



Arlington Tree Canopy Equity Program Species – Spring 2025

Overview

- All of these species do well in our area, generally accepting of our clay soils. The few that do not do well in clay are mentioned.
- Trees are generally 2-inch caliper, 7-feet high at planting.
- The tree growth rate is given for height: Slow= 12"/year Medium=18"/year Fast = 24"/year
- Shrubs are generally 2-feet high at planting.
- Shrubs will form thickets. Prune as needed to maintain size.

Section I - Large Shade Trees

May have width greater than 40 feet

Not recommended for planting within 15 feet of overhead wires.

Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	50-70	50-70	Full sun to partial shade	Wide-spreading branches. Less tolerant of dry soil; has shallow roots. Nuts attract wildlife. Doesn't tolerate compacted, wet or poorly drained soils. Slow to medium growth rate.
American sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	70-100	70-90	Full sun	Interesting, multicolored bark; moderate wildlife value. An adaptable, tough tree. Medium-fast growth rate.
Scarlet oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	70-75	40-50	Full sun	Striking fall color, high wildlife value, medium-fast growth rate. Glossy dark green leaves. Less tolerant of adverse soil conditions.
Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	60-80	50-75	Full sun to partial shade	Leaves dark, shiny green above and silvery white beneath; good fall color. High wildlife value. Tolerates flooding, drought, and a range of soils. Slow-medium growth rate.
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	60-75	40-50	Full sun to partial shade	Tree with star-shaped leaves turning brilliant fall colors, corky bark, and spiky fruit. Prefers well-drained soils. Medium to fast growth rate.

White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	50-80	50-80	Full sun	High wildlife value, slow to medium growth rate. Leaves blueish-green in summer. Does NOT tolerate soil compaction or disturbance of its root zone, nor very wet soil.
Willow oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	40-60	40-60	Full sun	Moderate wildlife value, medium to fast growth rate. More tolerant of adverse soil conditions, including very wet.

Section II - Medium Shade Trees

Trees with less than 40 feet width

Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	50-100	20-35	Full sun to partial shade	Tolerant wet soils, Stately with pale green foliage turning golden and purple in fall, small 1" cones.
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	30-50	20-30	Full sun to partial shade	Tree with glossy green leaves turning brilliant red in fall, small dark blue fruit. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Medium growth rate.
Eastern hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	25-40	20-30	Sun to light shade	Hop-shaped flowers, slow growth, attractive exfoliating bark, moderate wildlife value, tolerates occasional dry soil.
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	20-35	20-35	Partial shade to full sun	Tree with fragrant white flowers and glossy green leaves, semi-evergreen. Prefers moist, acidic soils. Medium growth rate.

Section III - Small Flowering Trees

Understory trees less than 35 feet tall

Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
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Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	15-30	15-20	Full sun to partial shade	Tree with fragrant, fringe-like white flowers, attractive foliage, and blue fruit. Prefers well-drained soils. Medium growth rate.
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Section IV - Fruit Trees

Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
American Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> 'Prok'	30-40	20-30	Full sun	Tree with glossy green leaves and orange fruit, excellent for wildlife, prefers well-drained, sandy soils. Tolerant of acidic to neutral soil. Slow to medium growth rate.
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	30-60	30-40	Full sun to partial shade	Tree with fragrant white flowers and black cherries, attractive bark, thrives in well-drained soils. Acidic to neutral soil tolerance. Medium growth rate.
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	15-25	15-25	Full sun to partial shade	Tree with large, tropical-looking leaves and custard-like fruit, prefers rich, well-drained soils. Tolerant of acidic to neutral soil. Slow to medium growth rate.

Section V - Shrubs (Non-Edible)

Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	6-12	Variable	Full sun to shade	Tolerates dry to moist soils, white flowers spring, black berries, Reddish fall color, multi-stemmed. Prefers 2 for better fruiting. Deer can be issue.
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	6-12	Variable	Full sun to shade	Slender deciduous shrub with spherical white blooms, drought-tolerant, thrives in loamy or wet soils. Acidic to neutral soil tolerance. Slow to medium growth rate.

Oakleaf hydrangea	Hydrangea quercifolia	3-6	Variable	Full sun to partial shade	Shrub with large, oak-like leaves that turn purple in fall, white blooms in late spring, prefers moist, rich soil. Acidic to neutral soil tolerance. Medium growth rate.
Red osier dogwood	Cornus servicea	6-9	Variable	Partial shade	Shrub with striking red stems in winter, white blooms in early spring, prefers moist, well-drained soils. Acidic to neutral soil tolerance. Medium growth rate.
Flame Azalea	Rhododendron calendulaceum	4-8	8-10	Full sun to partial shade	Shrub with vibrant yellow to orange clusters of flowers that bloom in spring, requires moist, well-drained, acidic, loamy, or sandy soil, but does not tolerate dense clay—organic amendments are recommended. Protect it from afternoon sun to prevent leaf scorch, and it is resilient to rabbit browsing.
Winterberry	Ilex verticillata	6-12	Variable	Full sun to shade	Deciduous shrub with bright red berries remaining after leaves fall, greenish-white flowers in spring, thrives in moist, acidic soils. Acidic soil preference. Medium growth rate.

Section VI - Edible Fruit Shrubs

Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
American Beauty-berry	Callicarpa americana	6-8	6-8	Full sun to partial shade	Shrub with clusters of vibrant purple berries in fall, attractive foliage, prefers well-drained soils. The berries make great jam. Neutral to slightly acidic soil tolerance. Medium growth rate.
Common elderberry	<i>Sambucus Canadensis</i>	2-8	Variable	Full sun to shade	Tolerates dry to wet soils, white flowers in summer, purple berries in fall can be made into preserves or wine, prefers two for better fruiting.

Right Tree, Right Place, Right at Home!

- Plant trees at least 20 feet away from any overhead electric utility lines. This is the horizontal distance from the tree trunk to the wire or utility pole.
- Plant at least 10 feet from a building.
- Plant at least 10 feet from existing small trees and 20 feet from existing large trees.
- Plant trees at least 4 feet from sidewalks, driveways, patios and fences. Planting distances may also be affected by site conditions or the species.
- Plant trees at least 5 feet away from any known underground utility lines (water, gas, electric or sewer lines for example). If approved for a tree, Miss Utility will be called to check the planting location for distance to underground utilities.
- To lower your cooling costs, shade your home by planting canopy trees on the southwestern and western sides.