

Recommended Trees

A guide to choosing the right tree for the right place!



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Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Trees on this list are recommended for a variety of reasons: resistance to insects and disease, tolerance to pollution, ability to withstand drought and soil conditions, as well as landscape and ornamental value. There are many valuable trees that may not appear on this list, but check with the Delaware Forest Service to ensure the tree you select is well-suited to your home.

LARGE DECIDUOUS TREES

Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft.)	Flowers	Fall Color	Urban	USDA Zones
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	60-80		✓		3 to 8
Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	50-70	✓	✓		4 to 9
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	30-50		✓	✓	4 to 9
Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	80-100				3 to 7
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	40-70	✓	✓	✓	4 to 8
Chesnut Oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	60-70		✓	✓	4 to 8
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	50-80		✓	✓	4 to 9
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	75-100		✓	✓	3 to 7
Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	70-90		✓		4 to 8
Horse-chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	80-100	✓		✓	3 to 8
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	60-76		✓	✓	3 to 9
Littleleaf Linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	60-70	✓	✓	✓	3 to 7
Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	70-100			✓	5 to 9
Post Oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	30-50			✓	5 to 9
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	60		✓	✓	3 to 9
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	70		✓	✓	4 to 9
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	60-80		✓	✓	3 to 7
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	60-75		✓		3 to 7
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	75-100		✓		4 to 8
Willow Oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	50		✓	✓	5 to 9
Yellow-poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	70-90	✓			4 to 9

SMALL TO MEDIUM DECIDUOUS TREES

Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft.)	Flowers	Fall Color	Urban	USDA Zones
American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	20-30		✓		3 to 9
Black Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>	45-55				3 to 7
Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	25	✓	✓	✓	4 to 9
Honeylocust (thornless)	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	40-60				3 to 9
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	20-30	✓	✓	✓	5 to 8
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	20-60	✓			6 to 10
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	15-30	✓	✓	✓	4 to 9
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	15-25	✓	✓		4 to 9
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	30-60	✓	✓		4 to 9
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	20-50	✓	✓		5 to 9
Washington Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	25	✓	✓	✓	4 to 8

EVERGREENS AND CONIFERS

Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft.)	Flowers	Fall Color	Urban	USDA Zones
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	15-30			✓	5 to 9
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	50-60			✓	3 to 8
Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	40-60				3 to 7
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	70				3 to 7
Loblolly Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	60-90				6 to 9
Yew	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	5-10				2 to 6

TREES NOT RECOMMENDED

Common Name	Pest or Disease
Ash species	<i>Emerald ash borer (EAB), which kills ash trees, is now in Delaware.</i>
Northern red oak, pin oak	<i>Bacterial leaf scorch (BLS) is a fatal disease more common in red oaks.</i>
Leyland cypress	<i>Many disease and insect problems affect this tree.</i>
Hemlock	<i>Hemlock woolly adelgid, a non-native insect, infests this tree.</i>
Japanese black pine, Austrian pine	<i>Pinewood nematode has killed thousands of these non-native trees.</i>
White-barked birch species	<i>Bronze birch borer prefers white-barked species in this area.</i>
American elm	<i>Except for new resistant cultivars, most elms have died from Dutch elm disease.</i>

INVASIVES: DO NOT PLANT!

Invasive trees are not native to Delaware. Some non-natives, such as Norway spruce and ginkgo, are acceptable as new plantings. However, invasive trees tend to grow quickly and they can displace our native vegetation. Experts devote large amounts of time and money each year to control the growth of these invasive trees.

INVASIVE TREES: Norway Maple, Tree of Heaven, Paulownia, Mimosa, White Mulberry, Bradford Pear, Chinese Elm