EAST TENNESSEE

Unaka Mountains, Ridge and Valley, Cumberland Plateau and Mountains



LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

PROMOTES BIODIVERSITY

and endorses a land ethic that celebrates our natural heritage

EAST TENNESSEE

Unaka Mountains, Ridge and Valley, Cumberland Plateau and Mountains

The Unaka Mountains, the Ridge and Valley, and the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains are distinctively different physiographic regions that make up East Tennessee. Site conditions for each province are determined by topography, soil pH, soil depth, elevation, availability of light, and hydrology. These varying site conditions support a mosaic of native plant communities.

- ➤ Dry, higher-elevation, south-facing slopes have extremely acidic soils that support evergreens such as mountain laurel and pines, as well as oaks, huckleberry, blueberries, and hickories.
- On north-facing slopes, a mixed mesophytic forest community occurs that includes hemlock, tulip poplar and maple.
- Hydric plants occur in drainages, floodplains and upland swamps; these include sweetgum, sycamore, ironwood, and birches.



Soil pH and geology distinguish the Unaka Mountains and the Ridge and Valley from the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains. The Unaka Mountains contain an extremely acidic (lower pH) coarse to fine loam soil. The soil in the northern part of the mountains is formed from granite and gneiss. The soil in the southern part of the mountains derives from phyllite, slate, sandstone, and quartzite. The Ridge and Valley contains a wide variety of topography and geologic formations, and the soils are less acidic (higher pH). The valleys are made up of tilted rock formations of soft shales and clayey limestones. Mostly sandstones and hard shale underlie the ridges, but some limestone exists. The Cumberland Plateau and Mountain Region is generally more acidic (lower pH), underlain by Pennsylvanian sandstones and shales. The dominant soils are well-drained, loamy, strongly acidic, and low in natural fertility.

For landscaping purposes it is important to remember that plants growing in our region are specifically adapted to hydrology (moisture and dryness) and soil pH (acidity and alkalinity). Soil moisture, soil pH, and light availability are important limiting factors. Matching plants to site conditions will yield the maximum benefits that natives provide.

Our natural heritage

The use of native plants in landscaping is a celebration of our natural heritage and an awakening of a land ethic first expressed by Aldo Leopold more than 50 years ago.

The natural processes from which natives evolve represent the cog and wheel of a healthy ecosystem sustained by a complex web of biological diversity.

Native plants have many inherent qualities and adaptive traits that make them aesthetically pleasing, practical, and ecologically valuable for landscaping.

Using native plants contributes to the health and often the restoration of an ecosystem. Landscaping with natives in an urban setting helps restore regional character and places fewer demands on resources.



Native

species naturally occurring in a region (indigenous)

Exotic

species introduced by humans, either deliberately or accidentally (alien, non-native)

What are natives?

Natives are plants that evolved in place over geologic time and are distributed across the landscape largely in response to climatic episodes and adaptation to site conditions related to land formation.

Natives are generally defined as plants that occurred in North America before European settlement. This distinction is made because of the large-scale changes in the flora that have resulted since European settlement and the introduction of "exotic" plants.

Exotics are plants that are directly or indirectly, deliberately or accidentally introduced by human action. To be more precise, natives are natural elements of a regional landscape. While some species are native to North America, they may be exotic to East Tennessee.

Natives vs. exotics

While many exotics are harmless, others pose serious threats to biodiversity. Exotics that escape and naturalize change the floral composition of native plant communities. Exotics that invade native plant communities spread, out-compete, and displace natives. Other exotics are vectors for disease and exotic insects. Future introductions can be prevented by using native species.

Using natives also exhibits regional flora and promotes our natural heritage. Natives have often been overlooked and their aesthetic value ignored. Instead, many regions look the same because overuse of the same exotics has created a monotonous, predictable landscape.

Basics about using natives

When landscaping with natives match the right plants with the right site conditions. Consider using plants that occur together in their natural habitats. Do your homework before planting; study the plants and the site condition information in this brochure. Visit a natural area and observe how plants occur and design your landscape accordingly. Buy nursery propagated plants. Remember, landscaping with natives is art imitating nature.

Benefits of natives

- Adapted to regional conditions and may require less maintenance and are cost-effective.
- Hardy, withstand extreme winter cold, do not suffer from die back.
- Environmentally friendly, require fewer pesticides and fertilizers because of natural adaptations.
- ► Promote biodiversity and stewardship.
- ► Provide food and shelter for native wildlife.
- ► Restore regional landscapes.
- ► Prevent future exotic introductions.

Natives for wildlife

Using natives in landscaping helps sustain native butterflies, moths and other beneficial insects; native birds, reptiles, mammals, and other fauna. Fall migrating birds depend on high-energy fruits from flowering

dogwood and spicebush. Spring migrants feed on insects that occur on oak trees. Beech and other native trees provide nesting habitat, while Eastern red cedar, short leaf pine,



and American holly provide winter cover and food.

Don't dig plants from the wild.
 Buy nursery-propagated plant material.

Native plant recommendations

LIGHT

Sweet bay magnolia

Hop-hornbeam

American plum

Carolina buckthorn

Sourwood

Magnolia virginiana

Oxvdendrum arboreum

Ostrya virginiana

Prunus americana

Rhamnus caroliniana

SOIL MOISTURE

F = full sunlight P = partial shade S = shade

H = hydric; wet, plants periodically or often inundated by water M = mesic; moist, adequate soil moisture retention year-round

SOIL pH

LIGHT

F P S

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B = basic; prefers limestone

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A = acidic; prefers acidic soils

R = restricted to either B or A

MOISTURE

H M S X

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SOIL pH

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B A

S = sub-xeric; moist to dry, seasonally moist, periodically dry X = xeric; dry & drought resistant, little moisture retention, excessively drained

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME		LIGHT			MOISTURE				OIL	рH	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME		
SHRUBS		F	P	S	Н	M	S	X	В	A	R	SMALL TREES (CONTINUE	D)		
Alder	Alnus serrulata	•	٠		•	•				•		Staghorn sumac	Rhus typhina		
Serviceberry	Amelanchier laevis	•	•			•	•			•		Mountain ash	Sorbus americana		
Indigo bush	Amorpha fruticosa	•	•			•	•	•	•			Southern rusty blackhaw	ı Viburnum rufidulum		
Red chokeberry	Aronia arbutifolia	•	•		•	•	•		1	•		Northern blackhaw	Viburnum prunifoliui		
Black chokeberry	Aronia melanocarpa	•	•		•	•	•	•		•					
Sweetshrub	Calycanthus floridus		•	•	•	•	•		İ –	•		TREES			
American beautyberry	Callicarpa americana	•	•		•	•	•	•	1			Red maple	Acer rubrum		
New Jersey tea	Ceanothus americanus		•	•		•	•	•		•		Silver maple	Acer saccharinum		
Buttonbush	Cephalanthus occidentalis	•	•	-	•	•	-	-	•	-		Sugar maple	Acer saccharum		
Cumberland rosemary	Conradina verticillata	-	•		-	•	•		-	•		Yellow buckeve	Aesculus flava		
Hazelnut	Corvlus americana	•	•	•		•	•			-		Black birch	Betula lenta		
Leatherwood	Dirca palustris	•	•	•		•						River birch	Betula nigra		
Hearts-a-bustin	Euonymus americanus	-	•	•		•	•		F			Bitternut hickory	Carva cordiformis		
Swamp mallow	Hibiscus moscheutos			-								Pignut hickory	Carva glabra		
Wild hydrangea	Hydrangea arborescens	-	•		ľ							Shanbark	Carva ovata		
Golden St. John's Wort	Hypericum frondosum			-								Mockernut	Carva tomentosa		
Shrubby St. John's Wort	Hypericum nrolificum								ľ		-	Yellow-wood	Cladrastis lutea		
Common winterberry	Ilex verticillata						•	•		•		Persimmon	Diospyros virginiana		
Virginia-willow	Itea virginica											American beech	Eague grandifolia		
Mountain laurel	Kalmia latifolia			•	-	•						White ach	Fayus yranununu Eraxinus americana		
Spicebuch	Lindera benzoin	•					•	•		•	•	Groop Ach	Fravinus americana		
Ninebark			•	•					-			Blue och	Fraxinus perinsylvan		
	Physocal pus opulitolius	•	•	•	•	•						Diue asii			
Fidifie azalea	Rhododandron carenouaceum		•	•			•				•	Diack wainut	Jugians myra		
Wild azalea	Rhouodendron canescens	•	•	•		•	•			•		Red cedar	Jumperus virgimana		
Rose Day	Rhououenuron maximum		•	•	_	•	•			•	•	Sweetgum Tulin nonlar	Liquidambar styracif		
Fragrant sumac	Rifus aromatica	•	•	•			•	•	•		•	Tulip popiar	Linodenaron tunpiler		
Winged sumac	Rifus copalitina	•	•			•	•					Blackgum	Nyssa sylvalica		
Carolina rose	Rosa carolina	•	•		-	•	•		•			Cucumber tree	Magnolia acuminata		
Swamp rose	Rosa paiustris	•	•		•	•						Red mulberry	Niorus rubra		
Elderberry	Sambucus canadensis	•	•	•		•			•			Short leaf pine	Pinus ecninata		
Bladdernut	Staphylea trifolia		•	•			•		•			White pine	Pinus strobus		
Coralberry, buckbrush	Symphoricarpus orbiculatus	•	•	•		•	•	•	•			Sycamore	Platanus occidentalis		
Farkleberry	Vaccinium arboreum	•	•				•	•		•	•	Black cherry	Prunus serotina		
Highbush blueberry	Vaccinium corymbosum	•	•				•	•		•	•	White oak	Quercus alba		
Cranberry	Vaccinium macrocarpon	•	•		•	•				•	•	Scarlet oak	Quercus coccinea		
Deerberry	Vaccinium stamineum	•	٠			•	٠	•		•	•	Southern red oak	Quercus falcata		
Mapleleaf viburnum	Viburnum acerifolium											Water oak	Quercus nigra		
												Pin oak	Quercus palustris		
SMALL TREES									-			Chestnut oak	Quercus prinus		
Serviceberry	Amelanchier arborea	•	•	•			•	٠		•		Northern red oak	Quercus rubra		
Hercules club	Aralia spinosa	•	•				•	•				Post oak	Quercus stellata		
Paw paw	Asimina triloba		٠	•		•						Black oak	Quercus velutina		
Ironwood	Carpinus caroliniana		•	•	٠	•						Black willow	Salix nigra		
Redbud	Cercis canadensis	•	•	•		•	•	٠	•			Sassafras	Sassafras albidum		
Fringe tree	Chionanthus virginicus		٠	•		•	٠					White cedar	Thuja occidentalis		
Alternate leaved dogwood Cornus alternifolia			٠	•		•	٠			•		Basswood	Tilia americana		
Flowering dogwood	Cornus florida			•		\bullet									
Parsley hawthorn	Crataegus marshallii	•	•				•		•			VINES			
Hawthorn	Crataegus mollis								•			Dutchman's pipe	Aristolochia macroph		
Washington hawthorn	Crataegus phaenopyrum	٠	٠				٠	•	•			Crossvine	Bignonia capreolata		
Carolina silverbell	Halesia carolina	•	•	•		•	•			•		Trumpet creeper	Campsis radicans		
Witch-hazel	Hamamelis virginiana		٠	•		•	٠			•		Leatherflower	Clematis viorna		
American holly	llex opaca		•	•			•					Virgin's bower	Clematis virginiana		

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FRES Red maple Acer saccharium Silver maple Acer saccharium Sugar maple Acer saccharium Shagbark Carya cordiformis Pigunt hickory Carya cordiformis Shagbark Carya cordia Mockernut Carya cordia Yellow-wood Cladrastis lutea Persimmon Diosyros virginana Arerican beech Fraxinus guaringulata	Northern blackhaw	Viburnum prunifolium		•				\bullet				
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White pine Pinus strobus Image: Constraint of the strong str	Short leaf pine	Pinus echinata	•					•	•		•	
Sycamore Platanus occidentalis • <td< td=""><td>White pine</td><td>Pinus strobus</td><td>•</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>•</td><td>•</td><td></td><td></td><td>٠</td><td></td></td<>	White pine	Pinus strobus	•				•	•			٠	
Black cherry Prunus serotina Image: Constraint of the service of	Sycamore	Platanus occidentalis	•	•			•			•		
White oak Quercus alba •	Black cherry	Prunus serotina	•	٠			٠		٠			
Scarlet oak Quercus coccinea Image: Constraint of the system of the	White oak	Quercus alba	•	•		1	•	•	•			
Southern red oak Quercus falcata Image: Constraint of the second se	Scarlet oak	Quercus coccinea	•	٠				•	٠		٠	٠
Water oak Quercus nigra Image: Construct on the construction of t	Southern red oak	Quercus falcata	•	•				•	•			
Pin oak Quercus palustris Image: Construct on the system of the sys	Water oak	Quercus nigra	•	٠		•	•					
Chestnut oak Quercus prinus Image: Constraint of the second	Pin oak	Quercus palustris	•	•			•	•	•	l		
Northern red oak Quercus rubra • <td< td=""><td>Chestnut oak</td><td>Quercus prinus</td><td>•</td><td>٠</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>٠</td><td></td><td>٠</td><td>٠</td></td<>	Chestnut oak	Quercus prinus	•	٠					٠		٠	٠
Post oak Quercus stellata Image: Constraint of the state of t	Northern red oak	Quercus rubra	•	•		•	•	•				
Black oak Quercus velutina • </td <td>Post oak</td> <td>Quercus stellata</td> <td>•</td> <td>•</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>•</td> <td>•</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Post oak	Quercus stellata	•	•				•	•			
Black willow Salix nigra Image: Constraint of the second sec	Black oak	Quercus velutina	•	•			•	•	•			
Sassafras Sassafras albidum 	Black willow	Salix nigra		•		•				•		
White cedar Thuja occidentalis Image: Constraint of the second of t	Sassafras	Sassafras albidum	•	•		1	•	•				
Basswood Tilia americana • • • • •	White cedar	Thuja occidentalis		•	•	•	•	•		•		
	Basswood	Tilia americana	•	•	•	1	•	•				
			•			-	•			-		

Dutchman's pipe Aristolochia macrophylla			•		•	•			
Crossvine	Bignonia capreolata	٠	•	٠	٠	٠			
Trumpet creeper	Campsis radicans					•			
Leatherflower	Clematis viorna	•							
Virgin's bower	Clematis virginiana	•	•		•	•	٠		
Climbing hydrangea Decumaria barbara		٠	•	٠	•				
Carolina jasmine	Gelsemium sempervirens								
Virginia creeper	Parthenocissus quinquefolia	٠	•		٠	٠	٠		
Passionflower Passiflora incarnata						•			
Atlantic wisteria Wisteria frutescens				٠		•			

FERNS

Maidenhair fern Ebony spleenwort Lady fern Common grape fern Bulblet fern Hay-scented fern Shining club moss Sensitive fern Cinnamon fern Christmas fern Common woodsia Chain fern

Adiantum pedatum Asplenium platvneuron Athyrium felix-femina ssp. asplenioide Botrychium dissectum Cvstopteris bulbifera Dennstaedtia punctiloba Lycopodium lucidulum Onoclea sensibilis Osmunda cinnamomea Polystichum acrostichoides Woodsia obtusa Woodwardia areolata



GRASSES AND SEDGES

Big bluestem Split beard bluestem Broomsedae River cane Plaintain-leaved sedge River oats, spangle grass Oat grass Canada wild rye Sugarcane plumegrass Narrow plumegrass Bottle brush Switch-grass Indian grass

Andropogon gerardii Andropogon ternarius Andropogon virginicus Arundinaria gigantea ssp. gigantea Carex plantaginea Chasmanthium latifolium Danthonia compressa Elymus canadensis Erianthus aiganteus Erianthus strictus Hystrix patula Panicum virgatum Sorghastrum nutans

GROUND COVERS

Hog–peanut Pussy's toes Wild ginger Mouse-eared coreopsis Rattlesnake plaintain Dwarf crested iris Partridge berry Allegheny spurge Phacelia Chalice phlox Carolina phlox Wild blue phlox Downy phlox Creeping phlox Foamflowe Verbena

FI OWFRS

Doll's eyes Blue star Thimbleweed Wild columbine Green dragon Jack-in-the-pulpit Goat's-beard Swamp milkweed Butterfly-weed White wood aster Showy aster Late purple aster False goatsbeard Blue wild indiao Marsh marigold Blue cohosh Pink turtlehead Whorled tickseed Wild bleeding heart Shooting star Purple coneflower Wild ageratum Joe-Pye weed Wild geranium Maximillian sunflower Sharp-lobed hepatica Alumroot Jewelweed Blue flag Dense blazing star Turks-cap lily Cardinal flowe Virginia bluebells Bishop's cap Ginseng Phlox maculata Garden phlox Jacob's ladder Solomon's sea Blackeyed Susan Fire pink Rough stemmed goldenrod Spiderwort Tall ironweed Bird-foot violet Long-spurred violet

Amphicarpaea bracteata Antennaria plantaginifolia Asarum canadense Coreopsis auriculata Goodyera pubescens Iris cristata Mitchella repens Pachysandra procumbens Phacelia bipinnatifida Phlox amoena Phlox carolina Phlox divaricata Phlox pilosa Phlox stolonifera Tiarella cordifolia

Verbena canadensis

Actaea pachypoda Amsonia tabernaemontana Anemone virginiana Aquilega canadensis Arisaema dracontium Arisaema triphyllum Aruncus dioicus Asclepias incarnata Asclepias tuberosa Aster divaricatus Aster arandiflorus Aster patens . Astilbe biternata Baptisia australis Caltha palustris Caulophyllum thalictroides Chelone lyonii Coreopsis major Dicentra eximia Dodecatheon meadia Echinacea purpurea Eupatorium coelestinum Eupatorium fistulosum Geranium maculatum Helianthus maximilianii Hepatica acutiloba Heuchera americana Impatiens capensis Iris versicolor Liatris spicata Lilium superbum Lobelia cardinalis Mertensia virginica Mitella diphylla Panax quinquefolius Phlox maculata Phlox paniculata Polemonium reptans Polygonatum biflorum Rudbeckia fulgida Silene virginica Solidago rugosa

Tradescantia virginiana

Vernonia altiss

Viola pedata

Viola rostrata

MOSAIC FOR FULL SUN Big blue stem

Butterfly weed

Joe-Pye weed

Carolina jasmine

Black-eyed Susan

Indian grass

River oats

Phlox

Andropogon gerardii Asclepias tuberosa . Chasmanthium latifolium Eupatorium dubium Gelsemium sempervirens Phlox spp. Rudbeckia fulgida Sorghastrum nutans

Arisaema triphyllum

Asarum canadense

Hepatica acutiloba

Heuchera americana

Osmunda cinnamomea

Polygonatum biflorum

Viola spp

Polystichum acrostichoides

Aristolochia macrophylla

Chasmanthium latifolium



MOSAIC FOR SHADE

Jack-in-the-pulpit Dutchman's pipe Wild ginger River oats Sharp-lobed hepatica Alumroot Cinnamon fern Solomon's seal Christmas fern Violets



Celebrate our natural heritage and protect native plant communities

- **1.** Learn more about native plants.
- 2. Buy nursery propagated plant material.
- **3.** Don't dig plants from the wild.
- **4.** Protect native plant and natural area habitat.
- **5.** Promote responsible landscaping practices.
- 6. Plant native and not exotic plant species.

For more information

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Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation Natural Heritage Division 401 Church St., 8th floor, L & C Tower Nashville TN 37243-0447

615/532-0436

Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council (TN-EPPC) P.O. Box 936 Fairview TN 37062 www.tneppc.org

Tennessee Native Plant Society Department of Botany University of Tennessee Knoxville TN 37996-1100

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