



Plant a Backyard Buffer in Anne Arundel County



The Backyard Buffer program provides homeowners free trees and shrubs to create a native woodland buffer. A woodland buffer: enhances your landscape, creates habitat for wildlife and reduces the amount of sediment, fertilizer, and toxic materials that enter our waterways. Deep-rooted trees and shrubs can also stabilize stream banks, protecting them from erosion.

Backyard Buffers include only Maryland native plants and can be planted near any area where stormwater flows: roadside ditches, downhill from hard surfaces that flood, streams, creeks, or rivers.

Backyard Buffer Basics

Bundles: (note – available for planting in AA County only)

Small: 9 shrub seedlings, intended for smaller properties with at least 350 square feet of available planting space.

Large: 15 tree seedlings, intended for properties with approximately half an acre of available planting space. If planting on a private residence, this area can be shared between two willing properties.

How many bundles can I order? If you have a large property you may order more than one bundle. Please contact the Watershed Stewards Academy if ordering more than 3 bundles.

How do I order? Place order on our website: www.aawsa.org/backyard-buffers

What is the cost?
The seedlings are free. A \$10 donation per bundle is appreciated.

How do I plant my buffer? A free workshop, held in mid March at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, will cover ground preparation, tree spacing, tree planting, deer protection, and maintenance. Workshop details and planting information will also be posted at aawsa.org.

Learn More About the Backyard Buffers Program!

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/>



What's in my large bundle?

Each bundle contains an assortment of the following species. Large bundle information is listed below. Please flip page for additional small bundle information. Bundle contents listed at aawsa.org.

LARGE DRY BUNDLE



Ninebark- *Physocarpus opulifolius*
Avg Size: Large deciduous shrub, can grow up to 10 feet tall
Sun: Prefers full sunlight to partial shade
Water: Dry to medium moisture; tolerates slightly acidic soil
Bloom: White or pink flowers bloom from late spring to mid summer.
Benefits: Attracts honeybees and other beneficial insects



American Sycamore - *Platanus occidentalis*
Avg. Size: 75-100 feet tall at maturity.
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium to wet
Benefits: This tree is noted for watershed protection, while it is commonly found in rich, consistently moist soils. Tolerates urban pollutants and deer.



Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina*
Avg Size: A large deciduous tree, growing 50 to 80 feet tall at maturity.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Water: It can handle moderately dry or moist soils.
Bloom: It is perhaps most noted for its profuse spring bloom, attractive summer foliage and fall color.



Swamp White Oak – *Quercus phellos*
Avg Size: Tree, 50-80 feet tall at maturity.
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium to wet soils; tolerant of urban pollution
Benefits: This species makes a great shade tree and its acorns are an important source of food for wildlife.



River Birch – *Betula negra*
Avg Size: Tree, 40-70 feet tall at maturity
Sun: Full sun to partial shade
Water: Prefers wet soils
Bark: Salmon-pink to reddish brown bark exfoliates to reveal lighter inner bark.
Benefits: Tolerates semi-aquatic conditions, deer and air pollutants.



Gray dogwood - *Cornus racemosa*
Avg Size: Deciduous shrub, reaching-10-15 feet tall.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade
Water: Medium
Bloom: Clusters of white flowers bloom between May and June.
Benefits: Excellent source of food and cover for birds and other native wildlife.

LARGE WET BUNDLE



Backyard Buffer Additional Info



Seedlings bundles are approximately 2 feet in length.

Deer protection is available while supplies last. Deer protection consists of a tube, stake and tie and should be ordered for trees only. Tubes and stakes are approximately 3 ft in length.

CARE AND PLANTING OF SEEDLINGS

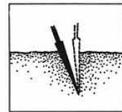
Tree seedlings require water and cool temperatures to survive until planted. If you intend to plant the trees within a week, keep them in the shipping package in a cool or shaded location, such as a cooler (above freezing), basement, out building or on the north side of a building.

If planting will be delayed longer than a week, open the package, make sure that the roots and packing materials are damp, reseal, and store the package in a cool place, periodically checking the condition of the tree's roots. Or, dig a trench deep enough to accommodate the roots and plant the seedlings, packing soil around their roots. Do not allow the roots to dry out while they are heeled-in in this manner.

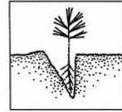
Your seedlings have just come through a dormant season. As living organisms, they need sunlight, carbon dioxide, oxygen and water to get a fresh start after planting. The longer you wait to plant the trees, the fewer the number that will survive, regardless of the care given in storage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

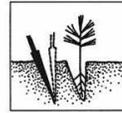
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Forest Service
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue, E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 260-8531



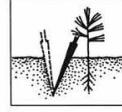
1. Insert dibble or shovel at angle shown and push forward to upright position



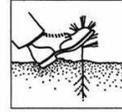
2. Place seedling to depth grown at nursery. Make sure root is straight.



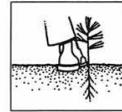
3. Insert dibble two inches from seedling, then pull back to pack the soil around roots.



4. Push handle toward the seedling to finish packing soil at top of roots



5. Fill in second hole by stomping with heel.



6. Pack soil around seedling with feet.

Additional information posted at www.aawsa.org



What's in my small bundle?

Each bundle contains an assortment of the following species. Small bundle information is listed below. Please flip page for large bundle information. Bundle contents listed at aawsa.org

SMALL BUNDLE



Indigobush – *Amorpha fruticosa*

Avg Size: Deciduous shrub, 4-12 feet tall.

Sun: Full sun to light shade

Water: Medium to wet; tolerates poor, sandy, and somewhat dry soils

Bloom: Spike-like clusters of purple flowers with orange-yellow anthers

Benefits: Offers food and cover for quail, butterflies and other native wildlife



Buttonbush – *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Avg Size: Deciduous shrub, 3-6 feet tall

Sun: Prefers full sun to partial shade

Water: Prefers moist to wet sites

Bloom: Fragrant, white bloom

Benefits: of special value to pollinators, and is a larval host for Titan Sphinx and Hydrangea Sphinx



Red Chokeberry – *Aronia arbutifolia*

Avg Size: Small, deciduous shrub, 6-8 feet tall

Sun: Prefers full sun to partial shade

Water: Will tolerate most soil types, including boggy soils

Bloom: White flowers bloom during the month of April.

Benefits: Red berries emerge in full sunlight and offer food for native birds and other wildlife.