Recycling Used Coffee Grounds in the Garden

Coffee grounds are a good source of nitrogen and trace minerals for plants. They can also benefit plants that prefer acid soils. (In our area, soils are mostly alkaline and acid-loving plants can benefit from lowering the pH.) Sprinkle around the base of the plant and/or mix into the top few inches. Or add to your compost pile.

PERENNIALS

Butterfly Weed *Aesclepias*  
Turtlehead *Chelone*  
Snakeroot *Cimicifuga*   
Fringed Bleeding Heart *Dicentra*   
Foxglove *Digitalis*   
Gentian *Gentiana*  
Primroses *Primula*   
Trillium *Trillium*   
Woodland Phlox *Phlox stolon.*   
Virginia Bluebells *Mertensia*   
Coral Bells *Heuchera*  
Barrenwort *Epimedium*  
Marsh Marigold *Caltha*   
Lady Slipper *Cypripedium*  
Hardy Ferns, most varieties

TREES

Fir *Abies*   
Spruce *Picea*  
Pines *Pinus*  
Upright Yew *Taxus*  
Hemlock *Tsuga canadensis*  
Horse Chestnut *Aesculus*  
Birch Betula   
Buckeye *Aesculus*  
Oaks *Quercus*  
**Pin Oak *Quercus palustris (Acid soil required)***  
Mountain Ash *Sorbus*  
Magnolia *Magnolia*  
Serviceberry *Amelanchier*

Larch (Tamarack) *Larix*  
Fringetree *Chionanthus*  
Pagoda Dogwood *Cornus*

SHRUBS

Junipers *Juniperus*   
False Cypress *Chamaecyparis*  
Dwarf Hemlocks *Tsuga*  
Yews *Taxus*   
Dwarf Spruce *Picea*  
Mugho Pine *Pinus mugo*  
Sweetbush *Clethra*  
Dogwood *Cornus*  
Winterberry *Ilex verticillata*   
Mountain Laurel *Kalmia*   
Azalea, Rhododendron spp.   
Rhododendron, R. spp.  
Serviceberry *Amelanchier*   
Hydrangea *Hydrangea macrophylla*   
Bog Rosemary *Andromeda*   
Blueberries *Vaccinium*  
  
\*Please note that Arborvitae is not on the list of acid-loving plants. It is one of the few evergreens that prefers neutral soil.