



Magnolia virginiana (Sweet Bay Magnolia)

- **Range:** Native to the southeastern U.S., but hardy up into the Northeast.
- **Description:** A small, semi-evergreen tree with creamy, fragrant flowers in summer. Leaves are glossy green above and silvery beneath.
- **Habitat:** Prefers moist, acidic soils—often found near wetlands and streams.
- **Wildlife Value:** Attracts pollinators, including beetles and bees.

Nyssa sylvatica (Sour Gum, also called Black Gum or Tupelo)

- **Range:** Widespread across the eastern U.S.
- **Description:** A medium-sized tree known for brilliant scarlet fall color. Leaves are shiny green, turning bright red in autumn.
- **Habitat:** Moist woods, swamps, and upland slopes.
- **Wildlife Value:** Fruits are eaten by birds and mammals; flowers support bees.

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi 'Massachusetts' (Bearberry)

- **Range:** Circumboreal, found in northern North America.
- **Description:** A low-growing, evergreen groundcover with small leathery leaves, pinkish-white spring flowers, and bright red berries.
- **Habitat:** Sandy, rocky soils—excellent for erosion control.
- **Wildlife Value:** Berries feed birds and bears; provides ground cover for small animals.

Comptonia peregrina (Sweetfern)

- **Range:** Eastern North America.
- **Description:** A shrub with fragrant, fern-like foliage (not a true fern). Leaves release a sweet, resinous aroma when crushed.
- **Habitat:** Dry, sandy soils and open woods.
- **Wildlife Value:** Fixes nitrogen, improving soil quality. Provides cover for wildlife.

Matteuccia struthiopteris (Ostrich Fern)

- **Range:** Native to temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere, including the northeastern U.S.
- **Description:** A large, clump-forming fern with tall, arching fronds that resemble ostrich feathers. Produces edible spring “fiddleheads.”
- **Habitat:** Moist woodlands, streambanks, and floodplains.
- **Wildlife Value:** Provides habitat for small creatures; young fiddleheads are also foraged by people.

❖ Together, these plants create a **native, ecologically beneficial landscape** that supports pollinators, birds, and other wildlife while thriving in local conditions.