



Fairfax Tree Stewards

PRESERVING OUR URBAN FOREST

Homeowners' Tree Program



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Understory Trees

Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: large shrub or small tree with open habit, often multi-stemmed

Mature height: 15 - 20 feet

Spread: 12 - 20 feet

Flowers: fine, fleecy, fragrant, white flowers that bloom in May

Fall color: yellow to yellowish green brown

Growth rate: slow

CULTURE

Soil: moist to average soil; tolerates occasional wet soil

Light: sun to part shade

NOTES

Beautiful specimen tree, considered to be one of Thomas Jefferson's favorites; tolerant of air pollution



Spring Flowers

American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Form: rounded to broad spreading, may be multistemmed

Mature height: 20 - 30 feet

Spread: 20 - 30 feet

Flowers: catkins hang on leafed-out tree in April

Fall color: variation in color, from yellow to orange to red

Fruit: small nuts hang in papery sacs in clusters

Growth rate: slow

CULTURE

Soil: moist to average soil; tolerates moderate drought and occasional wet soil

Light: sun to full shade

NOTES

Sometimes called Ironwood or Musclewood for its unusually hard wood; does well in shade; tolerant of air pollution



Fall Color



Fall Fruit



Spring Catkins



Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: globular at maturity with ascending branches

Mature height: 20 - 30 feet

Spread: 25 - 35 feet

Flowers: pink to reddish purple
blooms in April before leaves appear

Fall color: yellow to yellow-green

Fruit: a legume ; pods about 3 inches long

Growth rate: medium to fast



CULTURE

Soil: moist to average well-drained soil;
tolerates drought and occasionally wet soil

Light: sun to part shade; flowers best in sun



NOTES

One of the first trees to bloom in the spring; use as a specimen or in groupings; heart-shaped leaves; sensitive to road salt



Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: small tree or large shrub; globular at maturity; often multi-stemmed

Mature height: 15 - 20 feet

Spread: 8 - 25 feet

Flowers: white flowers in late March/April

Fall color: varies from yellow to apricot-orange to dull, rusty red

Fruit: delicious purplish black edible berries in June; attractive to birds

Growth rate: moderate

CULTURE

Soil: average to dry soils

Light: full sun to part shade

NOTES

One of the first trees to bloom in spring; delicious fruit; subject to rose diseases; also known as Juneberry or Shadbush



Delicious Fruit



Fall Color



Flower

Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous to semi-evergreen

Form: upright spreading habit;
may be multi-stemmed

Mature height: 15 - 25 feet

Spread: 10 - 20 feet

Flowers: creamy white, waxy, lemon-scented
in May/June

Fall color: yellow to yellow-brown

Fruit: showy cone-like fruit with red-orange
berries that ripen in August

Growth rate: medium to fast

CULTURE

Soil: moist to dry soils; tolerant of drought
and extended flooding

Light: sun to full shade

NOTES

Graceful specimen tree with fragrant
flowers; wildlife feed on fruits;
semi-evergreen during warm winters



Fragrant Bloom

Sweetbay Magnolia Fruit



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Canopy Trees

Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous conifer

Form: pyramidal

Mature height: 50 - 70 feet

Spread: 20 - 30 feet

Flowers: nonflowering

Fall color: copper to brown

Fruit: round, small cones

Growth rate: moderate

CULTURE

Soil: ideal for wet locations but highly drought tolerant; slight alkaline tolerance

Light: full sun

NOTES

Lifespan of 600 (average) - 1,800 years; native to swamps where it grows "knees;" very adaptable; soft feathery needle-like leaves that drop in the winter; very straight trunk



Bald Cypress Cones and Leaves



Fall Color

American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: vase-shaped

Mature height: 50 - 70 feet

Spread: 30 - 60 feet

Flowers: Small, rust-red colored flowers in drooping clusters of 3 to 5

Fall color: yellow, with variation in intensity

Fruit: small seeds hang in papery sacs in clusters

Growth rate: moderate to fast

CULTURE

Soil: average soil; tolerant of extended flooding, drought, compaction

Light: full sun to part shade

NOTES

This majestic tree used to line the streets of many American cities, including Washington D.C. Unfortunately, Dutch Elm Disease has destroyed the majority of Elms in the U.S. We plant disease-resistant hybrid varieties, such as "Valley Forge," to restore this magnificent tree in our landscapes. The Elm lives from 175 to 300 years.



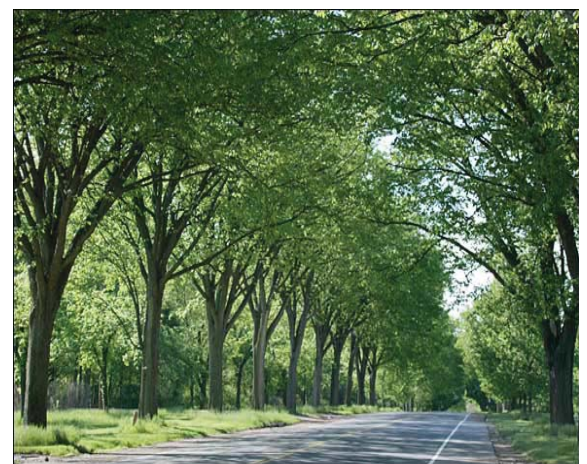
Fall Color



Flowers



Fruit



Elm Tree Lined Street

Black Gum or Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: pyramidal in youth; globular at maturity

Mature height: 30 - 70 feet

Spread: 25 - 35 feet

Flowers: insignificant

Fall color: brilliant red; some trees change from yellow to orange to scarlet to purple

Fruit: small, dark blue; attractive to birds

Growth rate: slow to moderate

CULTURE

Soil: moist to dry soils; withstands drought and extended flooding

Light: full sun to part shade

NOTES

Excellent specimen tree with outstanding summer and fall foliage; one of the best native trees for fall color; high wildlife value; lifespan is 250 - 600 years.



Spectacular Fall Color



Small Fruit for Birds



Dark Green Glossy Leaves

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: pyramidal

Mature height: 60 - 70 feet

Spread: 25 - 40 feet

Flowers: small catkins

Fall color: russet, bronze or red

Fruit: acorns

Growth rate: fast

CULTURE

Soil: moist to dry soils; tolerant of compaction and wet soils

Light: full sun to part shade

NOTES

Fast growing widely used native oak; best planted in the spring; some brown leaves stay on tree during the winter; leaves become yellow when soil pH is greater than 6.5-7.0 due to lack of iron; resistant to air pollution



Fall Color

(photo credit: Steve Foltz)



Pin Oak Acorns



Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: rounded open habit

Mature height: 50 - 70 feet

Spread: 40 - 50 feet

Fall color: brilliant red

Fruit: acorn (1/2" to 1" long)

Growth rate: medium

CULTURE

Soil: Dry to medium moisture.

Light: full sun

NOTES: a durable, low-maintenance tree. A stately shade tree for the lawn, with excellent fall color. Since it is a large tree, it must be planted in a location where it will have sufficient space to grow upward and spread to its mature size.



Acorns



Fall Foliage



Summer Leaves

Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: rounded open habit

Mature height: 60 - 100 feet

Spread: 50 - 60 feet

Fall color: yellow/bronze

Fruit: acorn (1")

Growth rate: medium



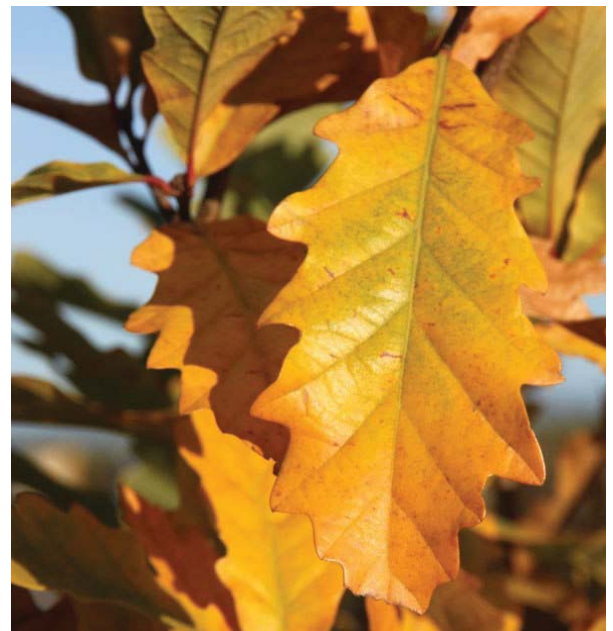
Acorn

CULTURE

Soil: medium to wet moisture; will tolerate occasional drought

Light: full sun to partial sun

NOTES: Valuable for wildlife. Chlorosis results in soils with high PH. Attractive peeling bark, particularly when young.



Fall Color



**Foliage: dark green on top,
silver on underside**

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: pyramidal when young;
globular at maturity

Mature height: 60 - 80 feet

Spread: 50 - 80 feet

Flowers: catkins

Fall color: burgundy to brown

Fruit: acorns

Growth rate: slow

CULTURE

Soil: moist to dry soils; does best
in moist, well-drained soils

Light: full sun to part shade

NOTES

One of the most valuable trees for
sustaining wildlife; slow grower; life
span of 200 - 300 years, or more; deep
tap root; brown leaves stay on tree
during winter



Stately White Oak



Unripe White Oak Acorns



Fall Color

Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: deciduous

Form: pyramidal in youth; more rounded at maturity; lower branches droop toward the ground

Mature height: 40 - 60 feet

Spread: 30 - 40 feet

Flowers: catkins

Fall color: yellow to russet-red

Fruit: acorns

Growth rate: moderate

CULTURE

Soil: moist to dry soils; tolerates extended flooding, drought, and compacted soils

Light: full sun to part shade

NOTES

One of the most durable, fine-textured oaks; benefit to wildlife; lives 70 - 100 years



Stately Willow Oak



Willow Oak Leaves



Willow Oak Acorn



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Evergreen Trees

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: broad-leaf evergreen

Form: pyramidal

Mature height: 35 - 50 feet

Spread: 40 - 60 feet

Flowers: small, white flowers; female flowers are fragrant

Fruit: red berries that mature in October and persist through winter on pollinated female trees

Growth rate: slow to moderate

CULTURE

Soil: moist to average soil; can tolerate occasionally wet soils

Light: full sun to full shade

NOTES

Useful as an evergreen screen or specimen plant; fruit attractive to wildlife; lifespan of 100 - 150 years; Need male tree near female tree to pollinate it for berries



Fragrant Female Flower



Berries on Female

Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

TREE APPEARANCE

Type: evergreen

Form: dense, pyramidal shape

Mature height: 40 - 50 feet

Spread: 8 - 20 feet

Flowers: nonflowering

Fruit: small blue-grey fruit on female trees

Growth rate: slow to moderate

CULTURE

Soil: average to dry soils; not tolerant of sites that are continually moist; tolerant of adverse conditions

Light: full sun

NOTES

Useful as windbreaks and screens; lifespan of 100 - 300 years; fruits attractive to wildlife; the aromatic wood is used in closets and chests to repel moths; do not plant near pear or apple trees due to cedar-apple rust



Host Plant of Juniper Hairstreak Butterfly



Small Cones



Fruit Enjoyed by Birds