

Heartwood Native News

Fruiting Now at Heartwood...



Prunus serotina
Black Cherry



Magnolia virginiana
Sweetbay Magnolia



Cornus racemosa
Gray Dogwood

The Incredible *Clethra alnifolia*

Few native shrubs are as versatile and fragrant as *Clethra alnifolia*, commonly called Sweet Pepperbush or Summersweet. Introduced into cultivation in the early 1700s by American botanists, *Clethra alnifolia* was also planted at Monticello by Thomas Jefferson in the 1750s.

While the popularity of *Clethra* has grown through the centuries, its reputation is skyrocketing now as more gardeners appreciate this pretty, scented, compact, and low-maintenance flowering native shrub ideal for smaller gardens.

As a pollinator and butterfly magnet, *Clethra* is a great alternative to plant instead of the non-native, invasive butterfly bush.

Did you know *Clethra* leaves and flowers also have high saponin content, and can make a light natural soap?

Learn more about *Clethra* in my [new post on the Heartwood blog, Walk a Native Plant Path.](#)

--Sue Hunter, owner, Heartwood Nursery

'Ruby Spice' and 'Seafoam' are straight species selections of *Clethra alnifolia*, and are available here at Heartwood. These are naturally occurring selections, and not bred by human intervention.



Clethra alnifolia
'Ruby Spice'



Clethra alnifolia
'Seafoam'

Applause for Our Customer Pawpaws

Bev, a neighbor and customer, planted Pawpaw seedlings from Heartwood several years ago. They were 12-18 inches tall at the time. Here they are now (*left*). We're excited to see this year they're bearing fruit for the first time! Fantastic job, Bev! Thank you for sharing.



Bev's Pawpaw Patch

Joe purchased these Pawpaw trees from us last year, and they've taken off this year in his yard in Monkton, Maryland. Who says nothing will grow under a Black Walnut tree!?! Great job, Joe! Keep us posted.



Joe's Pawpaw Patch

Have you had success with a native plant from Heartwood? Send photos and description to heartwoodnurseryinc@gmail.com if you'd like us to share your success in an upcoming issue of Heartwood Native News.

Schedule a Tour of Heartwood

We welcome community organizations for educational tours of Heartwood Nursery. Learn about common and less known native plants while walking the grounds with owner Sue Hunter.

The working area of our nursery covers 30 acres, and we share several beautiful sections, including the Heartwood Holly Arboretum, Serviceberry orchard, pollinator meadow, evergreens area, as well as the propagation greenhouse. Tours may be customized as well.

We've been delighted to host more than 20 garden groups, conservancies, and other organizations. We look forward to welcoming your group!

More info: <https://www.heartwoodnursery.net/tours>



**See You at the York County Parks Fall Native
Plant Sale**

NATIVE PLANTS CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS EXPERTS ON HAND



NATIVE PLANT SALE

JOHN RUDY COUNTY PARK

SEPT 12, 2026

9:00AM - 2:00PM

400 MUNDIS RACE ROAD, YORK, PA 17406

YORKCOUNTYPARKS.ORG

**Join Sue for Penn State Extension Holly Webinar,
October 8**



GROW YOUR HOLLY KNOW-HOW

Webinar explores propagation and landscape use

Discover holly propagation techniques with Sue Hunter, owner of Heartwood Nursery and president of the Holly Society of America. Heartwood, located in York, is one of the largest native plant nurseries offering wholesale and retail in the Mid-Atlantic region and the national leader in American holly propagation.

Get practical insights for nursery growers, landscape professionals, and Master Gardeners seeking to expand their expertise and plant palettes. Earn continuing education credits from the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association.

TOPICS

- + Holly selection and propagation techniques
- + Strategies for integrating and managing hollies and native plants in landscapes

HOLLY PROPAGATION, SELECTION, AND COLLECTIONS WEBINAR

Thursday, October 8
Noon to 1:15 p.m.

Space is limited

Register Today!
extension.psu.edu/holly-propagation
or 877-345-0691



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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

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