
Heartwood Nursery News

Colors of the Season at Heartwood...



Viburnum opulus var. *americana*
American Cranberry Viburnum

Eurybia divaricata
White Wood Aster

Callicarpa americana
American Beautyberry

Native Plants: Healthier for the Natural World in your Backyard

Feature Plant: Fruiting Now, *Lindera benzoin*, Spicebush

Lindera benzoin, commonly known as Spicebush, is a native North American shrub found in the understory of wooded areas, along streams, and in moist thickets. This graceful deciduous shrub, which blooms in early spring and fruits in late summer, is known for its pleasing aromatic qualities, with the leaves, twigs, and berries emitting a spicy fragrance when crushed.

Spicebush berries are a food source for many birds. Here at the nursery, we've seen Cardinals, Blue Jays, and Catbirds strip a branch full of berries in a matter of minutes! Spicebush is also a host for the Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly, whose caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves.

Lindera benzoin has been used for various medicinal and culinary purposes by Native American tribes. The seeds were dried and ground to be used as a spice, while twigs, leaves, and roots were brewed into teas for various ailments.

Gardeners appreciate Spicebush for its year-round ornamental value. Tiny yellow flowers emerge along the stems in early spring. Male or female flowers bloom on separate plants. Following pollination, bright red fruit develops on female plants in late summer. As day length gets shorter, the bright green foliage gives way to an attractive yellow in the fall, adding a splash of color to the autumn garden and landscape.

Lindera benzoin is versatile, too. Although Spicebush prefers dappled shade, it can adapt to most planting situations. Don't mistake its graceful appearance for delicateness: Once established, Spicebush will survive drought and extreme cold.

The super native Spicebush is available now at Heartwood.



HEARTWOOD NURSERY

Holly Honey

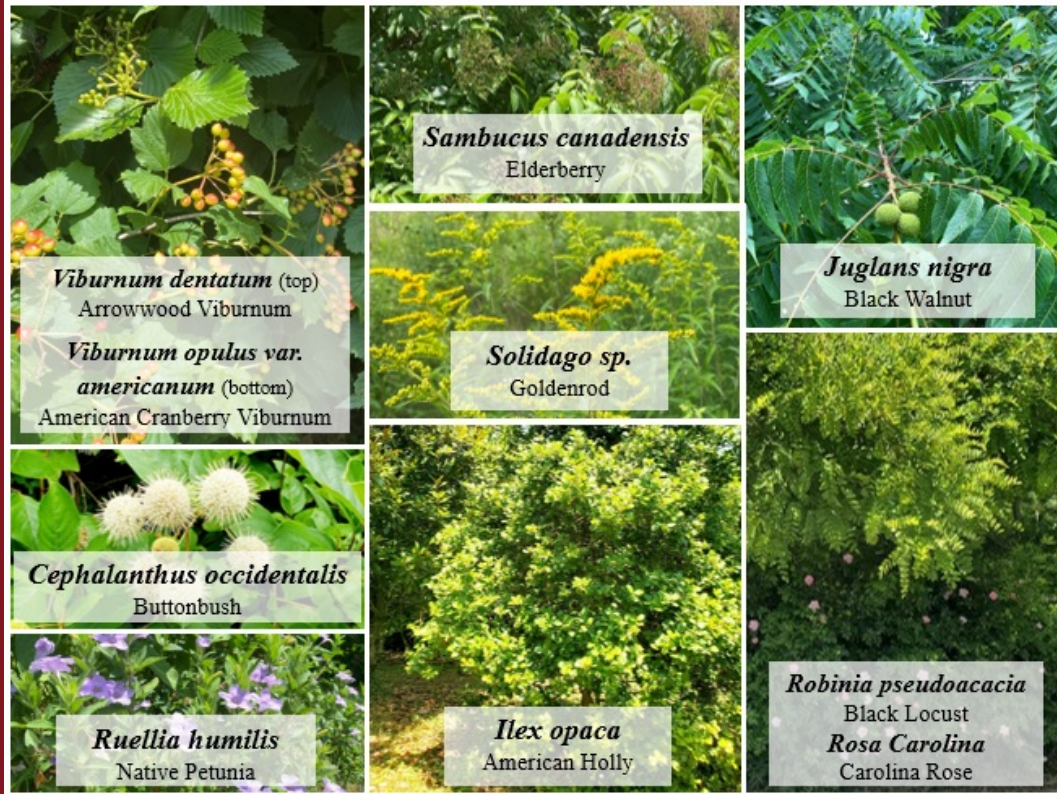
IS NOW READY



*Harvested here on the property
Felton, PA*

Planting for Success: Drought Tolerant Natives

Does this long dry spell have your plants down? A number of native trees, shrubs, and perennials are reliably drought tolerant options in the Mid-Atlantic region. All the plants below, and more, are available here at Heartwood.



It's important to keep in mind that "drought tolerant" means once the plant is established. Any new planting requires initial maintenance, including watering, to help it adapt to its new environment. Preparing the soil by tilling and adding organic matter will also help set up the plant for future success. Plants are like people. If you were left out in a barren area without any initial resources, you, too, would struggle to survive!



SEED GIVEAWAY

Joe Pye Weed *Eupatorium fistulosum*

Try your hand at growing this hardy, butterfly-attracting perennial from seed! Stop by the Nursery between September 20-30 to pick up your packet of free seeds including instructions. One packet per person over 12 years of age. Limit 2 per family.



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