Native plants for birds and wildlife: *Memphis & West Tennessee*

Memphis and nearby communities

Around Memphis, most of the land is loess plains: irregular plains with soils built from wind-blown silt. Along the river lies the flat Mississippi River floodplain. The tulip poplar is Tennessee's state tree.

> Upland oaks and tulip trees for well-drained yards; willow oak and blackgum where water sits after rain.

SHADE AND CANOPY TREES



Tulip tree (tulip poplar) *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Moist, rich soils

A favorite nesting tree; the flowers attract hummingbirds. Host for the eastern tiger swallowtail.



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.



Willow oak *Quercus phellos*

Moist soils, bottomlands, stream banks

Squirrels and other wildlife eat and spread its acorns; birds nest and forage in it.



Blackgum (tupelo) *Nyssa sylvatica*

Wet woods to drier sites; sun to shade

Its juicy fruit is eaten by many birds and mammals, and its flowers are a honey plant.

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.



Eastern redbud *Cercis canadensis*

Part shade; moist soil; fine on limestone

Early spring flowers of special value to native bees and bumble bees.



American holly *Ilex opaca*

Sun to shade; dry or moist soil

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

SHRUBS



Spicebush *Lindera benzoin*

Moist woods and stream banks; shade tolerant

Host plant for spicebush and eastern tiger swallowtail caterpillars.



American beautyberry *Callicarpa americana*

Sun or part shade; drought tolerant

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



Possumhaw *Ilex decidua*

Low, wet woods and river bottoms; sun to part shade

Its winter berries feed songbirds, gamebirds, and mammals.

FLOWERS, GRASSES, AND VINES



Purple coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*

Sun to part shade; well-drained soil

Nectar for butterflies and native bees.



Beebalm (wild bergamot) *Monarda fistulosa*

Sun; dry to moist soil

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and bumble bees.



Coral honeysuckle (vine) *Lonicera sempervirens*

Sun or part shade; on a fence or trellis

Hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies visit the flowers; quail, finches, and robins eat the fruit.

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
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