

Have you lost a tree in your yard? Do you want to add color and interesting birdlife to your home landscape? Consider planting a flowering tree that is native to our area. In addition to spring color, you will provide food and habitat for native insects and nesting birds! Did you know that baby birds generally do not eat seeds? Adult birds feed their young insects and caterpillars! These are not found at your birdfeeder or on non-native trees, such as Japanese Cherries. Birds also eat fruits from native trees, such as the early blooming Shadbush and, the late fruiting Dogwood. Listed below are descriptions of some the choicest flowering trees for Ct:

Shadbush - *Amelanchier laevis* 'Grandiflora' or Shadblow *A. canadensis*  
Tolerant of moist locations, a Shadbush may be multi-stemmed, and grow to approximately 25 feet tall. They look lovely on the edges of woodlands or in the midst of evergreen shrub groupings. They cover themselves with small white flowers in April and bear small purplish black fruits in June. Many birds feast on Shadbush berries. This flowering tree is considered one of the finest for fall color – turning a clear yellow to orange. You will delight in watching elegantly masked Cedar Waxwings flitting about this tree, plucking the berries!

Flowering Dogwood – *Cornus florida*  
This small, spreading tree provides seasonal interest all year round! It has lovely spring flowers, attractive summer and fall foliage (turns red,) abundant fruits that ripen in September to October, and an attractive winter branching habit. Dogwoods are best moved balled and burlapped, into acid, well-drained, soil with adequate organic matter. Mulch them to maintain even soil temperatures and prevent injury from string trimmers and lawn mowers. They do not tolerate road salt or hot, dry locations. Dogwoods are graceful natives that produce dramatic, large flowers and bloom in whites, pinks and reds. The large red berries ripen in the fall and colorfully persist late into the year, often until a hungry horde of robins or cedar waxwings descend upon them!

Sorrel Tree – *Oxydendrum arboreum*  
Also known as Lily of the Valley Tree, this uncommon U.S. native can slowly grow to 30' or occasionally more. It is a small, rounded graceful tree with outstanding scarlet fall color as well as dramatic showy flowers that dangle in long groupings that mimic the form of lily of the valley. Sorrel Trees are best transplanted balled and burlapped, into peaty, moist well-drained soils, and do not tolerate polluted urban areas. They are especially valuable because they cover themselves in flowers in June and July, when few other trees are flowering! This is truly an all-season ornamental and an excellent specimen plant!!

Fringe Tree – *Chionanthus virginicus*

The Fringe tree prefers a moist, sunny location and is one of our more handsome native plants in flower. They are best transplanted balled and burlapped, into peaty, moist, well-drained soils, and do not tolerate polluted urban areas. Fringe trees have a wide, open form and grow slowly to 15 to 20 feet tall. Fringe Trees covers themselves with fleecy white flowers in late May to early June and then bear inconspicuous dark blue fruits that are relished by birds! They have a green to golden yellow fall color. The British consider this tree to be one of the finest American plants introduced to their gardens!

- Peggy VanAcker, Tree Committee Member