

Trees & Shrubs

Aesculus pavia

Red buckeye can be grown as a shrub or tree. An early hummingbird favorite. (Some plants continue into May)

Amelanchier sp.

Shadbush has white blooms (followed by a tasty fruit) time varies by species.

Aronia arbutifolia

Red chokeberry is a multiseason shrub with white spring flowers, fruit, and red fall foliage. An outstanding alternative to the invasive burning bu:

Aronia melanocarpa

Black chokeberry also has white spring flowers, (healthy! but bitter fruit) and attractive fall foliage.

Asimina triloba

Pawpaw - dark red flowers pollinated by beetles & blowflies. Two genetically distinct plants are needed for fruit.

Calycanthus floridus

Sweetshrub is a US native with fragrant flowers (with a fruity smell ~ like Juicy Fruit gum). A few scattered flowers in May

Camellia japonica

Non-native. Bloom time, color, form vary by cultivar

Cercis canadensis

Redbud. Good early source of pollen and hosts several caterpillar species.

Chionanthus virginicus

Fringe tree or Grancy graybeard is a member of the olive family with fragrant blooms. There are separate male and female plants

Cornus alternifolia

Pagoda dogwood is known for its distinct horizontal branching. A good focal point or specimen tree.

Cornus florida

Flowering dogwood. Dogwood fruit is an important food source for birds (providing calcium for eggs)

Crataegus marshalii

Parsley hawthorne. White blooms followed by red berries.

Deutzia gracilis

A non-native hydrangea relative with white flowers.

Fothergilla sp.

Witch alder. US native. Fragrant, white blooms

Halesia diptera

Two winged silverbell. US Native. Bell-shaped white blooms

Itea virginica

Virginia sweetspire. Fragrant white flowers (and vibrant red fall foliage)

Kerria japonica

Japanese kerria. Non-native. Showy yellow flowers

Lavandula stoechas

Spanish lavender. Non-native.

Ligustrum sp.

Privet. Exotic invasive. I'm mostly including privet here to encourage people to remove it wherever they can!

Loropetalum chinense

A very common non-native ornamental.

Malus sp.

Flowering crabapples (not native) are more common, but there is also a native species: Malus angustifolia (fragrant flowers in late March)

Osmanthus americanus

American olive or devilwood. (US native) Fragrant, light green flowers. Syn: Cartrema americana.

Osmanthus fragrans

Not-native. Evergreen. Fragrant

Paulownia tomentosa

The empress tree has showy, fragrant purple blooms, and a heart of darkness - set on global domination! Exotic invasive.

Philadelphus sp.

Mock orange is a relative of hydrangea grown for its fragrant white flowers. There are natives and non-natives.

Photinia sp.

Non-native photinia species are potentially invasive. Ilex opaca or Ilex vomitoria are better native choices for evergreen screening.

Physocarpus opulifolius

Ninebark. Attractive to pollinators and birds. Attractive exfoliating bark (as the common name implies)

Prunus sp.

The native, black cherry, is one of the last prunus to bloom. The non-native evergreen Prunus laurocerasus also blooms late

Pyracantha sp.

Firethorn are not native. You commonly see them growing against walls. White flowers, red fruits, and sharp (evil) thorns

Quercus sp.   
 Bloom time varies by species. Some oaks also have showy new leaves.

Raphiolepis indica.   
 Indian hawthorn. A commonly planted (evergreen). *Not-native*

Rhododendron sp.   
 Azaleas native to Arkansas include Rhododendron prinophyllum (a spring bloomer) and R. viscosum (which blooms later in the year)

Rosa sp.   
 Knock out and tea roses bloom ahead of our native roses. Rosa carolina is just picking up at the end of the month.

Rubus sp.   
 There are several different blackberry species native to central Arkansas (and a non-native: R. armeniacus)

Salvia rosmarinus   
 Rosemary - Syn Rosmarinus officinalis

Spirea sp.   
 Spring blooming spireas are not-native. White flower clusters - timing varies by species.

Staphylea trifolia   
 American bladdernut. Clusters of white bell shaped flowers in spring followed by interesting seed capsules (hence the common name)

Styxax sp.   
 There are native and non-native Styxax (or Snowbells). They are relatively uncommon ornamentals with fragrant flowers

Syringa sp.   
*Non-native* Lilac.

Viburnum sp.   
 There are a number of native viburnums (both trees and shrubs). In my yard V. dentatum is the earliest to flower (late April)

**Vines**

Bignonia capreolata   
 Crossvine. A close relative of trumpet creeper and a hummingbird favorite.

Clematis sp.   
 Clematis - bloom time and color varies with selection. There are several spring blooming natives.

Gelsemium sempervirens   
 Carolina jasmine. The state flower of South Carolina. (People with small children or with honey bees should be wary)

Lonicera sempervirens   
 Coral/trumpet honeysuckle. Hummingbird favorite with protracted bloom.

Wisteria sp.   
 There is a native wisteria (W. frutescens) that is somewhat better behaved than Chinese wisteria (<- the one commonly seen)

**Groundcovers, Perennials, Bulbs, & (a few) Annuals**

Ajuga reptans.   
 Bugleweed. An evergreen groundcover *non-native*. Common violet would be a good native replacement with more wildlife value.

Amsonia ciliata   
 Fringed bluestar. All the amsonias have blue flowers early and yellow fall foliage.

Amsonia hubrichtii   
 Arkansas bluestar. Fine textured foliage and vibrant fall foliage. **Full sun**

Amsonia tabernaemontana   
 Bluestar. The earliest of the bluestars

Antennaria sp.   
 Pussy toes. Sporadic white flowers early with more as spring goes on. Host plant for the American Painted Lady

Aquilegia canadensis   
 Eastern columbine. A classic wildflower and hummingbird plant.

Asarum canadense   
 Wild ginger. (This is not a showy flower, but interesting)

Baptisia sp.   
 In the wild, cream wild indigo (B. bracteata) is the first to bloom. Cultivar bloom time varies by selection and microclimate

Calamintha arkansana   
 Ozark calamint. Syn - Clinopodium arkansanum

Callirhoe alcaeoides   
 White wine cups

Cardamine concatenata   
 Cutleaved toothwort. A spring ephemeral with white flowers

Chionodoxa luciliae   
 Glory of the snow. *Not-native*. A low growing bulb.

Claytonia virginica   
 Spring beauty.

- Colinsia verna  
Spring blue eyed Mary. Native annual.
- Coreopsis tinctoria  
Plains coreopsis. Native annual frequently spotted along the highway in early spring.
- Delphinium carolinianum  
Prairie larkspur.
- Engelmannia peristenia  
Engelmann's Daisy is an aster family member that will grow in hot dry places. Syn Engelmannia pinnatifida
- Erigeron sp.  
The fleabanes can be thuggish, but they're also good for beneficial insects & bees. White, pink, and purple flowers
- Geranium maculatum  
Spotted geranium. A showy plant for shade. Seeds are eaten by mourning doves and quail.
- Glandularia canadensis  
Rose verbena continues to flower on and off through the year
- Helleborus sp.  
Hellebore. A commonly planted *non-native*. Evergreen
- Heuchera sp.  
Coral bells or Alumroot. H. americana (American Alumroot) and many cultivars bloom in early spring.
- Hyacinthoides sp.  
Spanish hyacinth and English hyacinth (non-native <- as you might expect).
- Iris cristata  
Dwarf crested iris. This is a very pretty, low growing native. Bloom color varies
- Iris fulva  
Copper iris. A native water loving iris
- Iris siberica  
Siberian iris. *Non-native*. Bloom time and color varies with cultivar
- Iris pseudacorus  
Yellow iris. *Non-native and potentially invasive*. Some states now classify this as a noxious weed
- Iris x.  
Bearded iris. *Non-native*. Bloom time and color varies with cultivar
- Lunaria annua  
Silver dollars. *Non-native*. Purple flowers early in spring followed by round seed pods
- Maianthemum racemosum  
False Solomon's Seal. A pretty plant for moist shade with fruits that are attractive to birds. Syn. Smilacina racemosa
- Mertensia virginica  
Virginia bluebells
- Narcissus sp  
Daffodil. *Non-native*. Bloom times vary by cultivar
- Oenothera speciosa  
Pink evening primrose. A vigorous (thuggish) plant favored by moths, bees, and finches - frequently spied along highways in early spring.
- Packera aurea  
Golden ragwort. Can be used as a ground cover in wetter areas. Syn - Senecio aureus
- Packera obovata  
Round-leaf ragwort. Can be used as a ground cover in dry woods. Syn - Senecio obovatus
- Packera tomentosa  
Woolly ragwort. Full sun preferred. Syn - Senecio tomentosus
- Paeonia sp.  
*Non-native*. The bloom time, color, and form of herbaceous peonies varies by cultivar
- Penstemon laxiflorus.  
Nodding penstemon.
- Phlox bifida  
Sand phlox.
- Phlox divaricata  
Woodland phlox. Typically in shades of blue or purple. Part sun to shade
- Phlox pilosa.  
Prairie phlox. This grows wild in my neighborhood park. Like many phlox bloom color varies.
- Phlox subulata  
Moss phlox. Bloom times can vary substantially. An extremely tough evergreen.
- Podophyllum peltatum  
Mayapple. Spring ephemeral with white flowers - shade to part sun

Polemonium reptans

Jacob's ladder

Polygonatum biflorum

Solomon's seal.

Ranunculus sp.

There are several common species of buttercups. R. hispidus (native) and R. sarduous (non-native) have shown up in my yard.

Salvia greggii

Autumn sage is a US native attractive to hummingbirds (and other pollinators) with a long bloom time.

Salvia lyrata

Lyre-leaved sage. Light blue flowers - commonly seen in lawns

Silene virginica

Fire pink. A hummingbird favorite for part shade.

Sisyrinchium sp.

The blue eyed grasses are members of the iris family easily mistaken for grass when not in flower. 4 species grow in Pulaski County

Stylophorum diphyllum

Celandine poppy. Spring ephemeral

Tradescantia sp.

Spiderwort.

Vinca sp.

Vinca major is *not native* & one of my plant nemeses! :( Fun fact: This plant is in the same family as milkweed and amsonia

Viola pedata

Bird's foot violet. Bloom time varies substantially by site.

Viola sororia

Common blue violet

Zizia aurea

Golden alexanders. A host plant for some swallowtail species and a favorite of small insects