

Elaine Mills

Understory Trees (tallest to shortest; *= more deer-resistant)

- [American Hornbeam \(*Carpinus caroliniana*\)](#)
- [Fringetree \(*Chionanthus virginicus*\)](#)
- [Eastern Redbud \(*Cercis canadensis*\)](#)
- [Flowering Dogwood \(*Cornus florida*\)](#)
- [Pagoda Dogwood \(*Cornus alternifolia*\)](#)
- [Downy Serviceberry \(*Amelanchier arborea*\)](#) *
- [Sweetbay Magnolia \(*Magnolia virginiana*\)](#) *

Others to consider:

- [Hop-hornbeam \(*Ostrya virginiana*\)](#) *
- [Pawpaw \(*Asimina triloba*\)](#) *
- [Sassafras \(*Sassafras albidum*\)](#)

Shrubs

Dry to Moist

- [Mountain Laurel \(*Kalmia latifolia*\)](#)
- [Pinxterbloom Azalea \(*Rhododendron periclymenoides*\)](#)
- [Great Rhododendron \(*Rhododendron maximum*\)](#)
- [Strawberry Bush \(*Euonymus americanus*\)](#)
- [Wild Hydrangea \(*Hydrangea arborescens*\)](#)
- [Witch Hazel \(*Hamamelis virginiana*\)](#)
- [Spicebush \(*Lindera benzoin*\)](#) *
- [American Beauty-berry \(*Callicarpa americana*\)](#)

Moist to Wet

- [Virginia Sweetspire \(*Itea virginica*\)](#) *
- [Possum-haw \(*Viburnum nudum*\)](#)
- [Sweet Pepperbush \(*Clethra alnifolia*\)](#) *
- [Winterberry \(*Ilex verticillata*\)](#)

Others to consider:

- [Coastal Doghobble \(*Leucothoe axillaris*\)](#)
- [Dwarf Fothergilla \(*Fothergilla gardenii*\)](#)
- [Oakleaf Hydrangea \(*Hydrangea quercifolia*\)](#)
- [Sweet-shrub \(*Calycanthus floridus*\)](#)

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Woodland Wildflowers

Ephemerals

- [Virginia Bluebells \(*Mertensia virginica*\)](#)
- [Large-flowered Bellwort \(*Uvularia grandiflora*\)](#)

Perennials (dry to wet)

- [Wild Columbine \(*Aquilegia canadensis*\) *](#)

- [Blue-stemmed Goldenrod \(*Solidago caesia*\)](#)
- [Solomon's Seal \(*Polygonatum biflorum*\)](#)
- [Woodland Phlox \(*Phlox divaricata*\)](#)
- [Wild Geranium \(*Geranium maculatum*\)](#)
- [Great Blue Lobelia \(*Lobelia siphilitica*\) *](#)
- [White Turtlehead \(*Chelone glabra*\)](#)

Ferns (as a group are deer-resistant)

Clumping

- [Ebony Spleenwort \(*Asplenium platyneuron*\)](#)
- [Marginal Wood Fern \(*Dryopteris marginalis*\)](#)
- [Christmas Fern \(*Polystichum acrostichoides*\)](#)

Fast-spreading

- [Hay-scented Fern \(*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*\)](#)
- [Lady Fern \(*Athyrium asplenoides*\)](#)
- [Ostrich Fern \(*Matteuccia struthiopteris*\)](#)
- [Sensitive Fern \(*Onoclea sensibilis*\)](#)

Slow-spreading

- [Maidenhair Fern \(*Adiantum pedatum*\)](#)
- [Interrupted Fern \(*Osmunda claytoniana*\)](#)
- [Cinnamon Fern \(*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*\)](#)
- [Royal Fern \(*Osmunda spectabilis*\)](#)



Grasses & Sedges (as a group are deer-resistant)

Cool-season Grasses

- [Wavy Hair Grass \(*Deschampsia flexuosa*\)](#)
- [Bottlebrush Grass \(*Elymus hystrix*\)](#)
- [River Oats \(*Chasmanthium latifolium*\)](#)

Sedges for Moist-to-Wet

- [Gray's Sedge \(*Carex grayi*\)](#)
- [Blue Wood Sedge \(*Carex flaccosperma*\)](#)
- [Creek Sedge \(*Carex amphibola*\)](#)

Sedges for Dry Shade

- [Pennsylvania Sedge \(*Carex pensylvanica*\)](#)
- [Appalachian Sedge \(*Carex appalachica*\)](#)
- [Plantain-leaved Sedge \(*Carex plantaginea*\)](#)

Ground Covers (mostly deer-resistant)

Deciduous

- [Violets \(*Viola spp.*\) *](#)
- [Wild Ginger \(*Asarum canadense*\) *](#)
- [White Wood Aster \(*Eurybia divaricata*\) *](#)
- [Foamflower \(*Tiarella cordifolia*\) *](#)
- [Wild Stonecrop \(*Sedum ternatum*\) *](#)
- [Jacob's Ladder \(*Polemonium reptans*\) *](#)

Evergreen

- [Allegheny Spurge \(*Pachysandra procumbens*\) *](#)
- [Golden Ragwort \(*Packera aurea*\) *](#)
- [Green-and-Gold \(*Chrysogonum virginianum*\) *](#)
- [Partridge-berry \(*Mitchella repens*\) *](#)
- [Virginia Creeper \(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*\)](#)



RESOURCES

Suggestion List

[Best Bets: Native Plants for Partially Shady or Shady Locations](#)

Short Video in Glencarlyn Garden Series

[Getting to Know Beautyberries](#) (under Plants menu)

Recorded Presentations

[Common Native Ferns of the Mid-Atlantic](#)

[Native Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes for the Home Garden](#)

[Native Ground Covers for Sun & Shade](#)

[Native Spring Ephemerals](#)

Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens

[Quarry Shade Garden at Bon Air Park](#) (includes slide show)

[Quarry Shade Garden News](#) (essays on shade garden plants)

[Quarry Shade Garden Brochure](#) (includes plant list)

[Tips for Gardening in the Shade](#)

[Glencarlyn Library Community Garden](#)

[Small Space Garden](#)

[Simpson Park Garden](#)

Reports of Plant Trials at Mt. Cuba

[Carex for the Mid-Atlantic Region](#)

[Wild Hydrangea for the Mid-Atlantic Region](#)

Books for Inspiration

Darke, Rick. *The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest*. Timber Press, Portland, 2002.

Darke, Rick & Doug Tallamy. *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*. Timber Press, Portland, 2014.

Where to Buy Native Plants

[Plant NoVA Natives \(Native-Only Sellers\)](#)

[Plant NoVA Natives \(Local Native Plant Sales\)](#)

[Maryland Native Plant Society \(Native Plant Sales & Regional Vendors\)](#)

