

City Fruit

*Native woody plants of Pennsylvania
Grown for the fruit, sized for the urban landscape*

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HORT 8261 - Native Woody Plants, Fall 2016
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TREES



Forgotten, but not lost.

The Prickly-ash and the Pawpaw were once prized for their fruits by early native communities. These forgotten trees should be appreciated again in the urban garden, for both their fruits and their tolerant growing requirements.

Asimina triloba - Pawpaw

Size: 15' - 20' tall

Shape: Small understory tree

Needs: Full sun to part shade, moderate to wet soils.

Notable: Unusual three-lobed purple-brown flowers in spring with large leaves that turn an attractive yellow in fall.

Edible bits: Fruit is 2-5" long, yellow-green, oblong, resembling a small mango and has custard-like, yellow flesh similar to a banana.

Yard value: The Pawpaw is a small tree that tolerates shade and wet soils, has lovely fall color and produces fruit. It's one of a kind.



Zanthoxylum americanum - Prickly-ash

Size: 15' - 25' tall

Shape: Small understory tree

Needs: Full sun to part shade, tolerates poor soils.

Notable: Unusual knobby spined trunk and thorny branches.

Edible bits: Small dangling clusters of pink to red to black seeds are used like peppercorns and for numbing toothaches.

Yard value: The Prickly-ash isn't demanding, fends off intruders with its spines and is host to a variety of butterflies. It begs to not be forgotten.



Fast and juicy.

The American Elder and the Wild Black Cherry are not your typical fruit trees. These fast growers produce some deliciously juicy fruit without the fuss of the usual fruit tree pest and disease problems.

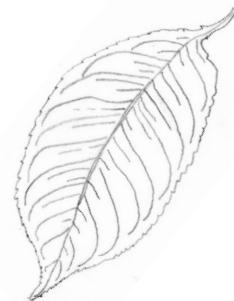
Sambucus canadensis - American Elder

- Size:** 5' - 15' tall
- Shape:** Multi-stemmed, spreading shrub
- Needs:** In full sun, it's a speedy grower.
- Notable:** Lovely compound green leaves up to 12" long and large flat clusters of white flowers nearly 10" across.
- Edible bits:** Small black fruits follow the flowers, producing delicious flesh and juice for jellies, pies or even wine.
- Yard value:** Both man and beast alike enjoy the American Elder. You may find yourself racing the birds and squirrels to collect these prized berries.



Prunus serotina - Wild Black Cherry

- Size:** 50' - 60' tall
- Shape:** Large, conical to oval shaped tree
- Needs:** Full sun to part shade, tolerates dry soils.
- Notable:** Spring blossoms are long lacy white clusters and lustrous green leaves turn to yellow and red in the fall.
- Edible bits:** While the bark and leaves of this tree are toxic, the fruit is used in jams, jellies and pies and sought after by bird and mammal alike.
- Yard value:** The Wild Black Cherry is a large tree and grows at a break-neck speed, giving you shade and fruit all at once. Just don't plant it under the power lines!



Drinks and a show.

There's nothing like a good show, especially when it comes to autumn. The Eastern Redcedar '*Canaertii*' and the Allegheny Service-berry deliver a great seasonal display and fruit to make the most delicious of beverages.

Juniperus virginiana 'Canaertii' - Eastern Redcedar

- Size: 20' - 35' tall
- Shape: A tidy cone-shape tree with dense branching
- Needs: Full sun, variety of soils, drought tolerant.
- Notable: This cultivar of the Eastern Redcedar puts out such a great show of grape-like clusters of bluish-white berries that some say it glows.
- Edible bits: Those berries aren't just pretty, they're edible too. Used to flavor spirits, like gin, or in cooking - sauerkraut anyone?
- Yard value: This tree's twisting and graceful shape with dense green foliage make it a year-round attraction in the landscape.



Amelanchier laevis - Allegheny Service-berry

- Size: 15' - 25' tall
- Shape: Multi-trunked tree or large shrub
- Needs: Full sun to part shade, moist to drier soils.
- Notable: In spring, strappy white blossoms appear in clusters before the leaves. The fall brings lovely orange-red leaves and the winter shows off a lovely smooth gray bark.
- Edible bits: The delicious red to black berries arrive in summer, providing juice rich in vitamin C.
- Yard value: A true example of four season appeal, with juicy fruit to boot!

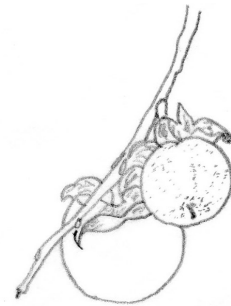


The tall and graceful.

For yards with more space, outward and upward, the Black Walnut and Common Persimmon make great additions. The extra height and straight trunk of the Persimmon shows off its gorgeous bark, while the Black Walnut provides great shade.

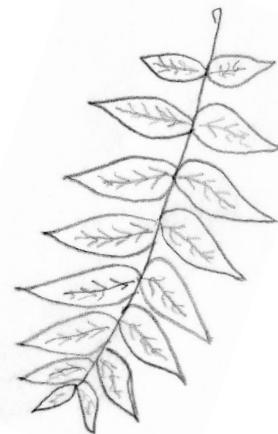
Diospyros virginiana 'Meader' - Common Persimmon

- Size:** 35' - 50' tall
- Shape:** A tall, slender tree with a rounded canopy
- Needs:** Full sun, well-drained, tolerates city living.
- Notable:** A lovely tree with outstanding alligator skin-bark and nice fall color.
- Edible bits:** Just when you think all the summer fruit is gone, the persimmon delivers. Have patience and wait until after a frost to pick these beauties.
- Yard value:** It may not fit under the power lines but this tree is slender, so find a well drained spot and tuck it into the yard.

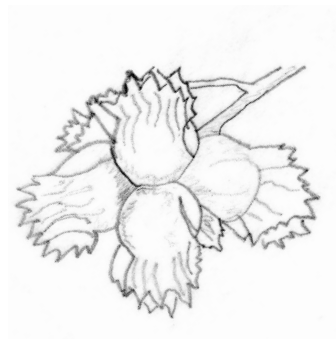


Juglans nigra - Black Walnut

- Size:** 50' - 75' tall
- Shape:** Large tree with a rounded, open canopy
- Needs:** Full sun, moist soils for faster growing.
- Notable:** A stately tree with long, compound leaves that turn a lovely bright yellow in fall. Nuts and shade abound with this tree.
- Edible bits:** Nuts fall in large numbers in the autumn. Use the green outer husk for fabric dying and the nuts for eating. The extra effort needed for cracking these shells is worth it!
- Yard value:** For large yards and those who don't want to mow the lawn - this tree inhibits the growth of plants under its canopy. Sell the mower!



SHRUBS



Berries for all...

Whether you have a wet or dry, sunny or shady, small or large garden, there's a native blueberry for you! The highbush and lowbush blueberries have much to offer to every urban garden.

Vaccinium corymbosum - Highbush Blueberry

Size: 6' - 12' tall

Shape: Large, irregular, dense shrub

Needs: Full sun to part shade, moist, sandy soils.

Notable: In addition to delicious fruit, this blueberry delivers excellent fall colors from red to orange, yellow and purple.

Edible bits: It's where your supermarket blueberry comes from, but better - it's in your garden!

Yard value: The Highbush Blueberry has pretty little white bell shaped flowers in spring, delicious fruit in summer, lovely fall color and red stems in winter. Do you really need more?



Vaccinium angustifolium - Lowbush Blueberry

Size: 6" - 2' tall

Shape: Small open, twiggy shrub

Needs: Full sun to part shade, tolerates dry soils.

Notable: A much smaller shrub than its sister, with small dark green leaves and the same pretty white bell shaped flowers.

Edible bits: Delicious 1/2" blueberries in mid to late summer.

Yard value: This version of the blueberry is made for small yards, can tolerate dry soil, delivers fall color, and of course, has delicious fruit. Why don't you have one yet?

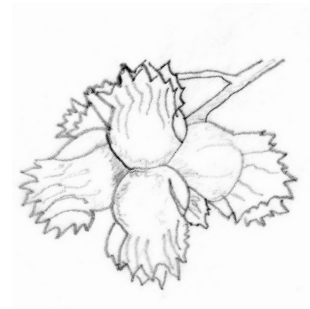


...and nuts too!

They make up in flavor what they lack in size! Though these shrubs produce smaller nuts than their grocery store counterparts, they are said by many to be sweeter and more delicious. Good things come in small packages.

Corylus americana - American Filbert

- Size: 8' - 16' tall
- Shape: Medium to large, many-stemmed shrub
- Needs: Full sun to light shade, tolerates clay soils.
- Notable: Nuts aside, this shrub can be a fast grower with some fantastic fall colors from orange, rose, purple, red to yellow.
- Edible bits: These nuts come in beautiful fuzzy light green clusters with ruffled edges.
- Yard value: The American Filbert will likely need a little pruning to keep it tidy but will reward that hard work with a handsome harvest.



Corylus cornuta - Beaked Hazelnut

- Size: 4' - 8' tall
- Shape: Small to medium many-stemmed shrub
- Needs: Full sun to part shade, grows in average soils but needs good drainage.
- Notable: The smaller of the two hazelnuts, this one is distinguished by its oddly beaked-shape fuzzy nut covering and soft yellow fall color.
- Edible bits: Small delicious hazelnuts abound in late summer.
- Yard value: Plant one for you and one for the squirrels - they know a good nut when they see one!



Take a hike.

Normally found at the beach or along a woodland edge, the Beach Plum and the Red Chokecherry may seem like unlikely residents of the urban garden. It's time to get to know them, if not just for their fruit, but their fabulous fall color too.

Prunus maritima - Beach Plum

Size: 6' - 8' tall

Shape: Medium to large, round, woody shrub

Needs: Full sun, tolerates salt and various soils.

Notable: A profusion of lovely white flowers in spring and fire red foliage in the fall.

Edible bits: These small, 1" plums make famous jams in Cape Cod, why not in Philly too?

Yard value: Spring flowers - check. Summer fruit - check. Fall color - check. Salt tolerant? Yes, it can take that winter sidewalk salt too!



Aronia arbutifolia - Red Chokeberry

Size: 6' - 8' tall

Shape: Medium to large vase-shaped shrub

Needs: Full sun to part shade, tolerates all soils.

Notable: Produces clusters of small white flowers in spring and has excellent red fall color.

Edible bits: A bounty of red berries come in summer and hang on through winter. Whatever you don't get to the birds will take care of for you! Good for jams, jellies, juice and more.

Yard value: The Red Chokeberry delivers the best show in full sun. It can make a nice hedge if left alone or can be pruned to fit its space.



Sources

Print

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Illustrations

Illustrations for this manual were traced from the excellent drawings in the print sources cited above.

From *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* - illustrated by Bonnie Dirr, Margaret Stephan, Asta Sadauskas, Nancy Snyder:
Aronia arbutifolia, *Vaccinium corymbosum*.

From *The Plants of Pennsylvania* - illustrated by Anna Anisko:
Amelanchier laevis, *Asimina triloba*, *Corylus americana*, *Corylus cornuta*, *Diospyros virginiana*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Prunus maritima*, *Prunus serotina*, *Vaccinium angustifolium*, *Zanthoxylum americanum*.

From *The Sibley Guide to Trees* - illustrated by David Allen Sibley:
Juglans nigra, *Sambucus canadensis*.