

NATIVE PLANTS THAT FEED INSECTS THAT FEED BATS

Wild Ones Southern Kentucky Chapter

[HTTPS://SOKY.WILDONES.ORG/](https://soky.wildones.org/)

Back-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)



(Photo by Sally and Andy Wasowski, https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=24329)

Habitat: moist and open woods, fields

Gardening: blooms in July thru Oct in sun in moist soil, 1-3 feet tall

Distinctive: rudbeckias feed dozens of caterpillars and are a favorite of butterflies, seeds eaten by birds

Buy Locally: Dropseed, GroWild, Grow Wilder

Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum/fistulosum*)



(Ironweed Native Plant Nursery, <https://www.ironweednursery.com/Joe-Pye-Weed-p/eupfis1.htm>)

Habitat: open woods

Gardening: blooms in July—September in sun to moist or dry soil, 3-6' tall

Distinctive: feeds dozens of caterpillars, attractive to lots of butterflies, solitary bees, bumblees and other pollinators, shorter and can take drier soil, leaves have a vanilla like odor when bruised

Buy Locally (*fistulosum*): Busy Bee, Dropseed, Grow Wilder, GroWild, Ironweed

Foam Flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)



(Photo by Stephanie Brundage, https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=66484)

Habitat: rich wooded slopes, cool, moist, and rocky woodlands, deciduous woods and streambanks, moist cracks in granite cliffs

Gardening: blooms in April thru June in sun to shade in rich moist soil, 6-12"

Distinctive: evergreen ground cover, spreads by slender runners, flowers visited by small bees and syrphus flies and butterflies

Buy Locally (fistulosum): Dropseed, GroWild

Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpureum)



(Photo by Ray Mathews, https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=55374)

Habitat: wooded slopes, dry open woods and fields

Gardening: blooms in June thru July in sun and moist soil, 3-5 feet tall

Distinctive: 12-20 purple droopy rays, birds eat the seeds in the fall, excellent plant for butterflies and bees

Buy Locally: Busy Bee, Dropseed, Grow Wilder, GroWild

Foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)



Photo by Sally and Andy Wasowski, https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=23630)

Habitat: moist open woods and fields

Gardening: blooms May thru July in sun to shade in moist to dry soil, 2-5' tall

Distinctive: easy to transplant, frequent in Kentucky, hummingbirds, small and medium bees and wasps and 3 species of bumble bees and 5 moth species enjoy the blooms, leaves feed the babies of the common buckeye butterfly

Buy Locally: Busy Bee, Dropseed, GroWild

Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*)



(Photo by W.D. and Dolphia Bransford, https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=11334)

Habitat: clearings, fields, dry moist open woods and thickets

Gardening: blooms in July thru Oct in sun to shade in wet to dry soil, 2-6' tall

Distinctive: provides abundant reliable nectar and pollen in late summer for wasps, beetles, flies, lots of butterflies, large and small bees, most important late season pollinator plant

Buy Locally (*Solidago* sp.): Busy Bee, Dropseed, GroWild, Ironweed

White Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)



(Photo by Stephanie Brundage, https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=48997)

Habitat: native and introduced, fields

Gardening: blooms in May thru November in sun in wet to dry soil, 1-3' tall

Distinctive: several cavity nesting birds such as bluebirds and chickadees use yarrow to line their nests which seems to inhibit the growth of parasites, feeds many insects and lots of moth caterpillars and beetles

Buy Locally: N/A

American Snowbell

(*Styrax americanus*, also called storax)



(Photo from Ironweed Nursery, <https://www.ironweednursery.com/American-Snowbell-p/styame1.htm>)

Habitat: grows by streams and borders wetlands in West TN

Gardening: blooms in April thru June in sun to part shade, in wet to moist soil, 3-12 feet tall

Distinctive: show stopper when in bloom, sweet fragrance, large shrub offering early nectar to diverse pollinators

Purchase Locally: GroWild, Ironweed

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)



(Photo from Ironweed Nursery, <https://www.ironweednursery.com/Buttonbush-p/cepocc1.htm>)

Habitat: moist soils along streams and in floodplains in Ky and TN

Gardening: blooms in June thru August, in full sun in wet to moist soil, 3-30 feet tall

Distinctive: fragrant blooms, waterfowl and birds enjoy its seeds, attractive to butterflies, forms thickets and can be cut to the ground

Buy Locally: Busy Bee, Dropseed, GroWild, Grow Wilder, Ironweed

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)



(Photos from Ironweed Nursery, <https://www.ironweednursery.com/Elderberry-p/samcan1.htm>)

Habitat: common in KY and TN in woods and moist fields and along the roadside and along streams

Gardening: blooms in April thru August, in sun to shade, in moist to wet to dry soil, 4-20 feet tall

Distinctive: thicket forming, highly valued food for wildlife --birds and mammals eat the fruit in June thru October, showy blooms, deer tend to not eat it

Buy Locally: Busy Bee, Dropseed, Ironweed, GroWild

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)



(Photos from Ironweed Nursery, <https://www.ironweednursery.com/Ninebark-p/phyopu1.htm>)

Habitat: alongside streams and on rocky slopes

Gardening: blooms in May thru July, in sun with moist to dry soil, 3-10 feet tall

Distinctive: winter interest of the bark peeling off in long papery strips, birds and small mammals eat the seeds

Buy Locally: Busy Bee, Dropseed, GroWild, Grow Wilder, Ironweed

Wild Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*)



(Photo from Ironweed Nursery, <https://www.ironweednursery.com/Wild-Hydrangea-p/hydarb1.htm>)

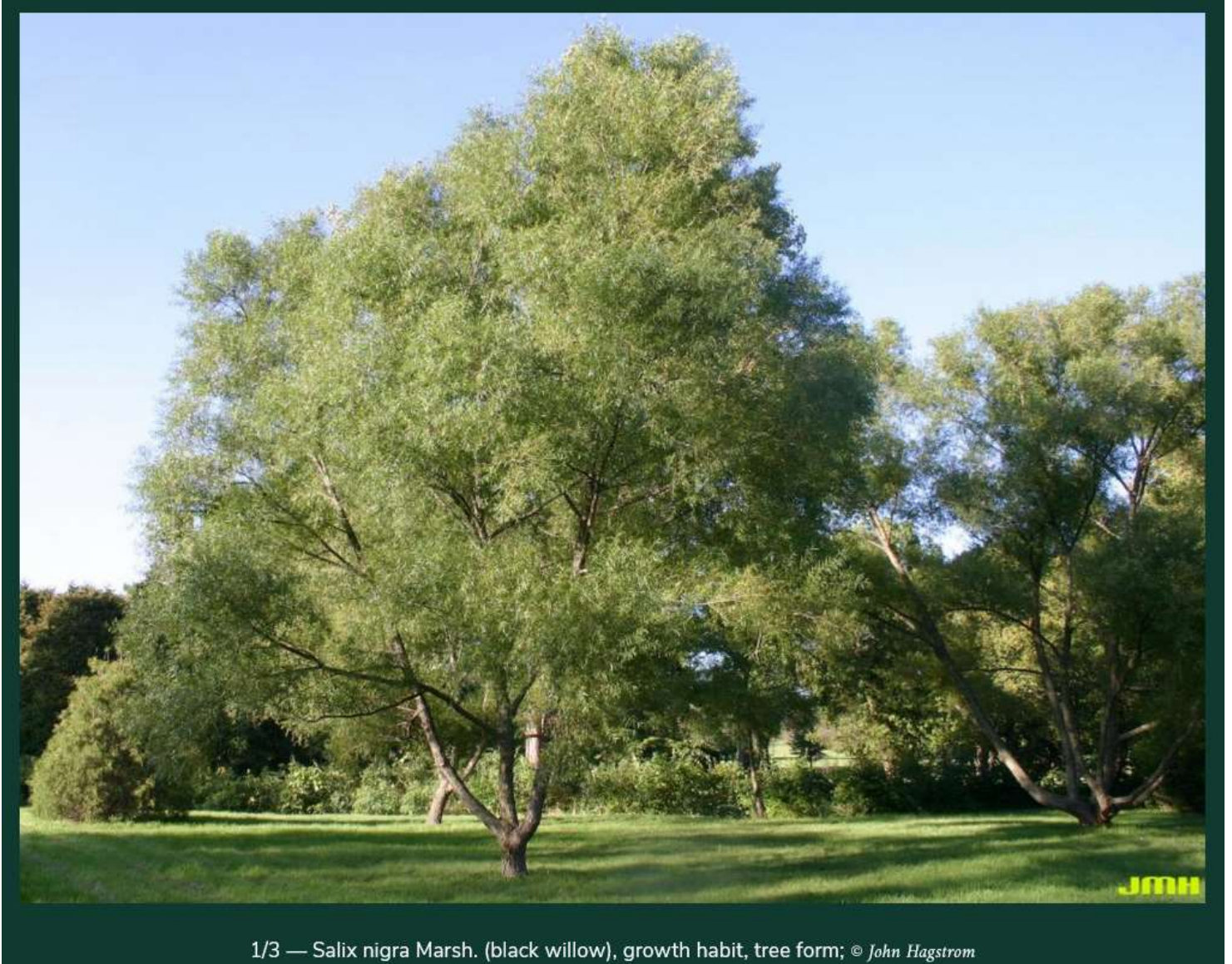
Habitat: stream banks, moist cool forests in rich well-drained soil in light shade

Gardening: flowers in May thru July, preferring shade in moist soil, 3-6 feet tall

Distinctive: flowers and seeds eaten by turkeys, subtle accent in the shade garden

Buy Locally: Dropseed, GroWild, Ironweed

Black willow (*Salix nigra*)



(Photo Copyright John Hagstrom, <https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/trees-and-plants/black-willow/>)

Habitat: grows in KY and TN in floodplains and along streambanks

Gardening: Low moist areas, short lived, 80-100 feet tall

Distinctive: used for erosion control, rapid grower using its dense root systems to stabilize soil

Purchase Locally: GroWild

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)



(Photo: Msact at English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=27178443>)

Habitat: moist warm western and southern slopes in association with hickories and other oaks

Gardening: grows in full sun to part shade in well drained moist soil, 50-85' tall, slow growing and long lived

Distinctive: wider than its height, pyramidal when young, nuts highly valued by animals, can take drier soil, magnificent shade tree, winter staple for many birds, rich red fall color, provides cover and nesting materials

Buy Locally: Busy Bee, GroWild

Chinkapin Oak (Q. muehlenbergi)



(Photo by Julie Makin, https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=33015)

Habitat: limestone outcrops and calcareous soils

Gardening: grows in well drained soil moist to dry soil, 40-50' tall

Distinctive: used in landscaping for its size, glossy leaves and longevity, fast growing, demonstrates drought tolerance

Buy Locally: Busy Bee, GroWild

Bur or Mossycup Oak (*Q. macrocarpa*)



(By Heath Cajandig - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/96228372@N06/26795406264/>, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=96920363>)

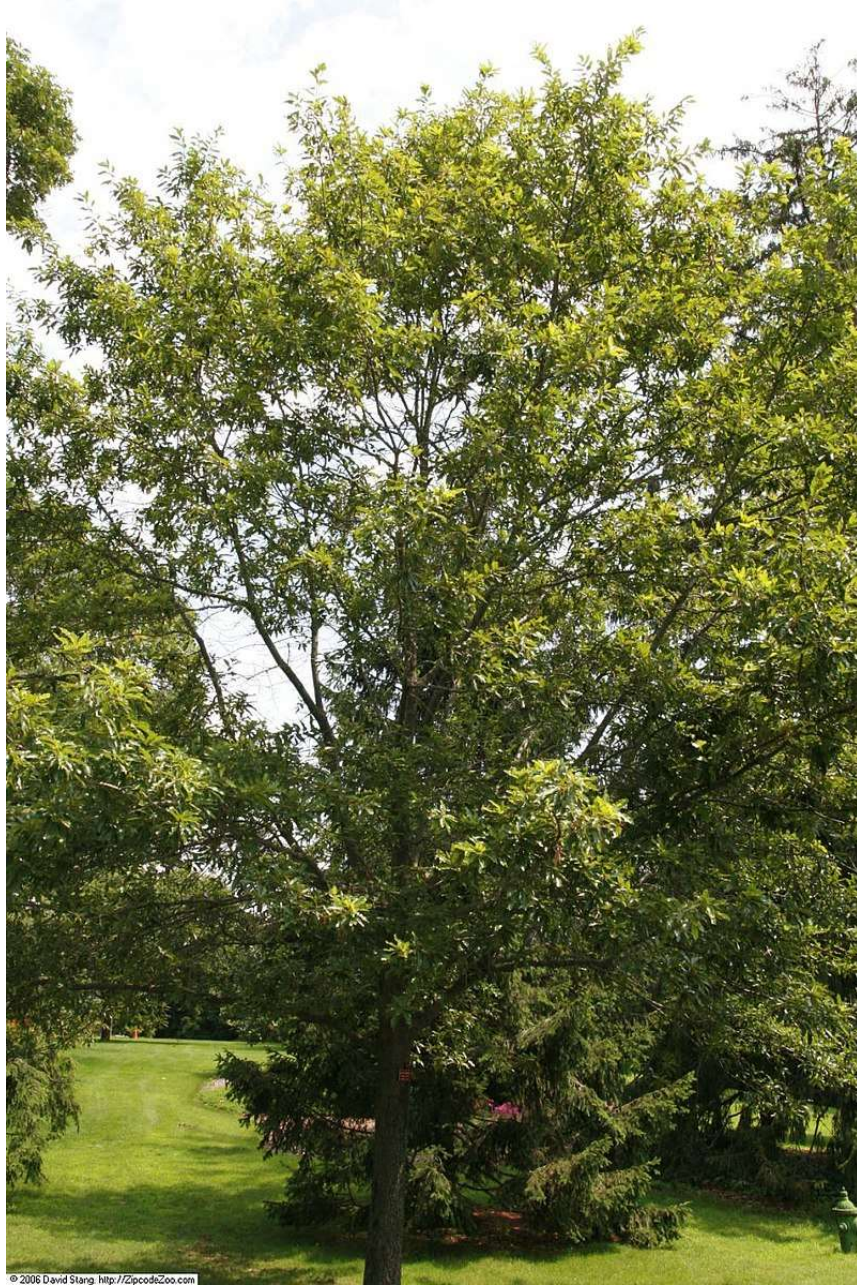
Habitat: fields and forest, poorly drained bottomland sites to dry slopes primarily on calcareous soils

Gardening: grows slowly in sun to shade in moist to dry soil, 70-85' tall

Distinctive: very adaptable, very distinctive with its large acorn and mossy fringed cup, corky projections along branches, and very coarse winter appearance

Buy Locally: Dropseed, GroWild

Shingle or Laurel Oak (*Q. imbricaria*)



(CC BY 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=116802426>)

Habitat: mesic riverbanks and bottomlands

Gardening: grows in shade and moist soil, 50-70 feet tall

Distinctive: rounded or oblong crown, shiny leathery elliptical leaves persist into winter, acorns important food for deer, turkeys, and squirrels

Buy Locally: Busy Bee, GroWild

Shumard Oak (Q. shumardii)



(Photo by Sally and Andy Wasowski, https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=24091)

Habitat: mesic upland forests and bottomlands and limestone ridges

Gardening: grows in rich moist well-drained soil in full sun, 50-80' tall

Distinctive: glossy leaves turn reddish in autumn, tolerant of drought and wet soil, grows quickly, good shade tree, acorns eaten by wild turkey, Carolina wren, woodpeckers, and mammals

Buy Locally: Ironweed, GroWild

Local Native Plant Nurseries

Busy Bee Nursery and Consulting

Barren County, Kentucky

<https://busybeenurseryandconsulting.com/contact-us/>

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BusyBeeNurseryandConsulting>

Dropseed Native Plant Nursery

1205 S. Buckeye Ln

Goshen, KY 40026

502.439.9033

<https://www.dropseednursery.com/>

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Dropseed-Native-Plant-Nursery-119164238210182>

GroWild

All nursery visits

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

7190 Hill Hughes Road

Fairview, TN 37062

615.799.1910

<https://www.growildinc.com/>

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GroWild-Inc-324430629599>

Grow Wilder

12418 Kingsley Drive

Pioneer Village, KY

502.552.6690

Kysunshine1981@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GrowWilderKY>

Ironweed Native Plant Nursery

114 Stults St., Columbia, KY 42728

info@ironweednursery.com

270.250.3587

<https://www.ironweednursery.com/default.asp>

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Ironweednursery>