

Native Plants for Alabama

Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines

What are native plants?

- Plants that grow naturally in a particular region without direct or indirect human intervention
- Plants that were present in a particular area prior to European settlement
- Plants that have inhabited a particular region for thousands of years
- Plants naturally occurring, either presently or historically, in any ecosystem of the United States.

Naturalized Setting

Why use native plants ?

- **Wildlife habitat**
- **Adapted to local conditions**
- **Ecological preservation**



Tulip Poplar

Fothergilla

Virginia Sweetspire

MEDIUM AND LARGE TREES

Red Maple

Acer rubrum



Somewhat
overused in
southern
landscape

Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum



Credit: Ed McDowell

Fine specimen tree in
moist well drained sites
– try “Legacy”



Credit: Ed McDowell

River Birch

Betula nigra



Fast growth –
somewhat
messy – try
“Duraheat

American Yellowwood

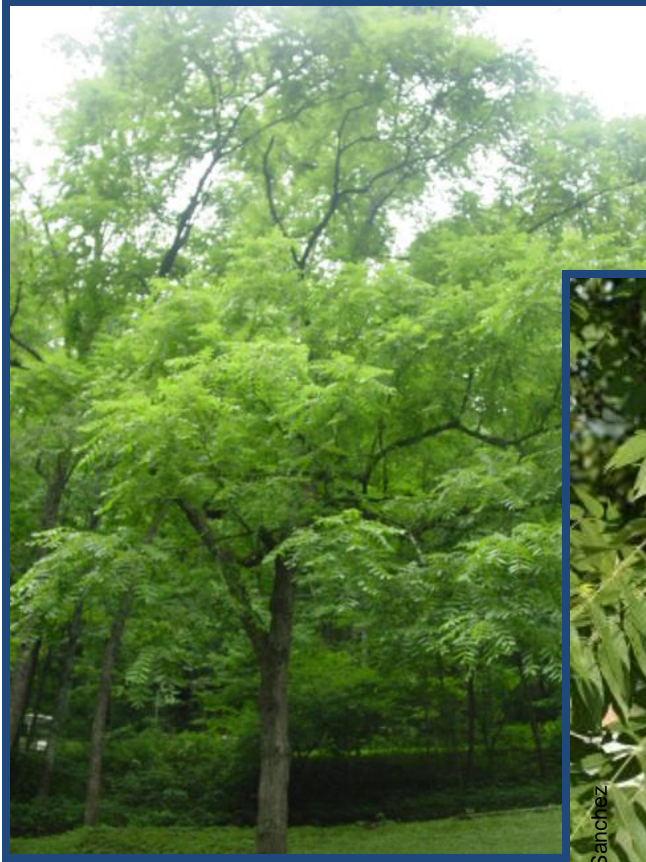
Cladrastis kentukea (syn. *Cladrastis lutea*)



Medium size –
fragrant beautiful
blooms in late spring
– golden fall color



American Holly
Ilex opaca



Black Walnut
Juglans nigra

Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana



Trees are either male or female (but rarely have both cones on the same tree)

Needs full sun – tolerant of poor soils and a wide pH range



Tulip Poplar or Yellow Poplar

Liriodendron tulipifera



Med/Fast growth – leaves tulip shaped and fragrant orange to yellow blooms – moist deep soils



Southern Magnolia

Magnolia grandiflora



Needs ample
moisture –
med/slow
growth



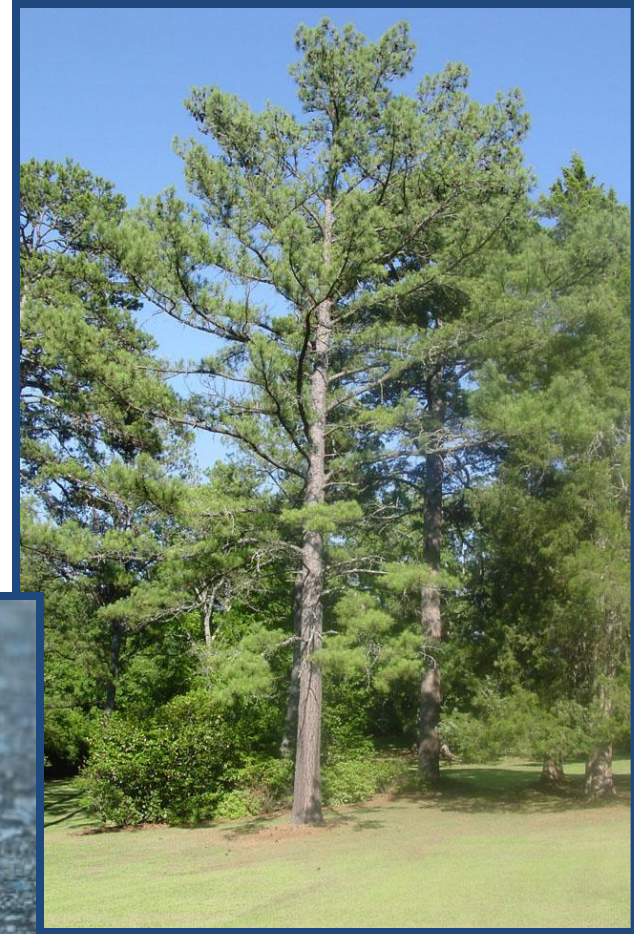
Smaller
Cultivars: Little
Gem and DD
Blanchard,

Loblolly Pine

Pinus taeda



Credit: Hugh and Carol Mourse



Full sun – fast grower – poor soils

Virginia Pine

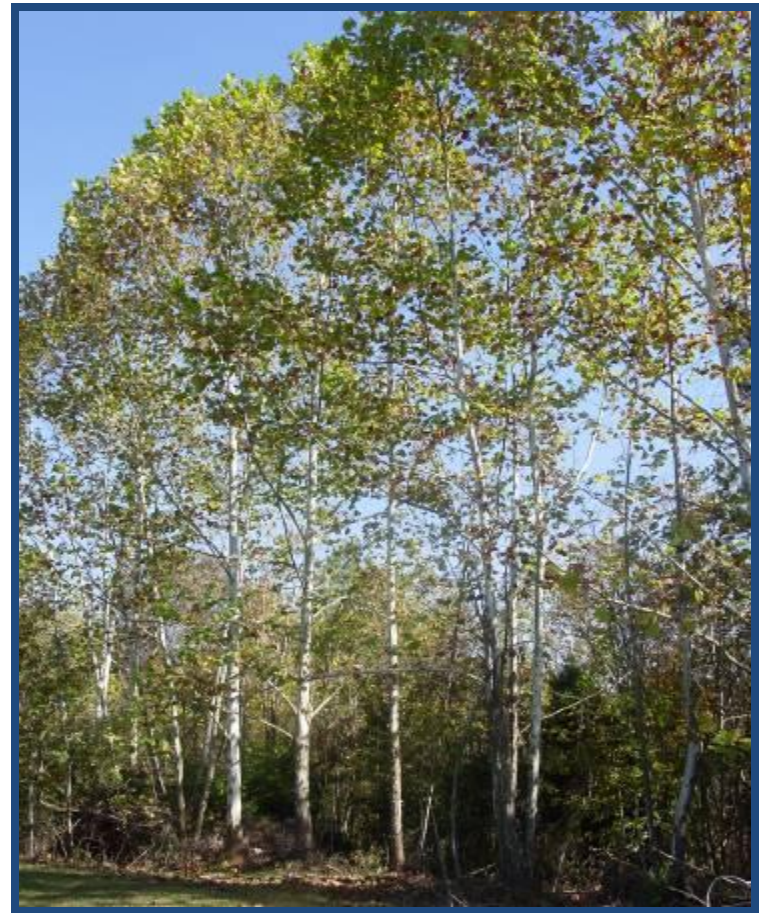
Pinus virginiana



Good screen plant or
Christmas tree species

Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis



Fast grower – weak wood – beautiful bark – insect/disease prone



White Oak

Quercus alba



Slow/medium growth rate
Stately appearance – well
drained but moist soils
preferred

Scarlet Oak

Quercus coccinea



Medium/fast grower –
difficult to transplant –
dry sites



Southern Red Oak
Quercus falcata

Fairly fast grower
adapted to dry sites

Water Oak

Quercus nigra



Relatively weak wood for
an oak – shorter lived as
well

Willow Oak

Quercus phellos



Do not use near
concrete –
shallow heaving
roots



Shumard Oak (a southern
red oak species
Quercus shumardii)



Fast Growing Shade tree
and transplants easily

Live Oak

Quercus virginiana



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Ed McDowell

Evergreen – slow grower – very longed lived – extremely tough stately tree - needs large area – moist soils – can be grown in central Alabama

Bald Cypress

Taxodium distichum



Fall Color



Beautiful specimen tree –
deciduous – bronze fall color – wet
(makes knees) dry (no knees)



Found in the Bankhead
forest - plant local sources
only

Eastern Hemlock
Tsuga canadensis

SMALL TREES

Florida or Southern Sugar Maple

Acer barbatum



Credit: David J. Moorhead

Slow/med growth
– more tolerant of
high temps than
regular sugar
maple 35-40ft –
moist well drained

American Hornbeam, Ironwood, or Musclewood

Carpinus caroliniana



Good specimen
– street tree – wet or dry soils

Slow/med growth – smooth muscle like trunk 35-40ft

Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis



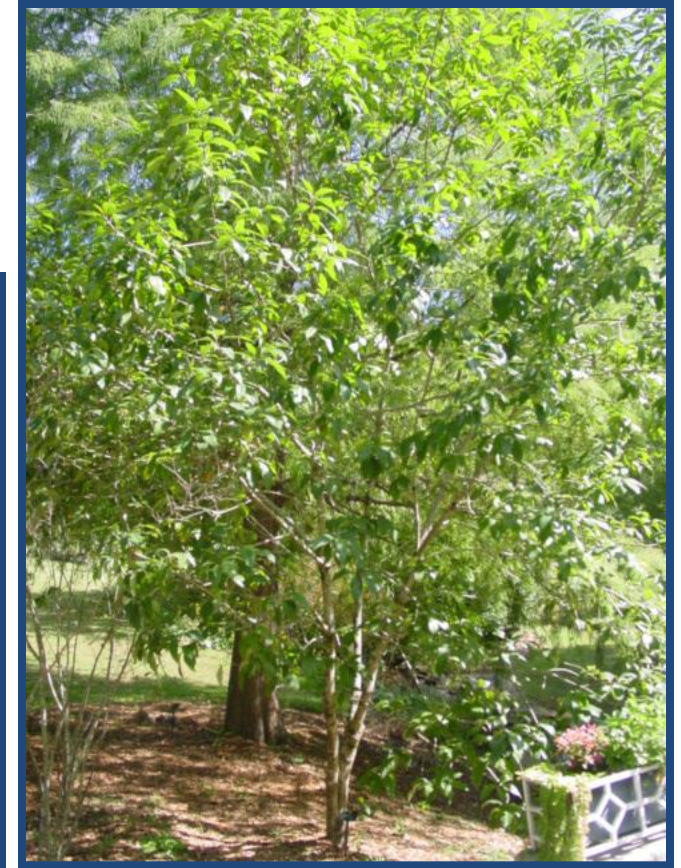
Short lived
small tree



Fruit on female trees



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Fringetree or Grancy-Greybeard
Chionanthus virginicus





Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Chris Evans



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Credit: Ed McDowell

Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

Carolina Silverbell

Halesia tetraptera



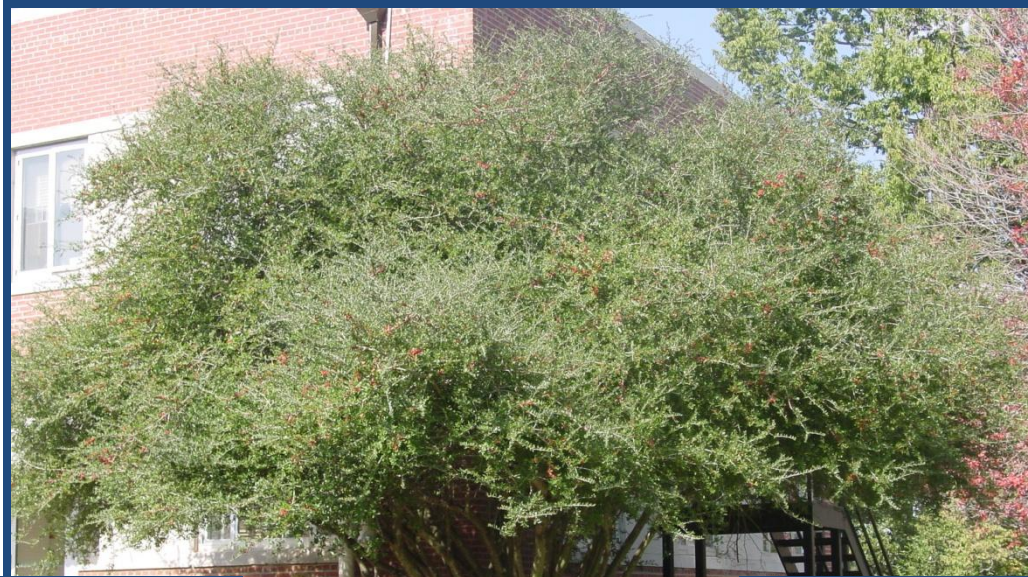
Med growth rate – understory
Moist soil but occasional
drought is OK - 25 - 30ft

Possumhaw

Ilex decidua



Deciduous holly – med growth rate – beautiful with foliage gone – cedar wax wings love it in late winter
Full sun/part shade specimen plant or mixed border



Yaupon Holly
Ilex vomitoria



Big-leaf Magnolia

Magnolia macrophylla



American Hophornbeam, Ironwood

Ostrya virginiana



Credit: Steve Sanchez



Credit: John Ruter



Credit: Steve Sanchez

Interesting bark
part sun moist
soils best

Slow growth rate – yellow fall color but
leaves remain – fruit look like hops

Sourwood

Oxydendrum arboreum



Med/slow growth rate – flowers June-July – Honey
Nice fall color – great landscape tree - understory

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum



Credit: Michael Strickland



Credit: Theresa Schrum



Med growth rate – very interesting foliage and branching habit – flowers March – poor soils fine – spreads via suckers – fruit for birds

SHRUBS

Bottlebrush Buckeye

Aesculus parviflora



Deer/Turkey and other wildlife love the seeds

Flowers March –
spreads – part
shade and good
moisture – prune
heavily after bloom

Red Buckeye

Aesculus pavia



Moist areas only – 12-15ft –
defoliates in drought very early –
ruby throated hummingbirds
love it – flowers well in shade



American Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana



Deciduous shrub to 4' - known for clusters of bright purple berries late summer and fall. Big green leaves create bold appearance - important bird food and good for flower arrangements. Plant will thrive in any soil conditions and sun or shade.

Sweetshrub

Calycanthus floridus



Deciduous shrub of 6-10 ft. Foliage has spicy aroma when crushed, sweet-scented purple-brown flowers in spring. Upright form, yellow fall color. Grows along fertile woodlands, hillsides and sandy streams from PA and OH to FL and LA. Colonizes - great for naturalistic settings - an heirloom garden plant



Buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis



Deciduous med
growth rate –
fragrant blooms
summer – moist
soils - specimen

Summersweet Clethra (syn. Sweet Pepperbush) *Clethra alnifolia*



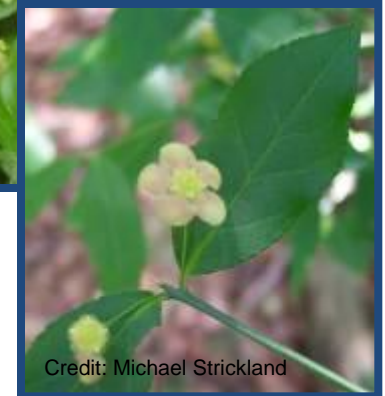
Deciduous shrub to 5 ft. with many white flower spikes for 4-6 weeks in summer. Hummers and butterflies adore the spicy fragrance and you will too! Likes wet to moist, acid soils with full sun to partial shade

Red Titi or Swamp Titi *Cyrilla racemiflora*



Med growth rate –
semi evergreen – fall
color orange to scarlet

Fragrant blooms in summer on new wood – moist
soils – bee plant – part to full sun – 20 ft – great plant



Strawberry Bush

Euonymus americanus

Description –
next slide

EUONYMUS AMERICANA "HEARTS-A-BUSTIN"

- Distinctive strawberry pods with coral seed in the fall which the turkeys love. Green stems all year - grows to 5 ft. Prefers shade and moist, well drained soils.
- www.doddnatives.com



Dwarf Fothergilla

Fothergilla gardenii



Credit: Carol Nourse



Credit: Theresa Schrum



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse

- Rare multi season native plant
- Blooms in April
- 3-5 feet Dwarf form
- Nice fall color – Scarlet to yellow
- Tolerates drought and occasional wetness
- pH preference acidic to slightly alkaline
- Partial sun, partial shade



Oakleaf Hydrangea

Hydrangea quercifolia

Flowers on old wood – prune after bloom

Hydrangea arborescens - Smooth or Wild Hydrangea, 'Annabelle'

- Freely suckers; flowers on new growth so prune in early spring
- Sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained soil; not drought tolerant



- Evergreen shrub or small tree to 15'. Tolerant of any conditions.
EXCELLENT SUBSTITUTE FOR ANY BROADLEAF EVERGREEN. Round leaves, compact growth. Excellent for hedges, or specimens. Big red berries in winter. Good bird food. Zone 7 - 10. FAST GROWING. No known pest problems.

ILEX CASSINE 'TENSAW'
"TENSAW' DAHOON HOLLY"



Gallberry or Inkberry

Ilex glabra



Evergreen –
very versatile –
sun or shade
moist only
8ft – wildlife –
bees

Compacta cultivar stays smaller
and more dense – Japanese holly
substitute

Winterberry *Ilex verticillata*



Deciduous shrub to 10ft –
females produce wonderful
fruit loved by birds and
other wildlife – many
cultivars available – Winter
Red or Gold



Florida Anise-tree

Illicium floridanum



Evergreen – great shade plant for moist soils – 10ft

Yellow Anise-tree

Illicium parviflorum



Evergreen – faster – more sun – 6-10ft



Virginia Sweetspire

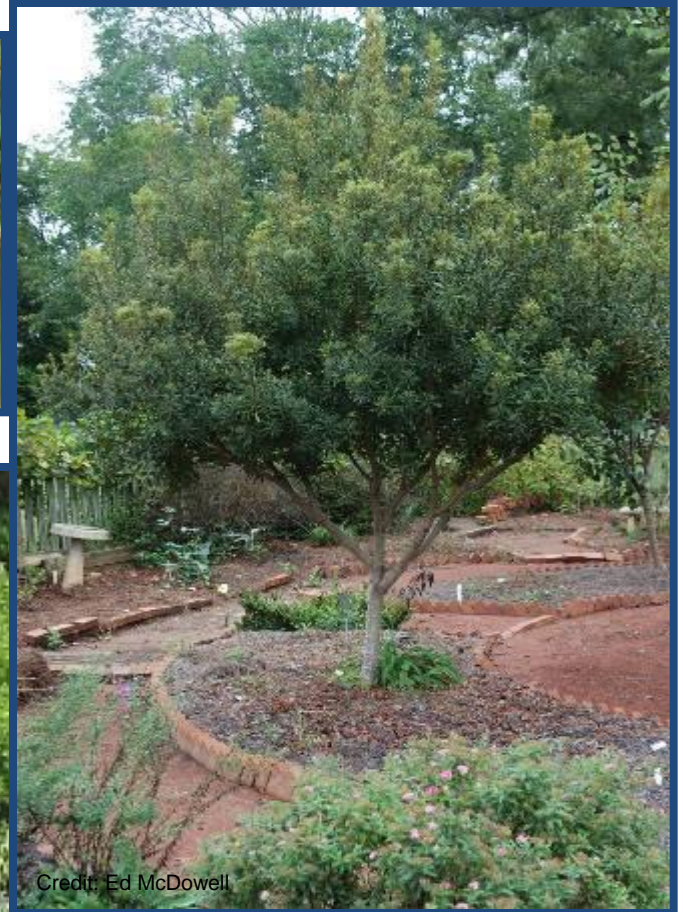
Itea virginica



Deciduous – med
growth – great fall
color – moist
fertile soils – full
sun to light shade

Southern Wax Myrtle

Morella cerifera (syn. *Myrica cerifera*)



Male and
female on
separate plants
– nice
specimen plant
– 15 to 20ft

Pinckneya or Feverbark

Pinckneya bracteata



Deciduous – med/fast growth – very interesting flowers??? in June – part shade – moist soils – challenging plant to grow – wonderful specimen – 20ft

Needle Palm

Rhapidophyllum hystrix



Most cold hardy palm – grow anywhere in Alabama

Deciduous Azaleas

Rhodendron spp.



RHODEDENDRON ALABAMENSE
"ALABAMA AZALEA"



Flowers are white with a yellow blotch
and are lemon scented.

N central AL, MS and parts of GA

RHODODENDRON CANESCENS

"PIEDMONT AZALEA"



Fragrant pink blooms in March. Also know as "honeysuckle azalea"
Zone 6 - 10. Deciduous shrub to 10ft found along coastal plain and
piedmont in SE.

Photo by www.doddnatives.com

RHODODENDRON AUSTRINUM 'ESCATAWPA'

Florida Flame Azalea



Orange/yellow flowers. Species found on wooded bluffs and slopes, banks of small streams. Occurs in the Panhandle of FL and AL. Deciduous shrub to 15' tall - good drainage essential. Zone 6 - 9.

RHODODENDRON PRUNIFOLIUM
"PLUMLEAF AZALEA"

Slow growing, hard to propagate, and does not bloom young, but what else blooms red in July and August? Calloway Gardens, Ga. is famous for this plant that occurs there in great numbers.



RHODODENDRON HSY X A "ADMIRAL SEMMES"

- The Confederate Series of native azaleas by Tom Dodd, III are for the hot south.
- The plants are a hybrid of Exbury (large blooms) and Austrinum (heat tolerance).
- This one is a vigorous growing plant with large yellow fragrant blooms in clusters: March.
- Photo:www.doddnatives.com



RHODODENDRON HSY X A
"COL. MOSBY"



- Large dark pink to salmon fragrant blooms in clusters: April.
Photo by www.doddnatives.com

RHODODENDRON HSY X A
"FREDERICK O. DOUGLAS"



Large fragrant clusters of creamy blooms with yellow, and white buds blushed with pink. www.doddnatives.com

RHODODENDRON HSY X A

"STONEWALL JACKSON"

- Large orange fragrant blooms April.
- Here pictured with Tom Dodd III the developer and owner of Dodd Natives Nursery

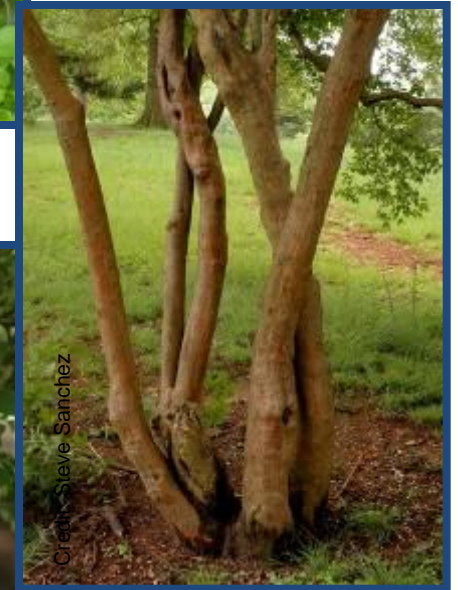


American Snowbell

Styrax americanus



Deciduous – shrub too small tree – med/fast growth
White fragrant flowers in April – specimen or
understory – moist well drained – light shade



Sparkleberry
Vaccinium arboreum

Rabbiteye Blueberry cultivars

Vaccinium virgatum (syn. *V. ashei*) cultivars



Mapleleaf Viburnum

Viburnum acerifolium



Deciduous – low growing – blooms April – moist shady areas – black fruit for birds and wildlife - colonizes in understory

Adam's Needle, Beargrass, Threadleaf Yucca

Yucca filamentosa



WOODY VINES

Crossvine

Bignonia capreolata



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Credit: Ed McDowell

Tough fast growing vine - sun

Semi-evergreen

Climbing Hydrangea

Decumaria barbara



Deciduous – fragrant small bloom clusters – May-June – moist shady areas.

Carolina Yellow Jessamine

Gelsemium sempervirens



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Ed McDowell

Tough plant – fall/winter
fragrant blooms - sun

Trumpet Honeysuckle

Lonicera sempervirens



Only native honeysuckle –
hummingbird treat – more next

LONICERA SEMPERVIRENS “Coral Honeysuckle”



- Well behaved cousin of the invasive Japanese honeysuckle.
- Evergreen twining vine with tubular red flowers occurring in wooded areas throughout eastern US.
- Can be used on mailboxes, fences and arbors without fear of it taking over the world.
- Important for hummer fall migration.
- Sun or shade; any soil.



Virginia Creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

5 leaflets not 3

American Wisteria

Wisteria frutescens



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Ed McDowell

Less aggressive
native cousin to
Chinese wisteria



American Holly



Yellow Jessamine



Virginia Creeper



Flowering Dogwood

Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Yellowwood



Yaupon Holly



American Hophornbeam

To learn more about native plants,

See Georgia Cooperative Extension Bulletin 987:
*Native Plants for Georgia: Part I: Trees, Shrubs, and
Woody Vines* at

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/>

**See Southern Environmental Center (Birmingham
Southern College)**

[**http://csunx2.bsc.edu/alnative/ecoscape/index.htm**](http://csunx2.bsc.edu/alnative/ecoscape/index.htm)

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For use of pictures
and some content