

Glen Rock Shade Tree Advisory Committee

Recommended Trees for Residential Planting, March 2024

When selecting a tree, always consider its maximum height and width. Do not plant too close to your house or other structures (minimum of 10 feet for small trees and 20-30 feet for large ones), and be aware of overhead power lines. Also, consider the light and water requirements for your chosen tree species.

All trees benefit the ecosystem by moderating temperatures, producing oxygen, sequestering carbon, and slowing the flow of stormwater thereby improving water quality, but native species provide many additional benefits, such as food for birds.

The *New Jersey Tree Owner's Manual* contains excellent information on all aspects of tree planting and care. It's available online at https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/pdf_files/tree_owners_manual.pdf

Tall deciduous trees (maximum height greater than 50 feet)

- Red maple, silver maple, sugar maple, freeman maple, black maple (*Acer rubrum*, *A. saccharinum*, *A. saccharum*, *Acer x freemanii*, *A. saccharum* subsp. *nigra*)
- Yellow buckeye, Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus flava*, *A. glabra*)
- Sweet birch, yellow birch, river birch, paper birch (*Betula lenta*, *B. lutea*, *B. nigra*, *B. papyrifera*)—river birch demands a moist site; all birch eventually become very large, so do not plant close to your house
- Bitternut, pignut, shagbark, pecan (*Carya cordiformis*, *C. glabra*, *C. ovata*, *C. illinoensis*)
- Northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)
- American yellowwood (*Cladastris lutens*)
- American hackberry, sugarberry (*Celtis occidentalis*, *C. laevigata*)
- White ash, green ash (*Fraxinus americana*, *F. pennsylvanica*)—beautiful, stately shade trees; need treatment to prevent emerald ash borer infestation
- Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)—non-fruiting males available
- Butternut, eastern black walnut (*Juglans cinerea*, *J. nigra*)
- American sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
- Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tuliiifera*)
- Cucumbertree magnolia, southern magnolia, (*Magnolia acuminata*, *M. grandiflora*)
- Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
- Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- White oak, swamp white oak (*Quercus alba*, *Q. bicolor*)—all native oaks are superb wildlife trees, but pay close attention to the mature size when planting; these particular species in the white oak group are less likely than others to be affected by oak wilt disease

- Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
- American linden (*Tilia americana*)
- American elm (*Ulmus americana*)—cultivars resistant to Dutch elm disease are available

Short trees (maximum height under 50 feet) and large shrubs (up to 12 feet)

Trees—may be single- or multi-trunked

- Striped maple, Chalkboard maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*, *A. saccharum* subsp. *leucoderme*)
- Red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*, *A. laevis*, *Amelanchier x grandiflora* hybrids, *A. lamarckii*)—excellent wildlife plants in full sun; *Amelanchier* species differ primarily in height, so choose by size.
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
- Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)—green foliage preferred
- White fringetree (*Chiomanthus virginiana*) - needs to be treated for emerald ash borer.
- Flowering dogwood, pagoda dogwood (*Cornus florida*, *C. alternifolia*)—highly recommended for shady sites
- American smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*)
- Hawthorne species--thornless (*Crateageus* sp.)
- Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- Carolina buckthorn (*Frangula caroliniana*)
- Carolina silverbell, two-winged silverbell, mountain silverbell (*Halesia carolina*, *H. diptera*, *H. monticola*)
- Common witch hazel, vernal witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*, *H. vernalis*)—vernal witch hazel is a large shrub
- Sweetbay magnolia (evergreen), bigleaf magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*, *M. macrophylla*)
- Sweet crabapple, prairie crabapple (*Malus coronaria*, *M. ioensis*) - if planting a cultivar, choose one with small fruits, which are better for birds
- Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)
- Hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*)
- Flameleaf sumac, smooth sumac, staghorn sumac (*Rhus copaline*, *R. glabra*, *R. typhina*)—despite a common misconception, sumacs are not poisonous, they have beautiful fall color, and they are excellent wildlife plants
- Pussy willow, black willow (*Salix discolor*, *S. nigra*)
- American mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*)
- Silky stewartia (*Stewartia malacodendron*)

Shrubs—multi-trunked

- Common alder (*Alnus serrulata*)—excellent for wet sites and for wildlife
- Red chokeberry, black chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*, *A. melanocarpa*)—beautiful spring flowers, excellent wildlife plants
- Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)—fragrant flowers in summer, prefers moist sites
- American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)—large shrub
- Smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*)—large shrub, excellent choice for shade; the popular ‘Annabelle’ hydrangeas are cultivars of this species,
- Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) – large shrub native to the deep South but does well here; prefers partial shade; cultivars of various sizes are available.
- Inkberry, winterberry (*Ilex glabra*, *I. verticillata*)—inkberry is evergreen and available in cultivars of many different sizes, so it’s a good substitute for privet; to obtain fruit, you must have at least one male plant; hollies are excellent wildlife plants
- Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)—large shrub, many cultivars available; prefers dry shade
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)—large shrub, to obtain fruit, you must have at least one male plant
- Nannyberry viburnum, blackhaw, possumhaw, American cranberry bush, arrowwood (*Viburnum lentago*, *V. prunifolium*, *V. nudum*, *V. trilobum*, *V. dentatum*)

Evergreen Trees

- Balsam fir, fraser fir (*Abies balsamea*, *A. fraseri*) - Fraser fir needs to be treated with dormant oil twice per year to protect against balsam wooly adelgid
- Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*)
- Eastern larch (*Larix laricina*)
- American holly (*Ilex opaca*)—you must have at least one male to get fruit; many cultivars of different sizes are available
- Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)
- Pitch pine, eastern white pine, jack pine, red pine, virginia pine (*Pinus rigida*, *P. strobus*, *P. banksiana*, *P. resinosa*, *P. virginiana*)
- Rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*)—shady sites
- Eastern arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*)—cultivars of many different sizes available
- Eastern hemlock, carolina hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*, *T. caroliniana*)—excellent choice for dry, shady sites; must be treated with dormant oil twice a year to protect against hemlock wooly adelgid