

Ornamentals

Herbaceous



Photo credit NCSU Plant database

Woody



Invincible Spirit Lucy Bradley

There are two types of ornamentals- herbaceous, annuals perennials and biennials and Woody which are trees and shrubs.

Herbaceous Ornamentals

[Extension Gardener Handbook](#)

[Chapter 10- Herbaceous Ornamentals](#)

- **Annuals**- bloom, set seed and die, one-year life
- **Perennials**- die back in winter, regrow in spring
- **Biennials**- life cycle completed over two years

NCSU Extension Master Gardeners textbook , can purchase but free online.



NCSU Plant Database
Jim Robbins

Geranium

Annual ex impatiens, marigold, begonias. You may think of these as the plants you buy in the spring for containers or your planting beds.



Perennial ex purple coneflower(echinacea), iris, calla lilies. These are more expensive than annuals, they are an investment in your landscaping and will need to be divided as the years go by.

Both annuals and perennials have a purpose in our gardens as most perennials have a period of bloom so it is important to plant perennials that bloom at different times and then for the lasting color add the annuals which will bloom throughout the season.

Biennials



NCSU Plant Database *Digitalis purpurea*

Biennials ex foxglove pictured here and hollyhocks.

Biennials first year in spent developing the foliage and the next year they develop the bloom and then die.

Woody Ornamentals

[Extension Gardener Handbook](#)

[Chapter 11- Woody Ornamentals](#)

- Vines
- Trees
- Shrubs



NCSU Plant Database Five Leaf Akebia
Jim Robbins

Chocolate Vine or Five leaf Akebia



Viburnum x carlcephalum 'Cayuga'

Viburnum by carlcephalum

Cayuga

Trees



NCSU Plant Database Live Oak
Lucy Bradley

Live Oak

“Right Plant, Right Place”

- **Sunlight**

- Full sun- 6 or more hours of unfiltered midday sun,
- Partial sun- unfiltered sun in the morning, shade in the afternoon
- Shade- very little direct sun

- **Soil-** clay, sand, wet, dry

- **Space-** how big will this plant get at maturity

- **Other Considerations**

- Toxicity to humans and pets
- Deer Resistant

One of the biggest mistakes we make is picking the wrong plant for the area we have to plant.

To protect your investment of time and money always remember "Right plant, right place"

If you have a west facing exposure and it receives less than 6 hours of sunlight, it is still considered full sun as in NC the afternoon sun is the hottest of the day.

Let the fun begin!

[NCSU Plant Database](#)

- Sunlight
- Soil
- How big is my space
- Flowers
- Deciduous or Evergreen
- Special requirements

Characteristics to assist in finding the right plant. Can search for Natives.
Search for more information on a plant you like.
Find the name of a plant that you have seen
Design Ideas

Why Natives?

[Extension Gardener Handbook](#)

[Chapter 12](#)

- Attract more birds, butterflies and wildlife
- Low maintenance/ grow well
- Avoid invasive plant problem
- Increase habitat for wildlife that is rapidly lost

High fat seeds and fruit to baby song birds

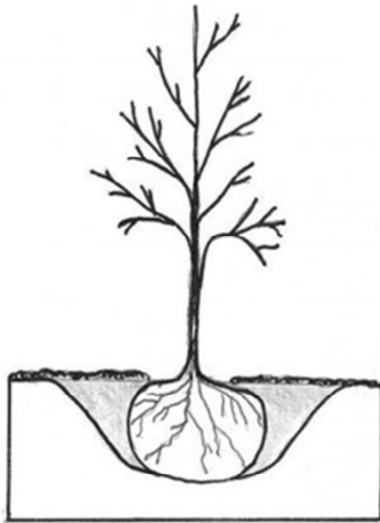
We know that they survive really well.

There are popular landscape plants that are not native that are changing our forrests by taking over and inhibit our native plants.

You may live in one of our newer neighborhood were fields and trees once lived. You can help by planting natives to replace those that were lost.



- [Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants](#)
- [NCSU-Going Native](#)



NC Extension Gardener Handbook
Figure 11-14

Best Practices for Planting Woody Ornamentals

- Timing
- Preparation
- Dig the hole
- Position the plant
- Attend the roots
- Refill the hole
- Water
- Mulch

It is best to plant trees and shrubs in the fall so that they have time to get established to withstand our heat and winters. Generally, more precipitation then too.

Soil test is an excellent way to prepare, evaluate the soil (is it too compacted, need drainage issue addressed).

Dig the hole the depth of the soil line...plant at or slightly above grade and 2 to 3 times as wide. They grow out.

Make sure it is straight and the best side is facing out.

Remove burlap of metal cages. Container grown plants will benefit from roots begin loosened.

Refill the hole with the removed soil or amended soil.

Water it deeply and mulch to help keep the moisture in the soil. Remember to not put mulch right up around the trunk.

Pruning Trees and Shrubs

Reasons to prune

- Training
- Maintaining the health of the plant
- Improve the quality of the flower, fruit, foliage and stems
- Control growth

[NCSU General Pruning Techniques](#)

Espillar- grown against a wall or fence

You can trim dead or diseased wood anytime

Like blueberries

Remember to do your research and don't plant a tree that at maturity will be too big for the space.