

# Native Plants to Be Conserved and Protected in Utility Right-of-Ways

Easy use identification guide for the plants in the Hartman Park Eversource Utility Right-of-Way, Lyme CT to be protected in effective habitat management for the New England Cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) and many other species of wildlife.

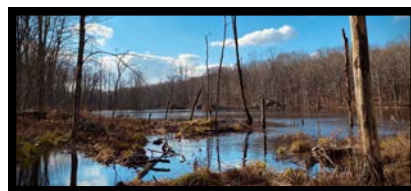
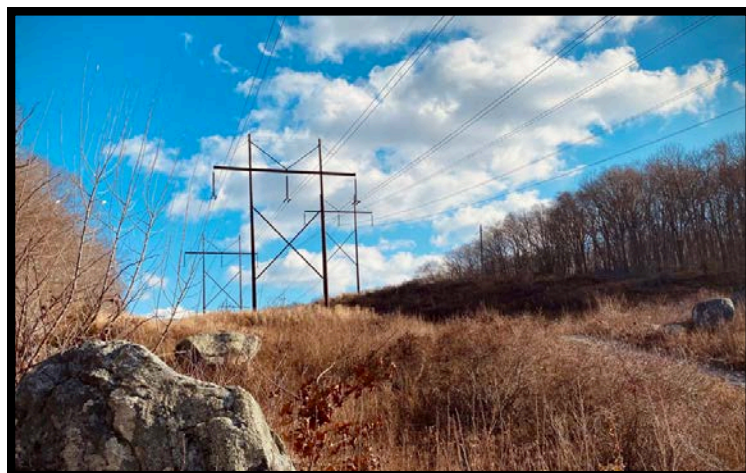
The Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan identifies over 50 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that utilize the vegetation of shrubland/young forest habitats. This includes vegetation that can be found within the Eversource Utility Right-of-Way. The native shrubland habitat is limited because many areas have become mature forest due to succession.

Not only is this habitat critical to conserve the New England Cottontail, it is an important stopover place for migrating birds. Many find fuel to continue on to the journey north, while others settle here during the summer and raise young.

Every care must be taken to protect these plants from damage, removal, and/or unintended harm from herbicides. This guide was created as a way to identify target species to be preserved in Utility Right-of-Ways.

The provided information includes a list of shrubs, vines and trees of conservation importance. A detailed description, pictures, wetland status, shade tolerance status, and utility zone compatibility of each plant is included.

Note: This list does not include CT State-listed Species designated by CT DEEP, which are monitored separately.



## Wetland Status Categories

FAC

**Facultative;** species is equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (estimated probability 34%-66%.)

FACW

**Facultative Wetland;** species usually occurs in wetlands (estimated probability 67%-99%), but is occasionally found in non-wetlands.

UPL

**Obligate Upland;** species occurs in wetlands in another region, but occurs almost always (estimated probability >99%) under natural conditions in non-wetlands in the region specified.

FACU

**Facultative Upland;** species usually occurs in non-wetlands (estimated probability 67%-99%), but is occasionally found in wetlands (estimated probability 1%-33%.)

OBL

**Obligate Wetland;** species occurs almost always (estimated probability >99%) under natural conditions in wetlands.

NI

**No Indicator/Not Classified;** insufficient information was available for the species to determine an indicator status, or species was not considered by the Regional Panel.

Wetland status categories provided by <https://help.natureserve.org>. Please Use the QR code provided for more information.



## Shade Tolerance Categories



Shade Tolerant



Shade Intolerant  
(full sun)



Intermediate Shade

N/D

No Data

For USDA plant profile characteristics for shade tolerance, please use the QR code below for more information about plant profiles.



All photos have been provided by [gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org](http://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org). Please use the QR code for more plant details.



Listed below are plants in alphabetical order which are compatible in Zone 1 and/or Zone 2 in a utility right-of-way. Plants are grouped in the guide with plants that share similar identifiable features to make it easier to compare and contrast.

## Zone 1 Plants

**Z1**

Do not exceed 15 feet of height. Compatible under power lines.

Plants in Alphabetical Order	Page Number
<b>Black Huckleberry</b> ( <i>Gaylussacia baccata</i> )	9
<b>Choke Cherry</b> ( <i>Prunus virginiana</i> )	4
<b>Coastal Sweet-Pepperbush</b> ( <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> )	5
<b>Common Blackberry</b> ( <i>Rubus allegheniensis</i> )	7
<b>Common Buttonbush</b> ( <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> )	11
<b>Common Juniper</b> ( <i>Juniperus communis</i> )	14
<b>Common Low-bush Blueberry</b> ( <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i> )	9
<b>Common Winterberry</b> (holly) ( <i>Ilex verticillata</i> )	5
<b>Foxgrape</b> ( <i>Vitis labrusca</i> )	8
<b>Glaucous Leaved Greenbrier</b> ( <i>Smilax glauca</i> )	8
<b>Gray Dogwood</b> ( <i>Swida racemosa</i> )	11
<b>High-bush Blueberry</b> ( <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> )	9
<b>Maleberry</b> ( <i>Lyonia ligustrina</i> )	4
<b>Mountain Laurel</b> ( <i>Kalmia latifolia</i> )	10
<b>Purple Chokeberry</b> ( <i>Aronia floribunda</i> )	4
<b>Roundleaf Greenbriar</b> ( <i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> )	8
<b>Silky Dogwood</b> ( <i>Swida amomum</i> )	5
<b>Small Bayberry</b> ( <i>Morella caroliniensis</i> )	7
<b>Smooth Sumac</b> ( <i>Rhus glabra</i> )	6
<b>Steeplebush</b> ( <i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> )	10
<b>Swamp Rose</b> ( <i>Rosa palustris</i> )	7
<b>Sweet-Fern</b> ( <i>Comptonia peregrina</i> )	6
<b>White Meadowsweet</b> ( <i>Spiraea alba</i> )	10
<b>Winged Sumac</b> ( <i>Rhus copallinum</i> )	6

## Zone 2 Plants

**Z2**

Compatible 100 feet from power lines. Plants may not exceed 35 feet of height

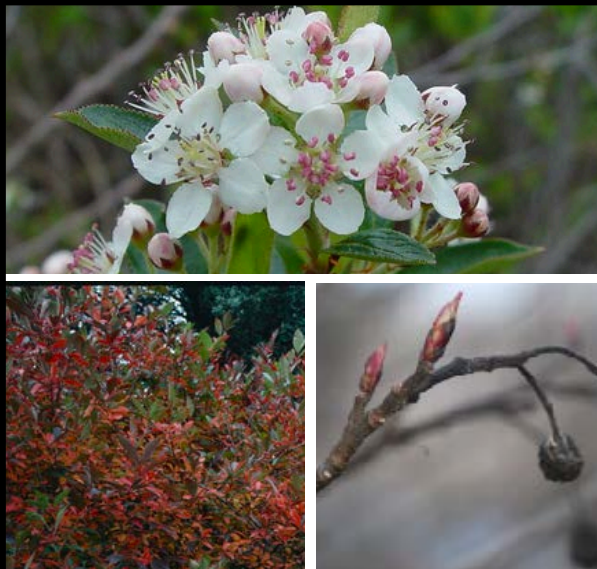
Plants in Alphabetical Order	Page Number
<b>American Hornbeam</b> ( <i>Carpinus carolinana</i> )	14
<b>American Witch Hazel</b> ( <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> )	14
<b>Beaked Hazelnut</b> ( <i>Corylus cornuta</i> )	13
<b>Eastern Shadbush</b> ( <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> )	12
<b>Flowering Dogwood</b> ( <i>Benthamidia florida</i> )	12
<b>Smooth Alder</b> ( <i>Alnus serrulata</i> )	13
<b>Smooth Arrowwood</b> ( <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> )	12

### Common Name

### Picture

### Description

**Purple Chokeberry**  
(*Aronia floribunda*)



- Shrub ranging 8-12 feet high and 8-10 feet wide
- Smooth thin bark
- Small white flowers with pink/yellow center
- Simple leaf, dark green in summer, red in autumn
- Deep purple berries

Z1

FACU

N/D

**Maleberry**  
(*Lyonia ligustrina*)



- 6-12 feet tall
- Many stems grow from one base
- Simple green leaves in summer, leaf has hairs on upper and underside
- Bell-like white flowers turn to hard, brown, berry-like capsules that persist year-round

Z1

FACW



**Choke Cherry**  
(*Prunus virginiana*)



- Small shrub, 3-6 feet tall
- Often forms thicket
- Leaves are simple, egg-shaped with fine serrated margins
- White flowers are in long clusters
- Cherry clusters droop at end of branches, cherry changes from dark red to black

Z1

FACU



### Common Name

### Picture

### Description

**Coastal Sweet-Pepperbush**  
(*Clethra alnifolia*)



- Shrub, 6-12 feet tall
- Has erect, spike-like clusters of fragrant white flowers
- Dry fruits persist through winter
- Dark green, oval leaves, turn dull yellow/ orange in fall

Z1

**Common Winterberry**  
(holly)  
(*Ilex verticillata*)



- Shrub, 3-14 feet tall
- Deciduous
- Grows in rounded form
- Clusters of small, white flowers in summer
- Develops red fruit in fall/winter
- Has male and female plants, only female plants have fruit

Z1

**Silky Dogwood**  
(*Swida amomum*)



- Shrub, 6-10 feet
- Creamy white, 4-petaled, flowers in spring
- Fruit is round blue berry
- Small hairs on new reddish twigs and flower buds
- Opposite branches
- If twig is snapped, pith is dark brown

Z1



FACW



FAC



FACW



## Common Name

## Picture

## Description

**Winged Sumac**  
*(Rhus copallinum)*


- Shrub, up to 14 feet tall in CT
- Forms dense thickets
- Clusters of red berries on top
- Glossy green leaves, turn reddish-purple in fall
- Compound leaves with opposite leaflets have winged rachis

UPL



Z1

**Sweet-Fern**  
*(Comptonia peregrina)*


- Small shrub, 3 feet tall
- Deciduous
- Fern-like foliage
- Forms dense colonies
- Crushed leaves are strongly aromatic

NI



Z1

**Smooth Sumac**  
*(Rhus glabra)*


- 10-14 feet tall in CT
- Large compound leaves, 13-30 small smooth leaflets
- Colorful red fall foliage
- Female plants have conical clusters of off-white flowers
- Erect spires of hairy red berries persist into the winter

NI



Z1

**Common Name**

**Picture**

**Description**

**Small Bayberry**  
*(Morella caroliniensis)*



- Shrub, 2-6 feet tall and 3-6 feet wide
- Not evergreen
- Leaves are strongly aromatic when crushed
- Simple waxy green leaves
- Small gray spherical fruits develop along the stem from yellowish green flowers

FAC



Z1

**Common Blackberry**  
*(Rubus allegheniensis)*



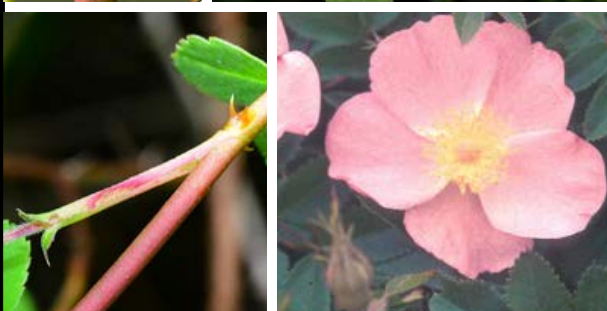
- Multi-stemmed shrub with arching canes
- Forms large colonies
- Shrub is armed with stout spines
- Leaves are compound, leaflets are pointed and toothed
- Each fruit is a fleshy black aggregate berry

FACU



Z1

**Swamp Rose**  
*(Rosa palustris)*



- Grows up to 7 ft tall
- Fragrant pink flowers in June and July
- Each stem node has a pair of downwardly curving, ¼ inch spines
- ⅓ inch spherical fruits are red
- Base of compound leaf has narrow flap

OBL



Z1

## Common Name

## Picture

## Description

8.

### Foxgrape (*Vitis labrusca*)



- Liana (woody vine) with stems that grow up to 40 feet long
- Off-white flowers are fragrant clusters, May and June
- Fruit develops in hanging clusters, ripens from green to purplish black in fall

FACU

N/D

Z1

### Glaucous Leaved Greenbrier (*Smilax glauca*)



- Vine with prickles
- Stems are bluish
- Green triangular leaves, white wax (glaucous) on underside
- small clusters of off-white flowers bloom in spring and summer
- Clusters of dark blueish-black berries in fall

FACU



Z1

### Roundleaf Greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*)



- Vine with stout green prickles with dark tips
- Climbs with tendrils
- Oval leaves with a point at the tip, green on the top and underside in summer, yellow in fall
- Withered leaves may persist in winter
- Off-white flowers
- Dark blueish-black berries

FAC



Z1

### Plant Name

### Picture

### Description

**Common Low-bush Blueberry**  
(*Vaccinium angustifolium*)



- Shrub, up to 2 feet in height and width
- Forms colonies
- Green twigs with many lenticels
- Simple oval leaf is green in summer, turns maroon-purple in fall
- Small bell-shaped, white/pink-tinged flowers develop into blueberries

Z1

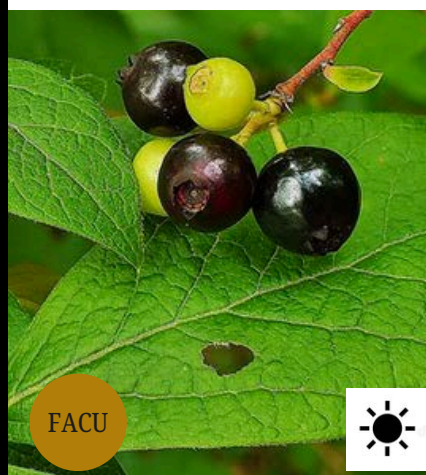
**High-bush Blueberry**  
(*Vaccinium corymbosum*)



- Shrub, 6-12 feet in height and width
- The bark of adult plant peels off easily
- Simple oval green leaves turn red in fall
- White or pink bell-shaped flowers in drooping clusters develop into blueberries

Z1

**Black Huckleberry**  
(*Gaylussacia baccata*)



- Shrub, up to 3 feet tall
- Forms thickets
- Densely branched
- Twigs have no lenticels
- White or red flowers develop into black berries
- Oval green leaves turn red in fall

Z1

### Plant Name

### Picture

### Description

**White Meadowsweet**  
*(Spiraea alba)*



- Shrub, 3-6 feet tall
- Toothed oblong leaves turn gold/yellow in the fall
- Color of the stems—dull brown to reddish
- Cone-shaped clusters of white flowers with pink centers
- Dry brown fruit develop in fall and persist

Z1

FACW



**Steeplebush**  
*(Spiraea tomentosa)*



- Shrub. 3-5 ft tall
- Toothed oblong green leaves have a brownish “fur” on the underside
- Leaves turn red in fall
- Twigs have hairs
- Steeple-shaped cluster of pink flowers
- Dry brown fruit develop in fall

Z1

FACW



**Mountain Laurel**  
*(Kalmia latifolia)*



- Evergreen shrub, 6-14 feet
- White and pink flower clusters bloom in June
- Forms thickets
- Simple oval leaves

Z1

FACU

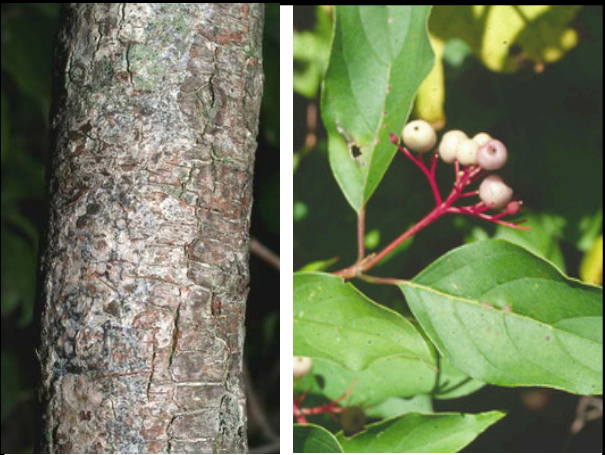


**Plant Name**

**Picture**

**Description**

**Gray Dogwood**  
(*Swida racemosa*)



FAC



- Hedge forming shrub, up to 6 feet tall
- Opposite, oval shaped leaves have 3 or 4 lateral veins
- White, loosely clustered flowers bloom in June to July
- Spherical white fruit develop in late summer on red pedicles (stalks)
- Red fruit stalks persist through winter
- The bark of the adult is ridged and plated

Z1

**Buttonbush**  
(*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)



OBL



- Shrub, up to 13 feet tall
- Opposite, simple oval shiny green leaves 2 to 6 inches long
- 1-inch diameter spherical clusters of tiny white flowers bloom from June to September
- Reddish dry fruits develop and retain position in spherical cluster

Z1

**Plant Name**

**Picture**

**Description**

**Smooth Arrowwood**  
*(Viburnum dentatum)*



- Shrub, 6-10 feet tall
- 2 to 4-inch clusters of white flowers in May to early June
- Flowers develop into ¼ inch blueish-black drupes
- Opposite simple toothed leaves have an arrowhead shape

FAC



Z1

**Flowering Dogwood**  
*(Benthamidia florida)*



- Shrub, 5 to 30 feet tall
- White petal-like bracts surround a small cluster of greenish-yellow flowers
- Fruits are bright red drupes in clusters
- Fall leaves are red and purple
- Mature bark is broken up into small regular plates, like scales

FACU



Z2

**Eastern Shadbush**  
*(Amelanchier canadensis)*



- Shrub, 6-20 feet tall
- White flowers in April
- Red/purple berries in June
- Simple green leaf turns red in fall.
- Mature plant has smooth bark

FAC



Z2

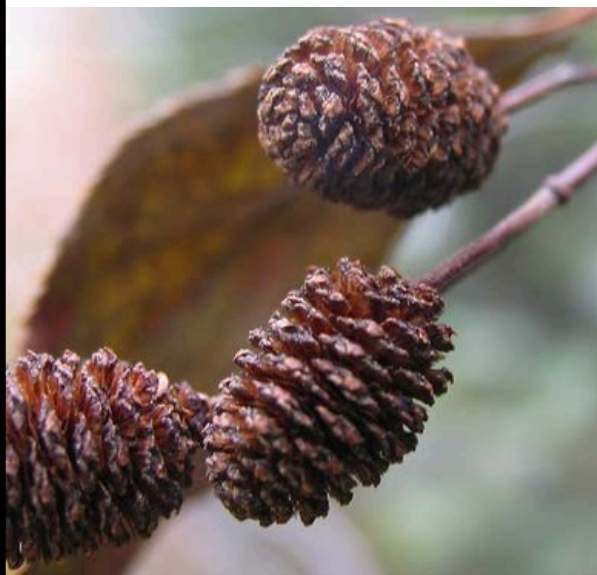
## Plant Name

## Picture

## Description

13.

### Smooth Alder (*Alnus serrulata*)



- Shrub, 12 to 20 feet tall
- Simple oval leaves are green in summer, yellow-red in the fall
- Male and female flowers are on the same plant
- Red female flowers are small and upright, yellow male flowers (catkins) are longer and drooping
- The fruits are dry and resemble tiny pine cones.
- Mature shrub has smooth brown bark

OBL



Z2

### Beaked Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*)



- 4 to 8 feet tall
- Simple oval leaves are green in summer, yellow-red in the fall
- Male and female flowers are on the same plant
- Red female flowers are small and compact, pale yellow male flowers (catkins) are longer and drooping
- Distinct edible nuts are enclosed within a beak-like shell

FACU



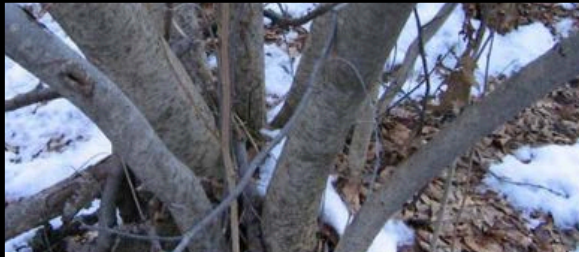
Z1

Plant Name

Picture

Description

American Witch Hazel  
(*Hamamelis virginiana*)



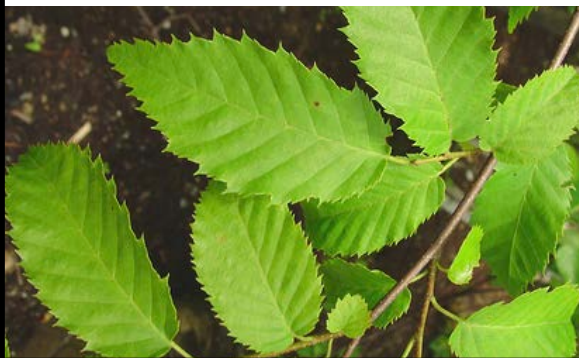
- Shrub, 20 to 30 feet tall
- Many stems arise from a single base
- The bottom of the simple leaf is more rounded on one side of the central vein than the other
- Bright yellow flowers bloom mid-to-late fall
- Dry fruits split open and spill seeds

FACU



Z2

American Hornbeam  
(*Carpinus carolinana*)



- Tree, 20-30 feet tall
- Simple leaves turn orange-red in the fall
- Fruits are “nutlets” held together in a chain-like cluster which are about 6 inches long
- The mature tree’s bark is grey and smooth with an appearance of sinewy muscles
- Also called musclewood

FAC



Z2

Common Juniper  
(*Juniperus communis*)



- Shrub, 2-5 feet tall in CT
- Sprawling evergreen conifer with 3 flat needle-like leaves per node
- Blue spherical berry-like seed cones
- Not to be confused with upright Eastern Red Cedar



FACU

Z1

The Open Space Coordinator of the TOL (LOSC) shall be notified in advance of all vegetation management activities in the Hartman Park and the Lagoon Eversource Utility Right-of-Way, Gungy Rd, Lyme CT. Contact the LOSC with any questions and concerns before or during management. The LOSC will make an effort to collaboratively strategize with on-site crew in order to meet both EVS and TOL goals.

**Town of Lyme Open Space Coordinator**

Phone: 860 434-7733. Email: [openspace@townlyme.org](mailto:openspace@townlyme.org)

All postal service correspondence to the TOL shall be addressed:

Attn: Open Space Coordinator, Town of Lyme 480 Hamburg Rd., Lyme CT. 06371

**CREDITS**

**March 2026**

This project was carried out on behalf of the Town of Lyme supported by funds from the Eightmile River Watershed Coordinating Committee (ERWCC)  
Managed by Town of Lyme Open Space Coordinator Wendolyn Hill

This guide was designed and created by Rhiannon Martin, ERWCC Intern

The list of Native Plants to be Conserved and Protected in Utility Right-of-Ways  
was compiled by Bryan Connolly, PhD

Reference: March 2024 “Hartman Park Lyme, CT, New England Cottontail Management Plan”

Editors: Pat Young, Program Director ERWCC

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