





NC STATE

**EXTENSION** 

Master Gardener | Currituck County

## Your Key to Plant Purchase Success!







NATIVE PLANT



CATERPHILAR HOST PLANT



Full Sun (6-8 Hours)

PART SUN/SHADE (4-6 Hours)



SHADE >2 Hours)

## **BEAUTYBERRY**



#### **DESCRIPTION**

This large, deciduous shrub, native to the southeastern United States, is truly beautiful. Sun or shade tolerant, not picky about soil, drought-tolerant – it's a low-maintenance addition to the landscape.

With long, arching branches bearing large, light green leaves, and clusters of little flowers that morph into green and then brilliant purple berries containing three to four seeds each. The juicy berries are a source of food for more than 40 species of songbird, including the American robin, mockingbirds, woodpeckers and finches.

American beautyberry likes rich, organic soil, but it will tolerate less-delicious soils, as long as they are well-draining. Depending where you live and plant it, it may take full sun, though it will need lots of water. This large shrub with its long, arched, purple-berry-laden branches is a lovely piece of native American flora.

Hardiness Zone:	6-10	
Bloom Season:	Fall	
Growth Habit:	Height: 3 ft. 0 in 8 ft. 0 in. Width: 3 ft. 0 in 6 ft. 0 in. The fruits are clusters of small bluish to purplish berries that form a whorl and encircle the stems. They appear in August through October and may last through the winter. They are a valuable food source for songbirds and small mammals. Each berry is about 1/4 inch long with 2 to 4 seeds. Each seed measures about 1/16 inch long. They are edible to humans but have very little flavor.	
Soil Preference:	Clay, High Organic Matter, Loam (Silt), Sand. Neutral to Acidic. Good drainage, moist, occasionally dry.	4
Light Preference:	Full sun, at least 6 hours per day	



## **CHASTE TREE**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

The Chaste tree is a shrub or tree native to Europe and Asia that does best in hot weather. It is hardy in zones 7 to 8. In cooler climates, it can be severely pruned to the ground and will usually regrow. It can suffer winter dieback or will die to the ground in USDA Zones 5 and 6; however, the roots often survive and push up several feet of new growth the following year. Pruning can be done in early spring as flowering occurs on new wood. Due to this trait, dieback will not affect flowering. Prune faded flowers to promote continuous flowering. Flowering will be more spectacular if the plant is heavily pruned after blooming.

This tree is resistant to damage by deer and is moderately salt tolerant. It has good drought tolerance once established. It freely reseeds and can become weedy. Bees and many other pollinators are attracted to its flowers and foliage.

In warmer climates, it can be trained to grow as a small, single-trunk tree or a large shrub. Although typically grown as a 10–15-foot shrub, in tree form it can reach heights and widths of up to 20 feet. This long-lived specimen's rapid growth rate can add up to 24 inches per year in height.

Some smaller cultivars like 'Blue Diddley' and 'Blue Puffball' can be grown as 3-to-6-foot shrubs; other cultivars such as 'Cooke's Blue', 'Cooke's Pink', or 'Cooke's Purple' can grow as tall as 25 to 30 feet with the same spread. There are also many cultivars of various sizes in between. The Chaste tree is great for the home landscape provided it has plenty of room to grow. The unique foliage and flowers will add interest to the home garden. This plant has the potential to become invasive, especially in southern areas of the country. Its dry fruit can be a litter issue.

Hardiness Zone:	7a-8b
Planting Depth:	Dig hole as deep as root ball & three times as wide.
Plant Spacing:	6-12'
Mature Height:	Height: 8 ft. 0 in 20 ft. 0 in. Width: 5 ft. 0 in 20 ft. 0 in.
Soil Preference:	Clay, Loam, Sand. Well-draining. Moist to occasionally dry.
Light Preference:	Full sun



### **CREPE MYRTLE**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Common crape myrtle is a deciduous, erect, multi-trunked, tree or shrub in the loosestrife family (Lythraceae). It is native to the Philippines, Japan and central Himalayas to southern China and Indochina. The genus name honors Magnus von Lagerstroem, who was a Swedish botanist and director of the Swedish East Indies Company. The species epithet references its native origin in India. The common name is derived from the crepe paper-like petals and the bark and foliage features that are similar to the myrtle plant.

It requires full sun and moist, well-drained soil, though it will tolerate occasionally wet or dry soil once established. Place it in a sheltered location protected from winter winds and mulch the soil to protect the roots. It resists deer, drought and pollution. Propagate it by seed or stem cutting. A rapid grower, common crape myrtle can reach 6 to 30 feet high and wide, depending upon the variety selected. Severe pruning or topping of the crape myrtle should not be needed to control the plant size. If pruning is required to thin the tree or shrub, it is best done in late winter or spring before growth begins.

Common crape myrtle blooms from July to September with numerous and showy flowers. The flower color of the wild-type species is rose to red, but there are cultivars offering a variety of colors. The leaves are light green with tinges of red initially that become dark green by summer and colorful in the fall. Another highlight is its exfoliating bark.

The common crape myrtle is used as a specimen in a variety of ways including a lawn, recreational play area, and butterfly, children's, cottage or pollinator gardens. Dwarf varieties may be grown in a container. Groups of crape myrtle are commonly used as a hedge, privacy screen or street tree landscape.

Hardiness Zone:	6a-9b
Planting Depth:	Dig hole as 3x the width of the root ball but no deeper than the container.
Plant Spacing:	12-24'
Mature Height:	Height: 6 ft. 0 in 30 ft. 0 in. Width: 6 ft. 0 in 30 ft. 0 in.
Soil Preference:	Clay, High Organic Matter, Loam (Silt), Sand, Shallow Rocky. Good Drainage, Moist, Occasionally Dry, Occasionally Wet.
Light Preference:	Full sun



## **ELDERBERRY**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Elderberry is a large bush or shrub that is native to the U.S. The American elderberry grows wild among fields and meadows. It attains a height of between 10 and 12 feet tall and is hardy to USDA plant hardiness zones 3 to 8.

**N%**TIVE

The bush produces bluish-black fruit in bunches that are used in wines, juices, jellies, and jams. The berries themselves are quite bitter, so they are rarely eaten by themselves.

The first two years after planting elderberry bushes, you should let them grow wildly. Do not prune and do not bother picking the berries. After that, you can prune the elderberry bushes in early spring by cutting them back and removing all the dead areas. This way, the bushes will grow and produce a lot of berries for you. Right around mid-August and mid-September, there is a 5- to 15-day ripening period. This is the time when you want to begin harvesting elderberries. Be sure to pick them before the birds do.

You'll want to harvest when the berries are as dark purple, or even as black, as you can imagine they will get. They should be very soft and juicy.

Hardiness Zone:	4-8
Bloom Season:	Spring & Summer
Growth Habit:	Height: 5 ft. 0 in 12 ft. 0 in. Width: 6 ft. 0 in 12 ft. 0 in. Deciduous woody. Many 1/4 inch fragrant creamy-white flowers appear in 4-10-inch flat-topped to rounded clusters. They bloom profusely in June. Blooms on second-year wood. The fruits are clusters of rounded, edible, purplish-black drupes. They are on display from August to September. Each berry is 1/4 inch across, contains 3-5 seeds, and is borne in large drooping clusters. The fruits are used to make jellies and wine.
Soil Preference:	Clay, High Organic Matter, Loam (Silt), Sand. pH 6.0-8.0. Good drainage, moist, occasionally wet.
Light Preference:	Full sun to Part shade.



## HARDY ORANGE



"Flying Dragon"

#### **DESCRIPTION**

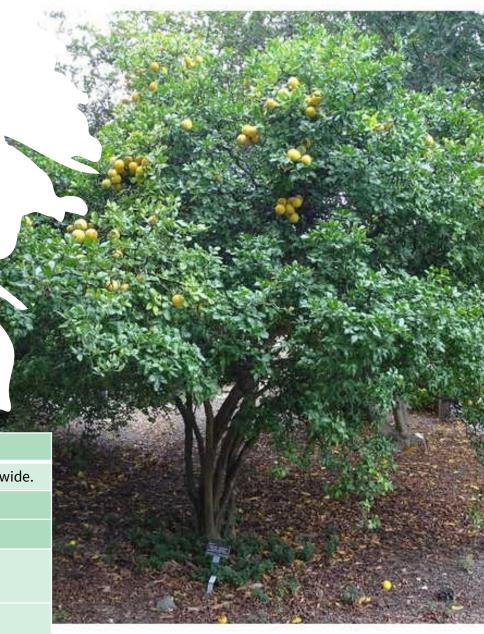
'Flying Dragon' is one of the most cold-hardy cultivars of orange trees. This tree's parent plant is native to China and is in the Rutaceae (citrus) family. This shrub can grow 8 to 15 feet tall, rarely 20 feet, and 16-20 feet wide. This dense shrub has crooked branches covered in large downward curved spines. It blooms in spring with citrus-scented flowers that produce fuzzy fruits that are very sour.

'Flying Dragon' can grow in sun to part shade in average well-drained soils. The fruits will reseed so this plant is often grown in a container to prevent this. It can be used to form an impenetrable hedge also and adds winter interest.

The very sour fruits can't be eaten raw but can be used to make jams and jellies. They are high in vitamin C and antioxidants.

Citrus trifoliata is considered invasive in AL, GA, and SC. Please consider planting native plants.

	\$200 July
Hardiness Zone:	5a-9b
Planting Depth:	Dig hole 6" deeper than the root ball & two to three times as wide.
Plant Spacing:	6-24'
Mature Height:	Height: 6 ft. 0 in 20 ft. 0 in. Width: 16 ft. 0 in 20 ft. 0 in.
Soil Preference:	Clay, Loam, Sand. High organic matter. Well-draining. Moist.
Light Preference:	Full sun to part shade



## KOUSA DOGWOOD



#### **DESCRIPTION**

The Kousa dogwood is a handsome, small- to medium-sized tree reaching a mature height of 30 feet. Sometimes referred to as the Chinese dogwood, this Asian is a cousin to our native flowering dogwood. It can be used as a specimen plant or in shrub borders. Our native dogwoods bloom in April, while the Kousa dogwoods flower nearly a month later. A tree for all seasons, the Kousa dogwood has berries that resemble raspberry fruit in autumn, and the peeling bark on the mature tree trunks gives the bark an attractive mottled appearance. The fall leaf color is reddishpurple to scarlet and lasts for 3 to 5 weeks. It truly has year-round interest. The plant has a slow growth rate and prefers a sunny location but is tolerant of moderate shade. It does better in open areas like lawns than the native trees but it prefers some light shade, especially in the afternoon. It flourishes in well-drained acidic soil, and while it tolerates some dry soil, it will not survive in waterlogged environments.

#### Seasons of interest:

**Foliage**: Fall **Bloom:** early summer

Fruits: Fall Bark: Winter

	Trans.
Hardiness Zone:	5-8
Planting Depth:	Dig hole as deep as root ball & twice as wide.
Plant Spacing:	20' & 6' from structures
Mature Height:	20-30' with equal spread
Soil Preference:	Prefers acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. It prefers average moisture but is somewhat drought-resistant.
Light Preference:	Full sun to part shade.



JAPANESE MAPLE

"Tamukeyama"



Acer palmatum, commonly called Japanese Maple, is a deciduous shrub or small tree that typically grows to 10-25' (infrequently to 40') tall. It is native to Japan, Korea and China. General plant form is rounded to broad-rounded, often with low branching. Each palmate green leaf (2-5" long) has 5 to 7 but less frequently 9 toothed lobes. Small reddish-purple flowers in umbels bloom in spring (April) followed by winged samaras in pairs which ripen in September-October. Fall color includes an often spectacular combination of shades of yellow, red, purple and bronze.

'Tamukeyama' is a red-leaf, dissected (cutleaf/laceleaf) cultivar that grows in a mound or dome to 6-8' tall spreading by weeping and cascading branching to 12' wide. It features deeply cut and dissected purple red leaves (to 4" long) that turn brighter red in fall. Foliage is noted for retaining good color throughout the summer. Small reddish-purple flowers in spring are somewhat attractive on close inspection, but are not showy from a distance. Flowers are followed by samaras that ripen in late summer to fall.

Hardiness Zone:	5-8
Planting Depth:	Dig 3 times the width of the root ball but a few inches shy of its depth. It should sit slightly above the soil line.
Mature Height:	Height 6-8'. Width 8-12'
Growth Habit:	Slow growing deciduous shrub/small tree.
Soil Preference:	Slightly acidic, organically rich, welldrained soil.
Light Preference:	Full Sun to Part shade



## LIVE OAK

#### **DESCRIPTION**



Live Oak is a medium-sized showy long-lived evergreen tree that may grow 40 to 80 feet tall. It is found in the coastal plains of VA, NC and southward along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. It has a broad crown, rarely grows over 50 feet tall with gnarled branches reaching out to 40 to 100 feet wide, often seen with Spanish moss hanging from them. It is not a true evergreen but retains its leaves until the new ones begin to leaf out.

The tree has alternate leaves with smooth or spiny margins and pale, hairy undersides. The bark in young trees is characterized by red-brown furrows with small surface scales. As the tree ages, the bark becomes black and very blocky. In spring, cylindrical, male flowers and female spikes mature. The tree produces a 3/4-inch acorn with a warty cap that covers about 1/3 of the nut. The acorn requires one growing season to reach maturity.

It makes a magnificent shade tree for large areas with a broad spreading canopy. It is adaptable to both clay and sandy soils that are acidic and well-drained and can handle periodic flooding and salt spray. It is quite wind-resistant.

Hardiness Zone:	8a-10b
Planting Depth:	Deep enough for the root ball to be 1"- 2" higher than the surrounding grade & two times as wide.
Plant Spacing:	40 to 50' away from other trees. 15 to 20' away from structures like your home or driveway.
Mature Height:	Height: 40 ft. 0 in 80 ft. 0 in. Width: 30 ft. 0 in 100 ft. 0 in.
Soil Preference:	Clay, Loam, Sand. Well-draining. Moist, occasionally dry.
Light Preference:	Full sun to part shade



## SAUCER MAGNOLIA

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Magnolia x soulangeana - Common Name(s): Saucer Magnolia

A hybrid cross between M. denudata and M. liliflora that is grown as a deciduous tree or large shrub. It grows up to 33' tall and is erect and pyramidal to rounded. Prefers consistent and regular moisture in well-drained acidic, loamy, organically-enriched soils in full sun to partial shade. It tolerates pollution and needs a protected site from late frosts.

**N%**TIVE

Wildlife Value:Is the larval food source for saddleback caterpillars. Magnolia soft scale produces honeydew that bees love.

Hardiness Zone:	4-9	1
Planting Depth:	Dig a hole at least 1.5 times as wide as the container or ball. Dig the hole slightly less deep than the depth of the root ball. Place the root ball so the upper most root (uncovered in step one) is even with or slightly above the surface of the surrounding undisturbed soil.	
Mature Height:	Height 15-33' Width	
Growth Habit:	Deciduous tree or large shrub. It grows up to 33' tall and is erect and pyramidal to rounded	
Soil Preference:	Prefers rich soil with a pH between 6.0 and 6.8; Tolerates slightly acidic soil down to a pH of 5.5	1
Temp Preference:	Soil at 60-95 degrees F for germination	4
Light Preference:	Full sun to part shade	



# For More Information Please Visit the NC Extension Gardener Plant Tool Box:

https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/

Still Have Questions?
Contact your Currituck County
Extension Master Gardeners!

Chris Blaha, Agriculture Technician 252-232-2261





