

Recommended Native Planting Information for SHMHA –updated June 2023

Please Note: This is not a complete list so please research to choose plants that are deer resistant, right-sized, non-invasive plants, ideally using native plants. See list of resources at bottom of page. Deer resistance may be less when plants are young; best to spray repellent until plant is established.

* dual use as shrub or small tree

** non-native but deer resistant

Conifer Shrubs

Common Name	Latin Name/ variety	Size	Exposure	Traits
Branch Cypress	Chamaecyparis pisifera filifera 'Golden Charm	3-4' high and wide	Sun/part sun	Slow grower; golden new foliage
Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce	Picea pungens 'Globosa'	3-5" high and 5-6' wide	Full sun/part shade	Rounded shape; slow grower; blueish needles
Juniper	Juniperus virginiana 'Grey Owl'; "Blue Star"; many varieties from low growers to hedge size	3' high and 6' wide (grey owl) 3' high and 4' wide (blue star)	Sun	Grey Owl: good for mass plantings, tall groundcover or low growing hedge Blue Star: low border or mass plantings
Mini Moss False Cypress	Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Squarrosa Minima'	2-3' high and wide	Full/part sun	Globe shaped; slow grower
**Siberian Cypress	Microbiota decussata 'Celtic Pride'	1'-3' high x 4'-6'wide	Full/partial shade	Winter interest

Deciduous Shrubs

Common Name	Latin Name/variety	Size	Exposure	Traits
American Beautyberry	Callicarpa americana	3-6' high and wide	Full/partial sun	Lovely purple berries in the Fall
*Am Witch Hazel	Hamamelis virginiana	10-15'	Sun/part shade	Shrub or small tree
Bottlebrush buckeye	Aesculus parviflora	8-12' h x 12-15' wide	Full/part sun/shade	Good for large scale plantings
Buttonbush	Cephalanthus occidentalis	6-12' h	Part to full shade	Interesting flowers; prefers moist soil
Bush Cinquefoil	Potentilla fruticosa	3' high x 3'wide	Sun/Partial sun	Salt tolerant
Harry Lauder Walking Stick	Corylus contorta	4-8' high and wide	Sun/partial shade	Interesting gnarled branches
Northern Bayberry	Myrica pennsylvanica	5-10'high and wide	Full sun/partial shade	Don't confuse with barberry; Fragrant, dense foliage
Oakleaf Hydrangea	Hydrangea quercifloia	4-6' high and wide	Full/partial sun	
Old Fashioned Weigelia	Weigelia florida	Compact to large varieties	Full sun/partial shade	Needs pruning but blooms all summer
Red Twig Dogwood	Cornus Sericea	6-9' high x 7-10' wide	Full sun/partial shade	Bright red stems; fast grower
*Serviceberry	Amelanchier sp.	15-30' high and wide	Full sun/partial shade	Can be a large shrub or small tree
Spicebush/Common sweetshrub	Calycanthus floridus	8' high and wide	Full/partial sun	prized for its strong spicy fragrance
Summersweet	Clethra	3-5' high x 5-8'wide	Sun/partial shade	Year round interest
Virginia Rose	Rosa virginiana	4-6' high and wide	Full sun/partial shade	Easy to grow

Evergreen Shrubs

Common Name	Latin Name/variety	Size	Exposure	Traits
Boxwood (Winter Gem)	(Buxus sinica var. insularis 'Winter Gem')	Slow grower to 5'	Full sun/part shade	disease resistant variety; cold hardy
Inkberry Holly	Ilex glabra "Strongbox"	3' rounded	Full sun/partial sun	Alt to boxwood; more disease resistant
*Mountain Laurel	Kalmia latifolia	4-15'h but check variety sizes	Full sun/part shade (best)	shrub or tree ; doesn't do well in clay soils
*Rosebay rhododendron	Rhododendron maximum	10-20'h	Partial shade/shade	Doesn't do well in clay soil; more deer resistant; shrub or tree

Groundcovers

Common Name	Latin Name/variety	Size	Exposure	Traits
**European wild ginger	Asarum europaeum	6"-12" high	Part sun/shade	Perennial; slow grower
**Japanese Forest grass	All Gold	6"-12" high	Part shade/shade	Slow grower
**Lamium	Many varieties	6"-12" high	Part shade/shade	Use only in an area where it can be contained
Pennsylvania Sedge Grass	Carex pensylvanica	6"-12" high	Part shade/shade	Dies back in winter; lawn alt in shade areas

Perennials

Common Name	Latin Name/variety	Size	Exposure	Traits
Creeping Sedum	Sedum reflexum	6"-8" high	Sun/part shade	Yellow flowers
Eastern Bluestar	Amsonia tabernaemontana	1'-3' high	Part shade	Pretty blue flowers
Foam Flower	Tiarella cordiflora	3"-10" high	Part sun/shade	Delicate flowers
Ferns	Christmas, Ostrich	2' (Christmas)-4' (Ostrich)	Part shade/shade	
False Indigo	Baptisia australis	2'-4' high	Full sun	Yellow or blue flowers
**Lenten Rose	Helleborus	2' high	Partial shade/full shade	Blooms in late winter; evergreen leaves; can be used as groundcover
**Montauk Daisy	Nippon daisy	3" high	Full sun	Blooms late summer
**Peonies		3' high	Full sun	Fragrant flowers; easy to grow; pretty foliage
**Russian Sage	Perovskia atriplicifolia	3' high	Full sun	Pretty flowers that last all summer; fragrant leaves
Wild geranium	<u>geranium maculatum</u>	18"-24" tall	Part sun/shade	Fragrant leaves

Trees (recommended because less than 35' high among other criteria)

Common Name	Latin Name/variety	Size	Exposure	Traits
American Mountain Ash	Sorbus americana	15-35' high	Partial sun	

American Snowbell	Styrax Americana	4-12' high	Full sun/shade	
*Am Witch Hazel	Hamamelis virginiana	10-15'	Sun/part shade	Shrub or small tree
Dogwood	Cornus kousa and florida	15-25'h	Full sun/part shade	Red fruits
Crabapples	Malus sp.	15-30'h	Sun/part shade	
Eastern Redbud	Cercis canadensis	20-30'h	Full sun/part shade	
Ironwood	Carpinus coroliana	15-20'h	Sun/shade	
**Japanese Maple	Acer palmatum	dwarf to 25'	Partial sun	Take care to establish then easy-to-grow and hardy.
*Junipers	Juniperous sp.	Various-check!	Full sun	Evergreen conifer
Mountain Laurel	Kalmia latifolia	4-15'h	Full sun/part shade	Evergreen shrub or tree; doesn't do well in clay soils
Mountain Camellia/Stewartia	Stewartia ovata	10-15'h and w	Full sun/part sun	Small tree or shrub
*Rosebay rhododendron	Rhododendron maximum	10-20'h	Partial shade/shade	Doesn't do well in clay soil; more deer resistant; shrub or tree
*Serviceberry	Amelanchier sp.	15-30' high and wide	Full sun/partial shade	Can be a large shrub or small tree ; important food source for birds
** Siberian Cypress	Microbiota decussata "Celtic Pride"	1'-3' high and 3'-6' wide	Full sun/partial shade	Winter interest
Sweetbay Magnolia	Magnolia virginiana	10-20' high	Best in full sun/partial shade	Large white flowers; red fruits; fast grower
Western Arborvitae	Thuja plicata "spring grove"	20-30'h x 12'w	Full Sun/part shade	Deer resistant variety; Evergreen conifer

Sun exposure description:

Full sun – at least 6 hours of direct sun/day

Part sun – 3-6 hours of direct sun/day

Part shade – 3-6 hours of sun/day

Full shade – less than 3 hours of direct sun/day

Additional reference: Urban Tree Management Plan for SHMHA (performed 2007)

Online Resources:

www.audubon.org/native-plants (National Audubon Society plant finder)

www.aswp.org/pages/native-plant-resources (Audubon Society of Western PA)

www.monrovia.com and www.provenwinners.com (commercial plant site but with good descriptions and pics)

www.treepittsburg.org (local non-profit dedicated to enhancing the urban forest through tree planting and care)

www.treevitalize.org (partners with local organizations to restore tree cover in PA communities)