



# Native Shrubs: Guide to Landscape Uses

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Native shrubs can be used to create attractive, sustainable landscapes that blend naturally with the surrounding flora. Landscapes composed of native plants are considered sustainable since native shrubs do not pose the threat of introducing new species to an area. When established in landscape sites similar to their natural habitat, native shrubs require little maintenance, are well adapted to local soils and climates and attract beneficial wildlife to the garden. The information in this guide describes landscape adaptability which may extend beyond what is expected for a species based on its natural habitat. However, these recommendations are based on findings from applied research. For more information contact [Jessica.Lubell@uconn.edu](mailto:Jessica.Lubell@uconn.edu)

## Hedge, screen or border

- *Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry)
- *Aronia melanocarpa* (black chokeberry)
- *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (buttonbush)
- *Cornus amomum* (silky dogwood)
- *Cornus racemosa* (gray dogwood)
- *Cornus rugosa* (round leaf dogwood)
- *Morella pensylvanica* (northern bayberry)
- *Physocarpus opulifolius* (eastern ninebark)  
Cultivars: Diablo®; 'Luteus'; Summer Wine™
- *Rhododendron maximum* (rosebay)
- *Rhus copallina* (shining sumac)
- *Rhus typhina* (staghorn sumac)  
Cultivars: 'Laciniata'; Tiger Eyes®
- *Sambucus canadensis* (elderberry)
- *Vaccinium corymbosum* (highbush blueberry)
- *Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood viburnum)
- *Viburnum trilobum* (American cranberrybush)



***Sambucus canadensis***



**Above: *Viburnum dentatum***

**Left: *Physocarpus opulifolius* Diablo®**





**Hedge, screen or border continued**



***Morella pensylvanica***



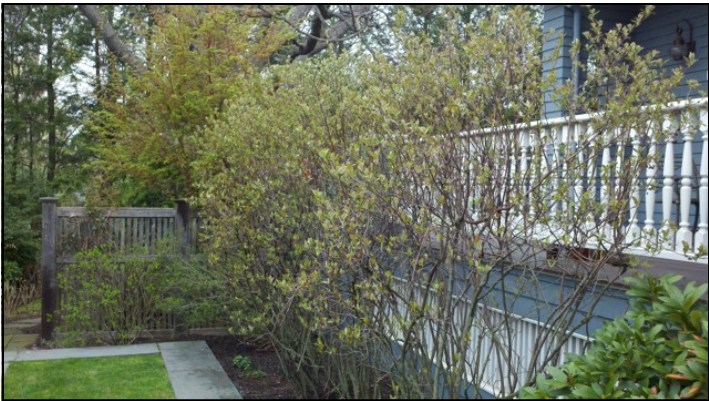
***Morella pensylvanica***



***Cornus rugosa***



***Viburnum trilobum***



**Above: *Aronia arbutifolia*  
Right: *Morella pensylvanica***





### Low groundcovers

- *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (bearberry)
- *Juniperus horizontalis* (creeping juniper)  
Cultivars: 'Blue Chip'; 'Mother Lode'; 'Wiltonii'
- *Prunus pumila* var. *depressa* (creeping sand cherry)
- *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-low' (fragrant sumac)



*Juniperus horizontalis*



*Prunus pumila* var. *depressa*

### Foundation or low, mass plantings

- *Clethra alnifolia* (summersweet)
- *Comptonia peregrina* (sweet fern)
- *Cornus sericea* (redtwig dogwood)
- *Corylus americana* (American filbert)
- *Corylus cornuta* (beaked filbert)
- *Diervilla lonicera* (northern bush honeysuckle)
- *Eubotrys racemosa* (sweetbells)
- *Ilex glabra* (inkberry holly)
- *Ilex verticillata* (winterberry holly)
- *Itea virginica* (sweetspire)  
Cultivar: 'Little Henry'
- *Juniperus communis* (common juniper)
- *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel)
- *Morella pensylvanica* (northern bayberry)
- *Myrica gale* (sweet gale)
- *Physocarpus opulifolius* (eastern ninebark)  
Cultivars: 'Dart's Gold'; 'Donna May'; 'Nugget'; Summer Wine™
- *Potentilla fruticosa* (bush cinquefoil)
- *Spiraea latifolia* (meadowsweet)
- *Spiraea tomentosum* (steeplebush)
- *Vaccinium angustifolium* (lowbush blueberry)



*Comptonia peregrina*



**Foundation or low, mass plantings continued**



*Diervilla lonicera*



*Itea virginica*



*Juniperus communis*



*Cornus sericea*



*Potentilla fruticosa*



*Vaccinium angustifolium*



**Sunny slope (low plants)**

- *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (bearberry)
- *Ceanothus americanus* (New Jersey tea)
- *Comptonia peregrina* (sweet fern)
- *Diervilla lonicera* (northern bush honeysuckle)
- *Juniperus communis* (common juniper)
- *Prunus pumila* var. *depressa* (creeping sand cherry)
- *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-low' (fragrant sumac)
- *Spiraea tomentosum* (steepleshrub)

**Sunny slope (tall plants)**

- *Rhus copallina* (shining sumac)
- *Rhus typhina* (staghorn sumac)
- *Rhus aromatica* (fragrant sumac)



***Comptonia peregrina***



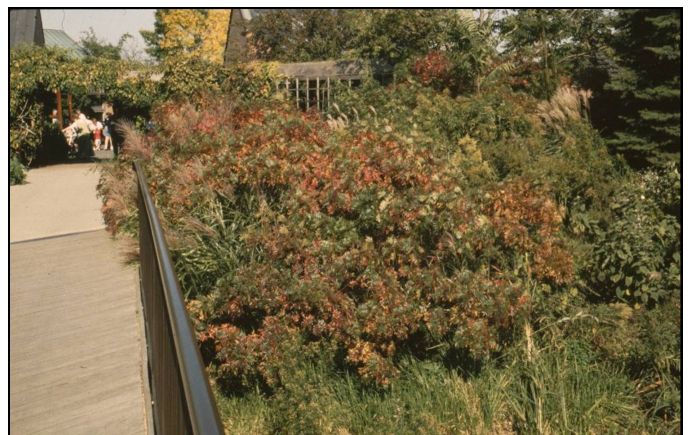
***Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-low'**



***Spiraea tomentosum***



***Rhus typhina* 'Tiger Eyes'**



***Rhus copallina***



**Shady slope**

- *Diervilla lonicera* (northern bush honeysuckle)
- *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel)
- *Rhododendron maximum* (rosebay)
- *Viburnum acerifolium* (maple leaf viburnum)



***Rhododendron maximum***



***Diervilla lonicera***



***Juniperus horizontalis***

**Evergreen**

- *Ilex glabra* (inkberry holly)
- *Juniperus communis* (common juniper)
- *Juniperus horizontalis* (creeping juniper)
- *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel)
- *Rhododendron maximum* (rosebay)



***Ilex glabra***



***Rhododendron maximum***



**Dry, full sun**

- *Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry)
- *Aronia melanocarpa* (black chokeberry)
- *Comptonia peregrina* (sweet fern)
- *Cornus racemosa* (gray dogwood)
- *Corylus americana* (American filbert)
- *Corylus cornuta* (beaked filbert)
- *Diervilla lonicera* (northern bush honeysuckle)
- *Juniperus communis* (common juniper)
- *Juniperus horizontalis* (creeping juniper)
- *Morella pensylvanica* (northern bayberry)
- *Potentilla fruticosa* (bush cinquefoil)
- *Prunus pumila* var. *depressa* (creeping sand cherry)
- *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-low' (fragrant sumac)
- *Rhus copallina* (shining sumac)



***Diervilla lonicera***



***Corylus cornuta***



***Morella pensylvanica***



***Rhus copallina***



***Juniperus communis***



Dry, full sun continued



*Diervilla lonicera*



*Corylus americana*



Above and below: *Aronia melanocarpa*



*Morella pensylvanica*



Above: *Comptonia peregrina*  
Below: *Aronia arbutifolia*





**Dry, part shade**

- *Amelanchier stolonifera* (running serviceberry)
- *Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry)
- *Aronia melanocarpa* (black chokeberry)
- *Comptonia peregrina* (sweet fern)
- *Corylus americana* (American filbert)
- *Corylus cornuta* (beaked filbert)
- *Diervilla lonicera* (northern bush honeysuckle)
- *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel)
- *Viburnum acerifolium* (maple leaf viburnum)



***Kalmia latifolia***



***Comptonia peregrina***



***Aronia arbutifolia***



***Aronia arbutifolia***



**Well-drained, full sun**

- *Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry)
- *Aronia melanocarpa* (black chokeberry)
- *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (buttonbush)
- *Comptonia peregrina* (sweet fern)
- *Cornus amomum* (silky dogwood)
- *Cornus racemosa* (gray dogwood)
- *Cornus sericea* (redtwig dogwood)
- *Corylus americana* (American filbert)
- *Corylus cornuta* (beaked filbert)
- *Diervilla lonicera* (northern bush honeysuckle)
- *Ilex glabra* (inkberry holly)
- *Ilex verticillata* (winterberry holly)
- *Itea virginica* (sweetspire)
- *Juniperus communis* (common juniper)
- *Juniperus horizontalis* (creeping juniper)
- *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel)
- *Morella pensylvanica* (northern bayberry)
- *Myrica gale* (sweet gale)
- *Physocarpus opulifolius* (eastern ninebark)
- *Potentilla fruticosa* (bush cinquefoil)
- *Prunus pumila* var. *depressa* (creeping sand cherry)
- *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-low' (fragrant sumac)
- *Rhus copallina* (shining sumac)
- *Sambucus canadensis* (elderberry)
- *Spiraea latifolia* (meadowsweet)
- *Spiraea tomentosum* (steeplebush)
- *Vaccinium angustifolium* (lowbush blueberry)
- *Vaccinium corymbosum* (highbush blueberry)
- *Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood viburnum)
- *Viburnum cassinoides* (withrod viburnum)
- *Viburnum nudum* (smooth viburnum)



***Aronia arbutifolia***



***Cornus racemosa***



***Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Donna May'**



**Well-drained, full sun continued**



***Viburnum nudum***



***Spiraea tomentosum***



***Morella pensylvanica***



***Viburnum cassinoides***



***Cephalanthus occidentalis***



***Myrica gale***



**Moist, full sun**

- *Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry)
- *Aronia melanocarpa* (black chokeberry)
- *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (buttonbush)
- *Cornus amomum* (silky dogwood)
- *Cornus racemosa* (gray dogwood)
- *Cornus sericea* (redtwig dogwood)
- *Eubotrys racemosa* (sweetbells)
- *Ilex glabra* (inkberry holly)
- *Ilex verticillata* (winterberry holly)
- *Morella pensylvanica* (northern bayberry)
- *Myrica gale* (sweet gale)
- *Sambucus canadensis* (elderberry)
- *Spiraea latifolia* (meadowsweet)
- *Spiraea tomentosum* (steeplebush)



***Ilex glabra***



***Cornus sericea***

**Moist, part shade**

- *Clethra alnifolia* (summersweet)
- *Cornus amomum* (silky dogwood)
- *Cornus racemosa* (gray dogwood)



***Cephalanthus occidentalis***



***Eubotrys racemosa***



***Clethra alnifolia***



### Native shrub combinations

*Cornus rugosa* (round leaf dogwood)

*Comptonia peregrina* (sweet fern)

*Juniperus horizontalis* (creeping juniper)

*Physocarpus opulifolius* Diablo® (eastern ninebark)

*Rhus typhina* 'Tiger Eyes' (staghorn sumac)

*Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-low' (fragrant sumac)

*Rhus copallina* (shining sumac)

*Ilex glabra* (inkberry holly)

*Prunus pumila* var. *depressa* (creeping sand cherry)

*Viburnum trilobum* (American cranberrybush)

*Potentilla fruticosa* (bush cinquefoil)

*Prunus pumila* var. *depressa* (creeping sand cherry)

*Cornus sericea* (red twig dogwood)

*Itea virginica* 'Little Henry' (sweetspire)

*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (bearberry)

*Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood viburnum)

*Ilex verticillata* (winterberry holly)

*Spiraea tomentosum* (steepleshub)



**Wild *Juniperus communis* and *Spiraea latifolia* atop Mt. Megunticook, Maine.**

### Select nurseries offering native shrubs

Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT

Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery, Woodbury, CT

Fiddlehead Creek Nursery, Fort Ann, NY

Planters' Choice, Newtown, CT

Pierson Nurseries, Biddeford, ME

Prides Corner Farms, Lebanon, CT

New England Wetland Plants, Amherst, CT

White Oak Nursery, Geneva, NY

Woodland Trails Wildflower Nursery, Eastford, CT

### Places to see native shrubs in the landscape

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Boothbay, ME

Connecticut College, New London, CT

Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery, Woodbury, CT

Garden in the Woods, Framingham, MA

Woodland Trails Wildflower Nursery, Eastford, CT

