

Native Indigenous Trees of Delaware

The following is a list of tree species native and indigenous to Delaware. A native species indigenous to the State of Delaware is one that has, over time, evolved and adapted to the environmental conditions of the area and is thought to have occurred in Delaware prior to the time of European settlement, or has established itself within the state independent of direct human activity. Habitat descriptions are specific to Delaware and include county distribution within the state. Species that are dioecious (having male and female reproductive structures on different plants), are denoted by an Asterix (*). For these species to produce fruit, both male and female plants need to be near one another. A species value to wildlife is designated by one or more of the following icons:



songbirds



raptors



butterflies and moths



large mammals



gamebirds and waterfowl



bees



small mammals




























bats





























The table is based on information provided by William A. McAvoy, botanist for DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife.































DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL











Common Name	Scientific Name	Wildlife Values	Habitat
box elder*	<i>Acer negundo</i> var. <i>negundo</i>		Floodplains of rivers and creeks; all counties
Eastern red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> var. <i>rubrum</i>		Stream banks, floodplains, poorly drained soils; all counties
Carolina red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> var. <i>trilobum</i>		Tidal and non-tidal swamps, low ground, moist woods, floodplains, stream banks; all counties
silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>		Floodplains of rivers and creeks; New Castle County
sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i> var. <i>saccharum</i>		Rich woods and slopes; New Castle County
downy shadbush	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>		Moist upland woods and slopes; all counties
Eastern shadbush	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>		Moist and swampy woods, moist and wet edges; all counties
smooth shadbush	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>		Moist open woods and edges; all counties
Hercules club	<i>Aralia spinosa</i>		Young woods, edges and thickets; all counties
sweet birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>		Moist woodlands of northern and central New Castle County
river birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>		Floodplains of rivers and creeks; all counties
gray birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i>		Edges of moist to poorly drained woods and thickets of the Piedmont and just below the fall-line; New Castle County
ironwood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>		Woods, banks of creeks and streams; all counties













Common Name	Scientific Name	Wildlife Values	Habitat
bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>		Moist upland woods, floodplains and along streams; all counties
pignut hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>		Woods; all counties
small-fruited hickory	<i>Carya ovalis</i>		Moist woods and slopes; New Castle County
shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>		Rich woods; primarily of the Piedmont, rare on the Coastal Plain; New Castle and Kent Counties
sand hickory	<i>Carya pallida</i>		Dry sandy woodlands; all counties
mockernut hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>		Woods; all counties
American chestnut	<i>Castanea dentata</i>		Upland woods; all counties
hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>		Open sandy woods and edges of the Coastal Plain, moist woods of the Piedmont; all counties
eastern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>		Rich, moist deciduous woodlands, frequently planted and escaping to natural areas; New Castle County
Atlantic white cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>		Tidal and non-tidal freshwater swamps; all counties
fringe tree*	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>		Moist to swampy woods, edges of streams, floodplains, and fresh water tidal swamps and thickets; primarily of the Coastal Plain, rare in the Piedmont; all counties
scarlet hawthorn	<i>Crataegus coccinea</i> var. <i>coccinea</i>		Old fields, edges, thin canopy woods; New Castle County





Common Name	Scientific Name	Wildlife Values	Habitat
cockspur hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> var. <i>crus-galli</i>	 	Thickets, old fields, low ground, floodplains; all counties
narrowleaf cockspur hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> var. <i>pyracanthifolia</i>	 	Thickets, old fields, low ground, floodplains; New Castle County
Delaware hawthorn	<i>Crataegus delawarensis</i>	 	Edge of woods; New Castle County
Holmes's hawthorn	<i>Crataegus holmesiana</i>	 	Thickets and old fields, New Castle County
Copenhagen hawthorn	<i>Crataegus intricata</i>	 	Old fields, edges, thin canopy woods, well-drained rocky slopes; New Castle County
big-fruit hawthorn	<i>Crataegus macrosperma</i>	 	Old fields, edges, thin canopy woods; New Castle County
Pennsylvania hawthorn	<i>Crataegus pennsylvanica</i>	 	Old fields, edges, thin canopy woods; New Castle County
Washington hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	 	Fields, edges, thin canopy woods; New Castle County
waxy-fruit hawthorn	<i>Crataegus pruinosa</i>	 	Old fields, edges, thin canopy woods, stream banks; New Castle County
dotted hawthorn	<i>Crataegus punctata</i>	 	Stream banks, edges and thin canopy woods; New Castle County
Palmer's hawthorn	<i>Crataegus reverchonii</i> var. <i>palmeri</i>	 	Fields, edges and thickets; New Castle County
reddish hawthorn	<i>Crataegus rubella</i>	 	Thin canopy woods and thickets; New Castle County
stolon-bearing hawthorn	<i>Crataegus stolonifera</i>	 	Old fields, edges, thin canopy woods; New Castle County
dwarf hawthorn	<i>Crataegus uniflora</i>	 	Sandy woods; all counties

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green hawthorn	<i>Crataegus viridis</i>		Floodplains, swamps and along streams; Kent County
persimmon*	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>		Wet and dry woods, thickets and fields, wetland depressions; all counties
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>		Upland woods; all counties
white ash*	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>		Moist rich woods; primarily of the Piedmont, rare on the Coastal Plain; New Castle County
black ash*	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>		Nutrient rich seepage swamps and floodplains; New Castle and Kent Counties
green ash*	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>		Moist woods, swamps and floodplains; all counties
pumpkin ash*	<i>Fraxinus profunda</i>		Fresh water tidal swamps; Kent and Sussex Counties
American holly*	<i>Ilex opaca</i>		Upland woods and lowland woods, found on a variety of soil types and moisture conditions; all counties
butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>		Floodplains and moist woods; New Castle County
black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>		Open woods, edges, thickets and hedgerows, often on nutrient-rich soils; all counties
eastern red cedar*	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>		Old fields, edges, open woods, abandoned ground, sterile soils; all counties
sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>		Moist woods, old fields, thickets; all counties
tulip poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>		Moist woods and edges of swamps; all counties
northern sweet bay magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> var. <i>virginiana</i>		Tidal and non-tidal freshwater swamps, and wet to moist upland woods; all counties

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Southern crabapple	<i>Malus angustifolia</i>		Woods, thickets, coastal sands; all counties
sweet crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>		Old fields, thickets, riverbanks; all counties
red mulberry*	<i>Morus rubra</i>		Rich woods, thickets and edges; all counties
swamp black gum*	<i>Nyssa biflora</i>		Tidal and non-tidal freshwater swamps in Sussex and southern Kent Counties
black gum*	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>		Moist to poorly drained woodlands; all counties
eastern hop-hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>		Rich woods and slopes; New Castle County
shortleaf pine	<i>Pinus echinata</i>		Dry sandy soils and inland forested sand dunes; primarily of the Coastal Plain, rare in the Piedmont; all counties
pitch pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i>		Well-drained soils; primarily of the Coastal Plain, rare in the Piedmont; all counties
pond pine	<i>Pinus serotina</i>		Poorly drained to moist soils; Sussex County
loblolly pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>		On a variety of soil types, but often in poorly drained sites; all counties
Virginia pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>		Open woods, edges, old fields, thickets; all counties
sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>		Floodplains and swampy woods; all counties
large-tooth cottonwood*	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>		Woods, thickets, low ground and floodplains; all counties
swamp cottonwood*	<i>Populus heterophylla</i>		Open swamps and depressions; all counties

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wild black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>serotina</i>		Edges, hedgerows and thickets, understory species in woodlands; all counties
white oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>		Woodlands; All Counties
swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>		Swamps and floodplains; primarily of the Coastal Plain, rare in the Piedmont; New Castle and Kent Counties
scarlet oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>		Woodlands; all counties
southern red oak	<i>Quercus falcata</i>		Dry to moist acid woods; primarily of the Coastal Plain, rare in the Piedmont; all counties
over cup oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>		Swamps, floodplains and depressions; all counties
blackjack oak	<i>Quercus marilandica</i> var. <i>marilandica</i>		Open woods and clearings on well-drained soils; Kent and Sussex Counties
swamp chestnut oak	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>		Swampy woods; primarily of the Coastal Plain, rare in the Piedmont; all counties
chestnut oak	<i>Quercus montana</i>		Dry to moist steep wooded slopes and flats; all counties
yellow oak	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>		Rich wooded slopes of the Piedmont; New Castle County
water oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>		Moist sandy woods and ridges, wetland edges; Sussex County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Wildlife Values	Habitat
cherry bark oak	<i>Quercus pagoda</i>		Swamps and wet woods; Kent County
pin oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>		Swamps and wet woods; all counties
willow oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>		Swamps and wet woods; all counties
northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>		Moist upland woods; all counties
post oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>		Thin canopy woods and edges on well-drained soils; all counties
black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>		Woodlands; all counties
black willow*	<i>Salix nigra</i>		Marshes, wet meadows, ditches, depressional wetlands; all counties
sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>		Woods, edges, old fields; all counties
sweet leaf	<i>Symplocos tinctoria</i>		Swamps; Sussex County
bald cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>		Tidal and non-tidal freshwater swamps; Kent and Sussex Counties
American basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i> var. <i>americana</i>		Rich woods and stream banks; primarily of the Piedmont, rare on the Coastal Plain; New Castle and Kent Counties
poison sumac	<i>Toxicodendron vernix</i>		Seepage swamp wetlands, fresh tidal shrub swamps; all counties

Common Name	Scientific Name	Wildlife Values	Habitat
eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>		Steep north and east facing wooded slopes in cool ravines; also known to naturalize and appear native in the Piedmont; New Castle County
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i> var. <i>americana</i>	 	Moist woods and floodplains; all counties
slippery elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	 	Stream banks, floodplains, rich woods; all counties

*Denotes dioecious plants, which are plants that have male and female reproductive structures on different plants.



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