

MEDIUM SIZE NATIVE SHRUBS FOR GARDENS

(5 to 8-feet tall, listed by succession of bloom, **attractive to bees**)

Beate Popkin

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) produces early yellow flowers. It prefers a moist, shady site.

Clove currant (*Ribes odoratum*) flowers bright yellow in early spring and produces suckers.

Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) produces yellow flowers and spreads by suckers.

Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) has small white flowers in spring with red berries in winter. This shrub produces leaves and flowers in the top third of its height making it a good plant for narrow spaces and even flower beds.

Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) is bushier than its red cousin.

Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) sports long-lasting, maroon flowers in mid-spring. It tolerates both sun and shade.

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) is a fast-growing shrub that benefits from regular pruning. Cultivars of different sizes and leaf color are available at garden centers.

Strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*) is shade friendly and produces red, strawberry-like fruit in late fall.

Witherod viburnum (*Viburnum cassinoides*, similar to *Viburnum nudum*), creamy-white flowers in spring, glossy leaves, won't tolerate a dry site

Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) is the most commonly planted native viburnum. Its dense branches produce small, dark green, glossy leaves. Birds love the blue berries.

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) grows best in wet areas but adjusts to normal gardens with medium moistures. 'Sugar Shack' is a popular dwarf.

Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) is a pretty shrub in all seasons and readily available at garden centers. The cultivar 'Snow Queen' grows about 6' tall.

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is a deciduous holly valued for its red berries in fall and winter. Being dioecious, it needs a male companion to make berries.

Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*) has fragrant, white blooms white in summer. It prefers a moist shady site.

Updated 03-2025, Ann Witherington, M.S.