

Sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*)



Form: up to 3 feet, multiple stems, spreads by suckers, adds nitrogen to soil.

Habitat: mostly sun, dry, sandy to loam.

Leaves: alternate, short stalked, slender, wavy-lobed, fragrant, fernlike, not a fern.

Flowers: April-June, separate male catkins and females on same plant.

Fruits: September-October, burr-like nutlets.

Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*)



Form: up to 5 feet, tree-like, pliable branches, smooth bark.

Habitat: deep to partial shade, mesic, rich woodland soil, old forests.

Leaves: alternate, round, egg-shaped, not toothed, butter yellow fall color.

Flowers: March-April, yellow, bell-like, long stamens, blooms before leaves.

Fruits: May-June, green or red, oblong.

Remove Invasive Shrubs

- Identify non-native invasive shrubs
- Cut stems and treat with herbicide
- Stack in piles and burn if possible
- Monitor often and remove re-sprouts



Glossy Buckthorn Tartarian Honeysuckle

Plant Native Shrubs

Planting native shrubs in your yard or natural areas will provide food, nesting and roosting sites for native birds, and year-round beauty. Native shrubs are easy to grow and not expensive. They do not require special soil, fertilizer or pesticides.

- Determine best locations for shrubs
- Pay attention to growing conditions
- Purchase shrubs from this DNR list of [Wisconsin Native Plant Nurseries](#)
- Plant in spring or fall
- Dig a simple hole, plant, water, fill, mulch
- Protect from rabbits or deer with fencing for several years, especially in winter.



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Native Shrubs of Wisconsin 4



Sweet fern

Leatherwood

New Jersey tea

Lead plant

Running serviceberry Snowberry

W. Sand cherry S. St John's wort

Shrubs are woody plants, often with multiple stems. Smaller than most trees and widespread across all landscapes. They play a vital role in the health, beauty and species diversity of natural environments. Native shrubs are very attractive for native birds and insects which all evolved together over thousands of years. However, in many areas non-native shrubs, especially buckthorn and honey-suckle, dominate the shrub niche, shading, drying and exuding toxic chemicals into the soil. This decreases the diversity and health of native plant communities.

New Jersey tea (*C. americanus*)



Form: up to 3 feet, slender-stems.

Habitat: full sun to part shade, dry to medium well-drained soil.

Leaves: alternate, egg-shaped, edges toothed, 3-main veins, tea substitute.

Flowers: June-August, white, small, oblong terminal clusters, fragrant.

Fruits: July-October, dark capsule, with 3 white nutlets inside floral cups.

Lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*)



Form: up to 3 feet, semi-woody, spreading stems and branches.

Habitat: full sun to light shade, dry to medium well-drained soil.

Leaves: alternate, silvery-gray, 15-45 pinnately compound, elongated leaflets.

Flowers: June-July, violet, dense spike-like terminal clusters, orange stamens.

Fruits: July-October, small fuzzy pods.

Running serviceberry (*A. stolonifera*)



Form: up to 5 feet, spreads by under-ground suckers, forms thickets.

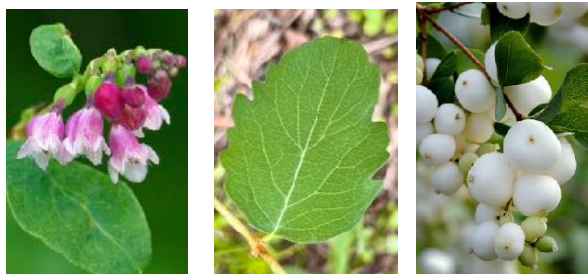
Habitat: sun to light shade, well-drained soil.

Leaves: alternate, 1-3 inch, oval, blunt-tipped, not toothed, reddish fall color.

Flowers: May-June, 5 white petals, showy flower clusters.

Fruits: July-August, red to dark purple, small blueberry-like fruits, edible and flavorful.

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)



Form: up to 5 feet, broad, erect, thin wiry twigs, suckers and forms thickets.

Habitat: sun to partial shade, medium soil.

Leaves: opposite, bluish-green, smooth.

Flowers: Mid June-July, white or pink, bell-shaped, terminal clusters or solitary.

Fruits: late July-winter, white, plump and round, berry-like, solitary or in clusters.

Western sand cherry (*Prunus besseyi*)



Form: up to 5 feet, sprawling to upright, spreads by suckers.

Habitat: sun, dry, sandy, rocky soils.

Leaves: alternate, oval, glossy, gray-green, reddish petioles, toothed near tip.

Flowers: late April-June, white, flowers along stems. many stamens, single style.

Fruits: July-August, purple, blackish, pea-size, in clusters along stems, edible.

Shrubby St John's wort (*H. prolificum*)



Form: up to 4 feet, dense, round, upright.

Habitat: full sun to part shade, dry to heavy, well-drained soil.

Leaves: opposite, shiny, green, oblong, not toothed, leafy shoots in axils.

Flowers: July-October, five, bright golden petals, many stamens, attracts pollinators.

Fruits: July-winter, brown, thin, egg-shaped, 3-4 parted capsule.