



Cheekwood
ESTATE & GARDENS

TOP PLANT PICKS

December 2023

Bushy Bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*)



Bloom Time: September-February

Sun Requirement: Full Sun

Water Requirement: Medium to High

Wildlife: Provides nesting material for birds

Tolerates: Deer, Black Walnut, and Air Pollution

Other: This clump-forming ornamental grass features feathery, cloud-like seed heads that turn copper-colored during the winter. These billowy plumes add a lovely texture to any garden bed and requires very little care.

Native to North America: Yes

Zones: 5-9

Location: [Howe Garden](#)

Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)



Bloom Time: April

Sun Requirement: Full Sun

Water Requirement: Low to Medium

Wildlife: Serves as a larval host for several butterflies, acorns are a food source for many mammals such as chipmunks, deer, foxes, racoons, and birds

Tolerates: Drought and dry soil tolerant

Native to North America: Yes

Other: Growing 60 to 80 feet tall, this tree is quite the impressive specimen. It has the largest acorns of any native oak and its fall foliage is typically a muted yellow.

Zones: 3-8

Location: [Martin Boxwood Garden](#)

Adam's Needle (*Yucca filamentosa* 'Color Guard')



Bloom Time: June-July

Sun Requirement: Full Sun

Water Requirement: Low to Medium

Wildlife: Attracts hummingbirds and moths

Tolerates: Rabbit, Deer, Drought and Erosion Tolerant

Native to North America: Yes

Other: The leaves of this yucca are rich green with a broad brilliant yellow stripe--brightening up your garden year-round! In the summer, it sends out a stalk of creamy white flowers.

Zones: 4-10

Location: [Relics](#)

Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*)



Bloom Time: March-April

Sun Requirement: Full Sun

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: N/A

Tolerates: Clay Soil and Air Pollution

Other: A majestic, medium sized tree that features bark that exfoliates to patches of green, tan, and white. In the fall, its leaves are shades of red, yellow and orange that often persist into the winter months.

Native to North America: No

Zones: 4-8

Location: [Carell Dogwood Garden](#)

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* 'Golden Verboom')



Bloom Time: March-July

Sun Requirement: Full Sun to Part Shade

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Fruit is a food source for birds and small mammals

Tolerates: Tolerates a range of soil types

Native to North America: Yes

Other: This winterberry shrub has bright yellow fruit that adds a pop of color to your winter landscape!

Zones: 3-9

Location: [Howe Garden](#)

Alabama Croton (*Croton alabamensis*)



Bloom Time: March-April

Sun Requirement: Full sun to part shade

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Attracts beetles and native bees

Tolerates: Drought

Native to North America: Yes

Other: This semi-evergreen shrub is extremely rare in the wild. It grows about six feet tall and has showy pumpkin-orange fall color.

Zones: 6-8

Location: [Sculpture Trail](#)

American Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)



Bloom Time: October-December

Sun Requirement: Full Sun to Part Shade

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Food source for many species of birds and attracts moths and butterflies

Tolerates: Deer, Erosion, Clay Soil

Native to North America: Yes

Other: A native shrub or small tree that blooms quite late in the season, from fall into winter. It has brilliant golden fall color as well as yellow slender blooms.

Zones: 3-8

Location: [Herb Study Garden](#)

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)



Bloom Time: May

Sun Requirement: Full Sun

Water Requirement: Medium

Wildlife: Serves as a larval host for several butterflies, acorns are a food source for many mammals such as chipmunks, deer, foxes, racoons, and birds

Tolerates: Drought and Clay Soil

Other: A great shade tree growing around 100 feet tall. The fall foliage varies from shades of dark red to brown.

Native to North America: Yes

Zones: 3-9

Location: *Bracken Foundation Children's Garden*