

1 BRADFORD PEAR

Pyrus calleryana - Callery pear is beautiful indeed, but it is extremely brittle and it breaks easily with wind, ice, and snow loads. It is also a very prolific seed bearer with an amazing germination rate and the seeds are dispersed widely by wildlife.

Allegheny Serviceberry, American Snowbell, Fringetree, Green Hawthorn, Winged Silverbell and Dogwood spp. are all beautiful native trees that range from small to mid-height, topping off at about 35'. All feature beautiful white flowers in spring. Allegheny Serviceberry and Green Hawthorne also feature handsome fall color with persistent fruit/seeds and showy fruit. **Wildlife Value** - All have high wildlife value of one type or another, attracting birds, small mammals, providing food for pollinators and beneficial insects, and/or cover and nesting places for birds.

2 JAPANESE WISTERIA

Wisteria floribunda - This very adaptable vine shades out other plants and girdles trees and shrubs as it climbs, cutting off nutrients by choking the trunks and producing dense shade.

American Wisteria is a deciduous climbing vine with dark green leaves reaching 15–30'. It produces clusters of lavender blue flowers in late spring. The vine produces 2–4" tan pods in the late summer. The vine will grow in any light condition but prefers moist to wet soil. **Wildlife value** - a host plant for Zarusco Duskywing and Long-Tailed Skipper butterflies and a variety of butterflies' nectar at the blooms.

3 ENGLISH IVY

Hedera helix - This popular and sometimes very lovely vine easily goes astray, spreading throughout woody areas and gardens, choking out other vegetation. English ivy kills trees and shrubs by smothering them.

Allegheny Spurge, Yellowroot, Creeping Wintergreen, and Longleaf Oregon Grape are low growing, mostly evergreen groundcovers. All spread fairly easily while not suffocating landscapes or homes. All have flowers in the early – mid growing season. They like shady spots, either moist or dry. **Wildlife value** – all provide some form of wildlife value from nectar for



nectar seekers to berries for winter food for birds and mammals, as well as providing cover.

4 JAPANESE BARBERRY

Berberis thunbergii - This shrub is banned in several states. It displaces native plants with prolific, bird-dispersed seeds, and harbors ticks (due to the high humidity in its dense foliage) mice, and, as a result, Lyme disease.

Dwarf Fothergilla, New Jersey Tea, Sweetspire, Bush-Honeysuckle, Bayberry, Winterberry, and Chokeberry range from 2–3' specimens to a number of slightly taller specimens topping out at about 12'. Instead of the purplish red foliage and thorns, they offer beautiful flowering potential and wildlife value. They are mostly deciduous, with bayberry being semi-evergreen depending upon location. They compensate for the missing leaf color by offering either beautiful fall color, or attractive berries for the fall/winter landscape.

5 CHINESE SILVER GRASS

Miscanthus sinensis - An ornamental grass that is very popular with landscapers. It proliferates with a huge amount of seed, as well as by rhizomes, and forms massive clumps everywhere it grows. It is very adaptable to all kinds of conditions. It is a big fire hazard when it is dry over the fall and winter seasons.

Indian Grass, and Big Bluestem start at about 3' and top out at either 5 or 8'. Both offer exceptional grass color and can be focal points in the landscape. Indian grass offers a bit more winter interest as Big Bluestem can tend to flop. **Wildlife value** – Both provide winter cover and seeds for birds and other seed-eating animals.

6 BURNING BUSH

Euonymus alatus - is very easy to grow, has few pests, and adapts to a very wide variety of soil types. Don't be fooled by it's

A Dirty Dozen of Invasive Species in NJ (sold commercially)

exceptional fall color, the seeds are prolific and very viable from this self-pollinating plant

Chokeberry, Highbush Blueberry, Fragrant sumac, Summersweet, and Smooth Witherod run from about 2–4" to end higher end of a medium sized bush at 8–12'. While Burning Bush is known for its exceptional red color in autumn, it offers little of interest during the rest of the season. Our substitutes all sport luscious fall foliage from red to yellow, but also offer lovely flowers with great fruits/berries (except Summersweet). **Wildlife value** – Flowers provide nectar for butterflies and pollinators, the berries help numerous birds and small mammals make it thru the winter and most provide good nesting sites and cover for birds.

7 BUTTERFLY BUSH

Buddleia davidii - This vigorous, nectar-producing butterfly attractor is an attractive shrub with fragrant, colored flower spikes. It self-seeds prolifically, however, and you will have a Buddleia thicket which crowds out everything else.

New Jersey Tea, Buttonbush, and Summersweet are the small to mid-sized, fairly tough native shrubs when well situated. They flower from late spring thru mid-summer. There is something for everyone with these recommendations: sunny locations vs. shade, and moist to dry. A couple also produce good fall color. **Wildlife value** – All provide essential food to bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. And unlike the invasive Butterfly bush, they provide more than just nectar for butterflies, but also serve as larval hosts for some butterflies.

8 JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

Lonicera spp. - The Asian varieties are a garden favorite because of their fragrant, beautiful flowers and fast growth. Originally used for control erosion, the plants send out runners that root and grow anywhere, twining around anything growing nearby.

Trumpet Honeysuckle and Scarlet Clematis are deciduous climbing vines. Be sure to ascertain which you are buying because Japanese and Trumpet Honeysuckle both look fairly similar and can be hard to tell apart. Trumpet honeysuckle has a short bloom period, from May to June while Japanese honeysuckle blooms throughout summer and into fall. Japanese honeysuckle produces black berries while Trumpet honeysuckle berries are red. The Scarlet Clematis is a much smaller substitute, only

growing to about 8' with lovely red or pink blooms in spring/summer. **Wildlife value** - Our native honeysuckle is an excellent nectar source for hummingbirds, bees and butterflies with bright red fruits attract birds. It provides great cover and nesting sites for a variety of birds and is a host plant for the day-flying hummingbird clearwing moth. The clematis is also attractive to butterflies and bees.

9 WINTER CREEPER

Euonymus fortunei - This plant is fast growing, evergreen, and very easy to grow; it tolerates most soils except swampy ones, has a wide pH tolerance, and does well in full sun to heavy shade. It is a thug however. The mature plant's seeds are dispersed widely by wildlife. It easily escapes cultivation and forms very dense thickets which crowd out native plants; its vine form can climb trees to a height of 40 to 70', killing the trees by smothering their foliage.

Bearberry, Woodvamp, and Creeping Blueberry include 2 ground creeping evergreens and one deciduous perennial vine. They boast attractive leaves and flowers. Bearberry offer rounded berry-like fruits in Aug-Sept. **Wildlife value** – Varied. Bearberry's fruit is attractive to birds and the Woodvamp's flowers attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Creeping Blueberry has low wildlife value.

10 BAMBOO

Running Bamboo types - Bamboo is a grass which has underground stems (rhizomes), from which new clumps arise. The rhizomes of running bamboos can range to 25 feet in length from a single stem in a single growing season & before long, a significant number of plants emerge from them, sometimes intruding into unwelcome areas like neighbors' lawns, driveways & flower beds.

American Holly, Sweetbay Magnolia, Inkberry Holly, Winterberry Holly, Rosebay Rhododendron, Eastern Red Cedar



mostly run on the large size, up to about 50'. However, Inkberry and Winterberry are at the smaller end of the spectrum. They also tend to be mostly evergreen and will give you the privacy that Bamboo provides while not being rampant in coverage. They also grow in a wide variety of conditions so be sure to check out our published spreadsheet. All offer flowers and/or berries and are attractive in the landscape. Wildlife value – Their flowers attract bees and other pollinators. Their berries are eaten by a wide range of wildlife. Their foliage provides cover and nesting places for birds.

11 PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Lythrum salicaria - A European wetland plant brought to North America in the early 19th century. The roots form thick mats and spread over large areas. The plant forms dense strands and degrades native habitat making it unsuitable as cover, food, or nesting sites for a wide range of native wetland animals.

Bee Balm, Butterfly Weed, Milkweed, Tickseed, Tennessee Coneflower, Joe Pye Weed, Gayfeather, Blazing Star are some of the best and most popular native perennials to use instead of the thug listed above. They are colorful, mostly on the shorter side (except Joe Pye Weed) and can suit a variety of site conditions. All offer great value to the wildlife garden, attracting pollinators, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Milkweed is both a food source and a host plant on which the monarch butterflies lay their eggs.

12 AUTUMN OLIVE

Elaeagnus umbellata - This Asian beauty is a deciduous shrub/ small tree, growing typically to 15 ft tall. It is widely planted as a "living fence" and windbreak along fields and roadways. Because it fixes atmospheric nitrogen in its roots, it grows vigorously and competitively in infertile soils. It out-competes and displaces native plants by creating a dense shade that hinders the growth of plants that need lots of sun.

Bayberry, Winterberry, and Highbush cranberry are similarly sized to our aforementioned thug. They are all attractive and hardy. They produce either white or red showy fruit that is popular with wildlife. Bayberry is semi-evergreen. Wildlife value - They all tend to form thickets that provide nesting sites and cover. Their berries offer high wildlife value.



WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS AND ARE THEY A PROBLEM?

Invasive species are not native species, introduced to an area outside of their natural range. Because they have fewer natural predators, they grow densely and suppress natives over large areas. Thus they interrupt the natural functions of the local ecosystem, taking up large amounts of space that would otherwise be occupied by a diversity of native species. This competition leads to negative impacts on native plants and animals.

Invasive plants can be introduced by human activity in a number of ways: accidentally, by transportation into a region (e.g. mile-a-minute vine, stink bugs, etc.); by landscapers and the nursery trade (purple loosestrife, wisteria, flowering pear, Japanese barberry); and by well meaning intentional introductions (autumn olive planted for erosion control, kudzu planted as forage and erosion control). However, once in an area they can be spread by birds and animals which eat and then spread the seeds, as well as by wind and water.

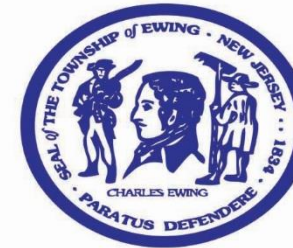


ABOUT

This brochure was created by the members of Ewing's Green Team and Environmental Commission to inform residents about making sustainable choices in their landscaping.



Please note that this brochure is for informational purposes only. Information is subject to change.



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Invasive Plants

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