

Dwarf Chinkapin Oak *Quercus prinoides*

One of the best native shrub oaks. It begins producing acorns at a young age, often when only three or four years old. Unlike many oaks, once it starts bearing, it has a good crop almost every year. Its acorns are also less bitter and more palatable to wildlife than those of most other oaks. Sulfur-yellow catkins in spring. Chocolate acorns late summer. This tough plant that tolerates drought and poor soils well. Can be grown as a large shrub or pruned into a small tree.



Swamp White Oak *Quercus bicolor*



Ideal for both wet and upland soils, this oak boasts acorns on 2-4" stalks and exhibits excellent transplant success. Adaptable to various conditions, from dry to poorly drained and wet soils to compacted urban environments, this tree

stands as a resilient choice. Notably, it retains its leaves well into late winter.

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the Swamp White Oak becomes a haven for birds and mammals seeking cover, while wildlife relishes the sweet acorns it produces.

Northern Red Oak *Quercus rubra*

This oak is the fastest growing and one of the easiest to transplant. The foliage is dense and lustrous and leaves hang on the tree into the winter, with acorns from the red oak family still available to wildlife for months after falling from the tree. According to the National Deer Association, "Deer will seek red oak acorns when other foods become scarce. Don't overlook the red oak group when deciding what trees to plant on your hunting land. If native members of the red oak family are scarce where you hunt, plant them."



Photo courtesy of University of Kentucky
Department of Forestry and Natural Resources

There are multiple other shrubs and trees that would serve as an excellent addition to your landscape to provide habitat for deer and other wildlife, to

include:

Pear Trees
Apple Trees
Hickory Trees
Red Cedar
Spruce Trees

Plants for Deer Habitat

DWARF CHINKAPIN OAK
SWAMP WHITE OAK
RED OAK
AMERICAN HAZELNUT
PECAN
COMMON PERSIMMON
AMERICAN PLUM
ROUGHLEAF DOGWOOD
CHINESE CHESTNUT
CHOKEBERRY



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American Hazelnut *Corylus americana*

Excellent wildlife-friendly shrub ideal for landscapes. Deer browse on its leaves and twigs, while turkeys and grouse find sustenance in its catkins during winter. The shrub's dense,

low growth provides cover and nesting sites for wildlife. It bears fruit from July to September, exhibiting a robust seed crop every 2-3 years after the initial year. Perfect for naturalistic settings!



Northern Pecan *Carya illinoensis*



Forming a large, rounded canopy, pecan is rather fast-growing, with large, pinnately compound leaves that can be 12-18" long. It is monoecious, with both male and female catkins on the same tree.

The fruits (drupes) occur in clusters and mature in autumn. The bark is smooth when young, but then becomes narrowly fissured and scaly over time.

Common Persimmon *Diospyros virginiana*



Best grown in average to dry, well-drained soil but will grow in many different conditions, and tolerates drought and shaded sites. Produces an edible fruit but needs multiple trees for best fruit production. Excellent wildlife and bird habitat in the fall and winter.

American Plum *Prunus Americanas*

This thicket-forming small tree or shrub is often grown for erosion control. Formed thickets provide a valuable habitat for many native wildlife species.



Roughleaf Dogwood *Cornus drummondii*



This Midwest native grows quickly and suckers and is best used in naturalized areas and can help stabilize banks and provide erosion control. Dogwoods are attractive to wildlife as a source of food and shelter, forming a dense thicket and may provide habitat for deer and elk who may also browse its leaves.

Chinese Chestnut *Castanea mollissima*

Chinese Chestnut, an introduced tree species from Korea and China, is resistant to the destructive Chestnut Blight. Unlike the ongoing efforts to restore the blight-resistant American chestnut, the easily managed Chinese chestnut starts producing deer-attractive nuts in its fourth year of growth, as noted by Whitetails Unlimited.



Black Chokeberry *Aronia Melanocarpa*



Chokeberry are tough shrubs that are perfect for hedging or screening, with many cultivars available. This versatile shrub, can grow in almost any condition such as full sun or part shade, hot or cold environments, and wet or dry soils and various soil conditions. Chokeberry offers a food source for wildlife including and its dense thickets provide shelter as well.