush blooms in spring and colorful foliage in autumn.



Mountain azalea *Rhododendron canescens*



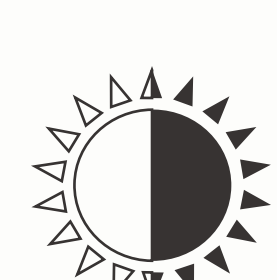
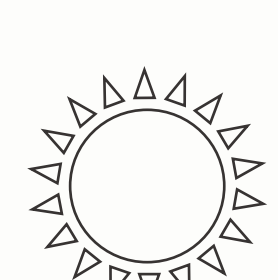
An abundance of sweet-scented spring flowers and a tolerance for moist or dry environments make this deciduous native a great choice for Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic gardens.



Sweet pepperbush *Clethra alnifolia*



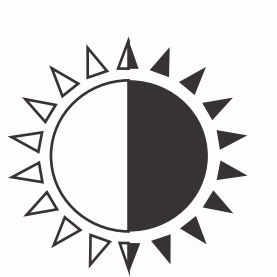
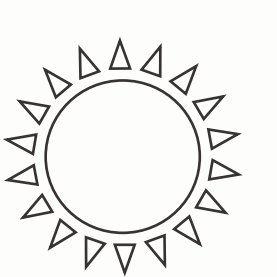
White-to-pink spikes of small, sweetly-scented summer flowers make way for dark brown seed capsules that can last until winter. Popular with butterflies and bees alike.



New Jersey tea *Ceanothus americanus*



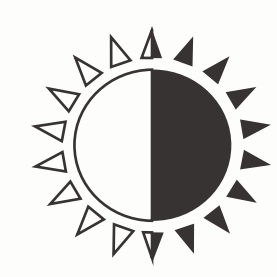
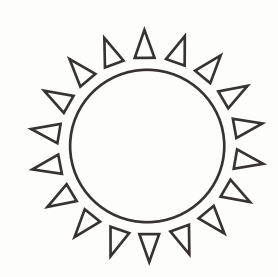
This small shrub features white blooms in spring and fixes its own nitrogen, making fertilizer unnecessary. The leaves can be used to brew a caffeine-free herbal tea.



Red chokeberry *Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima'



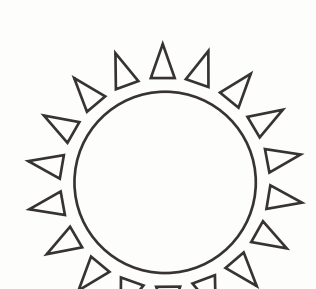
Though quite tall in the wild, this cultivar has a small stature and abundant shiny, red fruit that persist throughout winter.



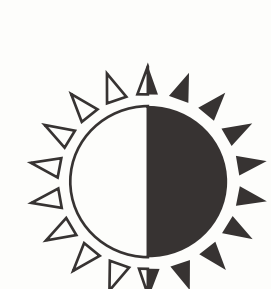
American holly *Ilex opaca* 'Maryland Dwarf'



Slow-spreading, attractive evergreen groundcover that comes alive with a scattering of lovely red berries in autumn and winter.



Full Sun



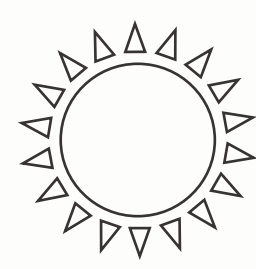
Part Shade

10 Native Large Trees



Trees can provide vertical height, shade, and sources of food and shelter for people and critters. Here are 10 of our favorite large trees to bring plentiful shade to your garden.

Find this list online at www.USBG.gov/NGfavorites

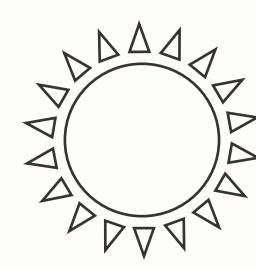


Sweetgum

Liquidambar styraciflua



Star of urban environments with beautiful fall color and spiny, spherical fruits in fall and winter. Cultivars offer variety in leaf forms and fruitlessness.

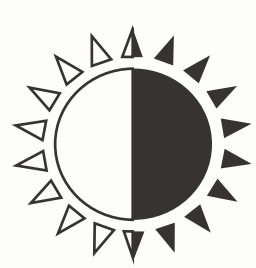
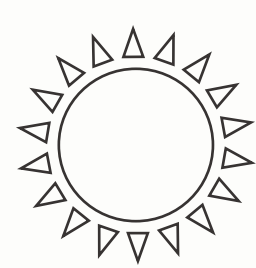


Longleaf pine

Pinus palustris



Eye-catching long needles make a bold statement for this evergreen conifer. Not ideal for colder, snowier climates, it thrives in warmer areas.

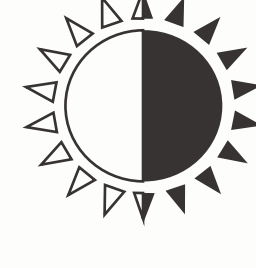
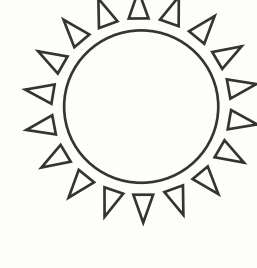


Southern magnolia

Magnolia grandiflora



Glossy, evergreen leaves with velvety, brown undersides highlight this southern belle's spectacular plate-sized white summer flowers and cone-like, red-seeded fruits in fall and winter.

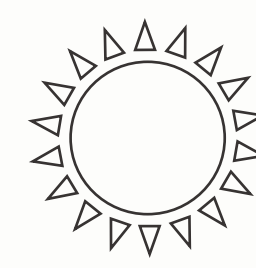


Sourwood

Oxydendrum arboreum



Somewhat weeping branches bear white summer flowers in elegant lily-of-the-valley-like sprays from which bees make sourwood honey. Yellow-to-maroon fall foliage is spectacular.

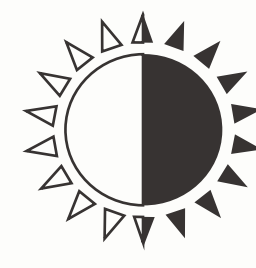
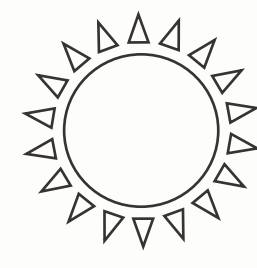


Pond cypress

Taxodium ascendens



Finely textured, bright green foliage fades to a decadent orange-brown in the autumn. This conical conifer can grow in the toughest of soil conditions and has the potential to form "knees."

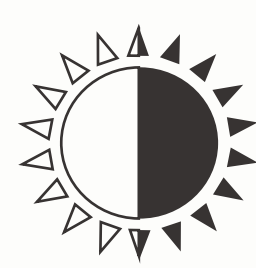
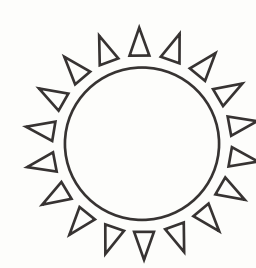


American holly

Ilex opaca



Sharp, pointy green leaves and the bright red berries of female trees are a familiar sight for many tree lovers. Tough as nails, this evergreen develops into a large pyramidal tree in full sun.

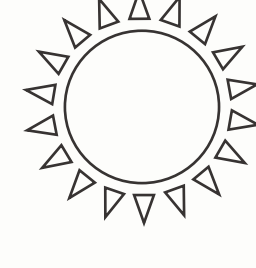


Eastern hop-hornbeam

Ostrya virginiana



Medium height, a rounded crown, beautiful flaking bark, and tolerance of urban soils make this a great tree for space-limited landscapes.

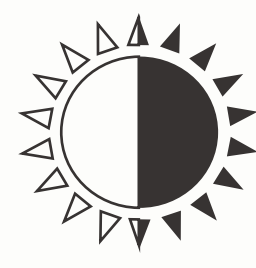
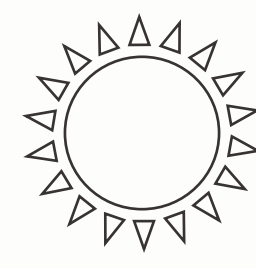


Eastern red cedar

Juniperus virginiana



Tough and fast growing, this evergreen has fragrant cedar-scented wood. Female trees bear waxy, blue cones relished by cedar waxwings and other birds. Short cultivars may be more suitable for home gardens.

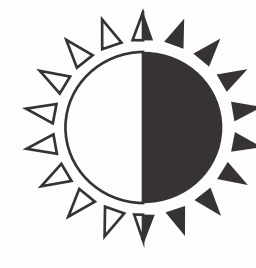
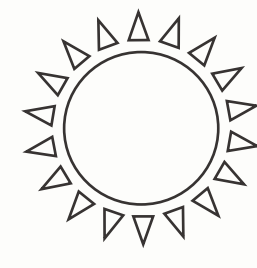


Black gum

Nyssa sylvatica



Prized red fall foliage on a majestic branching pattern, this beekeeper favorite is the nectar source for tasty tupelo honey.

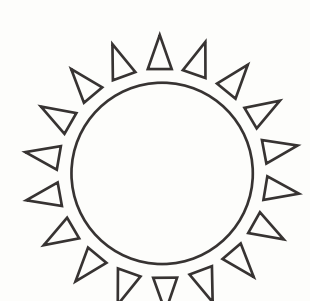


American persimmon

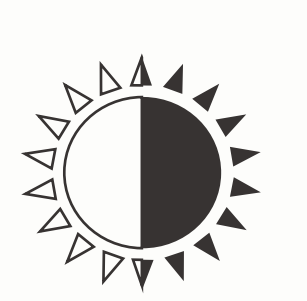
Diospyros virginiana



Late spring blooms, beautiful fall foliage, and bark reminiscent of alligator skin lend interest in all seasons. The attractive, edible fruit is sweet and aromatic when fully ripe.



Full Sun



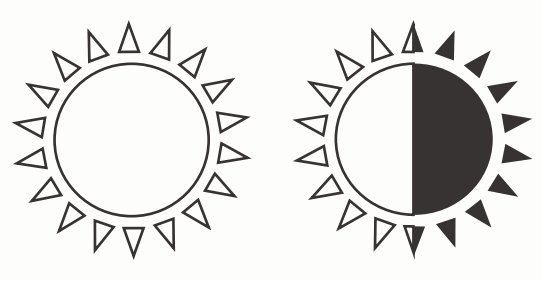
Part Shade

10 Native Small Trees



Sometimes you want the look and benefits of a tree, but don't have a lot of space. These 10 favorite small trees will retain their size, perfect for compact gardens.

Find this list online at www.USBG.gov/NGfavorites

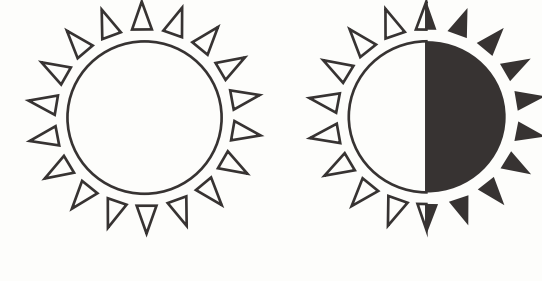


Sassafras

Sassafras albidum



Light green, mitten-shaped leaves change from yellow to orange to brilliant red in autumn. Greenish-yellow female flowers produce draping clusters of striking red and black fruits.

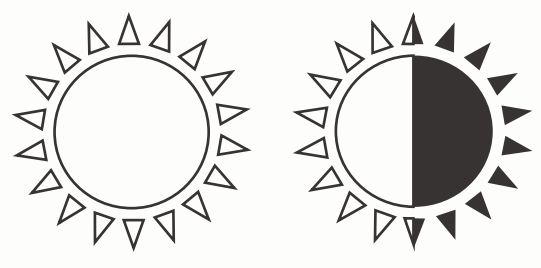


Eastern redbud

Cercis canadensis



An elegant blush of edible spring flowers along the trunk and branches is followed by delicate, heart-shaped leaves emerging as the legume fruits mature.

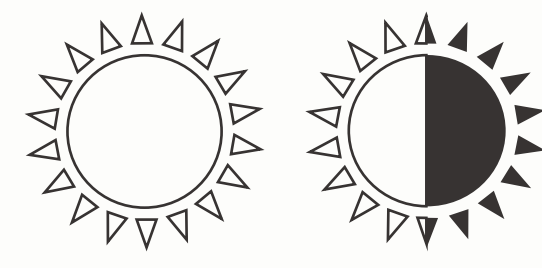


Red buckeye

Aesculus pavia



Large early-spring leaves are quickly followed by mid-spring showy spikes of deep red flowers that attract hummingbirds. Buckeyes are cluster-forming and can be grown as a screen.

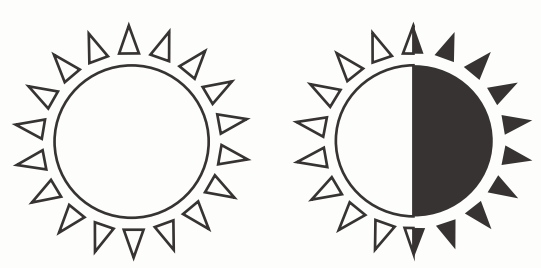


Sweetbay magnolia

Magnolia virginiana



Cup-shaped, creamy-white flowers nicely contrast against matte-green leaves in the early summer. Come autumn, cone-like fruits with exposed red seeds put on a beautiful show.

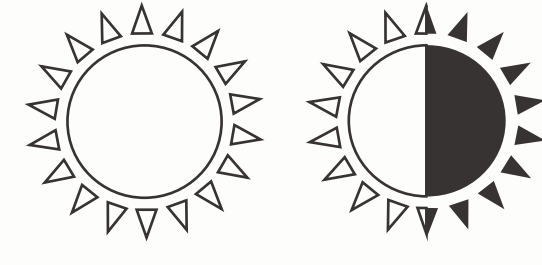


Downy serviceberry

Amelanchier arborea



Beautiful white flowers in early spring are followed by delicious red-to-dark-purple, edible fruits in late spring or early summer.

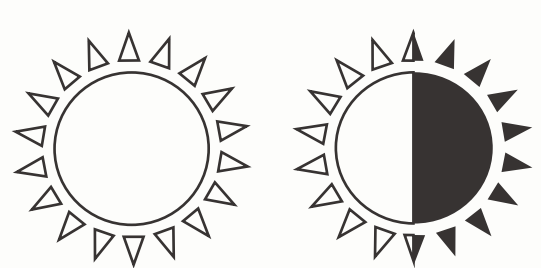


Chalkbark maple

Acer leucoderme



Spectacular autumnal foliage and its easy care make this tree a delight for any garden. When mature, its smooth, pale bark earns its common name.

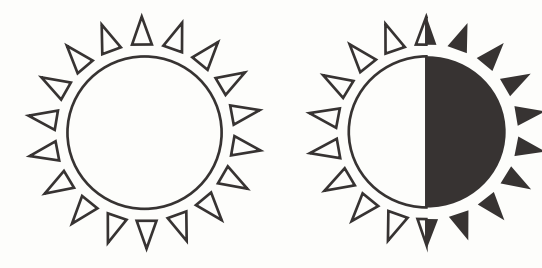


American hornbeam

Carpinus caroliniana



Reddish fall foliage is a delight, and seeds are devoured by birds and small mammals. Smooth, gray bark on sinewy trunks imparts another common name, musclewood.

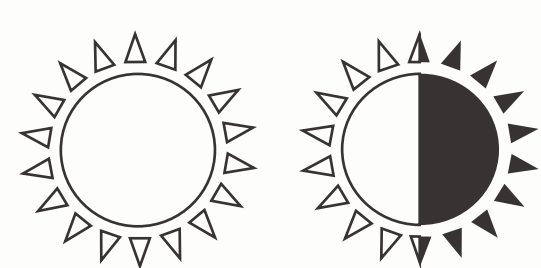


Fringe tree

Chionanthus virginicus



A pleasantly rounded canopy, wispy white mid-summer blooms, and suspended purple autumn fruits highlight this adaptable and tough urban garden selection.

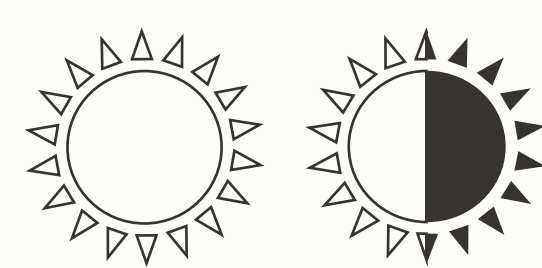


Flowering dogwood

Cornus florida



Revered for white-to-pink, flower-like springtime bracts, the open-branching, checkered bark and attractive, red-tinged autumn foliage are also stunning.

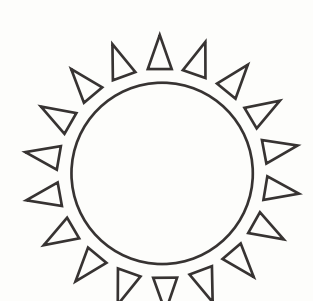


Fox Valley[®] river birch

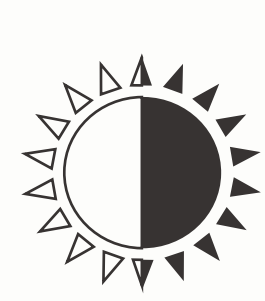
Betula nigra 'Little King'



Impressive orange-brown bark sloughs away to reveal light brown inner bark, adding a pop of whimsy year round. Known for its disease resistance, it is also adaptable to a variety of environments.



Full Sun



Part Shade