

---

# Heartwood Nursery News

---

February: Waiting for Spring



Native Plants: Healthier for the Natural World in Your Backyard

---

## Winter Bark ID

Whether smooth, furrowed, or textured, bark is the outer covering of a tree or shrub's trunk and branches. Bark serves as a protection to the living inner tissue from pests, diseases and extreme fluctuation in temperature. Additionally, bark aids in the distribution of water and nutrients, interacting with the vascular system of the plant. Although plants are specifically identified by their flower parts, bark can be one characteristic used in recognizing trees and shrubs especially in the wintertime.





## Selective Pruning

Most woody plants perform better and are healthier when they are pruned in a manner that aids them in retaining their own natural shape. Practices such as shearing or hedging can be traumatic and cause long term damage and stress to plants. Selective pruning is performed by removing dead or dying branches, thinning out crowded branches in the center of the plant, and respecting the plant's natural shape by cutting longer branches back to a node along the branch. Most pruning is done in January and February, although certain species such as Holly can be pruned during the summer dormancy in August. Sharp bypass clippers or pruners are best to ensure a clean, even cut. Remember to clean tools before, during and after the process!



## Planning a Habitat Garden

Not sure where to begin? We offer free design assistance here at the Nursery. Already have an existing garden or landscape you are thinking of adding to? Make sure to bring in recent photos taken from different perspectives. My idea of a habitat garden is one that requires the least amount of maintenance, has optimum color and texture year-round, providing shelter, pollen and nectar for birds and insects. And it doesn't have to be hard to accomplish, whether you have a 3 x 3 foot area or one-quarter acre, sun or shade! Our native plants come in a variety of budget-friendly container sizes. If you are planning to install your garden in stages, I recommend beginning with taller species, such as trees and/or shrubs or taller perennials, then working your way down to mid-size and then smaller species. Choosing plants with intention (color, growth habit, fragrance) are good things to keep in mind. Planting in odd numbers or groups of 3 and 5 is not only aesthetically pleasing, it ensures creating a desirable plant community that different species will thrive in together. Almost everyone will do some research online about what plants to choose, but nothing can take the place of conferring with someone who has had years of experience in the trade and field of Horticulture. It is also wise to remember that plants perform differently in different parts of the region, so it may not be prudent to follow the advice from someone who lives in a different state or different USDA Agriculture growing zone.

We love helping our customers make a positive difference in their yards, and are looking forward to seeing you soon!

## Visit Us This Weekend

At the York Builders Home & Garden Show  
Weis Arena @ York Fairgrounds  
February 7-9 2025



YORK BUILDERS  
ASSOCIATION  
**HOME**  
& Garden  
**SHOW**<sup>TM</sup>

Purchase your tickets in advance and learn more click [here](#). You will be able to find anything you need at this event for all of your home and garden projects. There are also informational seminars scheduled throughout the show.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Join Us for our 16th Annual

**Serviceberry  
Festival**

**Friday and Saturday  
June 13 and 14, 2025  
10am - 4pm**

**Heartwood Nursery Inc.**  
8957 Hickory Rd., Felton, PA 17322



# HEARTWOOD NURSERY

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Hollies](#)

[Contact](#)

## Visit Us!

8957 Hickory Road, Felton, Pennsylvania 17322  
(717) 993-5230

Open Year Round  
Monday-Saturday 9 am - 4 pm  
Closed Sunday



Heartwood Nursery, Inc. | 8957 Hickory Road | Felton, PA 17322 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!