

Instead of Autumn Olive
(*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

Pick a native!

Downy Serviceberry
Amelanchier arborea



American Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana



B Spring flowers followed by berries in the fall make each a favorite for pollinators and birds.

Instead of Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

Pick a native!

Fringetree
Chionanthus virginicus



Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis



B



C

The redbud grows lovely heart-shaped leaves, and both trees provide spring flowers and beautiful fall color.

What is a native plant?

A New Jersey native plant is a plant that grew here before European colonists arrived. The physical conditions of NJ foster plants, animals, and insects that have evolved together to create ecosystems. The living things in an ecosystem depend on one another and may not be able to survive if part of the ecosystem is missing. For example, many butterflies cannot exist without specific plants that are the food source for their caterpillars. Native plants are critical to the existence of our native birds, butterflies, moths, and other insects.

Some non-native plants are aggressive and crowd out critically important native plants. These plants are known as invasives, and cause widespread environmental and economic damage. Many invasive plants are unfortunately still available for purchase in garden centers in NJ.

You can help the birds, insects, and native plants around you by choosing natives and avoiding planting invasive plants.

Why scientific names are important:

Plant labels usually display two different names.

The **scientific name** is derived from Latin and shows two parts, the genus and the species. For example, flowering dogwood is *Cornus florida* whereas red twigged dogwood is *Cornus sericea*.

The **common name** follows and may differ by region. One plant can go by multiple common names. *Cornus sericea* is known both as red twigged dogwood and red osier dogwood. To avoid confusion and mistakes, look for the scientific name when you shop for a native plant.



Good for birds



Good for Pollinators

Deer Resistance



Rarely damaged



Occasionally damaged



Seldom damaged



Frequently damaged

For more information about the Native Plant Society of New Jersey, go to our website:

npsnj.org



The Native Plant Society
of New Jersey



Guide to Replacing
Invasive Plants with Natives

Instead of Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)

Pick a native!

Black Gum
Nyssa sylvatica



Red Maple
Acer rubrum



B Birds and butterflies prefer these native trees, which exhibit outstanding fall color.

Instead of Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

Pick a native!

Virginia Sweetspire
Itea virginiana



Nannyberry
Viburnum lentago

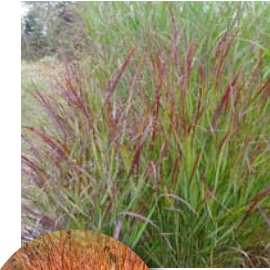


B Unlike burning bush, both sweetspire and nannyberry produce beautiful spring flowers in addition to stunning fall color.

Instead of Silver Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

Pick a native!

Switchgrass
Panicum virgatum



Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium



A Summer and winter colors of switchgrass and little bluestem provide multi-season interest. Both grasses support the larvae of butterflies and moths.

Instead of Japanese Spirea (*Spirea japonica*)

Pick a native!

Ninebark
Physocarpus opulifolius



N. Bush Honeysuckle
Diervilla lonicera



C Ninebark blooms in spring and honeysuckle in summer. They both offer nice fall color as well.

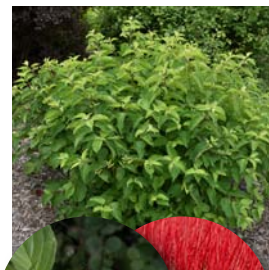
Instead of Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

Pick a native!

New Jersey Tea
Ceanothus americanus



Red Osier dogwood
Cornus sericea



B These shrubs provide red fall color, flowers in the spring and Red osier offers red berries for winter interest.

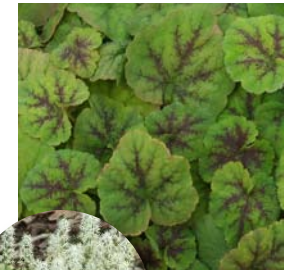
Instead of Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)

Pick a native!

Common Violet
Viola sororia



Foamflower
Tiarella cordifolia



B Both wild violets and foamflower have lovely spring flowers and interesting leaves, but are more easily contained than periwinkle. The common violet is the New Jersey State flower.