

Heartwood Nursery Native News



Seasonal Landscapes at Heartwood

Feature Plant: Sycamore

What's the one of the most recognizable trees in the winter time? If you said Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), you're right!

With their satiny smooth and luminous white bark, Sycamores only get more beautiful as they age. Not many species can boast that!

The sight of a Sycamore stretching its pearly, irregular limbs toward the heavenly blue sky when it's freezing cold outside can make any nature lover feel a spark of joy.

For more on the spectacular Sycamore, [see my new blog post](#).

Sue Hunter, Owner, Heartwood Nursery



Slumbering Flower Buds

Some trees and shrubs set their flower buds in late summer for blooms the following spring. The buds are protected through the winter by specialized scale structures to prevent them from freezing. As day length increases and temperatures begin to rise, the flower buds swell and open in early Spring.



Cornus florida
Eastern Dogwood



Cercis canadensis
Eastern Redbud



Lindera benzoin
Spicebush



Rhododendron viscosum
Native Sweet Azalea



Rhododendron maximum
Rosebay Rhododendron

Four Reliable Must-Haves for Spring

Each year we look forward to these early spring emergents!

Virginia Bluebells

Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) is a spring ephemeral that emerges early in the season, one of the first signs of the new growing season. As a native woodland species, the Bluebell takes advantage of the sunlight filtering through the trees before the canopy begins fully leafing out.

Bluebells flower, disperse seed, and then go dormant all before the heat of summer arrives.

Virginia Bluebells make a stunning groundcover for woodland settings and other shady areas and are a good early pollinator that deer don't eat!



Serviceberry

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) is a great understory tree that flowers early and produces edible fruit in June. The fruit is a valuable food source for birds and is edible for people as well. Serviceberry trees are great for smaller yards as well as larger understory plantings.



Fringetree and Golden Alexander

A smaller-scale tree, Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) is an outstanding pollinator, producing an abundance of delicate, fringe-like flowers that also make a strong early-season statement. Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) reseeds and spreads well once it's established. It's an excellent groundcover for a sunny area.



We will have plants for sale at Gardenwise

Saturday March 14, 2026
Central York Middle School

Heartwood Nursery is always delighted to be part of this York County Master Gardeners all-day educational event, now in its 30th year. Learn more about Gardenwise and register to attend [here](#).



Save the Date



Join us for our 17th annual
Serviceberry Festival



**Friday & Saturday
June 19 & 20, 2026
10am - 4pm**



**Serviceberry Orchard & Grounds Tours
Serviceberry Tastings
Children's Nature Activities
Beekeeping Demonstrations
Live Music & Magician · Food Trucks**

A schedule for this event will
be posted on our website and
Facebook closer to the event.

**8957 Hickory Road, Felton, PA 17322
(closer to Stewartstown)**

www.heartwoodnursery.net

We are anticipating spring!



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