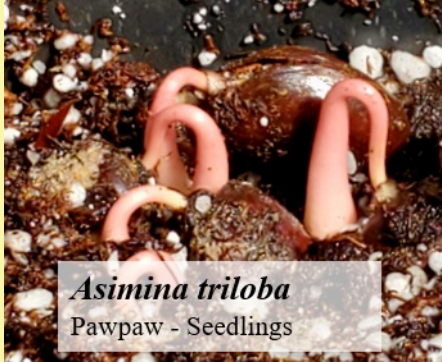


Heartwood Nursery News

Ready, set, grow! (*Well, it's almost time.....*)



Asimina triloba
Pawpaw - Seedlings



Amelanchier canadensis
Serviceberry – Flower Buds



Lindera benzoin
Spicebush

Healthier for the Natural World in Your Backyard.

Using the Proper Clippers

Hand pruners, such as the bypass clippers shown below, are in our opinion worth the price for a good pair. Bypass pruners are most often preferred in all pruning situations. They provide a good, clean scissor-like cut that minimizes damage to the stem or branch, avoiding crushing of delicate plant tissue. Bypass pruners are now available in many sizes to ensure a comfortable fit for smaller hands as well as larger hands. As always, take care when pruning as the blades are sharp!



Spring Ephemerals

Highlighting Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)

Spring is often associated with daffodils, tulips and crocuses, all signs that the cold of winter is giving way to warmer weather. These early bloomers are called spring ephemerals. What sets these early emergers apart from other perennials is that they take advantage of the bare trees and shrubs that encourage them to thrive with the gentle sunlight that filters through in the late winter or early spring. Once they bloom and produce seeds, they die back for the year and leave no trace before the

hot summer temperatures return. Spring ephemerals are pollinated by native bees, flies, wasps and ants. They play a crucial role in providing those species with early nectar.

Numerous native spring ephemerals can be found growing naturally in our local surroundings. Some of these include Skunk Cabbage, Trout Lillies, Mayapples, Dutchman's Breeches, and one of our favorites, Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*). Virginia Bluebells can be found along stream beds and in moist woodlands. They prefer moist, rich soil with leaf litter. They can bloom as early as March and into April. Their flowers are shades of light blue, purple, and pink. They also spread well once established through seed. It is best to plant Virginia Bluebells in very early spring or late in the fall. Adding organic matter to the soil when planting can help them establish more easily. The deer do not eat Bluebells! These will be available at the nursery once temperatures are steadily above freezing.



**Weather Depending—
We will have a limited
selection of plants
out and available
mid-March.**

See you Soon!

Lindera benzoin
Spicebush

One of the earliest native species to bloom in the Mid-Atlantic area is the versatile Spicebush. Despite its somewhat fragile appearance, once established, it can grow to heights of 8' - 12' and form dense colonies. It is one of the first understory species to re-appear during the natural reclamation process once a wooded area has been disturbed. The clusters of female and male flowers borne separately on male and female plants attract early pollinators. Once pollinated, the seed ripens surrounded by a red, fragrant and fleshy coat that is a valuable food source for migrating birds during the late summer. Spicebush is also the plant host for the Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly. This plant is still prevalent and fairly common in our immediate area! It has shown great resilience in the face of habitat loss and chemical spray drift. Spicebush is worthy of consideration for any area **except** full and blazing sun.



The Urban Garden: 101 Ways to Grow Food and Beauty in the City

by Kathy Jentz and Teri Speight

Check out this new book by our friend Kathy Jentz!

Order it today at: <https://amzn.to/2Y34f5z>

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



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See You Soon!

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



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