Understory Shrubs

Lowbush Blueberry  Vaccinium angustifolium

Native
Deciduous
6”-2” tall
Prefers moist, well-drained, highly acidic organic soil
Full sun to partial shade
Showy red/brown fall color
Edible fruit attracts wildlife

Highbush Blueberry  Vaccinium corymbosum

Native
Deciduous
4’ to 10’ tall
Prefers moist, well-drained acidic soil
Edible fruit attracts wildlife

Bottlebrush Buckeye  Aesculus parviflora

Deciduous
8-12’ tall, 8-15’ wide
Prefers moist, slightly acidic, well-drained soil
Full sun but tolerant of partial shade
Showy white flowers bloom in mid-July
Pear-shaped, 2-3” in length, ripen in early fall
Yellow-yellow green fall color

Highbush Cranberry  Viburnum opulus

Native
Deciduous
8-10’ tall
Prefers fertile, moist soil
Full sun to partial shade
White flowers bloom May-June
Edible fruit
Understory Shrubs cont.

American Elder  Sambucus canadensis
Native
Deciduous
5-12’ tall
Prefers moist soil, adaptable
Full sun
Blooms in July, white flowers
Fast growth rate
Purplish-black edible fruit

Dwarf Fothergilla  Fothergilla gardenii
Deciduous
3-6’ tall
Partial shade to full sun
Prefers moist, acidic, cool well-drained soil
Lightly fragrant, white flower clusters
Blooms early to mid-May
Excellent mix of yellow-orange-red purple fall color

Maple Leaf Viburnum  Viburnum acerifolium
Native
Deciduous
4-6’ tall and wide
Prefers well-drained soil
Full sun to shade
Moderate growth rate
Blooms in June

Mountain Laurel  Kalmia latifolia
Native
5-12 feet tall and wide
Requires cool, moist acidic soil
Partial shade to full sun
Blooms late May and early June lasting several weeks
Understory Shrubs, cont.

**Summersweet Clethra**  *Clethra alnifolia*

Native  
Deciduous  
5-8 feet tall, 4-6 feet wide  
Prefers moist soil  
Full sun to partial shade  
Blooms in July and August  
Fragrant flowers

**Sweetbells Leucothoe**  *Leucothoe racemosa*

Native to MA  
Deciduous  
4-6’ tall and wide  
Prefers moist, cool, acid soil, tolerates wet sites  
Best in partial shade  
White flowers blooming in May through June  
Reddish fall color

**Virginia Rose**  *Rosa virginiana*

Native  
Deciduous  
4-6’ tall  
Prefers well-drained, acidic soil  
Full sun  
Single pink flower blooms in June  
Red hip fruit matures in August  
Purplish to red fall color

**Winterberry**  *Ilex verticillata*

Native  
Deciduous  
6-10 feet tall and wide  
Prefers moist acidic soil  
Full sun to partial shade  
Fruit set only on pollinated female plants  
Red berries are excellent winter food for wildlife.
Understory Shrubs, cont.

Fragrant Sumac  Rhus aromatica

Native
2-6’ tall, 6-10’ wide
Prefers acidic, well-drained soil
Drought tolerant
Full sun to partial shade
Showy orange to reddish purple fall color
Slow growth rate

Oakleaf Hydrangea  Hydrangea quercifolia

Wider than tall plants range from 4-8’ tall
Prefers moist, organic soil
Full to partial shade
White pinnacle shaped flower blooms in July
Showy red to reddish purple fall color

Additional Choices: Red Buckeye