Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District's

Native Plant Sale

2026 Catalog

The Native Plant Sale Index

About the Native Plant Sale

Since 2019, the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District has taken a new approach to the traditional soil and water seedling sale by offering rare, unique, and unusual trees and shrubs in 2 and 3 gallon pots that provide major ecosystem benefits.

As the trees and shrubs are established in pots with a good root system, the chances of survival and little to no transplant shock is higher, providing you with healthier trees that establish quicker.

It is the goal of Jefferson Soil and Water to provide the best species out there that will thrive on your property and bring a variety of ecological benefits to the wildlife, land, and crops on your land. Each year we scour the eastern United States looking for the best nurseries with the best stock, so that only the best plants with the best value are provided.

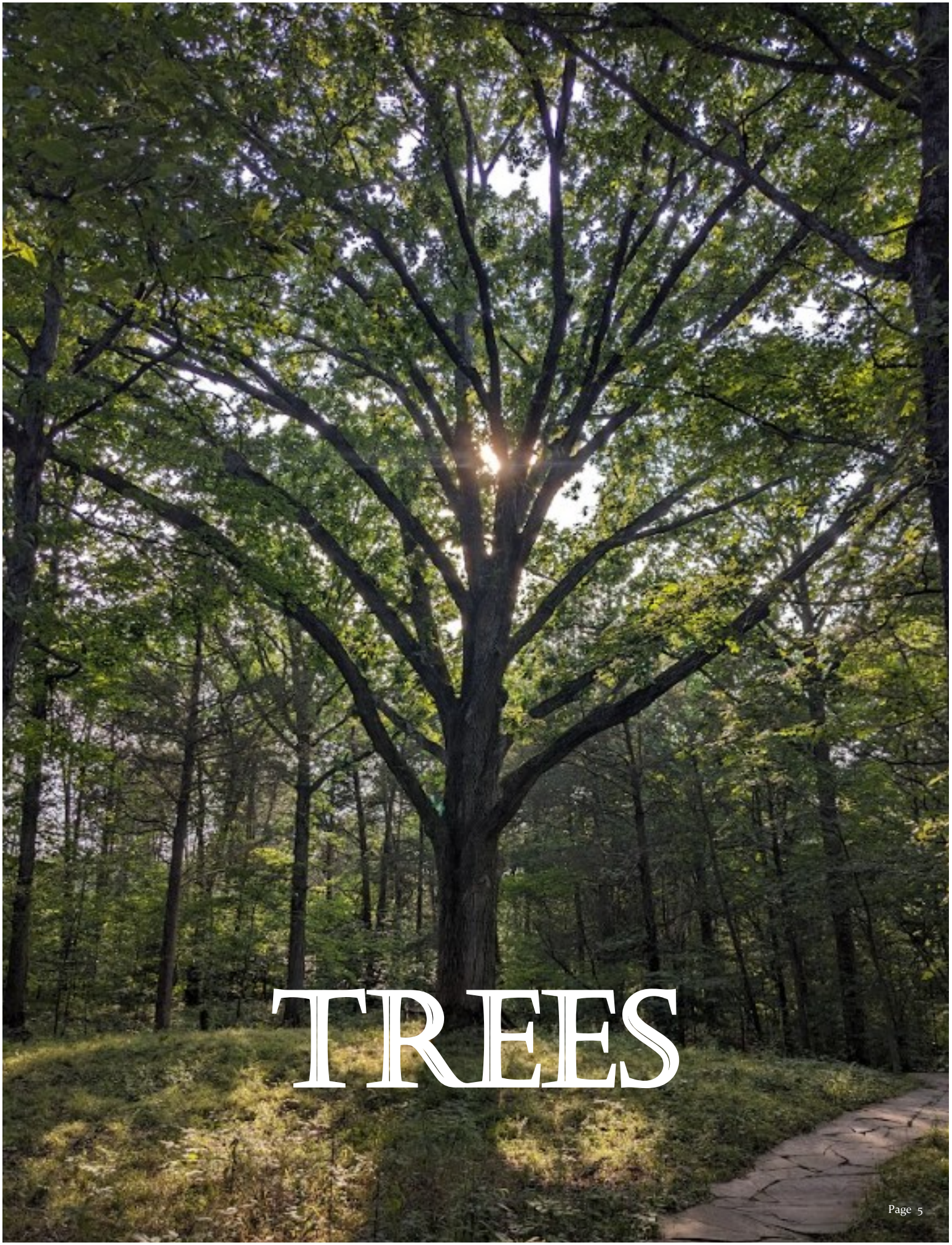

2022 Native Tree Sale

The trees for the 2026 Native Plant Sale are coming from nurseries located in Indiana and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. All species have been carefully chosen for their unique qualities and ability to thrive in Jefferson County. Many of these plants are rare and hard to find in your traditional landscape nurseries.

The JSWCD has added herbaceous native plants in gallon containers again this year. These plants were selected to fit the ecological region of the area as well as provide a great benefit for pollinators, wildlife and fellow plants.

Most importantly, we hope these plant species open up a whole new world for you and allow you to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us in this region of the world and to see how every plant, insect, animal, and person are interconnected in this ecosystem.

Index to the Native Plant Sale


TREES

American Basswood

(Tilia Americana)

Height: 50 to 80 feet
Spread: 30 to 50 feet
Bloom Time: June
Bloom Description: Pale yellow
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Shade Tree, Flowering Tree
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Attracts: Birds, Butterflies
Tolerate: Drought, Clay Soil
Native to: Jefferson County

If you want a tree straight from a Bob Ross painting the American Linden is a great choice as it provides texture, depth, ruggedness, and happy little bees.

The American Linden is a great shade tree with lustrous green foliage. It is a pollinator magnet as well as a great tree for its landscape and timber value. Native to Jefferson County, the American Linden can be found both in the uplands and wetlands of the county. The common name of basswood is derived from "bastwood", in reference to the tough inner bark or bast. This layer of bark was used by Native Americans to make rope and mats, a practice which was taught to settlers. Trees are commercially harvested for their light wood which is used in the furniture industry as well as veneers, along with boxes.

The clusters of fragrant yellow flowers in June and July attract pollinators from all over the region and trees are known to audibly hum with all of the activity. While some people have claimed that some species of Linden are toxic to bees, this theory was proven to be false and American Linden was never associated with these claims. Honey bees, much like the native bees, also find this tree irresistible. The honey from linden trees is considered some of the finest tasting honey available.

The wildlife value of the tree is not limited to bees. Lightning bugs are noted for being quite fond of the tree and areas with lindens and native pines are known to have thousands of lightning bugs filling the night sky. The tree is also a larval plant for 151 species of butterflies and moths. Song birds frequent the tree to feed on the insects and the branching habit of the tree also makes good nesting sites. Additionally, the seeds produced by the tree are eaten by birds and squirrels.

The tree is historically one of the earliest propagated trees in North America. George Washington planted the trees around his Upper and Lower Garden to attract pollinators to the area which would also pollinate his fruits and vegetables. ▪

Black Walnut

(Juglans nigra)

Height: 50 to 75 feet
Spread: 50 to 75 feet
Bloom Time: May–June
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Soil: Well-drained, rich soils (tolerates a range)
Growth Rate: Medium
Suggested Use: Shade Tree, Wildlife Habitat, Timber Value
Tolerates: Drought (once established), Clay Soil
Native to: Jefferson County & Eastern United States

The Black Walnut is one of the defining trees of Jefferson County, quietly shaping both the land and its history. Found along river bottoms, hillsides, and old homesteads, this stately native tree has long stood as a symbol of both ecological richness and economic value.

Recognizable by its dark, deeply furrowed bark and broad spreading crown, Black Walnut is a tree that commands presence. The tree produces juglone, a natural compound that limits the growth of some neighboring plants, giving walnut groves a distinct and often open understory. While this trait can make it challenging in landscaping, there are species of native plants that can tolerate it.

From a wildlife standpoint, few trees offer more. Black Walnut supports over 400 species of butterflies and moths, making it one of the most important host plants in the region. These insects, in turn, form the foundation of the food web, feeding countless birds. Warblers, woodpeckers, thrushes, orioles, nuthatches, and even wild turkeys utilize the tree for food and habitat. During the fall, its nuts become a vital food source for squirrels, chipmunks, and other mammals preparing for winter.

Equally important is the tree's economic legacy. Black Walnut is widely regarded as one of the most valuable hardwoods in North America. Its rich, dark wood has been used for centuries in fine furniture, cabinetry, gunstocks, and veneer. A mature tree can be worth thousands of dollars, making it both a long-term investment and a living piece of natural capital.

In Jefferson County, Black Walnut played a quiet but essential role in early settlement. Along the Ohio River and its tributaries, walnut logs were harvested and transported via the river to markets in Pittsburgh and beyond. The wood found its way into homes, barns, tools, and furnishings throughout the region.

Families also made use of the tree in everyday life. The nuts were gathered each fall for food, while the husks were used to create rich brown dyes. In many ways, Black Walnut was a tree that provided—supporting both livelihoods and households across generations.

Today, the Black Walnut remains just as important. Whether valued for its timber, planted for its wildlife benefits, or simply appreciated as a native giant of the landscape, it continues to serve as a cornerstone species in Jefferson County ■

Eastern Hoptree

(Ptelea trifoliata)

Height: 15–30 feet
Spread: 15–20 feet
Bloom Time: May–June
Sun: Full Sun to Part Shade
Water: Medium
Suggested Use: Understory Tree, Wildlife, Pollinator
Tolerate: Drought, Poor Soils, Black Walnut
Native to: Jefferson County

The Eastern Hoptree is one of those quiet native species that rarely demands attention, yet once noticed, is never forgotten.

Often found along woodland edges, rocky slopes, and riverbanks throughout Jefferson County, this small tree or large shrub carries a subtle elegance that reveals itself over time.
Also known as Wafer Ash, the Eastern Hoptree is easily identified by its trifoliate leaves, three leaflets that give the tree a soft appearance. In late spring, clusters of small greenish-white flowers appear. Bees and other pollinators are drawn to the blooms, making the tree an important early-season nectar source.

It is a critical host plant for the Giant Swallowtail butterfly, one of the largest and most striking butterflies in North America. The caterpillars, sometimes called “orange dogs,” feed on the leaves, tying the tree directly into the life cycle of this remarkable species. In total, the Eastern Hoptree supports 25+ species of butterflies and moths, making it a valuable addition to any wildlife-focused planting.

As summer turns to fall, the tree produces its most distinctive feature: clusters of papery, disk-shaped seeds that resemble small coins or wafers. These seed clusters persist into winter, adding visual interest and texture to the landscape. Birds and small mammals will occasionally utilize the seeds, while the branching structure offers shelter and nesting opportunities.

Ecologically, the Eastern Hoptree thrives where many other species struggle. It is highly adaptable, tolerating dry, rocky, and nutrient-poor soils. It can also grow in the presence of Black Walnut, making it an excellent companion species in areas where juglone limits other plantings. Its resilience and adaptability make it particularly well suited for restoration projects and naturalized landscapes.

Historically, the Eastern Hoptree has an interesting place in early American life. During times when imported hops were scarce, settlers used the bitter seed clusters as a substitute in brewing beer giving rise to the common name “Hoptree.” Native Americans also found value in the plant, using parts of the tree for medicinal purposes, including treatments for digestive ailments and fevers.■

Flowering Dogwood

(Cornus florida)

Height: 15 to 30 feet
Spread: 15 to 30 feet
Bloom Time: April to May
Bloom Description: White (bracts)
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Tolerate: Deer, Clay Soil & Black Walnut
Native to: Jefferson County

According to long standing legend, the dogwood once rivaled the oak in statue, and it was the dogwood tree that provided the wood used to build the cross on which Jesus was crucified. It is said that God both cursed and blessed the tree. It was cursed to forever be small, so that it would never grow large enough again for its wood to be used as a cross for a crucifixion. At the same time, however, the tree was blessed so that it would produce beautiful flowers each spring, just in time for Easter. To remember God's promise to the tree it is said he gave it a few traits so that whoever looks upon it will never forget.

The petals of the dogwood actually form the shape of a cross. The middle of the Dogwood flower has a tight grouping of resembling a "crown of thorns" and the tips of each of the petals are indented, as if they bear a nail dent. There are even colors in the petals that bring to mind the drops of blood that spilled during the crucifixion.

Although the actual flower on this understory tree is insignificant, the four white petal-like bracts surrounding the flower is quite showy. One of the best known trees in Jefferson County and Appalachia, this tree can be used as a specimen plant or for naturalized areas. Its common name derives from its old use as a treatment of mange in dogs and because the small limbs of the trees were used to make skewers, which were once known as dags or dogs.

The Quaker Botanist William Bartram sold significant amounts of these trees and took note of a grove of them in 1791 that extended unbroken for 10 miles. George Washington has a circle of dogwoods surrounding a Redbud planted at his home, Mount Vernon. Native Americans used the bark and roots to cure malaria and the berries to make red dye. Wm. R. Peters & Company advertised in the Steubenville paper in 1856 “wooden rakes, tool handles, mallets, boxes, and cutting blocks made of the finest dogwood” at their store at 177 Markets Street in Steubenville.

The tree is a host plant for 111 species of butterflies and moths in Jefferson County. Birds flock to dogwoods for their berries, good nesting branches, and large quantity of caterpillars. ■

Hazelnut

(Corylus americana)

Height: 10 to 16 feet
Spread: 8 to 12 feet
Bloom Time: March to April
Bloom Description: Red (Female) Brown (Male) – On same plant
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Suggested Use: Naturalized areas or hedge
Tolerate: Black Walnut and Clay Soils
Native to: Jefferson County

A small tree to large shrub, the American Hazelnut is generally an overlooked native plant. However, it is quite special for its wildlife value and the fantastic texture it brings to the landscape, with its long catkins in the spring and thick dark green leaves.

The nuts from the American Hazelnut are smaller than that of the European Hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) which is why the latter is the one grown for the commercial food market. However, it is often stated that the flavor of the American Hazelnut is far superior to that of the European counterpart.

The American Hazelnut will adapt to a wide variety of conditions and is quite hardy. The tree is monoecious, meaning that both male and female flowers appear on the same plant, and the male catkins are quite showy. The early spring flowers yield to the familiar nut which matures around July to August. Nuts are encased in a ragged-edge leafy bract hull. Nuts can be roasted and consumed or ground into a flour; however, squirrels and birds often consume the hazelnuts before there is a chance to harvest.

George Washington was a fan of the American Hazelnut and personally planted several seeds of the species at his Mount Vernon estate that his sister, Betty Lewis, gave him. Thomas Jefferson experimented with the plant at Monticello, both for its aesthetic value and nut production.

The American Hazelnut is perhaps best used in the landscape for its value to the overall ecosystem. The value to wildlife cannot be overstated. The plant serves as a host plant for over 118 species of butterflies and moths. Many other insects feed on the leaves, nuts, and other parts of American Hazelnut, such as the amazing walking stick bug. The nuts are eaten by birds such as the bobwhite quail, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, red-bellied woodpecker, and blue jay. The male catkins and buds of American hazelnut are an important source of food during the winter for the ruffed grouse and wild turkey. Chipmunks and squirrels go crazy for the nuts. White-tailed deer and cottontail rabbits browse on the twigs and leaves. When this shrub grows near water, beavers use the stems as a source of food and in the construction of their lodges and dams. Because American hazelnut has a dense branching structure and large leaves, it provides excellent cover for various kinds of wildlife and ideal nesting habitat for many songbirds.■

Hybrid Chestnut

(Castanea dentate x mollissima)

Height: 40–60 ft
Spread: 30–50 ft
Bloom Time: June–July
Bloom: Creamy catkins, fragrant
Sun: Full sun
Uses: Wildlife food, nut production
Tolerates: Well-drained soils
Native: Hybrid (partially native lineage via American Chestnut)

The Hybrid Chestnut represents both a nod to the past and a promise for the future. A cross between the once dominant American Chestnut and the blight-resistant Chinese Chestnut, this tree seeks to restore one of the most important species to grace the forests of the eastern United States.

Prior to the early 1900s, the American Chestnut was a foundational tree throughout Appalachian Ohio, including Jefferson County. It is said that in the hills surrounding Steubenville, Wintersville, and Richmond, chestnuts once made up a significant portion of the forest canopy. The trees produced abundant crops of nuts that fed wildlife, livestock, and families alike. Chestnuts were a staple food, sold in local markets and gathered in quantity each fall. The wood, straight-grained and rot-resistant, was used for barns, fence posts, and homes throughout the county.

This all changed with the arrival of the Chestnut Blight around 1904. Within a few decades, nearly all mature American Chestnuts in Jefferson County were lost. Old fence rows, barn beams, historical accounts, and some lingering trees are some of the last reminders of a tree that once defined the landscape and rural economy.

The Hybrid Chestnut is part of ongoing efforts to restore this iconic species. By combining the form and ecological value of the American Chestnut with the disease resistance of the Chinese Chestnut, these trees offer hope that future generations may once again see chestnuts thriving on the ridges and valleys of Jefferson County.

Wildlife greatly benefit from the chestnut's annual nut production, which is highly preferred by deer, turkey, squirrels, and many other species. The tree also serves as a host plant for a variety of moths and butterflies, contributing to overall ecosystem health.

Planting a Hybrid Chestnut is more than adding a tree to your landscape—it is participating in the restoration of a lost chapter of Jefferson County's natural and cultural history. ■

Possumhaw Holly

(Ilex decidua)

Height: 10–20 ft
Spread: 10–15 ft
Bloom Time: May–June
Bloom: Small white flowers
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Uses: Winter interest, wildlife (berries)
Tolerates: Wet soils
Native: Appalachia

The Possumhaw Holly is one of the most striking native trees for winter interest, often standing bare after leaf drop, yet covered in brilliant red-orange berries that persist well into the colder months. While subtle during the growing season, this tree becomes a standout feature in the landscape when its fruit illuminates the winter scenery.

Typically found along floodplains, streambanks, and low-lying woods, Possumhaw is highly adaptable and thrives in moist to wet soils where many other trees struggle. Its upright, rounded form and smooth gray bark provide additional aesthetic value year-round. **The plant is dioecious, meaning male and female flowers occur on separate trees—only female trees will produce the showy berries, so planting both is recommended for fruit production.**

Native wildlife have relied heavily on Possumhaw as a winter food source. The berries are not typically consumed immediately, but become vital later in the season when other food sources are scarce. Songbirds, including robins, cedar waxwings, and bluebirds, will flock to the tree during late winter, often stripping it clean in a matter of days.

Though its flowers are small and often overlooked, they provide an early-season nectar source for pollinators. The tree also serves as a host plant for various insects, contributing to the broader ecosystem and supporting bird populations that rely on those insects for food.

Possumhaw Holly is an excellent choice for naturalized plantings, rain gardens, and wildlife-focused landscapes. Its tolerance for difficult soils, combined with its seasonal beauty and ecological importance, makes it a valuable addition to any native planting.■

Shumard Oak

(Quercus shumardii)

Height: 40–60 ft
Spread: 30–50 ft
Bloom Time: April–May
Bloom: Inconspicuous catkins
Sun: Full sun
Uses: Shade, wildlife habitat
Tolerates: Drought, urban conditions
Native: Jefferson County

The Shumard Oak is one of the most impressive native oaks of the Ohio River Valley, valued for its strength, longevity, and ecological importance. In Jefferson County and throughout eastern Ohio, this tree would have been a familiar presence along rich bottomlands and upland slopes where early settlers established farms and communities.

Named after geologist Benjamin Franklin Shumard in the mid-19th century, the tree was formally described as its own species during a period when American botanists were documenting the vast diversity of native hardwood forests. Although more commonly associated with southern river systems, Shumard Oak extends into Ohio and thrives in the fertile soils of the creek and river bottoms.

Ecologically, Shumard Oak is a powerhouse species. It supports over 400 species of butterflies and moths as a host plant, making it one of the most valuable trees for sustaining insect populations. These insects form the foundation of the food web, particularly for birds raising their young. In Jefferson County, the acorns are utilized by a wide range of wildlife including Wild Turkey, Blue Jay, American Crow, Woodpeckers, and various songbirds. Larger birds and mammals rely on the nutritious acorns in fall and winter, while birds such as Blue Jays play a key role in dispersing the seeds, helping regenerate oak forests across the landscape. Though its flowers are subtle, Shumard Oak provides pollen resources for numerous pollinators, including native bees and other insects in early spring.

Its value lies not in showy blooms, but in its immense contribution to the ecosystem as a host and food source. With its stately form, brilliant red fall color, and unmatched ecological benefits, Shumard Oak stands as a living link between Ohio's natural history and its cultural past. ■

Eastern White Pine

(Pinus strobus)

Height: 50 to 80 feet
Spread: 20 to 40 feet
Type: Evergreen
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Suggested: Evergreen
Tolerate: Deer, Clay Soil & Black Walnut
Use: Pollinator tree that attracts butterflies and birds
Native to: Jefferson County

The Eastern White Pine is perhaps one the most plentiful and recognizable evergreens in Jefferson County.

The evergreen is grown for its quick growth habit and lumber qualities. Many homeowners use the tree as a privacy screen, but this must be done with caution as mature trees tend to limb themselves up – lower branches die off and drop. The long blueish-green bundles of needles grow in bundles of five needles per cluster which is a helpful identification aide as the needles will spell "W-H-I-T-E."

In Jefferson County, the Mingo Chief, Logan the Orator, moved several of his people to the mouth of Yellow Creek where there was a great stand of Eastern White Pine. Here they tapped the trees to extract the resin, which they used as salve and to aid in kindling fires. It was while Logan was out performing this work with several of his men on April 30, 1774, that his family was lured across the river and brutally massacred which ultimately led to Lord Dunmore's War.

The Eastern White Pine was the definitive lumber tree in early America. The masts of ships were crafted from the tree as well as many of the original structures of Colonial America. Fearful that the Eastern White Pine would return to the colonies, in forms of mast on ships bringing British Troops, the Colonial Congress outlawed the export of the tree in 1774. The tree was such a prominent feature of the American identity that the first flag of the Revolutionary Army that was commissioned on October 21, 1775 bore an Eastern White Pine.

The July 4, 1829, issue of the *Western Herald* and *Steubenville Gazette* carried an advertisement that notified the readers that "steamboats, keel, flat, and all other kinds of boats built at short notice and on reasonable terms at the boatyard of the builders." The notice, entered by Elijah Murray, Thomas Thompson, and William Murray, for their shipyard which was located at present day Blum Park (behind the Jefferson County Justice Center) mentions that while oak was recommended for the hull, white pine is used for decking, cabins, masts, and spars.

Eastern White Pine serves has a host plant to 231 species of butterflies and moths in Jefferson County. ■

White Oak

(Quercus alba)

Height: 50 to 80 feet
Spread: 40 to 75 feet
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Flower: Insignificant
Leaf: Fair Fall Color (Brown to Red to Wine)
Use: Wildlife, Lumber
Native to: Jefferson County

If oaks are the Kings of the Forest, then White Oak may be the most important tree in the region.

The White Oak is a host tree to 477 species of butterflies and moths, making it the largest host species in the Ohio forest. The tree is also a vital food source for all wildlife. The tannins in the wood are used for dyes and stains, while the tannins in the leaves causes slower decomposition during the winter months, giving many caterpillars and small animals such as wood frogs a place to seek shelter to hibernate.

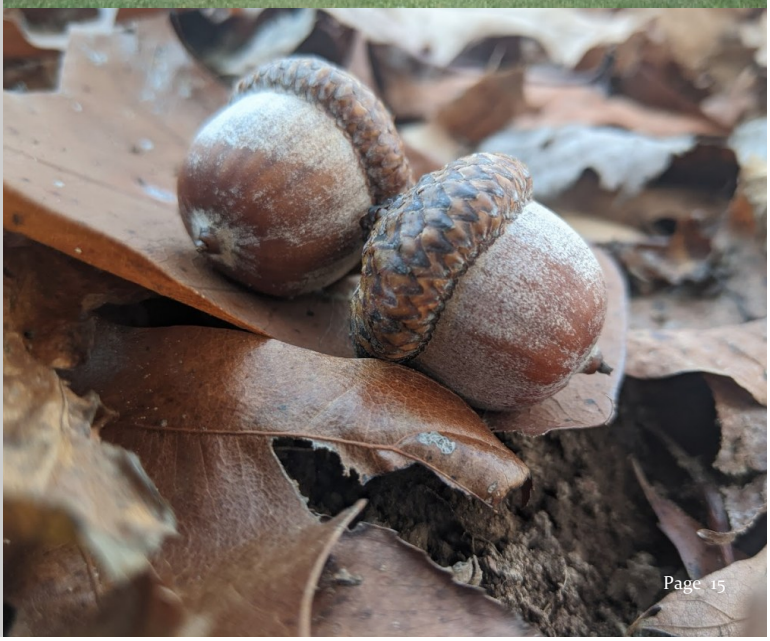
The wood is highly sought after for the lumber, as it is a key component of the furniture and is the only wood species used for whiskey and bourbon barrels. The tree is in a rather rapid decline in the region as it is being heavily harvested for its wood.

The White Oak has an elaborate and complex root system, which makes it a great erosion control species and is finding a new life as a tree sought for carbon sequestration. Moreover, the root systems create a large mycorrhizal network of mycelium fungus which creates a stock exchange of communication and trades between a variety of species.

The White Oak has played important roles in the history of Ohio. The Mingo people had a specific name for the tree, kaka'ta'.

When America was first settled, the British thought that the White Oak was inferior to the English oak. This conclusion persisted until the USS Constitution soundly defeated the HMS Guerriere during the War of 1812 and earning the victorious vessel the nickname “Old Ironsides.” White Oak was so highly regarded after the fact that Sir Winston Churchill would not come to meet with President Roosevelt during World War II until FDR assured him the minesweeper boats leading his ship was built with White Oak from Hyde Park.

The Steubenville and Indiana Railroad was built using only White Oak railroad ties for longevity and durability. ■



Yellow Birch

(Betula allegheniensis

Height: 50 to 75feet
Spread: 25 to 35 feet
Bloom Time: April
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Suggested Use: Naturalization/ Damp Areas
Attracts: Wildlife
Leaf: Great Yellow Fall Color

The Yellow Birch is a tree that carries the feeling of deep woods, cool ravines, and the quiet places where water lingers and the air stays fresh even in the heat of summer. Though not as commonly seen today in Jefferson County as it once was, this native birch has long been part of the region's forest story.

Recognized by its distinctive golden-bronze bark that peels in thin, curly strips, the Yellow Birch stands apart from its white-barked relatives. When sunlight catches the bark just right, it gives the tree a warm, almost glowing appearance that is unmistakable in the forest understory or along shaded slopes.

The leaves are a rich green in summer, turning a soft yellow in the fall, complementing the tree's name. In spring, the tree produces slender catkins that serve as an early-season food source for wildlife. While the flowers themselves are subtle, they play an important role in supporting forest ecosystems.

From a wildlife perspective, Yellow Birch is an important but often overlooked species. The Paper Birch attracts 19 different genera of birds, which include wrens, finches, orioles, cardinals, and thrushes. Songbirds, including warblers, finches, and chickadees, utilize the tree for foraging, while its seeds are consumed by small mammals and birds. The tree is a host plant for 329 species of butterflies and moths in the greater Jefferson County area including the Luna Moth and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.

Ecologically, Yellow Birch thrives in cool, moist environments—often found along streams, north-facing slopes, and rich forest soils. It is well known for its ability to germinate on decaying logs and stumps, giving rise to the iconic "nurse log" phenomenon, where young birch trees appear perched on moss-covered wood. As the log decays, the roots of the tree are left exposed, creating dramatic and beautiful root structures.

Historically, Yellow Birch was highly valued for both its wood and its versatility. The wood is strong, heavy, and fine-grained, making it desirable for furniture, flooring, and interior finishes. Early settlers used the tree extensively, and it became an important component of northern hardwood forests for both commercial and practical uses.■


SHRUBS

Vernal Witch-hazel

(Hamaelis vernalis)

Height: 15 to 20 feet
Spread: 15 to 20 feet
Bloom Time: October to December
Bloom Description: Yellow with tinge of red
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Suggested Use: Understory Tree – Specimen
Tolerate: Deer, Erosion, Clay Soils
Native to: Jefferson County

The plant is a highly underrated native species, as it is attractive in late fall and early winter. The fragrant flowers are unique and look like a blonde version of Animal from the Muppets. The leaves are a rich and crisp green. The tree can be multi-trunked with contorted and irregular trunks that adds to the winter interest of this tree.

The flower is interesting as, when temperatures dip, the petals twist tighter to protect itself; when the temperatures are warmer, the petals relax more to allow available pollinators access. In spring, witch-hazel produces fruit that ripens in the summer time, and then in fall, when ready, the seed pod literally explodes, shooting the seed over 20 feet away. The seed takes two years to germinate. This plant is unusual as it can have leaves, flowers, and fruit on the limb all at the same time.
In 1588 Thomas Hariot recorded that Indians were using "wich-hazle" to make bows. Ben Franklin used a witch-hazel as a form of payment to the physician and Quaker Botanist Dr. John Fothergill, who treated his leg.

The most famous use of the witch-hazel is that of locating water, with the forked limbs being used as dowsing or divining rods. Early European settlers observed Native Americans using American witch-hazel to find underground sources of water. The blooms attract various native bees and honey bees. The tree is a host plant for 69 species of butterflies and moths in the greater Jefferson County and 17 genera of birds who are found utilizing the witch-hazel. ■

Fragrant Sumac

(Rhus aromatica)

Height: 2 to 4 feet
Spread: 4 to 8 feet
Bloom Time: April
Bloom Description: Yellow
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Suggested Use: Erosion Control and Ground Cover
Tolerate: Drought, Black Walnut, Rocky Soils, Clay Soils, Dry Soils, Deer
Native to: Jefferson County

The Fragrant Sumac has been described as an undesirable in the plant world, as it is often associated with the lesser desired sumacs and has three-loved leaves that some misidentify as poison ivy; however, this rugged hardy plant is a great choice for problem areas, steep slopes, and when a ground cover is desired.

The Fragrant Sumac is a dense, rambling, low spreading groundcover or low spreading deciduous shrub. It spreads by root suckers and forms colonies and thickets. If plantings become unruly they can be cut down with a brush hog or mower and will regenerate. In mass plantings, it is excellent for stabilizing banks and slopes. In the early spring, small yellow flowers appear at the twig tips before the foliage appears. Its green leaves of spring and summer transition to beautiful shades of orange, red, or reddish-purple in the fall. The leaves have a lemony scent when crushed. There are male and female flowers that may appear on the same or a different plant. The female flowers produce small clusters of red berries in late summer which attract wildlife.

The Fragrant Sumac is a host plant to 56 varieties of butterfly and moth species. Pollinators are heavily attracted to the early spring flowers of the shrub.

Oddly, the Fragrant Sumac can be both monoecious and dioecious and varies from plant to plant with no explanation. Therefore, if the flower and berries is highly desired it is recommended to get two or more plants, in case the particular plant you get is a dioecious plant with separate male and female plants. The shrubs offered in the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District Native Tree Sale are unsexed trees, so it is recommended to buy multiple shrubs. ■

Highbush Blueberry

(Aesculus paviflora)

Height: 4 to 8 feet
Spread: 6 to 8 feet
Bloom Time: May
Bloom Description: White to Pink
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Suggested Use: Fruit and Wildlife
Tolerate: Wet Soils
Native to Jefferson County

The Highbush Blueberry is one of the most rewarding native shrubs in Jefferson County, valued for its beauty, ecological importance, and abundant fruit. Naturally found in wetlands, streambanks, and low woodlands, it brings year-round interest while supporting a rich diversity of wildlife.

In early spring, clusters of delicate white to pale pink bell-shaped flowers appear along its branches. Though subtle, these blooms provide one of the earliest and most reliable nectar sources for native bees, including bumble bees and numerous pollen-specialist species emerging from winter.

By mid-summer, the shrub transforms as its berries ripen from green to deep blue. These fruits are among the most sought-after in the natural landscape. Thrushes, catbirds, bluebirds, orioles, and many other songbirds quickly descend upon the shrubs, often stripping them clean within days. Small mammals also rely on this seasonal food source.

With more than 230 species of butterflies and moths using it as a host plant, Highbush Blueberry plays a vital role in supporting the insects that form the foundation of local food webs. Its dense branching structure offers nesting sites and protective cover, while its presence in wet areas helps stabilize soil and maintain healthy ecosystems.

As summer fades, the shrub delivers a striking display of fall color, with leaves turning vivid shades of red, orange, and crimson.

Historically, Highbush Blueberry was an important resource for Indigenous peoples, including the Mingo, who cultivated and gathered the berries for fresh eating and preservation. Early settlers quickly adopted its use, and it became a staple across the region.

Today, it remains an outstanding choice for both wildlife and home landscapes. While self-fertile, planting multiple varieties that bloom simultaneously can improve fruit size and yield—if the birds don't harvest them first.■

Pasture Gooseberry

(Ribes cynosbati)

Height: 3–6 ft
Spread: 3–6 ft
Bloom Time: April–May
Bloom: Small greenish flowers
Sun: Part shade
Uses: Wildlife, edible fruit
Tolerates: Shade, woodland soils
Native: Jefferson County

The Pasture Gooseberry is a plant that feels like it belongs to an earlier time. Native to Jefferson County, this modest shrub was once a familiar sight across the landscape, tucked along hillsides, woodland margins, and old homesteads. Quaker Ridge Preserve is home to several patches of these shrubs.

Armed with fine spines along its stems, the Pasture Gooseberry carries a rugged appearance that hints at its ability to survive in tough conditions. In early spring, before many plants have fully leafed out, the shrub produces small, nodding flowers that range from greenish-white to pink. These blooms, though subtle, provide an important early-season food source for native pollinators.

By early summer, the plant begins to reveal its most notable feature: its fruit. The berries are small, round, and often covered in soft bristles, giving them a distinctive texture. Ripening to shades of red or purple, they are edible and have long been enjoyed both fresh and in jams, jellies, and preserves.

Wildlife quickly takes notice of these fruits. Birds such as thrushes, catbirds, and other songbirds feed heavily on the berries, while small mammals take advantage of the seasonal abundance. The dense, thorny structure of the shrub also provides valuable cover and nesting habitat.

It serves as a host plant for 30+ species of butterflies and moths, supporting the insect populations that sustain birds and other wildlife.

Its ability to grow in partial shade and poor soils makes it a valuable species for restoration and naturalized plantings.

Historically, gooseberries were well known to both Native Americans and early settlers. The fruit was gathered for food, while the plant's hardy nature made it a reliable producer even in less-than-ideal conditions. In rural communities throughout Ohio, gooseberries were a common ingredient in pies and preserves, valued for their tart flavor and versatility.
In Jefferson County, the Pasture Gooseberry dotted fence lines along grazing lands and other places where it could grow undisturbed.■

Red Chokeberry

(Aronia arbutifolia)

Height: 4 to 8 feet
Spread: 3 to 6 feet
Bloom Time: April
Bloom Description: Light Pink
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Suggested Use: Wildlife, Rain Gardens, Naturalized Areas
Tolerate: Wet Soils and Clay Soils
Native to: Jefferson County

The Red Chokeberry is best utilized in the landscape for its intense display of red berries in the fall and its great wildlife attributes. The dark green leaves turn a brilliant red in the fall and make this shrub a suitable replacement for the highly invasive burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*). A low maintenance shrub that provides visual interest throughout the year, Red Chokeberry plays nicely off the colors and textures of many other plants.

William Bartram marketed the Red Chokeberry in his catalog in 1792 as "Presents a good appearance, when all red with its clusters of berries" which greatly undersells this little shrub. Red Chokeberry is a multi-stemmed shrub that adapts to a variety of soils and grows in a vase-shaped form. Light pink, five-petal flowers appear in spring and give way to an abundance of glossy red fruits about ¼ inch in diameter. The berries ripen in late summer and persist through fall and well into the winter months.

In 1966, Mrs. R.W. Johnston wrote an article for the *Wintersville Citizen* where she wrote that Red Chokeberry is a great means to attract birds to the backyard. She was correct, as the fruit is documented to be consumed by 40 species of birds and other wildlife. As the name applies, Red Chokeberry fruits are dry, bitter and astringent when eaten raw, but delicious. The fruit does become more palatable through cycles of freezing and thawing during winter, which is why birds wait to feast on the berries until later in winter. This fact means that the berries are an important food for over-wintering songbirds when little else is available. Pollinators feed on both the nectar and pollen produced by the plant. Red chokeberry is a host plant for numerous species of Lepidoptera, including the coral hairstreak butterfly and the Catacala praeclara underwing moth.■

Virgin's Bower

(Clematis virginiana)

Height: 10–20 ft (vine)
Spread: 6–10 ft
Bloom Time: July–September
Bloom: White, fragrant clusters
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Uses: Pollinator vine, naturalized areas
Tolerates: Clay, drought
Native: Jefferson County

The Virgin's Bower is a plant that reveals itself in throughout the year; quiet through spring and early summer, then suddenly luminous when the season begins to turn. Native to Jefferson County, this vigorous vine threads its way through the understory, often unnoticed until late summer when it transforms the landscape.

Along the Piney Fork Trail & Preserve, Virgin's Bower can be seen climbing along the woodland edge and weaving through thickets at the trails edge. Here, it drapes over branches and fence remnants, creating soft curtains of white that catch the evening light. In these transition areas where sunlight filters in and soils remain undisturbed, the vine thrives, adding both structure and motion to the landscape.

Its late-season bloom is one of its greatest strengths. When many plants begin to fade, clusters of small, star-like white flowers emerge in abundance, filling the air with subtle fragrance and drawing in a wide array of pollinators. Bees, flies, wasps, and butterflies rely on this nectar source at a critical time of year.

Ecologically, Virgin's Bower plays an important supporting role. It serves as a host plant for 30+ species of butterflies and moths, helping sustain the insect populations that form the base of the food web. After flowering, the vine produces feathery, plume-like seed heads that persist into fall, giving the plant its signature airy appearance and adding winter interest.

Birds utilize the vine's dense growth for cover and occasional nesting, particularly where it forms protective tangles along edges and trails. Its climbing habit allows it to create vertical habitat without the need for additional structure.

Historically, this vine was both admired and managed. Its vigorous nature meant it could quickly overtake smaller plants, yet along places like Piney Fork, it was simply part of the natural rhythm—spreading where conditions allowed and retreating where shade closed in.

The name "Virgin's Bower" is derived from a German legend that a clematis sheltered Mary and Jesus on their flight into Egypt. Bower is derived from the Middle English word 'bour' meaning dwelling. ■

Wooly Pipevine

(Aristolochia tomentosa

Height: 15–30 ft
Spread: 15–20 ft
Bloom Time: May–June
Bloom Description: Purple, yellow, green
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Suggested Use: Pollinator plant
Tolerates: Drought, clay soil
Native to: Jefferson County

The Wooly Pipevine is one of the most intriguing and mysterious native vines found in Jefferson County. Growing along riverbanks, woodland edges, and low-lying areas, this vigorous climber quietly winds its way through trees and shrubs, often hidden beneath a dense canopy of large, heart-shaped leaves.

The genus name Aristolochia is derived from the Greek words aristos meaning “best” and locheia meaning “childbirth,” a reference to ancient medicinal uses described by Aristotle and later classical physicians.

The vine’s most distinctive feature is its unusual pipe-shaped flower, which appears in late spring. Colored in shades of yellow, green, and brown, the blooms are often hidden beneath the foliage and easily overlooked. These intricate flowers are designed to temporarily trap small insects, aiding in pollination before releasing them.

Ecologically, Wooly Pipevine plays a critical role. It is the primary host plant for the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly, one of the most striking butterflies in North America. The caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves, absorbing compounds that make them toxic to predators. In addition, the vine supports 25+ species of butterflies and moths, forming an important link in the food web.

Its dense foliage provides shelter for birds and small wildlife, while its climbing habit allows it to create vertical habitat in forest edges and riparian corridors. Along streams and floodplains in Jefferson County, it contributes to the layered structure of native plant communities.

Historically, Wooly Pipevine would have been a familiar presence along the Ohio River and its tributaries, growing in rich soils where moisture was plentiful. Early settlers may have noted its unusual flowers, though its true ecological value was not fully understood.

Today, the Wooly Pipevine remains a plant of quiet importance—one that supports specialized wildlife and adds depth and complexity to the natural landscape. ■


HERBACEOUS

Butterfly Weed

(Ascelpias tuberosa)

Height: 1 to 3 feet
Spread: 1 to 2 feet
Bloom Time: June to August
Bloom Description: Bright orange
Sun: Full sun
Suggested Use: Pollinator gardens, naturalized areas, prairie
Attracts: Butterflies (especially monarchs), bees
Pollen/Nectar: Produces both nectar and pollen
Native to: Jefferson County

The Butterfly Weed is one of the most vibrant and unmistakable native plants found in Jefferson County, burning bright against summer fields with its brilliant orange blooms. Found naturally in open meadows, prairies, and along roadsides, this hardy perennial thrives where the sun is strong and the soil is lean.

Unlike many of its milkweed relatives, *Asclepias tuberosa* prefers dry, well-drained soils and does not produce the milky sap commonly associated with the genus. Instead, it develops a deep taproot, allowing it to withstand drought and establish itself in places where other plants struggle. Once rooted, it is remarkably resilient and long-lived.

By early summer, clusters of vivid orange flowers rise above the narrow green foliage, creating a striking contrast against grasses and wildflowers. Butterflies, bees, and a wide range of pollinators gather in abundance, drawn by the rich nectar source during the peak of the growing season.

It serves as a host plant for the Monarch butterfly, whose caterpillars rely exclusively on milkweed species for survival. In addition, it supports 20+ species of butterflies and moths, making it an essential component of native pollinator habitat.

As the season progresses, the flowers give way to elongated seed pods that eventually split open, releasing seeds attached to silky fibers that drift on the wind. This familiar sight marks the plant's role in natural regeneration and dispersal across open landscapes.

Historically, Butterfly Weed held both practical and medicinal value. Native Americans used the plant to treat respiratory ailments, giving rise to one of its common names, "pleurisy root." Early settlers adopted similar uses, recognizing the plant's reliability and presence in the landscape. ■

Mountain Mint

(Pycnanthemum muticum)

Height: 3 feet
Bloom Time: July to September
Bloom Description: Clusters of white flowers
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Attracts: Pollinators
Mint Family

Mountain mint, also referred to as Blunt or Clustered Mountain Mint, is a summer bloomer in the mint family. It has an upright branching growth habit, growing 2 to 3 feet high with a spread of 2 feet and is an excellent choice for the back or middle of a planting. Silvery green oval shaped leaves with pointy tips leaves provide color and contrast in the garden.

Naturally, Mountain Mint is found growing in thickets and woodland areas in part shade to full sun. It thrives in moist to medium well-drained soils. This mint can tolerate moist soils along pond and stream edges, although the plant will suffer if the roots remain waterlogged for extended periods.

As part of the mint family, this mint emits a strong smell of spearmint when rubbed. As with other members of the mint family, Clustered Mountain Mint has a tendency to ramble and colonize by way of its rhizomatic roots. However, it is much more well-behaved than typical garden mint, and easier to keep in check.

Pollinators and an extensive list of beneficial insects are highly attracted to this plant. In the 2013 Penn State Extension Service Pollinator Trial, Clustered Mountain mint was among the top plants for pollinator diversity, flowering longevity, and number of insect visitors (with a whopping 78 insects visiting the plant within a two-minute timeframe!).

The Xerces Society has identified this plant as having special value to beneficial insects, including native bees, bumble bees, honey bees, and as a plant that supports biological control by attracting predatory or parasitoid insects that prey on pests. Deer, rabbits and other herbivores find the plant unpalatable and generally leave it alone. ■

Dense Blazing Star

(Liatris spicata)

Height: 2 to 4 feet

Bloom Time: July through September

Bloom Description: Rose purple flowerheads on upright stems

Sun: Full sun

Attracts: Pollinators, hummingbirds, songbirds

Aster Family

Native to Jefferson County

Also known as Marsh Blazing Star, Dense Blazing Star is native to moist low grounds, meadows, and prairie swales. Clumps of narrow, grass-like green leaves yield tall spikes that produce long flower heads with a fluffy appearance when in bloom. Plants form upright clumps and should be spaced 1 to 2 feet apart.

One of Ohio's native prairie flowers, Dense Blazing Star does best in moist, fertile, well-drained soils, although it can easily be grown in average soils. However, it is not an aquatic plant and can't tolerate wet soils year-round, particularly in winter.

Once a prominent prairie species, it is more often found in gardens and native landscapes today. It produces a thick, sweet rootstock called a corm, a favorite meal for voles. As with many native prairie plants, established blazing star varieties form a deep root, allowing the plants to reach nutrients and moisture that aren't available to more shallow-rooted neighbors. Along with other native, deep rooted species, Liatris is an important plant for stabilizing soils against erosion.

Dense Blazing Star is a showy and attractive plant, particularly well-suited to rain gardens. It is also valued for the incredible diversity of insects and wildlife that it supports—including nectar loving butterflies such as monarchs, tiger swallowtails and Aphrodite fritillaries. Hummingbirds are a frequent visitor, as well as various songbirds in search of insects, such as crab spiders, ladybugs and other beetles. The plant also supports native bees and bumblebees. Rabbits and groundhogs enjoy feasting on the leaves. After bloom, Liatris produces tiny seeds which are especially attractive to goldfinches. ■

Early Sunflower

(Heliopsis helianthoides)

Height: 3 to 5 feet
Spread: 2 to 3 feet
Bloom Time: June to September
Bloom Description: Yellow, daisy-like
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Suggested Use: Pollinator gardens, borders, naturalized areas
Attracts: Bees, butterflies, birds
Pollen/Nectar: Produces both pollen and nectar
Tolerate: Drought, clay soil
Native to: Jefferson County

The Early Sunflower is one of those native plants that feels instantly familiar, with its bright yellow blooms echoing the look of sunflowers while carrying the resilience and ecological strength of a true wildflower. Found throughout Jefferson County in open fields, roadsides, and woodland edges, this long-blooming perennial brings color and life to the height of summer.

Despite its name, *Heliopsis helianthoides* is not a true sunflower, but a close relative. Its name translates roughly to "sun-like," a fitting description for the daisy-like flowers that rise above sturdy stems. Blooming from early summer well into late season, the plant provides a reliable and long-lasting display when many other species begin to fade.

The flowers themselves are a hub of activity. Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are drawn to the abundant nectar and pollen, making Early Sunflower an important contributor to pollinator health. From an ecological standpoint, it serves as a host plant for 54 species of butterflies and moths, supporting the insect populations that sustain birds and other wildlife.

The blooms give way to seed heads that persist into fall. These seeds are readily consumed by birds such as finches and sparrows, adding another layer of wildlife value. The sturdy stems also provide structure and shelter for insects and overwintering species.

Early Sunflower thrives in a wide range of conditions, from rich soils to clay and disturbed ground. Its adaptability made it a common presence in early Jefferson County landscapes, especially in pastures, along wagon paths, and in areas that land had been cleared or worked. It is a plant that follows disturbance and sunlight, quickly establishing and holding its place.

A dependable native species that returns year after year with little care. Its bright blooms, ecological importance, and resilience make it a cornerstone plant for naturalized landscapes and pollinator habitats alike..■

Large Flowered Beardtongue

(Penstemon grandifloras)

Height: 2 to 4 feet
Spread: 1 to 2 feet
Bloom Time: May to June
Bloom Description: Pale pink to lavender
Sun: Full sun
Suggested Use: Pollinator gardens, dry slopes, prairie restorations
Attracts: Bees, hummingbirds
Pollen/Nectar: Produces both nectar and pollen
Tolerate: Drought, poor soils
Native to: Jefferson County

The Large-flowered Beardtongue is a plant that feels both delicate and durable at once; its soft pastel blooms rising above tough, drought-tolerant foliage in places where few other plants thrive. Though more commonly associated with prairies and open landscapes to the west, *Penstemon grandiflorus* adapts well to similar sunny, well-drained conditions found throughout Jefferson County.

In late spring, the plant sends up upright stems topped with inflated, tubular flowers in shades of pale lavender, soft pink, and violet. These blooms are among the most striking of any native wildflower, appearing almost too refined for the rugged environments in which they grow.

The name *Penstemon* comes from the Greek words meaning “five stamens,” referring to the unique structure inside the flower. One of these stamens is sterile and often covered in fine hairs, giving rise to the common name “beardtongue.” This feature plays a role in pollination, guiding visiting insects toward nectar while ensuring effective pollen transfer.

Bumblebees are particularly drawn to its tubular blooms, which are perfectly shaped for their size and foraging behavior. The flower literally squeezes the bees depositing the pollen. It also supports 30+ species of butterflies and moths, contributing to the broader health of the ecosystem.

As the season progresses, the flowers give way to seed capsules that provide food for birds and help the plant naturally reseed in open areas. Its deep root system allows it to endure drought and poor soils, making it well suited for restoration projects and low-maintenance landscapes. ■

Maximilian's Sunflower

(*Helianthus maximiliani*)

Height: 3 to 10 feet
Spread: 2 to 4 feet
Bloom Time: August to September
Bloom Description: Yellow
Sun: Full Sun
Attracts: Pollinators, songbirds, small mammals, specialized bees
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Erosion, Clay Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

The Maximilian Sunflower is a princely flower that stands tall in the late season landscape, which is why German Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied, who explored parts of the American West in 1832-1834, named it after himself.

Lewis and Clark observed the flower on their expedition and noted in their journal: : "*Along the bottoms, which have a covering of high grass, we observe the sunflower blooming in great abundance. The Indians of the Missouri, and more especially those who do not cultivate maize, make great use of the seed of this plant for bread or in thickening their soup. They first parch and then pound it between two stones until it is reduced to a fine meal. Sometimes they add a portion of water, and drink it thus diluted: at other times they add a sufficient proportion of marrow grease to reduce it to the consistency of common dough and eat it in that manner. This last composition we preferred to all the rest, and thought it at that time a very palatable dish*."

While a native of the great plains, this sunflower does well in open spaces here and will tolerate a wide range of soils, from sandy soils to heavy clay to desolate shallow rocky soils (i.e. strip mine ground). These perennial plants can form large colonies. The several tall, leafy, unbranched stems of Maximilian Sunflower grow to a height of 3-10 ft. Leaves are long and narrow, sharply pointed and often folded lengthwise. Numerous yellow flower heads grow on their own stalks terminally and from leaf axils. The flower head is up to 5 inches across.

After the plant has gone to seed, it is an attractant for songbirds, including finches, chickadees, and sparrows. ■

Purple Love Grass

(*Eragrostis spectabilis)*

Height: 1 to 2 feet
Spread: 1 to 2 feet
Bloom Time: August to October
Bloom Description: Reddish-purple airy panicles
Sun: Full sun
Suggested Use: Groundcover, erosion control
Attracts: Birds (seed), some pollinators
Pollen/Nectar: Primarily wind-pollinated (minimal nectar)
Tolerate: Drought, sandy or poor soils
Native to: Jefferson County

The Purple Love Grass is a plant that saves its best for last, waiting until late summer to reveal one of the most unexpected and beautiful displays in the Jefferson County landscape. For much of the growing season, it remains understated, forming low clumps of fine-textured green foliage that blend quietly into fields and open ground.

But as August turns toward fall, the plant transforms. Airy, cloud -like plumes rise above the foliage, glowing with shades of soft purple, pink, and red. In the right light, especially in the early morning or at sunset, the effect is almost ethereal, as if a haze has settled just above the ground—a display that would inspire Prince. Entire patches of Purple Love Grass can appear to shimmer, giving movement and color to otherwise fading summer fields.

Despite its delicate appearance, *Eragrostis spectabilis* is remarkably tough. It thrives in dry, sandy, and nutrient-poor soils where many other plants struggle. This adaptability made it a natural component of open pastures, roadside banks, and disturbed ground throughout Jefferson County, where sunlight and thin soils allowed it to flourish.

It supports 14 species of butterflies and moths. Its seeds provide food for birds such as sparrows and finches, while its dense clumps offer cover for small wildlife and ground-nesting species. The name “Love Grass” is believed to come from the delicate, graceful nature of its flowering plumes—light, airy, and fleeting, yet memorable. It is a plant that rewards patience, revealing its beauty just as the growing season begins to fade. ■

Purple Prairie Clover

(*Dalea purpurea*)

Height: 1 to 3 feet
Spread: 1 to 3 feet
Bloom Time: June to August
Bloom Description: Rose to Purple
Sun: Full Sun
Attracts: Butterflies and Bees
Tolerate: Drought, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

This Ohio Native is so desired by bees and butterflies that it goes by a nom de plum, as the plant is not a clover but a legume. However, no matter the name, there is no hiding this aesthetically pleasing showstopper.

Purple prairie clover is a perennial wildflower native to Ohio and the central United States. It is native to the prairies of the Midwest and has been used for land reclamation after strip mining, preventing erosion and adding nitrogen to the soil.

As it is a legume with a long taproot and is a protein source for grazing herbivores, as well as a nectar source for many pollinators. The taproot also helps break up hard soils and draw nutrients upward, assisting in rebuilding the soil layers.

Dense cone-shaped spikes emerge from the top of the plants that are 1-2 inches long and sport tiny purple flowers in early to mid-summer. Flowers begin opening from the bottom of the spike and ascend upward throughout the season. Individual flowers are ¼" across, with 5 purple petals and 5 protruding goldish-orange anthers.

Emily Dickinson wrote of the plant stating ""To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee, One clover, and a bee, And revery. The revery alone will do, If bees are few"

Seeds possess an enormous potential for survival. It is not unusual for seeds that are 100 years old or more, to grow when planted. During WWII in England, the bomb craters blossomed with flowers and other plants that were thought to have been extinct. Evidently, the seeds were sleeping deep in the earth until brought again to the surface, where light and moisture caused them to germinate. Prairie Clover seeds often lie dormant through the harsh winter, and germinate in the spring when temperatures are warm and rainfall is adequate. ■

Rattlesnake Master

(*Eryngium yuccifolium*)

Height: 3 to 5 feet
Spread: 2 to 3 feet
Bloom Time: June to August
Bloom Description: White to greenish spherical flowers
Sun: Full sun
Suggested Use: Pollinator gardens, prairie plantings, native landscapes
Attracts: Bees, butterflies, beneficial insects
Pollen/Nectar: Produces both nectar and pollen (excellent pollinator plant)
Tolerate: Drought, poor soils
Native to: Jefferson County

The Rattlesnake Master is a plant that seems to belong to another landscape—one of open prairies and sun-baked ground—yet it finds a home in pockets of Jefferson County, where sunlight and well-drained soils prevail. With its bold, architectural form and yucca-like leaves, this native perennial stands apart from the softer textures of surrounding wildflowers.

The name *Eryngium yuccifolium* reflects its appearance: spiny, sword-like leaves radiate from the base, giving the plant a striking, almost sculptural presence. In early summer, stiff stems rise above the foliage, topped with globe-shaped flower heads that resemble small ivory pincushions. These unusual blooms are subtle in color but remarkable in structure, drawing attention upon closer inspection.

While not showy in the traditional sense, Rattlesnake Master is a magnet for life. Bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and butterflies crowd the flower heads, making it one of the most active pollinator plants in any meadow setting. Ecologically, it serves as a host for 27 species of butterflies and moths, contributing to the intricate web of life that supports birds and other wildlife.

As the season progresses, the flower heads dry and persist into fall, adding texture and winter interest to the landscape. The seeds provide food for birds, while the rigid stems offer structure for overwintering insects.

Native Americans used preparations from the root as a treatment for rattlesnake bites, giving rise to its memorable common name. While such uses are no longer practiced, the name endures as a reminder of the plant's place in cultural history.■

Showy Goldenrod

(*Solidago speciosa*)

Height: 2 to 3 feet
Spread: 2 to 3 feet
Bloom Time: July to September
Bloom Description: Yellow
Sun: Full Sun
Attracts: Bumblebees, Butterflies, Honeybees
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Clay Soil
Native to Jefferson County

Showy goldenrod is a native perennial wildflower that grows from 1 -5 feet tall. It forms fibrous and rhizomatous roots, allowing the plant to spread and grow into multi-stemmed clumps. The stem hardens as plants mature and varies in color between green, red, or burgundy. The smooth to finely bristled or rough, narrow leaves grow alternately along the stem. Leaves taper in size, becoming winged petioles as they reach the inflorescence.

Showy goldenrod produces a club-shaped inflorescence that bears a tight cluster of bright yellow florets. Flowers bloom from July to September and are inundated with pollinators. A single plant can produce up to five stems and over three hundred flower heads. Seeds form by late fall or early winter, and the yellow inflorescence turns into a gray cluster providing winter interest.

This is one of the showiest of about 125 species of goldenrod that occur throughout the United States. Showy goldenrod, unlike other goldenrods, does not bend or droop.

Showy Goldenrod supports Wavy-lined Emerald larvae. The flowers are attractive to butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Goldenrod is a food source to a large quantity of specialized bees. Songbirds eat the seeds creating a flurry of activity in the fall with gold finches, chickadees, tufted titmouse, all savoring the seed. ■

Sweet Black-eyed Susan

(*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*)

Height: 3 to 5 feet
Spread:1 to 2 feet
Bloom Time: July to October
Bloom Description: Yellow Rays & Brownish Purple Center Disks
Sun: Full Sun to Part Shade
Attracts: Bees
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Clay Soils

Sweet Black-eyed Susan is a herbaceous perennial in the daisy family. It grows 3 to 5 feet tall and blooms with bright yellow flowers that attract pollinators. The species epithet means "slightly or nearly hairy," referring to the condition of the stems and leaves.

Sweet Black-eyed Susan prefers medium moisture, well-drained loam or sandy loam, and full or partial sun. However, it is an easy going plant and tolerates hot and humid summers, some drought, clay soil, poor soils and is deer resistant.

Sweet Black-eyed Susan is a good choice for naturalized areas. Sweet coneflower flowers are yellow flowers with dark brownish-purple center disks on branched stems. The flowers faintly smell of anise, which is where the name derives.

The plant is a larval host plant for Silvery Checkerspot caterpillars which have one brood in the north and two broods from May-September in the rest of its range. The adults feed on nectar from red clover, common milkweed, and dogbane. Bees and other polinators are attracted by the pollen and nectar of the flowers. Caterpillars of various butterfly species also feed on the plant. ▪

Wild Bergamot

(*Monarda fistulosa*)

Height: 2 to 4 feet
Spread: 1 to 3 feet
Bloom Time: July to September
Bloom Description: Pink Flowers
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Attracts: Hummingbirds and Butterflies
Tolerate: Deer, Drought, Clay Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil, Walnut
Native to Jefferson County

In late summer, the trails of the Quaker Ridge Preserve are lined with the blooms of Wild Bergamot and the air is filled with the buzz of the bees and the flashes of hummingbirds zipping about.

Wild Bergamot, commonly called bee balm, is a native herbaceous perennial that occurs in dryish soils on prairies, dry rocky woods and glade margins, unplanted fields, and along roads and railroads. It is a clump-forming, mint family member that grows typically to 2-4' tall.

Wild Bergamot is noted for the color and textural contrast it provides to the landscape. This plant is highly tolerant of Juglone toxicity and can be planted directly below black walnut trees.

Wild Bergamot is highly desired by Ruby Throated Hummingbirds. The Xerces Society has identified this plant as having special value to beneficial insects, including native bees, bumble bees, honey bees, and as a plant that supports biological control by attracting predatory or parasitoid insects that prey on pests.

Deer, rabbits and other herbivores find the plant unpalatable and generally leave it alone.

The scent from the flowers and crushed leaves are a spicy mint flavor that is one of the main ingredients of several old aftershaves and soaps, and will transport those who smell it back in time to sitting with your Grandpa. ■

Native Plant Sale Order Form

To request a color catalog, please call 740.264.9790 or email Leah Akers at: lakers@jeffersoncountyoh.com

QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED

PREFERRED METHOD TO ORDER & PAY IS ONLINE AT
www.jeffersonswcd.org

Species are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Online ordering is recommended to ensure the species is available at the time of purchase.

Online orders are processed immediately. If you mail in an order form with payment some species may no longer be available by the time it reaches the office.

PAYABLE TO:
Jefferson SWCD
500 Market St, Suite 4
Steubenville, Ohio
43952
740-264-9790

ORDER DEADLINE:

Friday—**MAY 1st**

PICK-UP:
Thursday, **May 7th**

PICK-UP LOCATION:
JSWCD Office, Towers Building Parking Lot
Steubenville, Ohio

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Trees	Size	Price	Qty	Total
American Basswood—Tilia americana	3 gal/3-5 ft	$30.00		
Black Walnut—Juglans nigra	2.5 gal/3-4 ft	$30.00		
Eastern Hoptree—Ptelea trifoliata	2 gal/2-3 ft	$25.00		
Flowering Dogwood—Cornus florida	3 gal/1-3 ft	$25.00		
Hazelnut—Corylus americana	3 gal	$25.00		
Hybrid Chestnut—Castanea dentata x mollissima	3 gal/3-5 ft	$35.00		
Possumhaw Holly—Ilex decidua	3 gal/2-3 ft	$25.00		
Shumard Oak—Quercus shumardii	3 gal/1-5 ft	$25.00		
White Oak—Quercus alba	3 gal/1-3 ft	$25.00		
White Pine—Pinus strobus	3 gal/1-2 ft	$25.00		
Yellow Birch—Betula allegheniensis	2 gal/4-5 ft	$30.00		
Shrubs	**Size**			
Vernal Witch Hazel—Hamamelis vernalis	3 gal/2-3 ft	$25.00		
Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac—Rhus aromatica	3 gal	$25.00		
Highbush Blueberry—Vaccinium corymbosum	3 gal/2-3 ft	$25.00		
Pasture Gooseberry—Ribes cynosbati	3 gal/1-2 ft	$25.00		
Red Chokeberry—Aronia arbutifolia	2 gal/2-3 ft	$25.00		
Virgin's Bower—Clematis virginiana	3 gal/2-3 ft	$25.00		
Wooly Pipevine—Aristolochia tomentosa	3 gal/2-3 ft	$25.00		
Herbaceous Plants—Flowering	**Size**			
Butterfly Weed—Asclepias tuberosa	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Clustered Mountain Mint—*Pycnanthemum muticum*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Dense Blazing Star—*Liatris spicata*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Early Sunflower—*Heliopsis helianthoides*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Large-flowered Beardtongue—*Penstemon grandiflorus*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Maximilian's Sunflower—*Helianthus maximiliani*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Purple Love Grass—*Eragrostis spectabilis*	1 gal	$12.00		
Purple Prairie Clover—*Dalea purpurea*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Rattlesnake Master—*Eryngium yuccifolium*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Showy Goldenrod—*Solidago speciosa*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Sweet Black-Eyed Susan—*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
Wild Bergamot—*Monarda fistulosa*	1 gal/1-2 ft	$12.00		
			Total	
			Sales Tax (7.25%)	
			Grand Total	

Jefferson Soil & Water
Conservation District
500 Market Street
Mezzanine, Suite 4

JSWCD Mission Statement

"Promoting Conservation of Our Lands and Waters"

We are online and on Facebook
www.jeffersonswcd.org

What's Happening

JSWCD Board Meeting · April 20
Native Tree and Plant Sale Pick-up · May 7
JSWCD Board Meeting · May 18
Memorial Day (Office Closed) · May 25
JSWCD Board Meeting · June 15
Juneteenth (Office Closed) · June 19
Independence Day (Office Closed) · July 3
Brunch on the Farm (Mercer Farm) - July 18
JSWCD Board Meeting · July 20
Jefferson County Fair · August 17-23
JSWCD Board Meeting · August 17
Labor Day (Office Closed) · September 7
JSWCD Board Meeting · September 21
Farm Science Review · September 22-24
Columbus Day (Office Closed) · October 12
JSWCD Board Meeting · October 19
Veterans Day (Office Closed) · November 11
JSWCD Board Meeting · November 16
Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed) · November 26
JSWCD Board Meeting · December 21
Christmas (Office Closed) · December 25

If you would like to stop receiving printed newsletters and would prefer to receive electronic versions via email, please instruct us by contacting us at 740-264-9790 or abrowning@jeffersoncountyoh.com

We appreciate your help in minimizing unwanted printed mail.

If you still want the print issue, no action is required.

Please Don't Hang Up!
Our phone number is still the same at the District (740)264-9790, but since we are part of the county's phone system, it shows up on CALLER ID as (740)283-8500 JEFFERSON CN