Native Flowers of Knoxville

**Purple aster (Aster)**
These hardy, sunny faced lavender and pink flowers (with yellow centers) look like tiny daisies.

**Butterfly milkweed (Asclepias)**
Gorgeous orange bloomer loved by hummingbirds and butterflies, especially the Monarch.

**Spiderwort (Tradescantia)**
They open up in the morning. However, they close during in the afternoon in direct sunlight.

**Tennessee coneflower (Echinacea)**
One of the nation’s most rare wildflowers, this classic light pink coneflower.

**Wild Geranium (Geranium)**
Good for Eastern shade gardens. Seeds attract Mourning Doves, Bobwhite Quail, and White-tailed Deer.

**Dense blazing star (Liatris)**
Especially adapted to hummingbird visitation. The stem juice is said to relieve itching from poison ivy.

**Shooting star (Dodecatheon)**
Bees are the main pollinators. They extract the pollen by vibrating their bodies against the tube.

**Fire pink (Silene)**
A common name for members of this genus is Catchfly, which refers to the sticky hairs or exudates which trap insects.

**Virginia bluebells (Mertensia)**
When it grows in masses, this species makes a spectacular show.

**Bee balm (Monarda)**
Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and of course bees, as its name suggests.

**Wild columbine (Aquilega)**
Leaves are lobed and grouped in 3s, growing from the base and of the flowering stems.

**Bleeding heart (Dicentra)**
Evergreen plant for Eastern shade gardens. A variety of birds and mammals eat the berries of this plant.

**Max sunflower (Helianthus)**
Deer and numerous species of birds eat the seeds. It is also a useful wildlife cover plant.

**Cardinal Flower (Lobelia)**
As most insects find it difficult to navigate the long tubular flowers, this species depends on hummingbirds.

**Solomon’s seal (Polygonatum)**
The leaf stalk breaks away, leaving a distinctive scar said to resemble the official seal of King Solomon.

**Turtlehead (Chelone)**
The flowers, the shape of which suggest a turtle head, are purple; the lower lip bearded with tiny yellow hairs.
Native Trees of Knoxville

**Serviceberry (Amalanchier)**
Usually grows to 15-25 ft. tall. This tree’s berries are preferred by many different species of birds and other wildlife.

**Redbud (Cercis)**
Its pink flowers are borne in tight clusters along the stems and branches before new leaves appear, creating a showy display.

**Witch-hazel (Hamamelis)**
Birds eat the fruits (small brown capsules). Deer and beavers browse the base. It has fragrant, strap-like yellow flowers.

**Hop-hornbeam (Ostrya)**
Provides some food value to songbirds and small mammals. The fruit clusters resemble hops.

**Carolina buckthorn (Rhamnus)**
Ripe berries attract birds. Leaves and bark are browsed by deer. Height ranges from 12-15 ft.

**White/green/blue ash (Fraxinus)**
All three types have winged seeds that attract song and game birds, also providing cover and nesting sites.

**Red/silver/sugar maple (Acer)**
Maples are relied on by the Rosy Maple Moth and a variety of other insects. Provides a habitat for squirrels and birds.

**River birch (Betula)**
Birch trees provide a great habitat for birds and squirrels. The silver bark peels to reveal a cinnamon-brown trunk beneath.

**Flowering dogwood (Mertensia)**
Graceful, horizontal-tiered branching, red fruits, and scarlet-red fall foliage make this tree spectacularly beautiful.

**Fringe tree (Chionanthus)**
The berries are attractive to wildlife. Twigs and foliage are browsed by many animals.

**American holly (Ilex)**
The berries attract many birds and small mammal species. Also provides cover and nesting sites.

**Sourwood (Oxydendrum)**
Height ranges from 30-70 ft. Small white lily-of-the-valley-like flowers turn red in autumn.

**Rusty blackhaw (Viburnum)**
Glossy, dark-green, deciduous leaves turn a variety of warm hues in autumn. Flowers attract bees and butterflies.

**Tulip poplar (Liriodendron)**
The leaves are waxy and smooth, and dependably turn bright gold in fall. This is a favorite nesting tree for birds.

**Sycamore (Platanus)**
A shade tree, Sycamore grows to a larger trunk diameter (11 ft.) than any other native hardwood.

**Blackgum (Nyssa)**
Smooth, waxy dark-green summer foliage changes to fluorescent yellow, orange, scarlet and purple in fall.

Source: [http://www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)
Native Shrubs of Knoxville

**Bottlebrush buckeye (Aesculus)**
Tall, cylindrical spikes of feathery white flowers with pink stamens. Flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

**Red/black chokeberry (Aronia)**
Intermediate food source for birds. They have dark green, glossy leaves that consistently turn a rich, orange-red in fall.

**Buttonbush (Cephalanthus)**
Flowers attract butterflies, humming birds, and bees. Waterfowl such as ducks enjoy the seeds.

**Swamp mallow (Hibiscus)**
The creamy-white flowers have a conspicuous band of red or burgundy at their bases, which attracts hummingbirds.

**St. John's wort (Hypericum)**
Smooth, dark- to blue-green fine-textured foliage becomes yellow-green in fall. Large yellow flowers occur in few-flowered clusters.

**Winged sumac (Rhus)**
Winter food for many upland gamebirds, songbirds and mammals. Wildlife eat the fruit while deer also browse the twigs.

**Bladdernut (Staphylea)**
This large shrub has bell-shaped flowers; dark-green, trifoliate leaves; greenish bark with white cracks; and interesting fruit.

**Highbush blueberry (Vaccinium)**
Berries are relished by most birds and mammals including, of course, humans. The foliage ranges in color over the year.

**Virginia sweetspire (Itea)**
The long tassels of white flowers and red fall foliage make this an attractive ornamental.

**Beautyberry (Callicarpa)**
Its most striking feature is the clusters of glossy, iridescent-purple fruit, which is a great wildlife food source.

**Hearts-a-bustin (Euonymus)**
This airy, deciduous shrub grows 6-12 ft. tall. Its ridged twigs become purplish when exposed to the sun.

**Wild hydrangea (Hydrangea)**
Small, mound-shaped densely multi-stemmed shrub. 3-6 ft. tall, often broader than high at maturity.

**Spicebush (Lindera)**
Very attractive to birds and butterflies. Provides a larval host for Eastern Tiger and Spicebush Swallowtail.

**Elderberry (Sambucus)**
Berries are relished by many bird species and mammals. Deer eat twigs and leaves.

**Coralberry (Symphoricarpus)**
Songbirds, ground birds, small mammals, and browsers use this plant for food, cover, and nesting sites.

**Mapleleaf viburnum (Viburnum)**
The distinctive, purplish-pink autumn foliage makes this a beautiful shrub. Birds eat the berries.
Native Vines and Ground Cover of Knoxville

Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia)
This deciduous vine climbs 20-35 ft. by means of twining stems. It is also the larval home of the pipevine swallowtail.

Trumpet creeper (Asclepias)
A fast-growing orange vine. It attracts hummingbirds and is a good choice for large fill areas.

Leatherflower (Clematis)
An herbaceous, perennial vine climbing up to 10 ft. by means of twining petioles. Leaves are divided into 3–5 pairs of leaflets.

Climbing hydrangea (Decumaria)
Though it can be used as both a trailing ground cover and a climber, it will only bloom when climbing.

Mouse-eared coreopsis (Coreopsis)
The attractive foliage of the leafy rosettes persists through most of the winter. Flowers attract butterflies. Seeds attract songbirds.

Rattlesnake plantains (Goodyera)
This plant has a cluster of white flowers atop its stem. The name refers to the mottled leaves, which resemble snake skin.

Carolina phlox (Phlox)
Thick-leaf phlox flowers are lavender to pink. Continues to bloom intermittently until frost. It also attracts butterflies.

Maidenhair fern (Adiantum)
This graceful, fan-like pattern is unique among native ferns. It also provides shelter for toads and lizards.

Crossvine (Bignonia)
Hummingbirds are attracted to the flowers. An early nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.

Passionflower (Passiflora)
Tennessee's state wildflower. Produces gorgeous flowers. The berries are loved by many birds.

Virgin's bower (Clematis)
The flower's feathery tails or plumes give a hoary appearance and are especially showy in late summer.

Atlantic wisteria (Wisteria)
Individual flowers are nearly 1 inch long and are lilac or bluish purple and quite fragrant. Attractive to butterflies.

Dwarf crested iris (Iris)
Crested ridges called beards occur along the band. The flowers attract bees and butterflies.

Foamflower (Tiarella)
It spreads by underground stems, forms colonies, and makes excellent ground cover for shady, wooded sites.

Wild blue phlox (Phlox)
Flowers attract butterflies and the roots are consumed by rabbits and voles.

Partridge berry (Mitchella)
Fruit consumed by Ruffed Grouse, Bobwhite Quail, turkeys, skunks, and White-footed Mice.