**Benefits of Native Plants in Your Garden**
- Support wildlife by providing food and shelter
- Promote biodiversity
- Less maintenance over time
- Less water than lawns or exotic plant species
- Less fertilizers needed than lawns
- Require less pesticides than lawns
- Reduce air pollution
- Preserve natural heritage

**Why Native Plants**
Human development has affected wildlife in many ways, most significantly through loss of habitat. In urban and suburban areas, where there is limited habitat, our backyards can serve as important havens for wildlife. The most effective way to do this is to make your backyard wildlife friendly by providing food, water, and shelter - the three things all animals need to sustain themselves and raise their young. Use this guide to select native plants that provide food and shelter for some very special backyard visitors. For online resources go to Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center - www.wildflower.org, North American Native Plant Society - www.nanps.org and bringingnaturehome.net. Brochure by North Shore Audubon Society www.northshoreaudubon.org.

**Ilex verticillata**
Large shrub, also called Common Winterberry. Provides food for migrants in the late fall and has persistent winter fruit.

**Amelanchier arborea**
Also called Juneberry and Shadbush. Grows upwards of 25 feet. Spring flower attracts many insects that provide food for insect eating birds.

**Monarda didyma**
Flowers June through August. Good companion plant, grows well with many plant species.

**Asclepias tuberosa**
Flowers May through August. Thrives in dry sandy soils. Especially important for Monarch butterflies. **Alternatives:** Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata), Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriacea).
### Viburnums

Viburnum spp.
Large shrub. Eight native varieties to choose from. Good fall color and spring flowers. Arrowwood Viburnum (*V. dentatum*) and Mapleleaf Viburnum (*V. acerifolium*) provide cover and berries for wildlife.

### Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida
Spring flowering small tree, fall berries that attract migrants. Grows well under or near taller trees (oaks, tulip trees, red maples, pines.) **Alternatives:** Alternate leaf Dogwood or Pagoda Dogwood (*cormus alternifolia*).

### Black-eyed Susan

**Rudbeckia hirta**
Flowers July through October. Grows well with Coneflower. Flowers attract important insect pollinators. Leave flower heads in fall to provide seeds for migratory birds.

### Cardinal Flower

**Lobelia cardinalis**
Perfect butterfly garden plant. Flowers July through August. Bright red blooms, gorgeous ornamental. **Alternative:** Wild Red Columbine.

### Highbush Blueberry

**Vaccinium corymbosum**
Large shrub. Provides good food (early summer) and cover for birds and other wildlife. Edible berries. **Alternatives:** Farkleberry (*V. arboreum*) and Deerberry (*v. stemineum*).

### Bayberry

**Myrica (Morella) pensylvanica**
Semi-evergreen shrub. Great food source for migrants, especially Common Yellow-rumped warblers. Provides excellent protection for nesting birds.