PLANT DATABASE

Promote Richer Play and Recreation Experiences with Playful Landscapes

playcore.com/plants
Wouldn’t it be great to be able to plan and create site-appropriate landscaping that extends play value with sound, shade, scent, loose parts for play, the ability to attract birds and butterflies, or a variety of other attributes? Now you can!

Together with the Children & Nature Network, and the Natural Learning Initiative, College of Design, NC State University, PlayCore is pleased to introduce the Play Value Plant Database. Utilizing the easy interface, the database lets you choose basic horticultural criteria to find plants suited to your space and climate. In addition, you can filter by playful attributes to help create the kind of landscape that research shows, when combined with the built environment, can get children and families to higher use.

The natural world is an incredible wonder that inspires us all. Plants serve a wide variety of functions in play and recreation environments. They can provide imaginative props, engage a child’s senses through texture, color, and fragrance, provide seasonal interest as they change through the seasons, as well as offer shade and shelter. Some plants can serve as screens to hide unsightly views or provide privacy, and as a habitat that provides a home for local fauna.

Whether you are working to expand environmental education to develop a child’s lifelong connection with the natural world in a green schoolyard, or simply trying to create a more meaningful outdoor family play and recreational space through the beauty of nature, we welcome you to explore, discover, and download your personalized plant collection.
PlayCore's plant database play value attributes include:

**Food source** - provides food to animals

**Edible** - produces fruit that is edible by people

**Color** - offers attractive seasonal color

**Host** - serves as a larval host to notable moths and butterflies

**Shade** - provides natural shade to a site

**Butterflies** - attracts butterflies

**Browse** - browsed by deer or mammals

**Birds** - attracts birds

**Small mammals** - attracts small mammals

**Bark** - offers an unusual bark, for example highly textured or exfoliating

**Fragrant** - offers fragrant flowers, foliage, or other elements defined in the description

**Wind screen/buffer** - can be used to provide a windscreen or buffer to neighboring areas

**Pollinators** - attracts pollinators

**Flowers** - has attractive, notable flowers

**Loose Parts** - provides elements for loose parts play

**Hummingbirds** - flowers or nectar attract hummingbirds

**Berries** - produces attractive berries

**Textural** - has textural elements

**Trellis** - can be trained to a trellis, tunnel, or other shape

**Cozy Spot** - provides cozy spots under their canopy or foliage for children to discover
How do I plan my playful landscape?

1. Log on to playcore.com/plant-database
2. Search the database by plant requirements, attributes, and/or play value
3. Add plants to “My Collection” to build your own unique garden
4. Download and print your collection
5. Take your collection to a landscape architect, nursery, or plant expert to help design and build your unique play and recreation experience!

In addition to play value attributes, each listing contains fun facts for the plant to provide parents and educators with opportunities to further promote nature literacy and encourage an appreciation for our natural environment.

Watch your site come alive with nature-rich experiences!

Great for:

- Park grounds
- Play areas
- Picnic areas
- Green schoolyards
- Picnic shelters
- Campgrounds
- Trails and pathways
- Dog parks
- Recreation centers
- Housing developments
- Anywhere that family recreation and comfort is a priority!

Each plant is featured on a separate page with all relevant info, including photo, play value, teachable fun facts, and horticultural requirements.

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