



Hummingbird Hill Native Plant Nursery

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There's no doubt that summer is in full swing! Days are filled with the sounds of cicadas, their loud buzz finding a way through the hot, humid air, and we've just begun to hear the songs of katydids at night. We at Hummingbird Hill hope that your habitat corridors are filled with life—plants, insects, birds, and more! —and look forward to working with you as your journey with native plants continues.

What's New At the Nursery

We're busy gearing up for the late summer/fall planting season! Summer at the nursery means potting, potting, potting, as we work to put our seedlings into plug trays. Our nursery has been restocked, and our quarts and plugs are ready to go into your Habitat Corridor!

We've restocked:

- Grey Beardtongue** (*Penstemon canescens*)
 - Wild Basil** (*Clinopodium vulgare*)
 - Grey Goldenrod** (*Solidago nemoralis*)
 - Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta* var. *pulcherrima*)
 - Dwarf Cinquefoil** (*Potentilla canadensis*)
 - Slender Mountain Mint** (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)
 - Pennsylvania Blackberry** (*Rubus pensilvanicus*)
- And More!



**We are open by appointment until the end of October!
Please visit our website to schedule a time to visit.**

Prepare for Fall Planting!

Site Consultations

We offer site consultations spring through fall. These are a great way to get to know your property better and, during summer, become an excellent tool to help prepare for fall planting. A site consultation can help you gain info about your property's habitat conditions (sun, soil, and geology), the plants that are native to your property (existing or not), and the best methods and places for your next habitat corridor. For more information, please visit our website or email us at hummingbirdhillnatives.com.

Habitat Corridor Plug Trays

We are taking orders of habitat corridor plugs trays for those interested in receiving them around a certain date. You may reserve one or more for your planting now to ensure we don't sell out later in the year. **How does this work?** Simply visit the Habitat Corridor Plug Tray link on our website and fill out the requested info, which includes info about your site, the number of trays you'd like, and your requested week for pickup. Habitat corridor plug trays are available for pickup until October 1st.



Trees & Shrubs



We grow all of our trees & shrubs from local seeds that we ethically collect. Most are more difficult to grow from seed than herbaceous native plants: many require at least two years before germinating and/or need to have their thick seed coat broken down by a human-induced action, such as boiling. This results in small groups of trees & shrubs available for purchase in 1 gallon, 2 gallon, and 3 gallon sizes at various times throughout the growing season.

We are happy to announce some restocked species, including Pennsylvania Blackberry (*Rubus pensilvanicus*), Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum* var. *latifolia*), and Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* var. *canadensis*).

Soon to come: Eastern Boxelder (*Acer negundo* var. *negundo*) and Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)!

Turning a Ditch into *Habitat*

One Homeowner's Story

Many urban homeowners know all too well about the roadside ditch, that strip between the lawn and street where water collects. It's not easy to mow, it's not attractive, and it's just another spot completely void of wildlife. At his home in Henrico County, Virginia, Chris Migliaccio came up with an



ingenious way to remedy these factors and stop the mowing: he turned his ditch into a habitat corridor. Now, the ditch is filled with native plants and wildlife, and the feedback from people in his neighborhood has been positive. "Lots of people tell us how beautiful the garden beds and ditch looks," Chris says. "Children are always looking at the insects that swarm the flowers." His corridor was even recognized in 2024 with Keep Henrico Beautiful's Three Chopt District Land Lovers' Award and is available for view on Richmond Native Garden Tours' day each May, where he's often asked the following question from fellow plant enthusiasts: How do I do this?

Here, we happily share some of Chris' photos and strategies to help answer that question, with the hope that we all might find inspiration and insight from his project, wherever our habitat corridor may be.

Written by Chris Migliaccio:

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