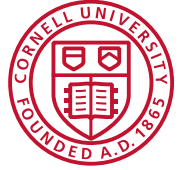


# Cornell Cooperative Extension Cornell Garden-Based Learning



## Woody Plants Knowledge Check **KEY**

In the **GBL Learning Library - Core Preparation Sessions**  
this is Section 3.1 in Module 3: Plant Ecosystem Services

1. What are the challenges that can surface when trying to embrace both the “Right Plant, Right Place” approach and the goal to select native woody plant species?

Many possible correct answers including that the site may have been disturbed and/or continually disturbed by human activity to the extent that it is no longer suitable for plants native to that region and/or the suitable native plants are not readily available. (From [http://www.urbanhabitats.org/v07n01/nativesdebate\\_full.html](http://www.urbanhabitats.org/v07n01/nativesdebate_full.html))

2. Visit the Cornell University’s Woody Plant Database to help you answer the next three questions <http://woodyplants.cals.cornell.edu>.

A. What is the scientific name for Spicebush? What pH does Spicebush prefer?

*Lindera benzoin* can tolerate acid to alkaline soil (pH 5.0 to 8.0).

B. What is the common name for *Quercus acutissima*? Describe *Quercus acutissima* moisture tolerance. Sawtooth oak will tolerate occasionally saturated or very wet soil; consistently moist, well-drained soil; occasional periods of dry soil.

C. What evergreen shrub can tolerate acid to alkaline soil and salt spray?

Go to Search database link to select options.

Either *Pinus mugo* (Mugo pine) or *Pinus thunbergiana* (Japanese black pine) depending on if you choose small shrub or larger shrub.

3. In what three forms are trees and shrubs typically purchased?

Bare root, container, balled and burlapped. (From: [Cornell Guide for Planting & Maintaining Trees and Shrubs](#) pre-work reading, page 12)

4. Why is building a volcano of mulch around a tree not good for the tree?

The volcano method of mulching around trees creates mulch depths greater than 3 inches. This reduces the ability of roots to respire and causes too much or too little moisture to build up around the root ball leading to fungus, rot and decay. This can ultimately lead to the tree’s death. The deep mulch could also be a great habitat for critters like voles who might damage the trunk and provide an avenue for infection. (From: [Cornell Guide for Planting & Maintaining Trees and Shrubs](#) pre-work reading, page 14)

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