Sourwood is a magnificent tree that shines in the garden throughout the year. Rich, iridescent green leaves adorn branches in spring. In early summer, when few other trees are in bloom, white urn-shaped flowers splay out in turkey-foot panicles giving trees a weeping softness. Flower clusters have also been described as lacy veils remaining effective for 3 to 4 weeks. Flowers turn to peppercorn capsules as summer progresses, turning brown and remaining on the tree to provide fall and winter interest. Leaves are scarlet in autumn and when foliage is backlight at the end of the day, it is a breathtaking sight. Sourwood requires acid, well-drained soil and while it will tolerate partial shade, flowering and fall color are best in full sun. Michael Dirr suggests using Sourwood in clusters against a forest background or in combination with oakleaf hydrangea making a wonderful fall color compliment.

**Oxydendrum arboreum**

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**Epimedium spp.**

Barrenwort is the unfortunate common name of this excellent, versatile evergreen groundcover. Epimedium are a little slow to establish, but once they get going they form wonderful clumps of foliage comprised of heart-shaped compound leaves. Flowers are born in delicate clusters just above leaves in early spring. Different species provide different flower color from white, to pale pink, yellow and red. In spring, leaves are often tinged with pink or red on the margins. Epimedium grow best in soils with lots of organic matter, but they are one of the few groundcovers that tolerate dry shade, growing in what some would call “barren” environments, hence the common name. Once a clump is well established, epimedium are propagated by division in late summer.