Native plants for birds and wildlife: *Little Rock & Central Arkansas*

Little Rock and the central region

Central Arkansas is a meeting place: the Ouachita foothills, with oak–hickory–pine forest, give way to the Arkansas River valley's floodplains and terraces. Expect everything from dry, rocky ridges to deep bottomland soil.

> Shortleaf pine and dry-site oaks on ridges and slopes; Shumard oak and holly where the soil holds more moisture.

SHADE AND CANOPY TREES



Shortleaf pine *Pinus echinata*

Dry, sandy, acidic soils; ridges and slopes

Cover and nest sites; its seeds feed small mammals and seed-eating birds.



White oak *Quercus alba*

Sun to part shade; dry to moist, well-drained soil

Acorns are a favorite food of birds, squirrels, and deer. Host plant for hairstreak butterflies.



Southern red oak *Quercus falcata*

Dry upland sites; sandy or clay loam

Acorns for birds, rodents, and deer; nest sites and cover. Host for banded and White M hairstreaks.



Shumard oak *Quercus shumardii*

Moist uplands and stream banks

Acorns for birds and mammals, plus nest sites and cover. Host for Horace's duskywing.

SMALL FLOWERING AND FRUITING TREES



Flowering dogwood *Cornus florida*

Part shade; well-drained soil

Its fruit feeds birds, mammals, and deer. Host for the spring azure butterfly.



Fringetree *Chionanthus virginicus*

Part shade; moist soil

Its dark blue fruit is attractive to birds and other wildlife.



American holly *Ilex opaca*

Sun to shade; dry or moist soil

Berries feed many birds and small mammals; evergreen cover and nest sites.

SHRUBS



American beautyberry *Callicarpa americana*

Sun or part shade; drought tolerant

Seeds and berries are important food for many birds, especially bobwhite quail.



Rusty blackhaw *Viburnum rufidulum*

Dry, rocky woods; part shade

Fruit for birds and mammals; nectar for bees and butterflies.



Red buckeye *Aesculus pavia*

Part shade; moist soil

Early red flowers attract hummingbirds; squirrels eat the nuts. The seeds are poisonous to people.

FLOWERS, GRASSES, AND VINES



Purple coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*

Sun to part shade; well-drained soil

Nectar for butterflies and native bees.



Rough blazing star *Liatris aspera*

Full sun; dry soil

Nectar for many butterflies, from swallowtails to fritillaries.



Little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Sun; dry soil

Its seeds are of particular value to small birds in winter; host for skipper butterflies.

Before you plant

- Check each plant's size at maturity for the spot you have in mind.
- Keep trees that grow taller than 15 feet out from under power lines and at least 15 feet from them (University of Arkansas Extension).
- Call 811 before you dig.
- Ask a local native plant nursery what's in stock this season.

Skip these invasive plants (University of Arkansas Extension)

- Bradford (Callery) pear. Try redbud, dogwood, or serviceberry.
- Chinese privet. Try beautyberry, spicebush, or possumhaw.
- Japanese honeysuckle. Try native coral honeysuckle.

Every plant listed is native to Arkansas and Tennessee. Native ranges and wildlife notes: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center plant database (wildflower.org). Sun and soil: Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Regional conditions: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Arkansas Forestry Commission. Every source: magnoliatreecare.com/planting-for-wildlife/. General education only.

Magnolia Tree Care
Call or text (870) 340-2074
magnoliatreecare.com