

Foragers' Forest

Tree & Shrub Species

Thicket Grove



[Flowering](#)
[Dogwood](#)

Cornus
florida

Height: 15-25 ft. **Width:** 15-30 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: occasionally dry - moist

Deciduous tree that occurs naturally in the forest understory. Its flowers are visited by pollinators, while its red fruits are a food source for songbirds, turkey, deer, black bears, and other wildlife. It's also the state tree of Virginia.

Wild populations are susceptible to an introduced blight (dogwood anthracnose). Populations on sunny edges with good air circulation show better resistance to the disease.



[American](#)
[Plum](#)




Prunus
americana




Height: 10-20 ft. **Width:** 15-25 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: occasionally dry - moist

Small, deciduous tree or shrub that blooms in early spring. Produces an edible plum that can be eaten raw, dried, or made into preserves. It suckers and can form large

		colonies or thickets.
	<p><u>Chickasaw</u> <u>Plum</u> <i>Prunus angustifolia</i></p>	<p>Height: 4-15 ft. Width: 4-20 ft. Light: partial shade - full sun Moisture: occasionally dry - moist</p> <p>Deciduous shrub that produces edible fruit that can be eaten raw or in preserves/jellies. Thickets formed by this shrub provide cover for wildlife. It's an important food source for pollinators and a larval host plant for several moth/butterfly species.</p>
	<p><u>Black</u> <u>Huckleberry</u> <i>Gaylussacia baccata</i></p>	<p>Height: 1-3 ft. Width: 2-4 ft. Light: partial shade - full sun Moisture: occasionally dry - moist</p> <p>Small shrub that tends to grow in acidic forests and woodlands. Produces an edible berry that can be eaten raw or cooked. As a member of the Heath family, this plant requires acidic soil.</p>
	<p><u>Blue Ridge</u> <u>Blueberry</u> <i>Vaccinium pallidum</i></p>	<p>Height: 2-3 ft. Width: 2-3 ft. Light: partial shade - deep shade Moisture: occasionally dry</p> <p>Small, deciduous shrub that produces edible berries. It has high wildlife value as the fruits are eaten by birds and mammals, and it's a butterfly host plant. As a member of the Heath family, this plant requires acidic soil.</p>

	<p><u>Highbush Blueberry</u></p> <p><i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i></p>	<p>Height: 6-12 ft. Width: 6-10 ft.</p> <p>Light: partial shade - full sun</p> <p>Moisture: occasionally dry - moist</p> <p>Upright, deciduous shrub that produces edible berries. As a member of the Heath family, this plant requires acidic soil.</p>
	<p><u>Smooth Serviceberry</u></p> <p><i>Amelanchier laevis</i></p>	<p>Height: 15-25 ft. Width: 15-20 ft.</p> <p>Light: dappled sunlight - full sun</p> <p>Moisture: occasionally dry - moist</p> <p>Deciduous tree or shrub that produces an edible drupe that tastes similar to a blueberry. It's a butterfly host plant, produces nectar for pollinators, and its fruits are eaten by birds and mammals.</p>
	<p><u>American Hazelnut</u></p> <p><i>Corylus americana</i></p>	<p>Height: 9-12 ft. Width: 8-13 ft.</p> <p>Light: deep shade - full sun</p> <p>Moisture: occasionally dry - moist</p> <p>Deciduous, suckering shrub that produces an edible nut. It produced the most nuts under full sun conditions. Its nuts are eaten by birds, turkeys, foxes, deer, and squirrels. It's also a larval host plant for moths.</p>

Forest Grove



Swamp
White Oak

Quercus
bicolor

Height: 50-60 ft. **Width:** 50-60 ft.

Light: full sun

Moisture: occasionally dry - occas. wet

Deciduous, canopy tree often found in floodplains and swampy areas. Produces acorns that can be ground into an edible meal or flour, after tannins have been leached. Oaks have exceptionally high wildlife value, both due to the nutritional value of their acorns and their role as moth/butterfly host plants.



White Oak

Quercus alba

Height: 50-135 ft. **Width:** 50-80 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: occasionally dry - moist

Slow-growing, deciduous canopy tree. Produces acorns that can be ground into an edible meal or flour, after tannins have been leached. Oaks have exceptionally high wildlife value, both due to the nutritional value of their acorns and their role as moth/butterfly host plants.



Northern

Red Oak

*Quercus
rubra*

Height: 50-70ft. **Width:** 50-75 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: occasionally dry -moist

Moderate to fast-growing, deciduous canopy tree with beautiful fall foliage displays.

Produces acorns that can be ground into an edible meal or flour, after tannins have been leached. Oaks have exceptionally high wildlife value, both due to the nutritional value of their acorns and their role as moth and butterfly larval host plants.



Red Hickory

Carya ovalis

Height: 70-100 ft. **Width:** 50-70 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: moist

Large, deciduous canopy tree that produces a sweet, edible nut that is sold commercially.

The nuts are a food source for small mammals and the tree is a host plant for various moths and butterflies.



Black

Walnut



*Juglans
nigra*

Height: 50-75 ft. **Width:** 50-70 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: occasionally dry - occas. wet

Medium-sized, deciduous tree that is often found in rich, well-drained soil. It produced an edible nut and its wood is prized for furniture and cabinetry. Nuts are eaten by squirrels and other small mammals, and it's a

		larval host plant to the Banded Hairstreak Butterfly and Luna Moth.
	<p><u>Spicebush</u></p> <p><i>Lindera benzoin</i></p>	<p>Height: 8-15 ft. Width: 6-15 ft.</p> <p>Light: partial shade</p> <p>Moisture: occasionally dry - occas. wet</p> <p>Deciduous shrub found in forests and swamps. Produces a red drupe with a peppery flavor that can be dried and ground into a spice. This plant is dioecious, meaning there are separate male and female plants; therefore it is recommended to plant multiple plants if fruit is desired. It is the host plant for the Spicebush Swallowtail, and its fruits are an important food source for migrating birds.</p>
	<p><u>Persimmon</u></p> <p><i>Diospyros virginiana</i></p>	<p>Height: 30-80 ft. Width: 20-35 ft.</p> <p>Light: partial shade - full sun</p> <p>Moisture: occasionally dry - moist</p> <p>Deciduous tree that produces a sweet, edible fruit. This plant is dioecious, meaning there are separate male and female plants; therefore it is recommended to plant multiple plants if fruit is desired. It is a larval host plant for the Luna Moth and Hickory Horndevil, and its fruits are eaten by birds and mammals.</p>



Black Cherry

Prunus serotina

Height: 60-80 ft. **Width:** 30-60 ft.

Light: full sun

Moisture: occasionally dry - moist

Deciduous tree with high cultural and wildlife value. Its wood is commercially prized for furniture, cabinetry, and musical instruments. It serves as a larval host plant for several moth/butterfly species, while its nectar is important for pollinators.



Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis

Height: 5-12 ft. **Width:** 6-12 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: moist - occasionally wet

Deciduous shrub or small tree that grows in a wide range of conditions. Its purple-black drupes can be cooked into pies and jellies/jams or used in winemaking. Wildlife eat the fruit and its arching stems provide nesting sites for birds. It forms thickets if suckers are not removed.



Canadian Serviceberry




Amelanchier canadensis

Height: 15-25 ft. **Width:** 15-20 ft.

Light: dappled sunlight - full sun

Moisture: moist - occasionally wet

Deciduous shrub or small tree with three seasons of interest. Early spring flowering leads to purple drupes that can be eaten raw. In fall, its foliage turns showy orange and red. This species is susceptible to serviceberry

		<p>rust disease that affects fruit viability in disease years. Consider disease resistant cultivars.</p>
	<p><u>Black Haw</u> <i>Virburnum prunifolium</i></p>	<p>Height: 12-20 ft. Width: 6-15 ft.</p> <p>Light: partial shade - full sun</p> <p>Moisture: occasionally dry - moist</p> <p>Large shrub or small tree with 3 seasons of interest: showy spring flowers, purplish-black berries, and fall leaf color. Its fruits are edible, and are important for birds, squirrels and chipmunks.</p>
	<p><u>Ironwood</u> <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i></p>	<p>Height: 20-30 ft. Width: 20-35 ft.</p> <p>Light: deep shade - partial shade</p> <p>Moisture: moist - occasionally flooding</p> <p>Medium-sized, deciduous tree found naturally in moist soils. It gets its nickname “musclewood” from the rippled, muscly appearance its bark develops as it ages.</p>
	<p><u>Black Gum</u> <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i></p>	<p>Height: 40-70 ft. Width: 20-35 ft.</p> <p>Light: full sun</p> <p>Moisture: occasionally dry - occas. flooding</p> <p>Slow-growing, deciduous tree with glossy leaves that turn scarlet red in fall. Its fruits are eaten by wild turkey, black bears, foxes, and raccoons. Its an important fall food source for migrating song birds.</p>



Black Willow

Salix nigra

Height: 70-80 ft. **Width:** 30-60 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: moist - frequent standing water

Fast-growing, deciduous tree that grows naturally in floodplains, stream banks, and other wet habitats. Its a larval host plant for several butterflies, including Eastern Tiger Swallowtails. It's effective in controlling erosion but is not recommended as a specimen tree in residential yards due to limb breakage and its need for consistently moist soils.



American Chestnut

Castanea dentata

Height: 50-75 ft. **Width:** 50-75 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: occasionally dry - moist

Historically an important tree, both culturally and ecologically. It once constituted over 25% of eastern hardwood forests. The blight of the early 20th century rendered this tree functionally extinct in the eastern US, though multi-decade efforts are underway to develop a blight-resistant tree. The hybrid American-Chinese Chestnuts to be planted in the Foragers' Forest are an example of this effort.

Both Groves



Swamp Rose

*Rosa
palustris*

Height: 3-6 ft. **Width:** 3-6 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: moist - occasionally wet

Deciduous, suckering shrub that provides superb year-round wildlife cover. Showy pink flowers develop into rose hips that are eaten by songbirds, wild turkey, and small mammals.



Carolina Rose

*Rosa
carolina*

Height: 0.5-5 ft. **Width:** 1-5 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: very dry - moist

Deciduous shrub that provides superb year-round wildlife cover. Showy pink flowers develop into rose hips that are eaten by songbirds, wild turkey, and small mammals. The hips are edible and can be made into tea or jelly.



Winged Sumac



*Rhus
copallinum*

Height: 7-15 ft. **Width:** 10-20 ft.

Light: partial shade - full sun

Moisture: occasionally dry - moist

Deciduous shrub or small tree that suckers to form colonies. Key winter food source for many animals, including mammals and birds. It is also the larval host plant for the Luna

		<p>Moth and Red-banded Hairstreak. Well suited for erosion control on slopes or as a hedge in areas where it can spread. It's fruit clusters can be used to make a lemonade-type drink.</p>
	<p><u>Redbud</u> <i>Cercis canadensis</i></p>	<p>Height: 20-30 ft. Width: 25-35 ft. Light: partial shade to full sun Moisture: occasionally dry - moist</p> <p>Deciduous tree notable for its early-spring flowering display before leaves emerge. Larval host plant to several moth/butterfly species, and its seed pods are eaten by birds.</p>
	<p><u>Black Chokeberry</u> <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i></p>	<p>Height: 3-10 ft. Width: 3-6 ft. Light: partial shade - full sun Moisture: occasionally dry - occas. wet</p> <p>Deciduous, suckering shrub that produces an edible, astringent fruit that can be made into jam or jelly.</p>
<p>References: North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox</p> <p>Photos: Wikimedia Commons</p>		