

BigToys[®] *Naturals*

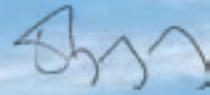


Green Playground Solutions

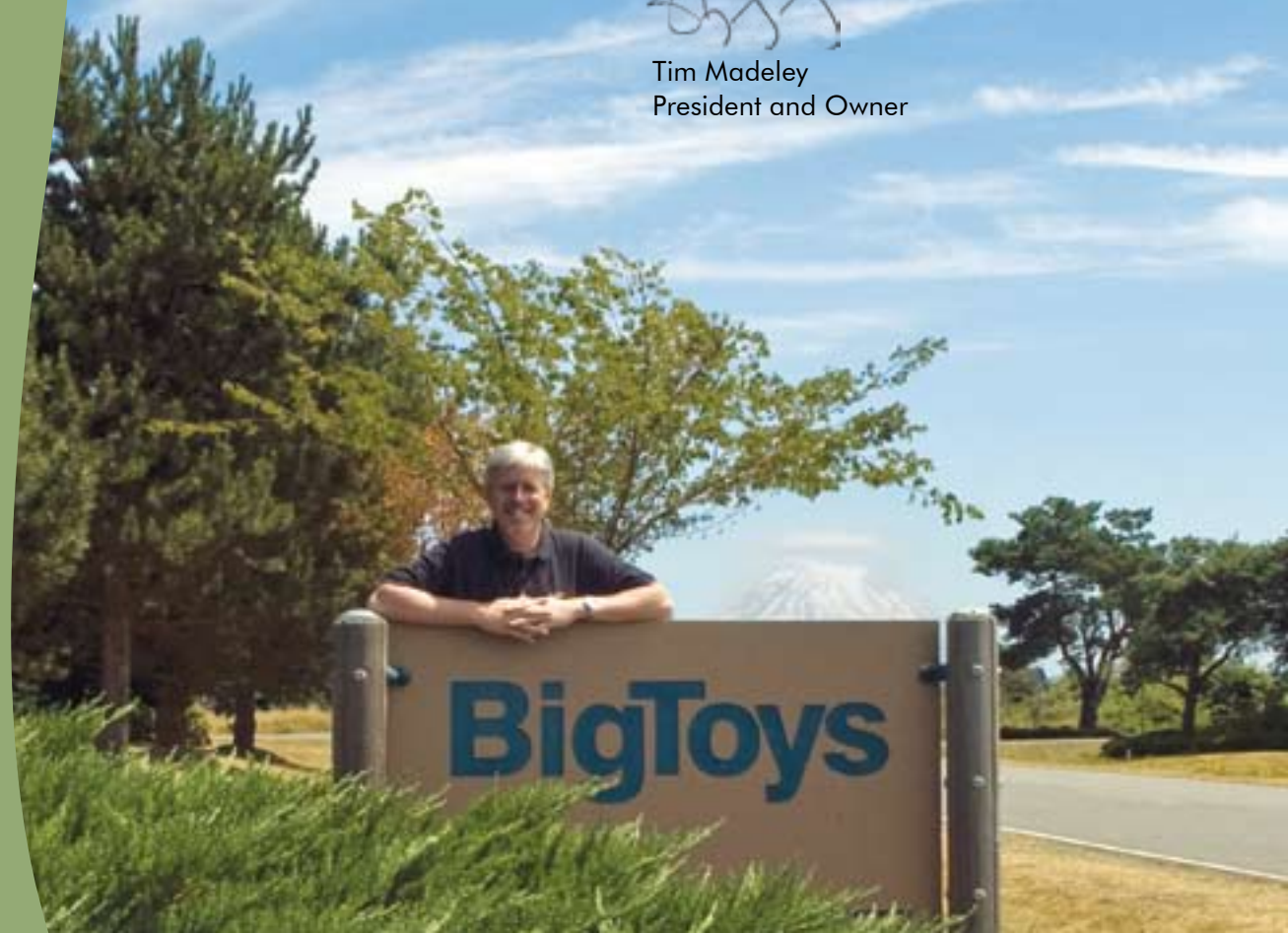
Do you remember childhood summer afternoons spent high in the limbs of a neighbor's tree telling secrets with your best friends? Or the fort you discovered deep in the bushes at the far edge of your back yard? Do you remember the joy of jumping into a huge pile of golden leaves each fall, or your excitement at finding the first blossoms of spring after a long, gray winter?

Like many of you, my introduction to the natural world occurred in my own back yard and the empty lot down the street. I experienced the wonder of nature that would form both the foundation for my education as well as the basis of my concern for the environment. I believe that the opportunity to truly experience nature is the birthright of every child. Sadly, today many young children spend the bulk of their free time either indoors, or outside in spaces largely devoid of nature.

BigToys Naturals can help you introduce nature back into the playground while creating diverse, complex play areas that provide multiple points of interest for young children. We hope this catalog inspires your imagination as it introduces you to beautiful, durable products for the children in your care.



Tim Madeley
President and Owner



A Natural Approach

For nearly 40 years, BigToys has been building beautiful play spaces for children around the world. All of the materials used in each of our designs have been carefully selected for the highest levels of quality, durability, and environmental responsibility.

We believe that caring for children and caring for the planet they will one day inherit go hand in hand. We also believe that "being green" is about much more than just marketing – it comes down to making responsible choices. That's why:



Our conditioned wood option features materials that are purchased from sources which have been certified as sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council. Learn more at www.fsc.org.



Our durable steel and plastic option features U.S.-made recycled materials that give us one of the highest percentages of recycled content available in play equipment today. Our use of post-consumer high density polyethylene in our roofs, decks, and enclosures helps keep over a million milk jugs out of landfills every year.



We are proud to have been the first U.S. playground manufacturer to eliminate PVC (and the related phthalates) from our playground equipment. Learn more at: www.bigtoys.com/environment.php.



How We Can Help

The following three sets of pages depict examples of idealized play spaces for three categories of young children – crawlers, cruisers and climbers. Hopefully these examples will help you envision how the items on pages 8 through 19 can be combined with natural elements to create a truly magical "backyard" for the children in your care.



Crawlers



Ages 6 to 18 months

These little bundles of energy and curiosity thrive in a stimulus-rich environment full of places to pull up, crawl through, make music and art, and discover the rich textures and colors of the world around them, with perhaps even the occasional glimpse of their own reflection.

1 Paint 'n Play - p. 18

2 Peek 'n Play - p. 18

3 Toddler Pull Up Bar - p. 15

4 Crawl Through Tunnel - p. 16

5 Peek-A-Boo Playhouse - p. 11

6 Free Standing Bubble Panel - p. 15

7 Caregiver Bench - p. 13



Cruisers

Ages 18 months to 3 years

Fully mobile cruisers require more freedom to roam and explore than crawlers, and they're ready to tackle sand and water play as well as more advanced problem solving challenges. Many cruiser play spaces incorporate tricycle paths, and small shrubs or trees for climbing and hiding.

- 1 Wall Mount Mirror - p. 12
- 2 Xylophone - p. 18
- 3 Breezeway Playhouse - p. 11
- 4 Sandbox 15' Octagon - p. 9
- 5 Sandy Falls Rock - p. 9

- 6 Labyrinth - p. 18
- 7 Garden Bed - p. 8
- 8 Pass Through Arbor - p. 10
- 9 Caregiver Bench - p. 13



Climbers

Ages 3 to 5 years

Climbers still enjoy many of the activities introduced to crawlers and cruisers, and they thrive in play spaces that support their rapidly developing physical and social skills. Here you'll find structures that promote quiet social and imaginative play, as well as complex, varied physical play.

- 1 Clubhouse - pg. 10
- 2 Overhead Ladder - pg. 16
- 3 Cabana - pg. 19
- 4 Three Sided Arbor - pg. 10

- 5 Wall Mount Mirror - p. 12
- 6 Garden Bed - p. 8
- 7 Xylophone - p. 18
- 8 Paint 'n Play - p. 18

- 9 PlayShell Climber - p. 14
- 10 Pride Rock - p. 14
- 11 Pass Through Arbor - p. 10
- 12 Kid Seat - p. 13

- 13 Sandbox 10' Square - p. 9
- 14 Labyrinth - p. 18
- 15 PlayPod Reading Circle - p. 12
- 16 Breezeway Playhouse - p. 11

Sand, Water, and Soil

When it comes to stimulating the imagination and connecting children to nature, there's simply no substitute for sand, water, and soil. Whether it's exploring the interplay of falling water and sand, unearthing prehistoric skeletons, or planting seeds and watching them grow, your kids will enjoy endless hours of creative fun with these down-to-earth activities.



Dino Dig MEC-021

Junior archaeologists and paleontologists will squeal with delight upon discovering these ancient bones lurking in their sandbox. Imaginations take over from there.

Age Range: 2 - 12 years
Capacity: N/A
Space Required: 3'-9" x 2'-6" / 114cm x 76cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Green Thumb Planter Box EC-022

Budding gardeners will enjoy tending to this pint sized garden and watching the magic of nature unfold before their very eyes.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 1 - 4 children
Space Required: 4'-6" x 0'-7" / 137cm x 17cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Garden Bed EC-123

Few things draw kids closer to nature than tending a garden. A small garden bed can provide countless hours of joy for developing minds as they engage directly with the earth.

Age Range: 2 - 12 years
Capacity: N/A
Space Required: 9'-0" x 3'-0" / 274cm x 91cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Sandy Falls Rock MEC-020

Nothing fascinates quite like sand and falling water. This beautiful sculpture offers endless hours of mesmerizing experimentation and discovery.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: N/A
Space Required: 2'-11" x 1'-8" / 89cm x 51cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Sandbox 15' Octagon EC-120

A perennial playground favorite with a novel shape and enough room for everyone (includes breathable heavy duty fabric cover).

Age Range: 2 - 12 years
Capacity: 10 - 12 children
Space Required: 15'-0" x 15'-0" / 457cm x 457cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Sandbox 10' Square EC-121

This sandbox comes with a twist...the perimeter is labeled with numbers and letters which invites searches for "buried treasure" (includes breathable heavy duty fabric cover).

Age Range: 2 - 12 years
Capacity: 8 - 10 children
Space Required: 10'-0" x 10'-0" / 305cm x 305cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A

Gathering and Social

For staging an impromptu play, gathering for story time, serving up a delicious mud pie at the “restaurant,” or just sitting quietly to rest and chit-chat, kids need a variety of spaces to interact and collaborate with one another and their caretakers.



Pass Through Arbor EC-100A

This arbor is large enough to drive a trike through. In addition, it provides a shady resting spot to watch friends race by.

Age Range: N/A
Capacity: N/A
Space Required: 8'-6" x 8'-6" / 259cm x 259cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Three Sided Arbor EC-107

The three benches on this arbor make for a perfect shady spot for casual gathering and story time.

Age Range: N/A
Capacity: N/A
Space Required: 8'-6" x 8'-6" / 259cm x 259cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Clubhouse EC-108

With a lean-to roof and four benches, this shelter provides a great place to rest and watch the action.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 4 - 6 children
Space Required: 9'-0" x 5'-0" / 274cm x 152cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Peek-A-Boo Playhouse EC-015

With a mirror on one side and a window on the other, crawlers can keep an eye on their friends while watching themselves crawl through this playhouse.

Age Range: 6 mos. - 2 years
Capacity: 6 - 8 children
Space Required: 5'-0" x 5'-0" / 152cm x 152cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Breezeway Playhouse MEC-016

All sides are open to play on this raised platform playhouse. When used with our sandboxes, the play counter makes an excellent surface for serving fresh “sand pies.”

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 4 - 6 children
Space Required: 19'-0" x 17'-0" / 579cm x 518 cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 2'-5" / 74cm



Cozy Playhouse EC-018

The scale of this playhouse makes it a perfect cozy gathering place for younger children.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 4 - 6 children
Space Required: 6'-0" x 5'-0" / 183cm x 152cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Gathering and Social



PlayPod Reading Circle MEC-019

The tallest PlayPod is reserved for the teacher in this compact outdoor reading circle.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 10 children and one adult
Space Required: 14'-0" x 14'-0" / 427cm x 427cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Wall Mount Mirror EC-104

This versatile mirror can be installed anywhere kids want a view of themselves - a fence, a wall, or the side of a storage shed.

Age Range: 6 mos. - 12 years
Capacity: 1 - 2 children
Space Required: N/A
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Chatter Bug BT-260

Based on BigToys' concept of an equal balance of physical and social play, the Chatter Bug provides a multi-seat area on the playground for kids to take a break and just hang out.

Age Range: 2 - 12 years
Capacity: 3 children
Space Required: 19'-6" x 16'-0" / 579cm x 488cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 1'-11" / 58cm



Activity Play House EC-648

There is no end to activities in this sprawling ground-level playhouse - from music to puzzles to "steering the ship."

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 15 - 20 children
Space Required: 21'-6" x 21'-6" / 655cm x 655cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 1'-5" / 43cm



Kid Bench MEC-001

This kid sized bench is the perfect spot for quiet reflection, or a chat with a friend.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: N/A
Space Required: 2'-0" x 1'-4" / 61cm x 41cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Kid Seat MEC-002

Like the Kid Bench, this seat is sure to see lots of use by kids looking to take a break from active play.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: N/A
Space Required: 2'-0" x 1'-4" / 61cm x 41cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Caregiver Bench MEC-003

Big kids need an occasional rest too! This Caregiver bench is also a great place for reading, bird watching, or "lining up" for transitions between activities.

Age Range: 2 years+
Capacity: N/A
Space Required: 1'-10" x 5'-0" / 56cm x 152cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A

Gross Motor Skills

Kids love to crawl, run, jump, climb, balance, hang, slide, and spin, sometimes all at once! The following activities can help you create a beautiful play environment that offers appropriate physical challenge to a broad range of ages and abilities while promoting healthy gross motor skill development.



Pride Rock UP-PR01

Pride Rock is an excellent climber for younger kids. The climb up has both an easy and a more challenging route. The upper surface gently slopes so that kids must be fully aware of their balance and position when they are "on top."

Age Range: 2 - 5
Capacity: 4 - 6 children
Space Required: 15'-0" x 18'-0" / 457cm x 549cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 3'-8" / 111cm



Balance Beam EC-105

The low, wide footing of our balance beam encourages young children to safely improve their balance skills.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 3 children
Space Required: 21'-0" x 15'-0" / 640cm x 457cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 1'-0" / 31cm



PlayShell Climber EC-635

Our popular PlayShell Climber accommodates both active climbing and traversing play, as well as imaginative creative play and resting.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 7 - 9 children
Space Required: 19'-5" x 16'-9" / 592cm x 511cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 6'-0" / 183cm



Toddler Pull-up Mirror MEC-012

Toddlers are captivated by their own image. The BigToys Pull-up Mirror promotes self-awareness and standing skills, and is sure to be the focal point of any play yard.

Age Range: 6 mos. - 2 yrs.
Capacity: 1 - 2 children
Space Required: 4'-6" x 0'-9" / 137cm x 23cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Free Standing Bubble Panel EC-013

The deep curve of the clear bubble provides a nice spot to take a break from the action, and offers a whimsical twist on peek-a-boo.

Age Range: 6 mos. - 2 yrs.
Capacity: 1 - 2 children
Space Required: 4'-6" x 1'-6" / 137cm x 46cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Toddler Pull-up Bars EC-017

Kids transitioning from crawling to walking will quickly find the pull-up bars fascinating and useful as they practice standing and toddling.

Age Range: 6 mos. - 2 yrs.
Capacity: 2 - 4 children
Space Required: 4'-6" x 0'-11" / 137cm x 28cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Gross Motor Skills



Crawl Through Tunnel EC-011

Young children love to explore small spaces. This tunnel also makes an excellent transition between surfaces, such as from rubber surfacing to grass. The Crawl Through Tunnel is also an excellent venue for peek-a-boo and hide and seek.

Age Range: 6 mos. - 2 yrs.
Capacity: 1 - 2 children
Space Required: 4'-6" x 3'-0" / 137cm x 91 cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 3'-0" / 91cm



Overhead Ladder EC-620

Older preschoolers will be thrilled by their accomplishment as they increase their physical strength traversing our Overhead Ladder.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 2 - 4 children
Space Required: 16'-6" x 19'-0" / 503 cm x 579 cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 4'-4" / 132 cm



Moving Tunnels EC-625

Combine rocking with climbing or crawling and you'll see what great activities the Moving Tunnels bring to a playground.

Age Range: 2 - 5
Capacity: 5 children
Space Required: 24'-0" x 18'x0" / 732cm x 549cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 3'-5" / 104cm



Embankment Slide MEC-109

The Embankment Slide is a safe alternative to a higher, freestanding slide and is easy for little kids to navigate with no ladders to climb, and a gentle ride to the bottom.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 2 - 4 children
Space Required: 17'-6" x 16'-6" / 533cm/503cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



MiniVan MEC-120

Just like the one mom and dad drive. The BigToys MiniVan is always on the go. Our high quality HDPE plastics and pinch proof spring mechanism make this a safe choice for young drivers.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 1 child
Space Required: 13'-6" x 14'-6" / 411cm x 442cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 1'-6" / 46 cm



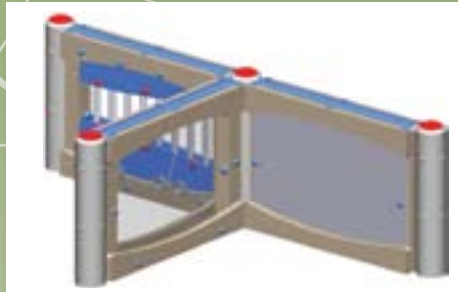
Junior Synchro Spinner MEC-130

The Junior Synchro Spinner gives younger kids a spinning activity scaled to their size. Integrated handholds and a center pole provide security on this sit down spinner.

Age Range: 2 - 5 years
Capacity: 1 child
Space Required: 13'-8" x 13'-8" / 417cm x 417cm
Highest Designated Play Surface: 1'-6" / 46 cm

Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skill development is every bit as important as gross motor skill development, so we created these unique play events to capture young imaginations while strengthening hand-eye coordination and creative expression.



Peek 'n Play MEC-010

Young crawlers can greet their friends on the other side of the window, admire their reflection, and play a tune all on the compact Peek 'n Play.

Age Range: 6 mos. - 2 years

Capacity: 6 - 8 children

Space Required: 8'-6" x 4'-6" / 259cm x 137cm

Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Xylophone MEC-110

Budding young musicians are able to play real songs on the BigToy Xylophone which is tuned to provide a full octave of fun in the key of "C". Much more than just a noise maker, kids of all ages will enjoy the chance to master this simple musical instrument.

Age Range: 2 - 12 years

Capacity: 3 - 4 children

Space Required: 0'-7" x 4'-6" / 17cm x 137cm

Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Paint 'n Play MEC-117

Give your artists a place to develop their style with this simple painting station made from easy-to-clean Lexan® and recycled plastic. Paint tray is designed to hold 8 standard disposable cups for use with water-based paints. Double sided option - MEC-117A

Age Range: 2 - 12 years

Capacity: 3 - 4 children

Space Required: 0'-7" x 4'-6" / 17cm x 137cm

Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Labyrinth MEC-118

Kids can work alone or together to move the steel marble around this endless labyrinth, which has colored markers to enable kids to keep track of their progress.

Age Range: 2 - 12 years

Capacity: 1 - 2 children

Space Required: 0'-7" x 4'-6" / 17 cm x 137 cm

Highest Designated Play Surface: N/A



Also from BigToys...

EarlyWorks™

BigToys' EarlyWorks line of combination play structures are designed specifically to accommodate the changing needs of children aged 2 to 5 years. We don't compromise on quality materials just because these structures are intended for younger kids; our early childhood systems are constructed from the same beautiful and durable conditioned wood and recycled steel and plastic used in our BigToys school age equipment, so you can buy with confidence knowing that your investment will last for many years.

Visit BigToys.com to see our wide selection of EarlyWorks structures

Cabana MEC-650

Color Scheme Shown:
EarlyWorks

Materials Shown:
Recycled steel and plastic
ADAAG: Accessible version
requires one ground level
activity.

Capacity: 10 - 12 kids

Age Range: 2 - 5 years

Space Required:

25'-6" x 23'-0" /
777cm x 701cm

Highest Designated
Play Surface: 6'-6" / 198 cm

Number of Activities: 4



Bibliography

Many excellent books and websites address the topic of children, nature, and play. Below are just a few of our favorites. They have been particularly influential in shaping the BigToys Naturals vision, and we hope they inspire and inform you as they have us.

- 🌿 "Last Child in the Woods" Richard Louv
- 🌿 "I Love Dirt!" Jennifer Ward
- 🌿 "Childhood and Nature" David Sobel
- 🌿 "Multiple Intelligences" Howard Gardner
- 🌿 "Plants for Play" Robin C. Moore
- 🌿 "Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants" Lewis S. Nelson et al
- 🌿 Children & Nature Network
<http://www.childrenandnature.org/>
- 🌿 Hooked on Nature
<http://hookedonnature.org/index.html>

Your Landscape

To the right you'll find a guide to plants that we have found work well on the playground. They are divided into four categories: large shade trees, medium shade ornamentals, deciduous shrubs, and evergreen shrubs. Combining plants from these categories gives your kids the opportunity to climb and hide, as well as see the changing seasons as reflected in the changing plants. This list is by no means exhaustive, and we encourage you to work with a local landscaper to find just the right plants that are appropriate for children and your conditions, which in many cases will mean native species that offer excellent environmental and educational benefits.



Category	Common Name	Botanical Name	USDA Hardiness Zones*													
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
Large Shade Trees	Elm, Chinese	Ulmus parvifolia			•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
	Linden, Small leaved	Tilia cordata			•	•	•	•	•							
	Locust, Thornless Honey	Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis					•	•	•	•	•					
	Maple, Red	Acer rubrum			•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
	Mimosa, Silk Tree	Albizia julibrissin								•	•	•	•			
	Oak, White	Quercus alba					•	•	•	•	•	•				
	Olive	Olea eruopaea											•	•		
	Pagoda Tree, Japanese	Sophora japonica					•	•	•	•	•					
	Pecan	Carya illinoensis					•	•	•	•	•					
	Pistache, Chinese	Pistacia chinensis								•	•	•				
	Sycamore, Eastern	Plantanus occidentalis					•	•	•	•	•	•				
	Willow, Weeping	Salix babylonica								•	•	•				
Yellowwood	Cladrastis lutea					•	•	•	•	•						
Zelkova, Japanese	Zelkova serrata								•	•	•					
Medium Shade, Ornamental Trees	Myrtle, Crape	Lagerstroemia indica										•	•	•	•	
	Birch, River	Betula nigra							•	•	•	•	•	•		
	Redwood, Dawn	Metasequoia glyptostroboides							•	•	•	•				
	Cherry, Yohino	Prunus x yedoensis										•	•	•		
	Birch, Sweet	Betula lenta										•	•	•	•	
	Dogwood, Chinese	Cornus kousa										•	•	•		
	Dogwood, Flowering	Cornus florida										•	•	•	•	
	Redbud, Western	Cercis occidentalis												•	•	•
	Magnolia, Saucer	Magnolia x soulangiana												•	•	•
	Magnolia, Star	Magnolia stellata												•	•	•
	Oak, Pin	Quercus palustris												•	•	•
	Tulip Tree, American	Liriodendron tulipifera												•	•	•
Deciduous Shrub	Abelia, Glossy	Abelia x grandiflora												•	•	•
	Blueberry, Rabbiteye	Vaccinium ashei												•	•	•
	Butterfly Bush	Buddleia davidii												•	•	•
	Forsythia	Forsythia x intermedia												•	•	•
	Grass, Fountain	Pennisetum setaceum													•	•
	Honeysuckle, Fragrant Winter	Lonicera fragrantissima												•	•	•
	Viburnum, Arrowwood	Viburnum dentatum												•	•	•
	Viburnum, Black Haw	Viburnum prunifolium												•	•	•
	Viburnum, Double-file	Viburnum plicatum tomentosum												•	•	•
	Viburnum, Judd	Viburnum x juddii												•	•	•
	Viburnum, Korea Spice	Viburnum carlesii												•	•	•
	Viburnum, Nannyberry	Viburnum lentago												•	•	•
Evergreen Shrub	Arborvitae, Wareana	Thuja occidentalis 'Wareana'												•	•	•
	Camellia, Sasanqua	Camellia sasanqua													•	•
	Cleyera, Japanese	Ternstroemia gymnanthera													•	•
	Gardenia, Flowering	Gardenia jasminoides													•	•
	Hawthorne, Indian	Rhaphiolepis umbellata													•	•
	Juniper, Pfitzer	Juniperus chinensis 'Pfitzerana'													•	•
	Juniper, Sargent	Juniperus chinensis var. sargentii													•	•
	Photinia, Fraser	Photinia x fraseri													•	•
Spruce, Dwarf Alberta	Picea glauca													•	•	

* Visit <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html> to determine your hardiness zone.

BigToys[®] *Naturals*



For more information about BigToys Naturals and our full line of BigToys commercial playground equipment, call or visit us on the web.

On the web at www.bigtoys.com Toll-free 866-814-8697 in North America

©2008 BigToys

FSC Logo