

Best Plants for Dry Shade

Plant Name and Picture	Water/ Light Needs/ Native Range	Soil Type/ Culture	Seasonal interest	Species Supported & Ecological Function	Tolerances/ Uses	Growth Habit/ Sociability/ Root type
Latin Name - Common Name	Preferred soil moisture conditions, light conditions and native location	Preferred soil conditions Natural habitats	Foliage/ Bloom/ Seed Heads & Fruit Bark & Stems	Wildlife supported Host Plant, if applicable and species supported	Soil, sun, moisture and wildlife tolerances Cultural uses	Growth style/Function within a landscape
 <p>Callicarpa americana - American Beautyberry</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic Light: Full sun to partial shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p> 	<p>Soil: Fertile/Rich High organic matter Well drained Sandy Clay</p> <p>Culture: Forest edges Moist slopes Open Woods Swamp margins</p>	<p>Foliage: Yellow fall color</p> <p>Boom: Jun, insignificant</p> <p>Fruit: Clusters of intensely purple berries in fall</p>	<p>Birds, pollinators Host Plant: Azure butterflies, Snowberry Clearwing Moth, Rustic Sphinx Moth</p>  <p>Shelter, food, nesting, host plant</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established</p> 	<p>Habit: Upright to arching Sociability: 2 – multi-stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Hypericum prolificum - Shrubby St. John's wort</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Full sun to part shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average Culture: Dry wooded slopes Rocky fields Streams Moist valleys</p>	<p>Foliage: Semi-evergreen</p> <p>Bloom: June-July</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall-winter</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Host Plant: Gray Hairstreak butterfly, various moths</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Clay soil Black Walnut Uses: Erosion control Rain garden edges</p>	<p>Habit: Mounding (full sun), Upright and open (part shade) Sociability: 2 – clumper, may self-seed Root type: Fibrous</p>



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 <p>Ilex vomitoria - Yaupon Holly</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic - Wet/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade Native to southeastern coastal states, rarely found in TN</p>	<p>Soil: Average to acidic</p> <p>Culture: Open fields Forest edges Wet swamps Coastal plains</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen</p> <p>Flower: April - May</p> <p>Seed head: Bright red berries on female plants</p>	<p>Songbirds Small mammals Butterflies Other pollinators Specialized bees</p> <p>Host Plant: Henry's Elfin butterfly</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Deer Rabbit Drought, once established Rocky soil Clay soil Air pollution</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, bushy Thicket forming</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – multi-stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Rhus aromatica - Fragrant sumac</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Average Well drained Rocky/gravelly</p> <p>Culture: Open woods Glades Thickets</p>	<p>Foliage: Fall color – orange, red, purple</p> <p>Bloom: May-April</p> <p>Fruit: Red fruit on female plants/stems (plant may be both)</p>	<p>Small mammals Birds: Turkey, grouse, robins, flickers Butterflies Luna moths</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Clay soil Wet soil Shallow soil Black Walnut</p> <p>Uses: Erosion control</p>	<p>Habit: Mounding (full sun) to upright and open (part shade)</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system, may self-seed</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus – Coralberry</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Part shade to full shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau South/Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well-drained Average Adaptable</p> <p>Culture: Shaded woods Thickets Streambanks Oak woodlands</p>	<p>Foliage: Fall color- Yellow</p> <p>Bloom: June-July</p> <p>Berry: Showy Pink/purple Late fall/early winter</p>	<p>Songbirds Small mammals Habitat Shelter</p> <p>Host Plant: Snowberry Clearwing and Sulfur moths</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Clay soil Deer resistant Rabbit resistant</p> <p>Uses: Erosion control Floral arrangements</p>	<p>Habit: Arching Mounding Dense thickets</p> <p>Sociability: 3 – suckering</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Stolon</p>



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	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Part shade – Full shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Alkaline/Average Sandy/Loamy/ Rocky Well drained Culture: Swamps/Marshes Moist to dry woods Thickets Streambanks</p>	<p>Foliage: Fall color – red Fruit: White Drupe</p>	<p>Pollinators Songbirds </p>	<p>Tolerates: Deer Poor soils Uses: Erosion control Screening</p>	<p>Habit: Multi -stem, upright Colonizing Sociability: 3 – spreads by roots system Root type: Stolons</p>
	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Full sun to part shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native, Southwest Appalachians, Blue Ridge, eastern TN</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average Culture: Moist woods, Thickets Streambanks Glades</p>	<p>Foliage: Glossy green, fall color – yellowish, orange-red in consistent moisture Flower: May-June Fruit: Blue-black drupe/berry</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Small Mammals Songbirds Host plant: Spring and Summer Azure butterfly </p>	<p>Drought tolerant, compaction tolerant, deer resistant, alkaline soil tolerant, black walnut tolerant, air pollution tolerant, clay soil tolerant, rocky soil tolerant </p>	<p>Habit: Upright Sociability: 2 – multi -stem clumper Root Type: Fibrous</p>
	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Partial shade to full shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Culture: Woodlands</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen foliage Bloom: March-June</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Songbirds Nesting, cover</p>	<p>Tolerates: Clay soil Deer resistant Uses: Lawn replacement</p>	<p>Habit: Low, mounding to arching Sociability: 2 – medium spreader, dense mat Root type: Fibrous, rhizome</p>



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 <p>Carex albicans - White Tinged sedge</p>	<p>Water: Avg Dry-Mesic, Mesic Light: Full shade to full sun (with adequate moisture) Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Culture:</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen foliage Bloom: May</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Songbirds Nesting, cover</p>	<p>Heat tolerant, wet soil tolerant, deer resistant, clump forming, lawn replacement, ground cover, walkway edging</p>	<p>Sociability: 2 – clumper, slow spreader Root type: Fibrous, rhizome</p>
 <p>Carex eburnea – Bristle-leaf sedge</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Full shade to full sun (with adequate moisture) Ecoregion: Southwest Appalachian to Ridge & Valley, Middle/ Eastern TN</p>	<p>Soil: Average Well drained Rocky Sandy Culture: Limestone bluffs</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen foliage Bloom: May-June</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Songbirds Nesting, cover</p>	<p>Tolerates : Mowing Heat tolerant Wet soil Deer Uses: Lawn replacement Groundcover</p>	<p>Habit: Low, mounding Arching Groundcover Sociability: 2 – medium slow spreader, dense mat Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Carex flaccosperma - Blue Wood Sedge</p>	<p>Water: Avg to high Mesic, Wet-Mesic Light: Deep shade to part shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Culture:</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen foliage Bloom: March-June</p>	<p>Butterflies Songbirds Pollinators Nesting, cover</p>	<p>Resistant to: Deer, disease, heavy shade, insect pests, wet soil</p>	<p>Sociability: 2 – medium spreader, dense mat Root type: Fibrous, rhizome</p>



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	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Moist/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to full shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Clay/Sandy/ Loam</p> <p>Culture: Lowlands Floodplains Moist woodlands Streambanks</p>	<p>Foliage: Cool season grass</p> <p>Bloom: July - August</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall-winter</p>	<p>Birds Small mammals Butterflies Pollinators Host Plant: Pearly Eye caterpillars Skipper butterflies Nesting, cover</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Deep shade Black Walnut Deer resistant Rabbit resistant</p>	<p>Habit: Colonizer Naturalizing Sociability: 3 – medium spreader, heavily self-seeds Root type: Rhizome</p>
	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Average Well drained Adaptable</p> <p>Culture: Dry woodlands</p>	<p>Bloom: September- October</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall – Winter interest</p>	<p>Songbirds Nesting, cover Host Plant: Northern Pearly Eye butterfly</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Clay soils Heavy shade Black Walnut Air Pollution Deer resistant Rabbit resistant Uses: Erosion control</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, arching, bushy Naturalizing Sociability: 2 – clumper, self-seeds Root type: Fibrous</p>
	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full shade to partial shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Fertile/Rich Well drained</p> <p>Culture: Rich woodlands & fields Streambeds</p>	<p>Foliage: Semi-evergreen foliage</p> <p>Bloom: April - May</p> 	<p>Hummingbirds Butterflies Bees Small mammals Supports: Gray hairstreak Hummingbird Clearwing</p>	<p>Tolerates: Clay soils Drought, once established Black Walnut</p> 	<p>Habit: Open slow spreading groundcover Sociability: 2 – medium spreading clump Root type: Fibrous</p>



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 <p>Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas fern</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Part sun to full shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained</p> <p>Culture: Uplands Woodlands</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen</p>	<p>Songbirds</p> <p>Wildlife cover, nesting material</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Deer Rabbit Black walnut</p>	<p>Habit: Bushy evergreen</p> <p>Sociability: 1 – slowly expanding clump, may reproduce by spores</p> <p>Root type: Rhizome</p>
 <p>Salvia lyrata – Lyre-leaf sage</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Wet/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to deep shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Wet Sandy Clay Rocky</p> <p>Culture: Open woods Thickets Streambanks Glades</p>	<p>Foliage: Broadleaf evergreen</p> <p>Bloom: April - June</p> <p>Seed Heads: Summer - Winter</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Songbirds Seeds are favored by finches and swallows</p>	<p>Tolerates: Deer Rabbit Drought, once established</p> <p>Uses: Rain garden</p>	<p>Habit: Naturalizing</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumper, self -seeds</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>
 <p>Sedum ternatum - Stonecrop</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun to deep shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Rocky</p> <p>Culture: Rocky woods Cliffs Rock ledges Moist forest Wooded ravines</p>	<p>Foliage: Broadleaf evergreen</p> <p>Bloom: April - May</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Songbirds</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Deep shade Moist soil Shallow soil Deer</p>	<p>Habit: Groundcover Naturalizing</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – slow spreader, dense mat</p> <p>Root type: Rhizome</p>



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	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Fertile/Rich</p> <p>Culture: Rocky woodlands Open areas Ledges</p>	<p>Bloom: April - May</p> 	<p>Butterflies Hummingbirds Moths Pollinators Songbirds Host Plant: Columbine Duskywing Pink tinted beauty</p>	<p>Tolerates: Deer Rabbit Drought, once established</p> 	<p>Habit: Bushy, upright Naturalization</p> <p>Sociability: 3 – clumper, self -seeds</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>
	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Full sun to part shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average</p> <p>Culture: Dryer open woods Prairies Savannas Limestone bluffs Glades Fields/Roadsides Thickets</p>	<p>Bloom: May - August</p>	<p>Pollinators Bees</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Shallow soil Deer Rabbit Shade</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, bushy Sociability: 2 – clumper, may self -seed Root type: Rhizome/ Taproot (conflicting source information)</p>
	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Part shade to shade Species listed as critically imperiled: Native in Putnam county and four counties in Arkansas</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average</p> <p>Culture: Dryer open woods Fields/Roadsides Thickets</p>	<p>Bloom: May - June</p>	<p>Pollinators Bees</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Dry shade Alkaline soil Deer Rabbit</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, bushy</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumper, may self -seed</p> <p>Root type: Taproot</p>

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 <p>Solidago flexicaulis - Zigzag goldenrod</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Part sun to full shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average</p> <p>Culture: Open woods</p>	<p>Bloom: July - September</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall-Winter</p>	<p>Butterflies Songbirds Small mammals Native bees Moths</p> <p>Host Plant: Checkerspot butterflies Wavy-lined Emerald Green Leuconycta</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Clay soil Deer Heavy shade</p> 	<p>Habit: Bushy Upright to arching Naturalizing Sociability: 3 – medium spreader, self - seeds Root type: Fibrous, rhizome</p>
 <p>Spigelia marylandica - Indian Pink</p>	<p>Water: Avg to low Mesic</p> <p>Light: Partial shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Adaptable</p>	<p>Bloom: June</p>	<p>Hummingbirds, Pollinators</p>	<p>Drought tolerant, woodland garden</p>	<p>2 – slow spreading clump, may self - seed</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>
 <p>Symphyotrichum cordifolium - blue wood aster</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Part to full shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Rich/Fertile</p> <p>Culture: Dry to moist woodlands Woodland margins Dry meadows Fields/Roadsides Streambanks</p>	<p>Bloom: August - September</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Small mammals Songbirds</p> <p>Host Plant: Silvery Checkerspot Pearl Crescent</p> <p>Specialized bees; Andrena asteris, asteroides, hirticincta, nubecula, placata, simplex</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Alkaline soil Deer</p>  <p>Rabbit</p>	<p>Habit: Open, bushy</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumper, self - seeds</p> <p>Root Type: Fibrous</p>



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 <p>Solidago caesia - Bluestem/ wreath goldenrod</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun to partial shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Fertile/Rich Average</p> <p>Culture: Open woods Bluff ledges</p>	<p>Bloom: August – September</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall-Winter</p>	<p>Butterflies Songbirds Small mammals Native bees Moths</p> <p>Host Plant: Checkerspot butterflies Wavy - lined Emerald Green Leuconycta</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Clay soil Deer</p>	<p>Habit: Bushy Upright to arching</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – slow spreading clump, may self-seed</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>
 <p>Viola walteri - Walter's violet</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full shade to partial</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Average Well drained</p> <p>Culture: Woodlands</p>	<p>Foliage: Silvery-green semi- evergreen</p> <p>Bloom: February-June</p>	<p>Bees Butterflies Pollinators</p> <p>Host Plant: Fritillary butterfly</p>	<p>Tolerates: Heavy shade Black walnut Wet soil Drought, once established</p>	<p>Sociability: 2 – medium spreader, dense mat</p> <p>Root type: Stolon</p>
 <p>Monarda bradburiana - Eastern Beebalm</p>	<p>Water: Dr/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun to partial</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average Slightly acidic</p> <p>Culture: Open, rocky woods Glade margins</p>	<p>Foliage: Fall color – red/purple</p> <p>Bloom: May- June</p> <p>Seed heads: Fall-Winter</p>	<p>Bees Butterflies Hummingbirds Songbirds Other pollinators</p> <p>Specialized bees: Dufourea monardae, Perdita (Perdita) gerhardi, and Protandrena abdominalis</p>	<p>Tolerates: Lean/poor soils Drought, once established Clay soil Shallow-rocky soil Deer Rabbit</p> <p>Uses: Edible/culinary</p>	<p>Habit: Mounding</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – slow spreading clump, may self-seed</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>



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 <p>Eurybia macrophylla – Big Leaf Aster</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Partial shade to shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Sandy Loamy Culture: Woodlands Open woods</p>	<p>Bloom: September - October</p>	<p>Pollinators Host plant: Pearl Crescent Butterfly</p> 	<p>Uses: Edible young foliage Rain garden</p>	<p>Habit: Groundcover Colonizing Naturalizing Sociability: 3 – medium spreader, dense mat, self-seeds Root type: Rhizome</p>
 <p>Geranium maculatum - Wild geranium</p>	<p>Water: Avg /Mesic Light: Prefers partial shade, full sun with adequate moisture Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Average Well drained Culture: Woodlands Woodland margins Thickets</p>	<p>Bloom: April - May</p>	<p>Bees Butterflies Other pollinators Songbirds Small mammals Host Plant: Andrena distans</p>	<p>Tolerates: Deer Rabbit Poor soil Drought, once established</p>	<p>Habit: Bushy Groundcover Sociability: 2 – slow spreader Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Fragaria virginiana - Wild strawberry</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Full sun to part shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Fertile/Rich Sandy Loamy Culture: Open Woods Meadows Prairies Glades Fields/Roadsides</p>	<p>Foliage: Cool-season, semi evergreen Bloom: April - May Fruit: June - July</p>	<p>Pollinators Songbirds Specialized Bees</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Uses: Erosion control</p>	<p>Habit: Open groundcover Sociability: 3 – fast spreader Root type: Rhizome</p>

Best Plants for Winter Interest

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 <p>Cornus sericea - Red Twig dogwood</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Wet/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade</p> <p>Native to U.S. except for southeastern states</p>	<p>Soil: Fertile/Rich High organic matter</p> <p>Culture: Moist savannahs Bogs, swamps</p> 	<p>Foliage: Fall color – red-orange-purple</p> <p>Bloom: May-June</p> <p>Seed head: Ornamental red berries</p>	<p>Butterflies Moths Pollinators Predatory Insects Songbirds Specialized bees</p> <p>Host plant: Spring Azure</p>	<p>Tolerates: Occasional drought, once established Wet soil Deer resistant</p>  <p>Uses: Erosion control Rain garden</p>	<p>Habit: Multi-stem, upright Colonizing</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – multi-stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Itea virginica - Sweetspire</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Moist/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Part shade, Full sun if consistent moisture</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Average to acidic Sand-Clay</p> <p>Culture: Moist woods Swamps Streambanks Low pine barrens</p>	<p>Foliage: Fall color – deep red/purple</p> <p>Bloom: June-July</p> <p>Seed Heads: persist throughout fall</p> <p>Stems: Deep red in winter</p>	<p>Songbirds Hummingbirds Small Mammals Butterflies Other pollinators</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Short periods of drought, once established Clay soils Wet soils, occasional flooding Heavy shade</p> <p>Uses: Erosion control Rain garden</p>	<p>Habit: Upright to arching, bushy Colonizing</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – multi-stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>



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 <p>Hydrangea quercifolia - oakleaf hydrangea</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun to deep shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau South/Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Rich/Fertile</p> <p>Culture: Moist woods Ravines Stream banks Bluffs</p>	<p>Foliage: Fall color – deep red/purple</p> <p>Bloom: June-September, good cut flower</p> <p>Seed Heads: persist throughout fall</p> <p>Stems: Exfoliating bark provides winter interest</p>	<p>Songbirds Butterflies Other pollinators</p>	<p>Tolerantes: Drought tolerance once established</p> 	<p>Habit: Upright, open Bushy</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – multi-stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Prunus caroliniana - Carolina cherry laurel</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade</p> <p>Native to southeastern coastal states, rarely found in TN</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained</p> <p>Culture: Low woods Thickets Fields</p> 	<p>Foliage: Evergreen Glossy</p> <p>Bloom: March-April</p> <p>Fruit: Reddish-purple berry</p>	<p>Songbirds Wild turkeys Quail Small mammals White-tail deer Bees Butterflies</p> <p>Host Plant: Coral Hairstreak Red-spotted Purple Spring/Summer Azures Viceroy butterflies Eastern Tiger Swallowtail</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established</p> 	<p>Habit: Single to multi-stem</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – may spread by suckering growth from root system, often seeds heavily</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>



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 <p>Ilex verticillata - Winterberry</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Wet/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Part shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau South/Middle TN Native Southwest Appalachian-Blue Ridge, eastern TN</p>	<p>Soil: Average-Acidic Rich/Fertile</p> <p>Culture: Swamps Moist thickets Low woodlands Streambanks Pond edges</p>	<p>Foliage: Good fall color –yellow if in consistently moist soil</p> <p>Bloom: June-July</p> <p>Seed head: Bright red berries on female plants</p>	<p>Songbirds (over 48 species) Small mammals Butterflies Other pollinators Specialized bees Host Plant: Henry's Elfin butterfly</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Clay soil Wet soil Air pollution Deer</p> <p>Uses: Rain garden Erosion control</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, bushy</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – multi -stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Ilex vomitoria - Yaupon Holly</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic - Wet/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade Native to southeastern coastal states, rarely found in TN</p>	<p>Soil: Average to acidic</p> <p>Culture: Open fields Forest edges Wet swamps Coastal plains</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen</p> <p>Flower: April - May</p> <p>Seed head: Bright red berries on female plants</p>	<p>Songbirds Small mammals Butterflies Other pollinators Specialized bees Host Plant: Henry's Elfin butterfly</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Deer Rabbit Drought, once established Rocky soil Clay soil Air pollution</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, bushy Thicket forming</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – multi -stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Illicium floridanum - Florida Anise</p>	<p>Water: Avg to Wet Mesic, Wet-Mesic</p> <p>Light: Part shade Native to southeastern coastal states</p>	<p>Soil:</p> <p>Culture:</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen</p> <p>Flower: April - May</p>	<p>Pollinators</p>	<p>Shade tolerant, wet soil tolerant, evergreen, fragrant, deer resistant</p>	<p>Sociability: 2 – multi -stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>

Best Plants for Winter Interest

 <p>Panicum virgatum - switchgrass</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Wet/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Average Poor/lean</p> <p>Culture: Tallgrass prairie Open woods Gravel bars Stream banks Fields/Roadsides</p>	<p>Foliage: Fall color – yellow/gold/or ange/red</p> <p>Bloom: August- November</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall-Winter</p>	<p>Birds Small mammals Butterflies Pollinators Host Plant: Common Wood- Nymph Skipper larvae</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Dry soils Wet soil Black Walnut Deer Air Pollution</p> <p>Uses: Erosion Control Rain garden Fuel</p>	<p>Habit: Upright to open</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumping, self-seeds</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>
 <p>Andropogon ternarius – Splitbeard Bluestem</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric</p> <p>Light: Full sun</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Average Well drained Rocky/gravelly Sandy/Loamy</p> <p>Culture: Grasslands Open woodlands</p>	<p>Foliage: Green/blue, tan in winter</p> <p>Bloom: September- November</p> <p>Seed Heads: Late Fall- Winter interest</p>	<p>Songbirds Ground foraging birds Nesting material Shelter</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Shallow soil Black Walnut Heat Air Pollution</p>	<p>Habit: Mounding to upright</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumper, slow spreader, may self-seed</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>
 <p>Carex appalachia – Appalachian sedge</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Partial shade to full shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained</p> <p>Culture: Woodlands</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen foliage</p> <p>Bloom: March-June</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Songbirds</p> <p>Nesting, cover</p>	<p>Tolerates: Clay soil Deer resistant</p> <p>Uses: Lawn replacement</p>	<p>Habit: Low, mounding to arching</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – medium spreader, dense mat</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, rhizome</p>



Best Plants for Winter Interest

 <p>Carex eburnea – Bristle -leaf sedge</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full shade to full sun (with adequate moisture)</p> <p>Ecoregion: Southwest Appalachian to Ridge & Valley, Middle/ Eastern TN</p>	<p>Soil: Average Well drained Rocky Sandy</p> <p>Culture: Limestone bluffs</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen foliage</p> <p>Bloom: May-June</p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Songbirds</p> <p>Nesting, cover</p>	<p>Tolerates : Mowing Heat tolerant Wet soil Deer</p> <p>Uses: Lawn replacement Groundcover</p>	<p>Habit: Low, mounding Arching Groundcover</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – medium slow spreader, dense mat</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Carex laxiculmis - Creeping Sedge</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Moist/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Deep shade to part shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Fertile/Rich</p> <p>Culture: Low woodlands Streambanks</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen foliage</p> <p>Bloom: May-June</p>	<p>Songbirds</p> <p>Nesting, cover</p>	<p>Tolerates: Deer resistant Wet soils</p> <p>Uses: Ground cover Erosion control</p>	<p>Habit: Groundcover</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – slow spreading clumper, may self -seed</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Short rhizome</p>
 <p>Chasmanthium latifolium - River/ Northern sea oats</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Moist/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to full shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Clay/Sandy/ Loam</p> <p>Culture: Lowlands Floodplains Moist woodlands Streambanks</p>	<p>Foliage: Cool season grass</p> <p>Bloom: July- August</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall-winter</p>	<p>Birds Small mammals Butterflies Pollinators</p> <p>Host Plant: Pearly Eye caterpillars Skipper butterflies</p> <p>Nesting, cover</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Deep shade Black Walnut Deer resistant Rabbit resistant</p>	<p>Habit: Colonizer Naturalizing</p> <p>Sociability: 3 – medium spreader, heavily self - seeds</p> <p>Root type: Rhizome</p>

Best Plants for Winter Interest

 <p>Muhlenbergia capillaris - Pink Muhly Grass</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average</p> <p>Culture: Prairies Open woodlands Pine barrens</p>	<p>Foliage: Warm season grass</p> <p>Bloom: September- November</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall-winter</p>	<p>Songbirds Small mammals Butterflies</p> <p>Nesting, cover food source</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Heat and humidity Deer Rabbit Poor soil Urban conditions</p>	<p>Habit: Mounding to upright, arching</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumping, may self -seed</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>
 <p>Schizachyrium/Andropogon scoparium - Little bluestem</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average</p> <p>Culture: Prairies Limestone glades Open woods Fields/Roadsides</p>	<p>Foliage: Warm season grass</p> <p>Bloom: August- November</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall-winter</p>	<p>Birds Small mammals Host Plant: Common Wood- Nymph Skipper larvae Nesting, cover food source</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Shallow-rocky soil Clay soil Deer Rabbit Black Walnut Heat and humidity Air Pollution Uses: Erosion control</p>	<p>Habit: Mounding to upright and arching Sociability: 2 – clumper, self -seeds Root type: Fibrous</p>
 <p>Andropogon Glomeratus – Bushy Bluestem</p>	<p>Water: Mesic- Moist/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun</p>	<p>Soil: Sandy High organic matter Acidic to neutral Culture: Swamps, wet savannas, pine flatwoods, wet disturbed sites</p>	<p>Foliage: Green, tan in winter Bloom: September- November Seed Heads: Late Fall- Winter interest</p>	<p>Songbirds Ground foraging birds Nesting material Shelter</p>	<p>Tolerates: Wet soil tolerant Black Walnut Heat Air Pollution Deer</p>	<p>Habit: 2-6' in height Sociability: 2 – clumper, slow spreader, may self -seed Root type: Fibrous</p>



Best Plants for Winter Interest

 <p>Chrysogonum virginianum - Green and Gold/Goldstar</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Full shade to partial, full sun with adequate moisture Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Acidic preferred Culture: Woodlands</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen Bloom: May- October</p>	<p>Bees Butterflies Songbirds Host Plant: Baltimore checkerspot</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Deer Heavy shade</p>	<p>Habit: Dense mat groundcover Sociability: 3 – medium spreader, dense mat Root type: Rhizome</p>
 <p>Baptisia australis - False indigo</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Full sun to partial Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Average Well drained Rich/Fertile Culture: Woodlands Thickets Streambanks</p>	<p>Foliage: Fall color – yellow Bloom: April - May Seed Heads: Fall-Winter</p>	<p>Bees Host Plant: Wild Indigo Duskywing Easter tailed-blue Orange sulphur Clouded sulphur Frosted Elfin Hoary Edge Gray blister beetle</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Deer resistant Poor soil Clay soil Uses: Nitrogen fixing Erosion control Rain garden</p>	<p>Habit: Upright to open Bushy Architectural Sociability: 1– clumper Root type: Fibrous taproot</p> 
 <p>Polystichum acrostichoides - Christmas fern</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Part sun to full shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Culture: Uplands Woodlands</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen</p>	<p>Songbirds Wildlife cover, nesting material</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Deer Rabbit Black walnut</p>	<p>Habit: Bushy evergreen Sociability: 1– slowly expanding clump, may reproduce by spores Root type: Rhizome</p>



Best Plants for Winter Interest

 <p>Penstemon digitalis - beardtongue</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Average Well drained</p> <p>Culture: Prairies Woodland edges Open woods Fields/Roadsides</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen basil foliage, fall/winter color – red/purple</p> <p>Bloom: March-May</p> <p>Seed Heads: Summer-Winter</p>	<p>Songbirds Hummingbirds Butterflies</p> <p>Specialized bees: Osmia (Melanosmia) distincta</p> <p>Host plant: Confused Haploa moth (Haploa confusa)</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, bushy</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumper, self - seeds</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>
 <p>Rudbeckia fulgida - Brown eyed Susan</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Rich/Fertile Average Well drained</p> <p>Culture: Open woods Glades Thickets</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen basil foliage</p> <p>Bloom: June-September</p> <p>Seed Heads: Fall-Winter Short lived perennial</p>	<p>Songbirds (goldfinch) Butterflies Pollinators</p> <p>Host Plant: Wavy-lined Emerald Silvery Checkerspot</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Heat and humidity Drought, once established Clay soil Shallow/rocky soil Air Pollution Deer Rabbit</p> <p>Uses: Rain garden</p>	<p>Habit: Upright Naturalizing</p> <p>Sociability: 3 – medium spreading clump, self - seeds</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>
 <p>Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe Pye Weed</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Moist/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to light shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Fertile/rich Well drained</p> <p>Culture: Moist lowlands Moist meadows Marsh margins</p>	<p>Bloom: July - September</p> <p>Seed heads: Fall-Winter</p>	<p>Butterflies Bees Moths Hollow stems</p> <p>Host Plant: Many moth and butterfly species</p>	<p>Tolerates: Wet soil Clay soils Deer resistant Rabbit resistant</p> <p>Uses: Rain garden</p>	<p>Habit: Upright Structural Naturalizing</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumper, may self - seed</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>



Best Plants for Winter Interest

 <p>Pycnanthemum muticum - Mountain mint</p>	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Wet/Hydric Light: Full sun to partial shade Native to southern and eastern TN</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Rich/Fertile Culture: Meadows Low woodlands Woodland edges</p>	<p>Bloom: July - September Seed Heads: Fall-Winter</p>	<p>Butterflies Other pollinators Host Plant: Wavy-lined Emerald </p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Deer resistant Rabbit resistant</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, bushy Colonizing Naturalizing Sociability: 4 – fast spreading, thick mass with open understory Root type: Rhizome</p>
 <p>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium - Aromatic aster</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Full sun to full shade Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average Culture: Limestone glades Prairies</p>	<p>Bloom: September - October </p>	<p>Butterflies Pollinators Small mammals Songbirds Specialized bees; Andrena asteris, asteroides, hirticincta, nubecula, placata, simplex, and Colletes simulans Host Plant: Silvery checkerspot</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Clay soil Dry soil Shallow-rocky soil Uses: Erosion control</p>	<p>Habit: Mounding, open Sociability: 2 – medium spreading clumper, self- seeds Root type: Rhizome</p>
 <p>Vernonia lettermanii - Narrowleaf Ironweed</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic Light: Full sun to partial shade Native to Arkansas and Oklahoma</p>	<p>Soil: Well drained Average Culture: Rocky outcrops Floodplains</p>	<p>Bloom: July -August Seed heads: Fall-winter</p>	<p>Butterflies Bees Songbirds Pollinators Specialized Bee: Melissodes (Eumelissodes) denticulatus</p>	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Dry soil Shallow-rocky soil Deer resistant</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, often reaching 4 ft Sociability: 1– clumper, may self-seed Root type: Fibrous</p>

Best Plants for Winter Interest

	<p>Water: Avg/Mesic - Moist/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to partial shade</p> <p>Ecoregion: Interior Plateau Middle TN Native</p>	<p>Soil: Fertile/Rich Slightly acidic Adaptable</p> <p>Culture: Low woodlands Streambanks Moist thickets</p>	<p>Bloom: August - September</p> <p>Seed heads: Fall-winter</p>	<p>Butterflies Bees Songbirds Pollinators Specialized Bee: Melissodes (Eumelissodes) denticulatus</p>	<p>Tolerates: Occasional drought Clay soils Wet soils Deer resistant</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, often reaching 6 ft</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – clumper, easily self- seeds</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous</p>
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Vernonia novaboracensis
- New York Ironweed

Best Boxwood Replacements

Boxwood Replacement Species						
 <p>Ilex glabra - Inkberry holly</p>	<p>Water: Avg to Wet Mesic, Wet/Mesic</p> <p>Light: Part shade</p> <p>Native to southeastern coastal states</p>	<p>Soil: Average to acidic</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen</p> <p>Flower: May - June</p> <p>Fruit: Black berry in fall on female plants NOTE: Cultivated selections are female with the exception of 'Pretty Boy'</p>	<p>Bees Butterflies Pollinators Small Mammals Songbirds Specialized Bees</p> <p>Host Plant: Henry's Elfin Colletes banksi</p>	<p>Wet soil tolerant, deer and rabbit resistant, soil compaction tolerant, prefers acidic soils</p> 	<p>Sociability: 2 – multi -stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome NOTE: Cultivated selections do not sucker</p>
 <p>Ilex vomitoria - Yaupon Holly</p>	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic - Wet/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade</p> <p>Native to southeastern coastal states, rarely found in TN</p>	<p>Soil: Average to acidic</p> <p>Culture: Open fields Forest edges Wet swamps Coastal plains</p>	<p>Foliage: Evergreen</p> <p>Flower: April - May</p> <p>Seed head: Bright red berries on female plants</p>	<p>Songbirds Small mammals Butterflies Other pollinators Specialized bees</p> <p>Host Plant: Henry's Elfin butterfly</p>	<p>Tolerates: Deer Rabbit Drought, once established Rocky soil Clay soil Air pollution</p> 	<p>Habit: Upright, bushy Thicket forming</p> <p>Sociability: 2 – multi -stem clumper, spreads by suckering growth from root system</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous, Rhizome</p>



Best Boxwood Replacements

	<p>Water: Dry/Xeric - Avg/Mesic - Wet/Hydric</p> <p>Light: Full sun to part shade</p> <p>Native to southeastern coastal states</p>	<p>Soil: Average</p> <p>Culture: Swampy lowlands Dry uplands Woodlands River margins Sand dunes Pine barrens</p>	<p>Foliage Evergreen, glossy fragrant</p> <p>Bloom : Feb-March Insignificant</p> <p>Fruit: Dark blue-gray berry (on females)</p>	<p>Birds Pollinators</p> 	<p>Tolerates: Drought, once established Wet soil Heat Deer Rabbit</p> <p>Uses: Erosion control Rain garden Nitrogen fixing</p>	<p>Habit: Upright, bushy Fast growing Colonizing</p> <p>Sociability: 3 – multi -stem, suckering</p> <p>Root type: Fibrous Rhizome</p>
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Myrica cerifera - Dwarf wax myrtle, Southern wax myrtle



Resources

Habitat Certification

- National Wildlife Federation - <https://www.nwf.org/CERTIFY>
- Tennessee Wildlife Federation - <https://tnwf.org/certify> -a-habitat/
- Tennessee Smart Yards - <https://tnyards.utk.edu/>
- Pollinator Pathways - <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>
- Homegrown National Park - <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

Plant sourcing

Local nurseries:

- Wonder Gift and Garden:
1114 US-70, Kingston Springs, TN 37082
- Growild - <https://www.growildinc.com/>
- Bates Nursery - <https://www.batesnursery.com/>

Online nurseries:

- The Pollen Nation - <https://www.thepollennation.com/>
- Prairie moon Nursery - <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>
- Prairie Nursery - <https://www.prairienursery.com/>
- Izel Native Plants - <https://www.izelplants.com/>

Informational Websites

- Audobon Society - Native plant database <https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>
- iNaturalist - <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
- Center for Plant Conservation <https://saveplants.org/>
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=TN>
- Tennessee Invasive Plant Council <https://www.tnipc.org/>
- Wild Ones Middle TN Chapter <https://middletennessee.wildones.org/>