



"Green Ribbon Native Plant™" Selections

Jenkins Arboretum, one of the region's oldest stands of native woodland plants quietly resides in the Devon, PA community for all to enjoy and admire. It nurtures a large collection of native rhododendrons, azaleas, wildflowers and perennials.

Through various activities, the staff has worked to educate the public on the advantages of using the native plants that thrive in the Philadelphia area. Every spring the staff selects several native plants that are grown in the Arboretum which will work well in home landscapes. This "Green Ribbon Native Plant™" program has not only helped in learning the various species that survive in our plant hardiness zone, it has also expanded the diversity of our gardens.

2004 Plant Selections

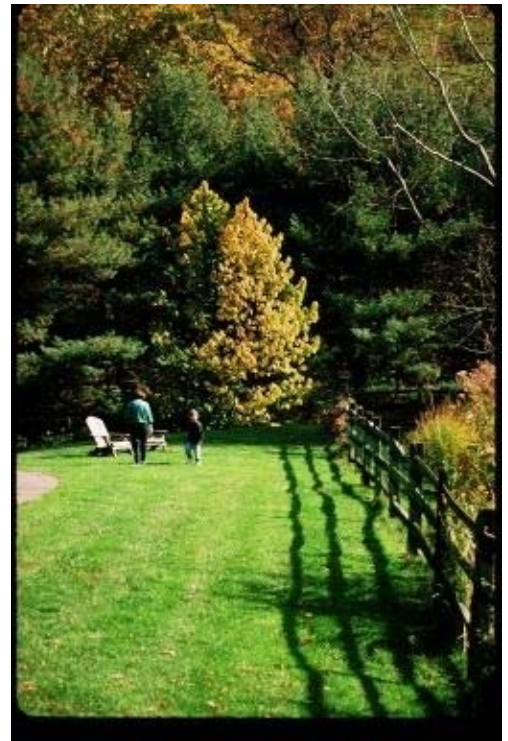
Common Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

The pawpaw is a member of the Annonaceae (the Custard-Apple family). Found mostly in the southern parts of Eastern North America, the pawpaw is native to this region. It is a hardy, smaller woodland tree 15-20 feet tall. This under story tree was once common across our landscape but years of clear cutting has all but removed it from its natural setting.

The pawpaw is grown for its striking foliage, unusual solitary flowers borne on the previous year's shoots and for its edible fruit. In May it displays a showy, deep reddish-purple flower, but it comes into its glory in the fall displaying brilliant yellow foliage as well as yellow custard-like fruit 2-5" in length. The fruit is edible, tasting like a cross between a banana and a mango. The pawpaw grows in moist, well drained fertile, humus-rich, neutral to acidic soil in full sun. This tree can be difficult to transplant, so it is best transplanted as a small balled-and-burlapped or container plant.

The extract of the pawpaw's twigs and leaves has some insecticidal properties. It is best used to naturalize and makes an excellent transition at a woodland edge. To view Jenkins Arboretum's pawpaw, follow the path to the pond.



Pinxterbloom Azalea

Rhododendron perichlymenoides

The Pinxterbloom Azalea is a deciduous azalea that naturally colonized at the Arboretum. It is a medium growing, (4-6') well-branched, stoloniferous azalea with elliptic, bright green leaves. It grows in partial to full shade and is extremely adaptable. It grows in a variety of soil conditions from dry, sandy, rocky soil to wet areas along a stream.

The flower is the true glory. The trusses of 6-12 narrow, tubular-funnel-shaped, fragrant, white or pale pink to deep violet flowers are borne in mid-season before the leaves. Follow the Woodland Path in early May to experience a grove of these wonderful native shrubs.



Foam Flower

Tiarella cordifolia

Tiarella gets its common name from the white, foamy-looking flowers. This easily grown herbaceous evergreen perennial plant can be used in partial to deep shade when given a moist soil. Some varieties remain a clump while others spread rapidly. The foam flower is not considered to be invasive.

This hardy plant has something to offer all year round. In late April, it grows under shady conditions and could be treated as a ground cover. It puts on a show of dense white feathery spires that give a lace-like appearance. The handsome “maple-leaf” foliage is attractive all summer long, turning a beautiful red in autumn. Depending on the variety, summer foliage can vary from deep green to variegated with dark red markings. This plant is perfect for mixing with lower-growing woodland flowers, so that the foliage can show off all year long.



2003 Plant Selections

Eastern Redbud

Cercis Canadensis

The Redbud Tree, is also known as the Easter Redbud, and sometimes as the Judas Tree because it dates back to biblical times. It is a small deciduous tree that produces an abundance of purple blossoms in early spring. It has large heart shaped leaves in the summer with long seedpods in the fall. Redbud trees have a yellow fall color. These trees are effective as a single specimen, in groupings, in shrub borders and especially in woodland situations. It survives both full sun and shade in many soil types. It grows rapidly reaching a mature height of 20-30 feet with an equal spread. This family includes six species including *Forest Pansy*, a cultivar with dark red-purple leaves; *Royal White* bears a profusion of pure white flowers; *Silver Cloud* has irregularly white –variegated foliage and grows strictly in shade; and *texasensis* *Oklahoma* which has waxy, glossy, rich green leaves with rounded tips and dark wine-red flowers.

Keep redbuds vigorous through routine fertilization and regular watering as they can suffer severely from environmental stress. Plant in the final location when young as older plants resent transplanting. Redbuds can be bothered by scale insects, weevils, caterpillars, whiteflies and leafhoppers. Leaf spots, blights, downy mildew, canker, dieback and *Verticillium* wilt may occur. Redbuds at Jenkins Arboretum have not had any significant problems. The pink patchwork of color along woodland edges makes the redbud well suited for the periphery of your property.

Oakleaf Hydrangea

Hydrangea quercifolia

The oakleaf hydrangea is a deciduous, mound-forming shrub with attractively peeling, orange-brown bark and deeply lobed green leaves. It is a coarse plant, which provides interest in all four seasons. Most plants are four to eight feet tall but can reach twelve feet. It is wider than it is tall with an upright, irregular profile. With the proper placement, it will become a favorite performer in your garden. Oakleaf hydrangeas prefer moist, well-drained soil, full sun to partial shade. It is best to mulch to keep the roots cool. Huge panicles of white flowers, sometimes 10 inches long, adorn the plants with peak bloom in early July. As flowers age, they turn pinkish in late summer and tan in the autumn. Plants in more sun will provide spectacular red-purple and orange fall foliage.

In winter, the deep cinnamon brown bark looks outstanding against the stark winter landscape. It becomes even more attractive as the mature bark exfoliates. Liabilities for this plant include lack of winter hardiness. Plant parts are poisonous and deer seem to like it. It is best used in shrub borders, mass plantings, to add textural variety, for naturalizing or as a foundation plant.

Allegheny Spurge

Pachysandra procumbens

This is not your everyday pachysandra that is being promoted for use as a shady ground cover. *Pachysandra procumbens* has many exceptional features that set it apart from the more familiar variety found in our garden centers. The biggest difference can be seen in the foliage; procumbens has a flat mottled gray-green leaf. The plant is clump forming with very loose whorls of coarsely toothed, ovate to rounded leaves. The leaves often take on a purple coloration, especially in the winter and early spring.

The pinkish-white flowers appear in dense spikes on each side of the stem base in March/April generally as the foliage appears. The fruit is a 3-locular capsule with 2 seeds per locule. Procumbens is a great ground cover for partial to full shade in organic, moist, well-drained soil.

It may exhibit some dieback after a hard winter in exposed areas, while it will remain evergreen and lush in more protected spots. Slugs and snails may cause some damage but it generally is disease and pest resistant. *Pachysandra procumbens* deserves much wider use, especially in naturalizing situations. Its soft mounds do not aggressively invade companion plants.