

# EASTERN RED CEDAR

*(Juniperus virginiana)*

Cypress Family

Evergreen tree (Cedar trees don't drop their leaves in the fall.)

Height: 30 – 40 ft. However, cedars can grow to greater heights in the most suitable habitats. Pale blue fruits occur in females.



*Cedar Waxwing*

## Did you know?

Cedars were discovered in 1564 (Roanoke, VA) by colonists and their wood is sought after for furniture, fences, and cabins.

Cedar Waxwings are named after the Red Cedar.

# MOUNTAIN LAUREL

(*Kalmia latifolia*)

Heath Family

Broadleaf evergreen shrub or tree

Height: 12 – 20 ft. Mountain laurel is considered a shrub, but it can develop a single trunk and attain tree status.

“Showy” bell shape flowers in white and pink are characterized by red/rose spots/dots inside. Stamens are spring-like and will spread their pollen when tripped by bees and other pollinators.



## Did you know?

Mountain laurel wood was used for tool handles. All parts are considered **HIGHLY TOXIC!**

## AMERICAN POKEWEED (*Phytolacca americana*)

Pokeweed Family

Perennial herb (That means the plant dies back each year in the winter, but resprouts in the spring from the same roots.)

Height: 6 – 12 ft

The berry-like clusters will turn from green to purple. Pokeweed is considered a troublesome weed. It is common in disturbed areas and can be found in open woods, damp thickets, clearings, and on roadsides.



### Did you know?

Berries and roots are **poisonous and can be lethal!**

Colonists used the berries as dye and to improve cheap wine (Yuck!).

## **FROST ASTER** (*Symphotrichum pilosum*)

Aster Family  
Perennial herb  
Height: 1 – 3 ft  
Flowers bloom white in late  
summer and autumn.

### **Did you know?**

This plant provides food for  
pollinators such as butterflies and  
bees as well as birds.



## **YARROW** (*Achillea millefolium*)

Aster Family

Perennial herb

Height: 1 – 3 ft

Flower heads bloom pinkish/white in spring – early autumn as large compact clusters.

### **Did you know?**

Yarrow flowers are often used in flower arrangements.



## CHINESE BUSH CLOVER (*Sericea lespedeza*)

Pea Family

Perennial herb

Height: 3-5 ft

Flowers are small (about 1/4 in.) creamy white to yellow-white with pink to purple colored veins. Flowers bloom from late July to October.

### Did you know?

This plant is an invasive plant! It was introduced in the 1940s to control erosion on roadsides and in mining areas, and unfortunately it got out of control. In some areas it is also planted to feed goats. Now, it is threatening natural meadows and forests!



## WHITE ALDER (*Alnus rhombifolia*)

Birch family

Deciduous tree (that means the trees lose their leaves in the fall and grow new leaves in the spring)

Height: 40 – 50 ft.

White alders are fast growing trees. They can also fix nitrogen (which is important plant food) and therefore can be used in reclamation projects. Alders are found near permanent streams and are an indicator of wet conditions or nearby water.



### Did you know?

Native Americans used White Alders in many ways: The bark can be used for medicinal tea and to extract a red dye. The shoots are used for arrows. The roots are used for baskets.

## WILLOW OAK (*Quercus phellos*)

Beech family  
Deciduous tree

**Height:** 70 – 100 ft.

Popular street and shade tree. Unlike other oaks, willow oaks have narrow leaves without lobes or teeth. The tree is acorn producing.

**Habitat:** Alluvial soils, moist forests, stream banks and bottomlands.



### Did you know?

Many oaks including the willow oak provide food for lots of butterfly and moth larvae, such as the caterpillars of this enormous Imperial Moth.

## FLOWERING DOGWOOD (*Cornus florida*)

Dogwood family

Deciduous tree

Height: 20-40 ft

Flowering Dogwood is one of the most beautiful eastern North American trees with showy early spring flowers, red fruit, and scarlet autumn foliage.

### Did you know?

The hard wood is extremely shock-resistant and useful for making weaving-shuttles. It is also made into spools, small pulleys, mallet heads, and jewelers blocks. Native Americans used the aromatic bark and roots as a remedy for malaria and extracted a red dye from the roots.



## AMERICAN HOLLY (*Ilex opaca*)

Holly family

Evergreen tree

Height: 25 - 60 ft

### Did you know?

American Holly is also known as Christmas Holly. The beautiful leaves and bright red berries make wonderful winter decorations. But watch out: The leaves are very prickly, and the berries are **poisonous!**



## **SWEETGUM** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Witch Hazel Family

Deciduous tree

Height: 70 – 100 ft.

The “fruit” is a globular, horny, woody ball, 1 in. in diameter, which hangs on a long stem and persists through January.

### **Did you know?**

Sweetgum wood is the second most popular wood for furniture (oak is #1). A resin-like solid was gathered by peeling off bark and used as a chewing gum.



# WHITE OAK

(*Quercus alba*)

Beech Family

Deciduous tree

Height: 70 – 100 ft.

Acorns are an important food source for wildlife.

## Did you know?

The wood is used for furniture, flooring, and specialty items such as wine and whiskey barrels. It was also used for shipbuilding in colonial times.

The largest known white oak specimen had a circumference of 32 feet and grew in the Wye Oak State Park, Talbot County, Maryland. It was destroyed during a storm on June 6, 2002.



## COMMON GREENBRIER (*Smilax rotundifolia*)

Greenbrier family

Perennial vine

Can climb up to 20 ft

### Did you know?

The young tendrils and leaves are edible and can be prepared like spinach or added to a salad. Watch out for the thorns though!



# TULIP POPLAR (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Family

Deciduous tree

Height: > 100 ft

Habitat: Low, rich woods; stream banks

## Did you know?

Native Americans and pioneers hollowed out a tulip poplar logs to make long, lightweight canoes.



## SASSAFRAS (*Sassafras albidum*)

Laurel Family

Deciduous tree

Height: 35 – 50 ft.

Mahogany brown bark that is deeply rigid and furrowed.

Dark-blue fruits on scarlet stalks appear on female plants in late summer.

Habitat: Open woodlands, Roadsides, Fence rows

### Did you know?

The roots and root bark supply oil of sassafras (used to perfume soap) and sassafras tea, and have been used to flavor root beer.



## **SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA** (*Magnolia virginiana*)

Magnolia family

Deciduous tree

Height: up to 98 ft

### **Did you know?**

The tree was named after its bay-like leaves that smell sweet. The white flowers smell like vanilla.

