

# TOP 10



## SUSTAINABLE PLANTS FOR SHADE SELECTED BY PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS



**These plants are excellent choices for your home garden landscape.** They are non-invasive, are resistant to disease and insects which eliminates the need to use pesticides, and require little or no watering or fertilization once established.

### TREES



Photo © David J. Stang

#### American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

Hazelnuts are wonderful native nut producing, small, deciduous trees at 9 - 12 feet tall. They fit into most yards and prefer moist, well-drained soils. Hazelnuts do well in full sun to part shade, but will produce more nuts in full sun. Tiny red flowers emerge in winter with yellow catkins where they are wind pollinated by other nearby hazelnuts.



Photo © Gerd Eichmann

#### Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

This beautiful southwestern PA native tree is excellent as a specimen, generally growing to be 30 – 50 feet tall and 20 – 30 feet wide. Lustrous dark green leaves change to brilliant yellow to orange to scarlet to purple, making it one of the best trees for fall color. Plant in spring in full sun to part shade, and in moist, well-drained acid soil. Prune in fall.



Photo © Farnatin

#### Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Flame Thrower')

This southwestern PA native deciduous tree, often multi-stemmed, reaches 20 to 30 feet in height. Reddish-purple flowers bloom along the stems, starting at a young age. Performs well in full sun to light shade in average garden soil.



Photo © Agnieszka Kwiecien, Nova

#### Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

An attractive native deciduous tree, flowering dogwoods tolerate dry soils but prefer moist, well-drained soils. Growing in part shade to shade gardens, flowering dogwoods have pretty white and pink flowers in spring, red berries in the summer and red foliage in the fall. It provides food for birds and other wildlife and is a larval host plant for spring azure butterflies. These single or multitruunked trees grow 20 to 40 feet tall.



Photo © Rasbak

#### Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* species)

Serviceberries are great trees for any yard. They are small trees or shrubs with beautiful spring flowers, edible berries in the summer and fantastic fall colors of yellow, orange and red. They grow in full sun to part shade, but will produce more fruit in the sun. The tasty fruit is dark purple to black when ripe and is enjoyed by humans and wildlife alike. They tolerate most soils, but prefer loamy, well-drained soils.

### SHRUBS



#### Hydrangea (*Hydrangea* species)

A popular choice in American gardens, hydrangea come in a variety of sizes and growth preferences. These showy bloomers can range from 3 - 5 feet tall and wide up to 15 feet tall and 12 feet wide. There are species for full sun to full shade while most prefer moist, well-drained soils. Depending on the area you are looking for, there is a hydrangea for you!

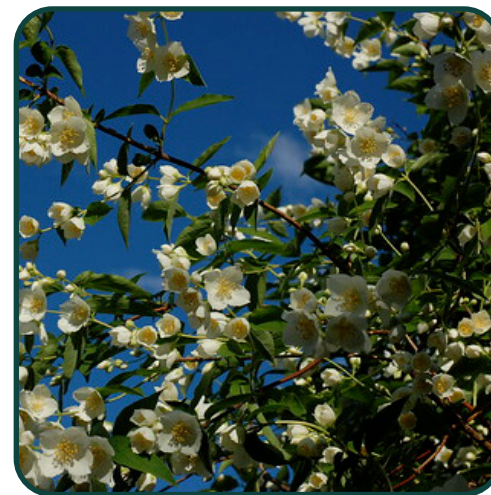


Photo © Justin Miller

#### Mock Orange (*Philadelphus* × *virginalis*)

You may spot relatives of this white blooming shrub in the parks around Pittsburgh. Their bright white flowers catch your eye and their delicious citrusy smell catches your nose! This hybrid grows to approximately 8 feet with a spread just short of that and produces double blooms, giving an even more impressive show during mid to late summer. It tolerates heavy clay and nutrient poor soils as well as part shade or sun.



Photo © Paul g Wiegman

#### Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

A great southwestern PA native plant for supporting local wildlife! The leaves of the spicebush feed spicebush swallowtail butterfly caterpillar. They are aromatic when crushed and turn from light green to yellow in the fall. Male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. If pollinated, the female flowers produce large drupes, which are attractive to birds. Grows 6 – 12 feet tall and wide.



Photo © Natural Landscapes

#### Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)

Summersweet is an excellent small, compact shrub for summer bloom. It works well in a shrub border and is a good plant for heavy shade and wet areas. Glossy, dark green foliage turns yellow in the fall. Summersweet attracts butterflies and is deer resistant.



Photo © Renee Rosensteel

#### Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

This southwestern PA native fall-blooming understory shrub, which can be found throughout local woodland areas, will reach 15 – 20 feet or more in height and spread. Flowers are fragrant with yellow, strap-like petals and appear as the foliage turns yellow, or as it drops. It is a great option for a shrub border, providing a subtle beauty. Plant in sun (for best flowering) to shade in moist soil.

For more information, visit Phipps online at [phipps.conservatory.org/sustainable](http://phipps.conservatory.org/sustainable)