Native plants for birds and wildlife: *Northeast Arkansas (NEA)*

Jonesboro and the surrounding region

Most of the region is the Delta: nearly flat land with clayey, often poorly drained soils. Crowley's Ridge, a line of loess-capped hills with oak–hickory forest, rises out of it. In Arkansas, the tulip tree grows wild only on Crowley's Ridge.

> Plant for the ground you have: wet-tolerant trees and shrubs for low, heavy clay; upland oaks on better-drained ridge soils.

SHADE AND CANOPY TREES

Willow oak *Quercus phellos*

Moist soils, bottomlands, stream banks

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

Overcup oak *Quercus lyrata*

Poorly drained lowlands; tolerates flooding

A lowland oak that attracts migratory waterfowl.

Bald cypress *Taxodium distichum*

Wet, poorly drained soils; sun

Cover and nest sites for birds; seed-eating birds and small mammals eat the seeds.

Tulip tree (tulip poplar) *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Moist, rich soils

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

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.

River birch *Betula nigra*

Floodplains, stream banks, wet spots

Birds and small mammals eat the seeds.

SMALL FLOWERING AND FRUITING TREES

Persimmon *Diospyros virginiana*

Sun to part shade; dry or moist soil

Foxes, opossums, raccoons, deer, and birds eat the fruit. Host for the luna moth.

Possumhaw *Ilex decidua*

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

Its winter berries feed songbirds, gamebirds, and mammals.

Flowering dogwood *Cornus florida*

Part shade; well-drained soil

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

SHRUBS



Buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Wet spots and pond or ditch edges

Ducks and shorebirds eat the seeds; flowers are prized by bees and butterflies.



Elderberry *Sambucus canadensis*

Moist to wet soil; sun or part shade

Its berries are relished by many birds and mammals; flowers offer nectar.



American beautyberry *Callicarpa americana*

Sun or part shade; drought tolerant

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

FLOWERS, GRASSES, AND VINES



Cardinal flower *Lobelia cardinalis*

Sun or part shade; moist soil

Pollinated mainly by hummingbirds, which feed on its nectar.



Joe-Pye weed *Eutrochium fistulosum*

Sun; moist to wet soil

A magnet for pollinators; swamp sparrows eat the seeds.



Butterfly milkweed *Asclepias tuberosa*

Full sun; dry soil

Host plant for monarch caterpillars; nectar for butterflies and bees.

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