

Plant A Tree

Selecting Desirable Species

Planting a tree creates a lasting legacy, often spanning multiple generations. It is a rewarding project but is not without its challenges. Plant characteristics, maintenance requirements and site conditions all affect the health and vitality of a plant as well as costs of maintenance in the long term. Plant selection is an important decision that warrants careful consideration and planning. Before investing valuable time and resources into planting, it is best to consult a knowledgeable and experienced professional.

Right Plant, Right Place

Give consideration to existing site constraints such as environmental conditions, human uses and wildlife habitats to help determine suitable plant selection and location. You should also consider the potential benefits and impact to surroundings.

In many cases, compromises are made, giving priority to the most desirable characteristics and most critical requirements. Most plants only thrive within a narrow range of conditions and only exhibit some of the desired characteristics. The following are characteristics and requirements to consider when selecting a plant.

Plant Cultural Requirements:

- Sunlight
- Moisture
- Soil drainage
- Soil acidity
- Soil fertility
- Hardiness

Other Plant Considerations:

- Mature size
- Growth rate
- Lifespan
- Privacy
- Passive solar benefit (Shade)
- Protection from wind
- Resistance to pest and disease
- Resistance to pollution
- Resistance to ice and wind damage
- Deer resistance
- Aesthetics
- Native status
- Wildlife value
- Space constraints
- Up-front costs
- Long term costs
- Leaf and limb debris
- Protection of property
- Safety
- Fruit production

The following lists provide a starting point for selecting native species for various conditions. Additional factors should be considered to ensure the selection will flourish in a specific setting.

Small Trees

Painted Buckeye - *Aesculus sylvatica*
Serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea*
American Hornbeam - *Carpinus caroliniana*
Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*
Fringetree - *Chionanthus virginicus*
Flowering Dogwood - *Cornus florida*
Winterberry Holly - *Ilex decidua*
American Holly - *Ilex opaca*
Yaupon Holly - *Ilex vomitoria*
Sweetbay - *Magnolia virginiana*
Wax Myrtle - *Myrica cerifera*

Evergreen Trees

Ti-ti - *Cyrilla racemiflora*
American Holly - *Ilex opaca*
Yaupon Holly - *Ilex vomitoria*
Eastern Red Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*
Southern Magnolia - *Magnolia grandiflora*
Wax Myrtle - *Myrica cerifera*
Wild Olive - *Osmanthus americanus*
Live Oak - *Quercus virginiana*

Trees Beneficial to Wildlife

Painted Buckeye - *Aesculus sylvatica*
Serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea*
American Hornbeam - *Carpinus caroliniana*
Persimmon - *Diospyros virginiana*
Yaupon Holly - *Ilex vomitoria*
American Holly - *Ilex opaca*
Possumhaw - *Ilex decidua*
Eastern Red Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*
Wax Myrtle - *Myrica cerifera*
Carolina Cherrylaurel - *Prunus caroliniana*
Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina*
Live Oak - *Quercus virginiana*

Trees for Dry Soil

Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*
Fringetree - *Chionanthus virginicus*
Green Ash - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
Yaupon Holly - *Ilex vomitoria*
Eastern Red Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*
Sourwood - *Oxydendrum arboreum*
Winged Sumac - *Rhus copallinum*

Trees for Moist Soil

Serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea*
River Birch - *Betula nigra*
American Hornbeam - *Carpinus caroliniana*
Possumhaw - *Ilex decidua*
Ti-ti - *Cyrilla racemiflora*
Southern Magnolia - *Magnolia grandiflora*
Sweetbay - *Magnolia virginiana*
Black-gum - *Nyssa sylvatica*
Eastern Hornbeam - *Ostrya virginiana*
American Sycamore - *Platanus Occidentalis*
Overcup Oak - *Quercus lyrata*
Willow Oak - *Quercus phellos*
Bald Cypress - *Taxodium distichum*