LARGE NATIVE SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES FOR GARDENS
(9-feet tall and above; attractive to bees)

Beate Popkin

Alternate-leaf dogwood (*Cornus alnifolia*) grows in attractive horizontal layers. It prefers more moisture.

American cranberry bush (*Viburnum trilobum*) is a fast-growing shrub with good fall color.

American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) produces male and female catkins that result in edible nuts. The shrub spreads by suckering.

American hophornbeam or ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*) produces male and female catkins (that latter looks like hops). It is slow growing but drought tolerant.

American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) also produces catkins but is noted for its gray bark. It prefers more moisture and will spread.

Bladdernut (*Staphyla trifolia*) is an upright suckering shrub with yellow flowers and interesting bladder-like seedpods.

Bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*) needs a shady, large space to spread. Its flower clusters (inflorescence) look like upright candles.

Common hop tree or wafer ash (*Ptelea triloba*) is not an ash tree. It is adaptable to most conditions and produces early spring white flowers.

Eastern wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) is famous for its red fruits which look like strawberries in late fall.

Grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) is a suckering shrub that is a good substitute for bush honeysuckle.

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) flowers are maroon. Its large leaves give this tree a tropical appearance. Suckering forms large colonies.

Red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) produces large clusters of red flowers in early spring.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea* or *A. laevis*) blooms early in spring and makes red berries eaten by the birds. Amelanchier x grandiflora is a large hybrid.

Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) is another suckering shrub suited to wet areas and stream banks.

Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) is a broad spreading shrub famous for its yellow blooms that show up in late fall or winter.

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