Missouri Native Shrubs/ Trees

The City of Creve Coeur is grateful to Mervin Wallace of Missouri Wildflowers Nursery (www.mowildflowers.net) for this comprehensive list of Missouri natives.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Preference	Flowering Period	Color	Height Feet	Moisture	Comments
Aesculus glabra	Ohio Buckeye	Sun-shade	Apr-May	cream	20-30	ave - moi	Will grow in shade or sun. Used by hummingbirds when they arrive. Leafs out early and drops leaves early.
Aesculus pavia	Red Buckeye	Sun-shade	Apr-Jun	red	6-12	ave - moi	Hummingbirds use the dark red flowers in Spring. Prefers good, rich soil. A small tree with attractive dark green foliage.
Alnus serrulata	Smooth Alder	Sun-med shade	Mar-Apr	green to purple	10-15	moist	This symmetrical and compact small tree is being overlooked for landscaping as it handles dryer conditions than thought.
Amelanchier arborea	Service Berry	Sun-shade	March-May	Reddish-purple fruit	20-30	dry - ave	Showy white flowers, smooth, gray bark, and red fruits. A small tree to use any place Flowering dogwood would be used.
Amorpha canescens	Lead Plant	Sun-lt shade	June	purple	3-4	dry - ave	The silvery gray foliage and deep purple flowers spikes add a striking contrast in prairie plantings and landscaped beds.
Amorpha fruticosa	Indigo Bush	Sun-lt shade	MayandJun	indigo	6-8	ave - moi	A medium sized shrub for landscaping, wildlife seed and cover. Host to Silver Spotted Skippers. Handles dry conditions.

Aralia spinosa	Hercules' Club	Sun - shade	JulandAug	white/ black berries	20-35	ave - moi	
Asimina triloba	Pawpaw	Lt-full shade	Apr-May	maroon	20-40	ave - moi	Host to the Zebra Swallowtail. Attractive large foliage. Sweet fruits are edible. Sparingly spreads by underground suckers.
Betula nigra	Riverbirch	Sun	Apr-May	catkins	80	ave - moi	Good for landscaping with small leaves and attractive bark. Use to hold soil along streams and drainages.
Callicarpa americana	American Beauty Berry	Sun-med shade	Jun-Aug	rose to pink	3-5	dry - ave	Striking purple berries last two months starting in early Oct. Long lived, but may die back to ground level in cold winters.
Carya illinoinensis	Pecan	Sun-shade	Apr-May	catkins	150	ave - moi	
Carya laciniosa	Shellbark Hickory	Sun	Apr-May	catkins	90	ave - moi	
Ceanothus americanus	New Jersey Tea	Sun - shade	May andJune	white	3	dry - ave	Used for tea after the Boston Tea Party. Attractive small shrub. If older plants begin to look ratty, cut them back to 4".
Ceanothus herbaceus	Prairie Redroot	Sun - shade	May andJune	white	3	dry - ave	Considered to be more attractive than New Jersey Tea for landscaping. Roots make red dye. Leaves make a tea.

Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	Sun-lt shade	Jun-Aug	white	6-10	ave - moi	Butterflies love the sweet scented flowers. Plants tolerate average to saturated soil moisture. Will work in rain gardens.
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud	Sun-shade	Mar-May	rose-purple	30-40	dry - ave	
Cornus amomum	Silky Dogwood	Sun-shade	June	white/blue fruit	6-8	ave - moi	The flowers and fruits, plus red stems in fall and winter make this a four season shrub. Good for rain gardens and wildlife.
Cornus drummondii	Rough-leaved Dogwood	Sun-lt shade	May-Jun	cream	20	dry - moi	A good shrub for bird food, nesting, and cover. Use in "covey headquarters" for quail. Handles very dry conditions.
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	Sun-shade	Apr-May	white	12-30	ave	The red seeds are relished by migrating Robins in fall. Handles varied conditions. Common on dry glades near Branson.
Corylus americana	Hazelnut	Sun-med shade	Mar-Apr	catkins	10	dry - moi	Compact, multiple stemmed shrub that provides excellent wildlife food and cover. Very colorful in autumn. Edible nuts.
Diospyros virginiana	Persimmon	Sun-lt shade	May-Jun	cream	60-70	dry - ave	The ripe fruits are eaten by people and many species of mammals. Male and female flowers are on different plants.
Euonymus americanus	Strawberry Bush	Sun-shade	May-Jun	maroon	Upto 6	ave - moi	Long lasting foliage and exceptionally attractive fruits. Its small size makes it useful around buildings. Rain gardens.

Gymnocladus dioica	Kentucky Coffee Tree	Sun-shade	May-Jun	greenish white	40-60	ave - moi	Attractive, medium sized tree with huge compound leaves in summer; attractive bark and short thick twigs in winter.
Hamamelis vernalis	Ozark Witch Hazel	Sun-lt shade	Jan-Mar	red-yellow	Up to 10	dry - moi	First woody species to flower each year. Very fragrant. Attractive, compact shrub with several medicinal uses.
Hydrangea arborescens	Wild Hydrangea	Lt-med shade	May-Jul	white	3-5	dry - ave	A fast growing, small shrub that does best in light shade and organic soil. Use in dry to moist soil including rain gardens.
Hypericum prolificum	Shrubby St. John's-wort	Sun-med shade	Jun-Aug	yellow	3-5	dry - moi	A formal, compact shrub suitable for foundation plantings, with bright yellow flowers and shiny little leaves.
Ilex decidua	Deciduous Holly	Sun-med shade	Apr-May	white/ red fruit	10-15	dry - moi	Female plants produce bright red berries for birds through winter.
Ilex opaca	American Holly	Sun-lt shade	Apr-May	greenish white/ red fruit	10-15	ave - moi	Waxy, evergreen leaves with red berries on female plants make attractive christmas decorations. Good wildlife plant.
Lindera benzoin	Spice Bush	Lt-full shade	Feb-Mar	yellow/ red fruit	6-10	ave - moi	Host to Spice Bush Swallowtail larvae. Female plants have red berries. A large shrub for shade, even rain garden edges.
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree	Sun-shade	May-Jun	yellow	100	ave - moi	Host to Tiger Swallowtail larvae. Some people prune the plants back for rearing butterflies, preventing a big tree.

Morus rubra	Red Mulberry	Sun-shade	Apr-May	purple-black fruit	60	ave - moi	Fleshy fruit eaten by humans and at least 21 species of birds. Attractive, fast growing tree with a spreading crown.
Nyssa aquatica	Water Tupelo	Sun-shade	Apr-May	dark purple fruit	80	ave - moi	
Nyssa sylvatica	Black Gum	Sun-shade	Apr-May	dark blue fruit	tall tree	dry - moi	
Physocarpus opulifolius	Ninebark	Sun-shade	May-Jun	white	8-9	dry - moi	Ornamental shrub with white flower clusters on arching stems. Wonderful foliage and bark. Useful for erosion control.
Pinus echinata	Short-leaf Pine	Sun-lt shade	Mar-Apr	fruits Sept-Oct	20- 25	dry - ave	Only pine native to Missouri. Long lived. Does very well on well-drained, upland sites south of the Missouri River.
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore	Sun-shade	Apr-June	fruits Sept-Oct	120	ave - moi	Impressive in size and bark coloration, it is best used along drainages and wooded borders along the edges of yards.
Prunus spp.	Wild Plum	Sun-lt shade	Mar-May	white	Up to 25	dry - ave	A good wildlife species for a multitude of fauna. Edible fruits used for jams and jellies. Sweet scented white flowers.
Ptelea trifoliata	Wafer Ash, Hop Tree	Sun-lt shade	May-Jun	greenish	Up to 25	dry - ave	Host plant for Giant and Tiger Swallowtail larvae. Attractive small tree with shiny leaves and round, wafer shaped seeds.

Quercus alba	White Oak	Sun-lt shade	Apr-May	wine red fall foliage	60 - 80	dry - moi	A marvelous shade tree, taking its time to mature. Can reach 300 years. Numerous forms of wildlife eat the acorns.
Quercus texana	Nuttall Oak	Sun-shade	Apr-May	fruits Sept-Oct	80	ave - moi	
Rhamnus caroliniana	Indian Cherry	Sun-shade	May-Jun	Red berries	12-25	dry - moi	Bright, shiny leaves turning red and yellow in fall, along with black fruits and smooth bark make this a choice small tree.
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac	Sun-med shade	Mar-Apr	yellow flowers	4-8	dry - ave	Small landscape shrub, desirable for its yellow spring flowers, summer red berries, and fall colors (yellow, purple, and red).
Rhus copallina	Winged Sumac	Sun-lt shade	May-July	greenish white	12	dry - ave	
Rhus glabra	Smooth Sumac	Sun-lt shade	Jun-Jul	red berries	8-16	dry - ave	Excellent bird seed, red fruits, and brilliant foliage are a plus. Mow around this thicket forming shrub to curb its spread.
Ribes Odoratum	Golden Currant	Sun-lt shade	Apr-Jun	yellow	4-6	dry - ave	Golden yellow, trumpet shaped flowers fill the air with a clove-like fragrance in Spring. Berries are sweet and edible.
Rosa arkansana	Prairie Wild Rose	Sun-lt shade	Apr-Jun	pink	1-3	dry - ave	Short with red fall foliage and red hips in fall and winter. Good bird seed. Spreads acceptabley by suckers.

Rosa carolina	Pasture Rose	Sun-lt shade	May andJun	pink	1-3	dry - ave	
Rosa setigera	Prairie Rose	Sun-med shade	May-Jun	pink	4-6	dry - ave	Arching to climbing stems bear many single 2" flowers. Red hips in fall and winter are eaten by birds.
Rubus spp.	Blackberry	Sun-lt shade	Apr-Jun	white	4-6	dry - ave	Edible fruit and plants provide great wildlife food and cover.
Salix humilis	Prairie Willow	Sun-lt shade	Apr-May	white	4 - 6	dry - ave	
Sambucus canadensis	Elderberry	Sun-lt shade	Jun-Jul	white	Upto 15	dry - moi	Berries are eaten by about 45 bird species, and are used to make pies, wines, and jellies.
Sambucus racemosa	Scarlet Elder	Lt-med shade	Apr-May	white/ scarlet fruit	4-8	ave - moi	Red (scarlet) berries in June are eaten by at least 23 bird species. Ornamental, medium ht. shrub.
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras	Sun-lt shade	Apr-May	yellow	30 - 60	dry - ave	An outstanding, medium sized tree for landscaping. Host to Spice Bush Swallowtail larvae.
Spirea alba	Meadow-sweet	Sun	Jun-Aug	white	3-4	moist	One wild population of S. alba remains in Missouri. A short, multi-stemmed shrub for moist areas.

Staphylea trifoliata	American Bladdernut	Sun-med shade	Apr-May	white	10-20	moist	
Taxodium distichum	Bald Cypress	Sun	Mar-Apr	cones	70-80	ave - moi	A tall, deciduous conifer used frequently in landscaping on average to moist soil.
Zanthoxylum americanum	Prickly Ash	Sun-med shade	Apr - May	fruits Jun-Aug	8	ave - moi	Red and black seeds are eaten by quail and other birds and wildlife. Thicket-forming meduim shrub.