

Every Garden Needs Keystone Plants

Support birds, insects and other animals by adding keystone plants



Keystone species play a major role in supporting a healthy food web. Without keystone species a food web will collapse. According to Doug Tallamy, noted entomologist at the University of Delaware, keystone plants support 90 % of the butterfly and moth species, as well as many native bee species. Birds and other animals depend upon insects for food and many flowering plants depend upon insects for pollination.



Keystone Plants Native to Piedmont Virginia

Trees

Supports up to 500 different caterpillar species

native oaks

white oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
willow oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>
scarlet oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>

native birches

sweet birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>
river birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>

native pines

pitch pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i>
virginia pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>
shortleaf pine	<i>Pinus echinata</i>

native maples

red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>

native cherries

black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
american plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>

native willow

black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>
upland willow	<i>Salix humilis</i>

native dogwoods

flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
pagoda dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>
silky dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>

native hickories

pignut	<i>Carya glabra</i>
shagbark	<i>Carya ovata</i>
mockernut	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>

native beech

american beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
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native serviceberry

shadbush	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
downy serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>

Shrubs

Supports up to 290 different caterpillar species

native blueberries

highbush	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
lowbush	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>

native chokeberries

red chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>
black chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>

native viburnums

arrowwood viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>
blackhaw viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>
mapleleaf viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>
possumhaw viburnum	<i>Viburnum nudum</i>

Flowers

Supports up to 115 different caterpillar species

native asters

aromatic aster	<i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolius</i>
new england	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>
heart leaved aster	<i>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</i>
white wood aster	<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>

native goldenrods

gray goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>
rough-stemmed goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>
blue stemmed goldenrod	<i>Solidago casesia</i>
showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>

native sunflower

woodland sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>
narrow-leaved sunflower	<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>
thin-leaved sunflower	<i>Helianthus decapetalus</i>