

# Trees

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**Extension Specialist - Ornamentals**



# Landscape Trees for Specific Uses

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Trees add a great deal of value to our landscapes. They add value in a variety of ways including providing shade, reducing energy costs on buildings and homes, increasing property values, stabilizing soil, improving the health of our environment and adding beauty to our landscapes.

Trees are planted in the landscape for a variety of aesthetic and environmental reasons. In locations where trees may be planted near or under utility wires, the ultimate size of the tree must be considered so long-term conflicts do not develop. A number of large shrubs or small trees can provide planting options near or under utility wires (Table 1). Trees also offer options as street trees (Table 2), in narrow planting situations (Table 3), and as lawn or shade trees (Table 4). Some trees are less desirable than others due to short lifespan or excessive debris from flowers, fruits or brittle wood (Table 5). Before planting any vegetation, contact Arkansas One Call (<http://www.arkonecall.com/>;

1-800-482-8998) to locate any underground utilities. Unless specified otherwise in local ordinances, trees and other vegetation should not be planted within 10 feet of any utility service equipment, including access boxes for buried power lines.



Globe Norway Maple (Table 1)



Green Vase Zelkova (Table 2)



Sugar Maple (Table 4)



Columnar Red Maple (Table 3)

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Table 2. Trees appropriate in urban settings as street trees.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Landscape Size: height x width	Remarks
<i>Acer platanoides</i> 'Cleveland'	Norway Maple	45' x 30'	Upright oval; no fall color; probably best in NW Ark.
<i>Acer rubrum</i> (Red Sunset™, October Glory™)	Red Maple	65' x 60'	Red fall color
<i>Acer x Norwegian Sunset</i> ™	Maple	35' x 25'	Red fall color
<i>Carpinus detulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	European Hornbeam	25' x 15'	Yellowish fall color
<i>Corylus colurna</i>	Turkish Filbert	45' x 25'	Strong pyramidal shape
<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	Hardy Rubber Tree	45' x 45'	Unattractive when young
<i>Fraxinus americana</i> ('Autumn Purple', 'Autumn Applause')	White Ash	65' x 65'	Purple/orange fall color
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (male)	Ginkgo	70' x 55'	Butler yellow fall color
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i> ('Moraine', 'Shademaster', 'Skyline')	Thornless Honeylocust	45' x 45'	Small leaf litter
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> - male ('Espresso', 'Prairie Titan'™)	Kentucky Coffeetree	60' x 60'	
<i>Lagerstroemia</i> sp. (many suitable tree cultivars)	Crapemyrtle	15' to 40' tall	Summer flws.
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (mostly seedless cultivars such as 'Rotundiloba', 'Cherokee'™)	Sweetgum	55' x 45'	
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood	45' x 30'	Burnt orange fall color
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American Hornbeam	40' x 25'	
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	25' x 25'	Fall color variable; male clones preferred
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Baldcypress	55' x 45'	
<i>Tetradium</i> (Evodi) <i>daniellii</i>	Korean Evodia	30' x 30'	Interesting flws. and fruits
<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire'	Littleleaf Linden	40' x 30'	
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> (Alee™, Athena™)	Chinese/Lacebark Elm	40' x 35'	
<i>Ulmus x 'Frontier'</i>	Elm	25' x 15'	U.S. Nat'l Arb. Release
<i>Ulmus wilsoniana</i> 'Prospector'	Elm	50' x 25'	U.S. Nat'l Arb. Release
<i>Zelkova serrata</i> (Green Vase™, 'Village Green')	Zelkova	35' x 35'	Vase shaped

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Plant Database Introduction

This plant list reflects a typical palette of plants sold in the Arkansas nursery trade or plants commonly found in the Arkansas landscape. Plants followed by an asterisk (\*) are not generally recommended for sale and use but are included on the list for identification purposes.

This list is arranged by both common name and scientific name. Select from lists of Groundcovers, Landscape Shrubs, Landscape Trees, Ornamental Grasses, Perennials, Turf, and Vines.



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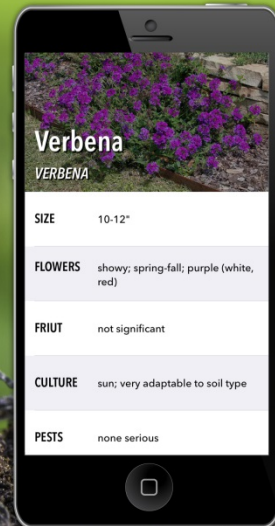
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*Acer palmatum* var. *atropurpureum*  
Redleaf Japanese Maple

# *Acer palmatum* var. *atropurpureum*

## Redleaf Japanese Maple

- **Size:** typically small tree (8' to 15')
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** depending on cultivar, can be colorful
- **Culture:** avoid windy sites; requires moist soil especially in summer; typically not well suited to full sun in Arkansas
- **Cultivars:** variety *atropurpureum* is a large group of red foliage forms; cultivars include 'Bloodgood' and 'Trompenberg'





**Seedling variation**

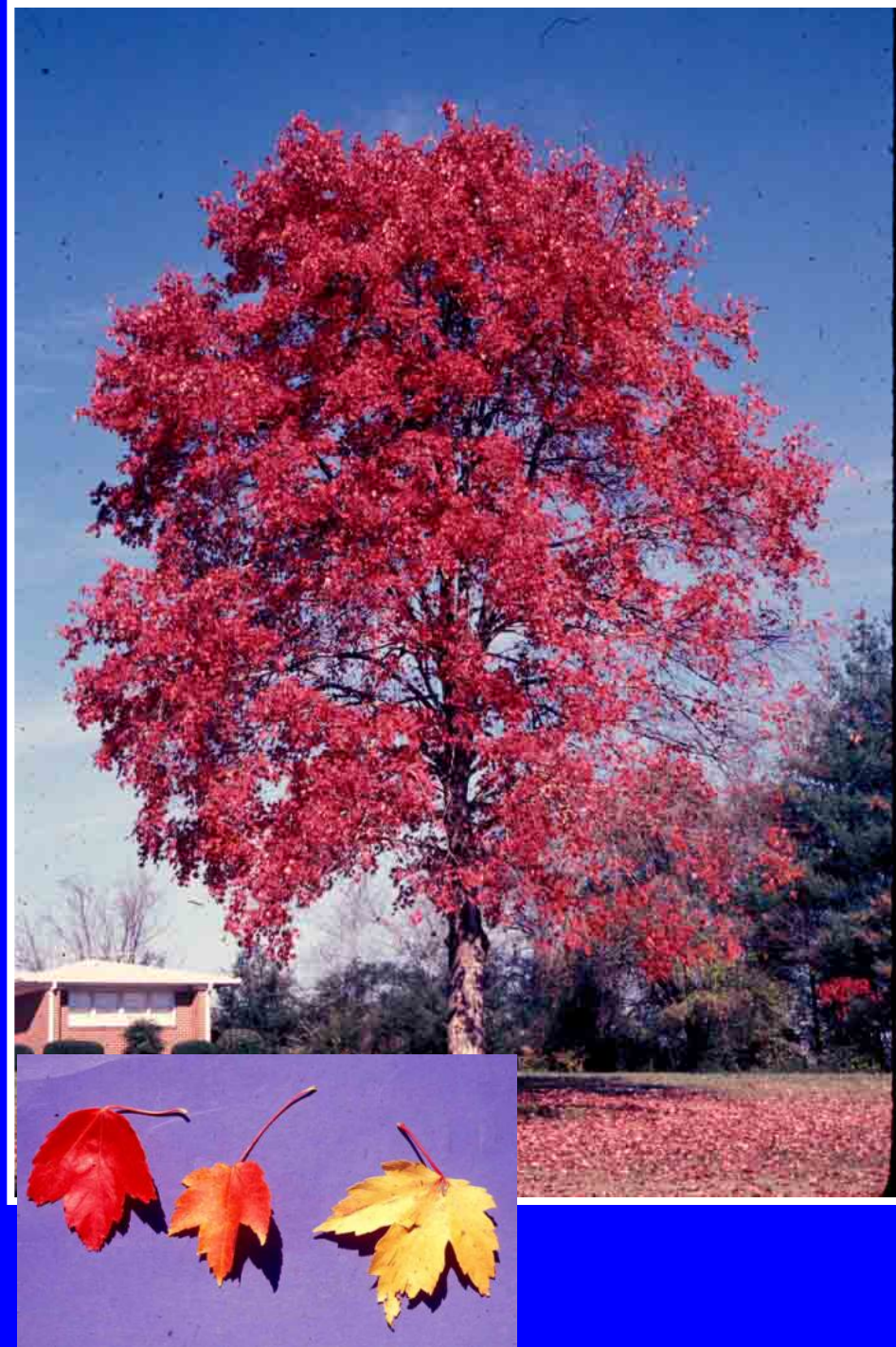
**Variation in leaf color**





*Acer rubrum*

Red Maple







**Male flowers**



**Fruit (samara)**

# *Acer rubrum*

## Red Maple

- **Size:** medium-sized shade tree (60'); fast growing
- **Flowers/Fruit:** although small, adds distinctive red color to landscape in early spring
- **Fall Color:** variable (reason for cultivars) but excellent; typically red
- **Culture:** tolerant of soil type; fast growing
- **Use:** street tree, lawn shade tree
- **Cultivars:** 'October Glory', 'Red Sunset', 'Autumn Flame'; native from Florida to Canada in river bottoms





**Pointed bud; petiole sap clear**



*Acer saccharum*  
**Sugar Maple**



# *Acer saccharum*

## Sugar Maple

- **Size:** medium- to large-sized shade tree (65' tall by 55' wide)
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** exceptional orange/red fall color
- **Culture:** best in moist, rich soil; intolerant of heat and dry sites; **typically best suited in Northwest Arkansas**
- **Use:** shade tree in Northwest Arkansas
- **Cultivars:** 'Legacy', 'John Pair'





*Betula nigra*  
River Birch



# *Betula nigra*

## River Birch

- **Size:** small-sized tree (35' tall by 25' wide)
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** yellowish; beautiful, exfoliating bark
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant; avoid alkaline soils (iron chlorosis)
- **Use:** small landscape tree; typically selected for attractive bark
- **Cultivars:** Heritage™ (salmon white bark), Dura-Heat™





*Cercis canadensis*  
Eastern Redbud

# *Cercis canadensis*

## Eastern Redbud

- **Size:** small-sized tree (18' tall by 18' wide)
- **Flowers:** very attractive, pink-purple (white form 'Alba' also available but not as common) flowers; early spring
- **Fruit:** small pod
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Culture:** best in partial shade; best with constant moisture
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant; occasional canker
- **Use:** specimen small flowering tree; woodland
- **Cultivars:** 'Oklahoma' (texensis), more drought tolerant, 'Alba' (white-flowered form)





*Chionanthus virginicus*

Fringetree

# *Chionanthus virginicus*

## Fringetree, Grancy Gray-beard

- **Size:** large shrub/small-sized tree (20' tall by 20' wide)
- **Flowers:** dramatic, lacy, white flowers in mid-April
- **Fruit:** not significant; dark blue drupe
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Culture:** adaptable; even flowers well in shade
- **Disease/Insect:** none
- **Use:** woodland landscape; native





*Cornus florida*

**Eastern Flowering Dogwood**

# *Cornus florida*

## Eastern Flowering Dogwood

- **Size:** small-sized tree (15' tall by 20' wide)
- **Flowers:** exceptional flower (bracts) display in early spring
- **Fruit:** noticeable red fruits in spring
- **Fall Color:** attractive maroon
- **Culture:** best in partial shade and adequate moisture during Arkansas summer months
- **Disease/Insect:** leaf spots
- **Use:** small, flowering tree; woodland
- **Cultivars:** many for larger bracts and bract color (pink)





*Cornus kousa*  
Kousa Dogwood

# *Cornus kousa*

## Kousa Dogwood

- **Size:** small-sized tree (18' tall by 22' wide)
- **Flowers:** 3 to 4 weeks after *C. florida*; bract is pointed in contrast to *C. florida* (notched)
- **Fruit:** red, looks like a strawberry
- **Fall Color:** nice, orange-red fall color
- **Culture:** slightly more tolerant of heat than *C. florida*
- **Disease/Insect:** none serious
- **Use:** small flowering tree





*Fraxinus americana*

White Ash



White Ash    Green Ash



White Ash    Green Ash

# *Fraxinus americana*

## White Ash

- **Size:** medium- to large-sized tree (65' tall by 65' wide)
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** nice, purple fall color
- **Culture:** very adaptable to soils
- **Disease/Insect:** none serious
- **Use:** shade tree; very fast growing; favored over green ash
- **Cultivars:** 'Autumn Purple', 'Royal Purple'





*Ginkgo biloba*

**Ginkgo**

# *Ginkgo biloba*

## Ginkgo

- **Size:** medium- to large-sized tree (75' tall by 60' wide); slow growing
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** 1" 'plum'; avoid female trees (very foul-smelling fruits)
- **Fall Color:** excellent clear yellow; distinctive webbed leaf
- **Culture:** very tough tree; good urban tree
- **Use:** street tree, lawn tree





*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*

Thornless Honeylocust



*Gleditsia triacanthos*



# *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*

## Thornless Common Honeylocust

- **Size:** medium- to large-sized tree (60' tall by 60' wide); very fast growing
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** 12" long, twisted pod; messy; you do not want a female honeylocust
- **Fall Color:** nice yellow
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Use:** street tree; lawn tree for light shade
- **Cultivars:** 'Shademaster', 'Moraine' and 'Sunburst' are fruitless (males) and thornless (var. *inermis*)





*Koelreuteria paniculata*

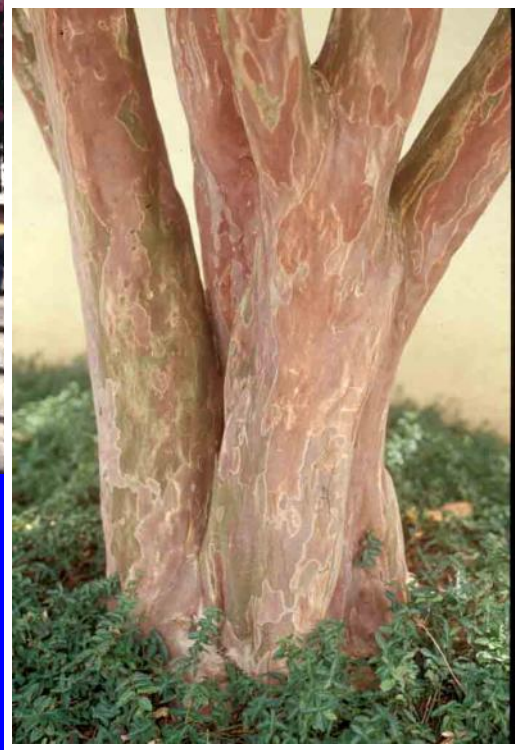
Goldenraintree

# *Koelreuteria paniculata*

## Goldenraintree

- **Size:** small-sized tree (25' tall by 30' wide)
- **Flowers:** exceptional summer-flowering tree; deep yellow, terminal panicles
- **Fruit:** bladder-like fruit capsule
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Culture:** adaptable
- **Use:** small, flowering tree





*Lagerstroemia indica*  
Crapemyrtle

# *Lagerstroemia indica*

## Crapemyrtle

- **Size:** small shrub to small-sized tree (3' to 40' tall)
- **Flowers:** exceptional summer flowering plant; flower colors vary from white to pink to purple
- **Fruit:** woody capsule; not showy and somewhat messy
- **Fall Color:** nice flame colors on some cultivars
- **Bark:** exceptional on some tree cultivars ('Natchez', 'Biloxi')
- **Culture:** full sun; drought tolerant once established
- **Disease/Insect:** powdery mildew, leaf spot
- **Use:** specimen, summer-flowering shrub/tree; best in zones 7 and 8
- **Cultivars:** many for size and flower color
- **[See Crapemyrtle Database for cultivars](#)**



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Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia*) Cultivars

Cultivar	Flower Color	Size/habit	Parentage	Exfoliating Bark <sup>x</sup>	Susceptibility to Powdery Mildew <sup>z</sup>	Susceptibility to Leaf Spot <sup>y</sup>	Fall Color
Basham's Party Pink	lavender-pink	30'/broad tree	hybrid	good	R	R	-
Biloxi	light pink	28' x 14'	hybrid	exceptional	R	MS	orange red
Byer's Standard Red	soft red	25'/upright vase	indica	fair	MS	MS	orange
Fantasy	white	25'/upright vase	fauriei	exceptional	VR	VR	-
Kiowa	white	25' x 23'	fauriei	exceptional	-	VR	-
Miami	dark pink	24' x 14'	hybrid	exceptional	VR	MS	orange
Muskogee	light lavender	25' x 20'	hybrid	fair	R	MS	red orange
Natchez	white	28' x 25'	hybrid	exceptional	VR	R	red orange
Townhouse	white	25'/ upright vase	fauriei	exceptional	R	R	-





*Liquidambar styraciflua*

Sweetgum







# *Liquidambar styraciflua*

## Sweetgum

- **Size:** large-sized tree (75' tall by 50' wide), fast growing
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** obnoxious woody capsule, spiny ball
- **Fall Color:** variable, but often very attractive
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Disease/Insect:** shade tree with messy fruits; shallow rooted
- **Cultivars:** select mostly fruitless cultivars: 'Rotundiloba', Cherokee™:





*Liriodendron tulipifera*

Tulip-poplar





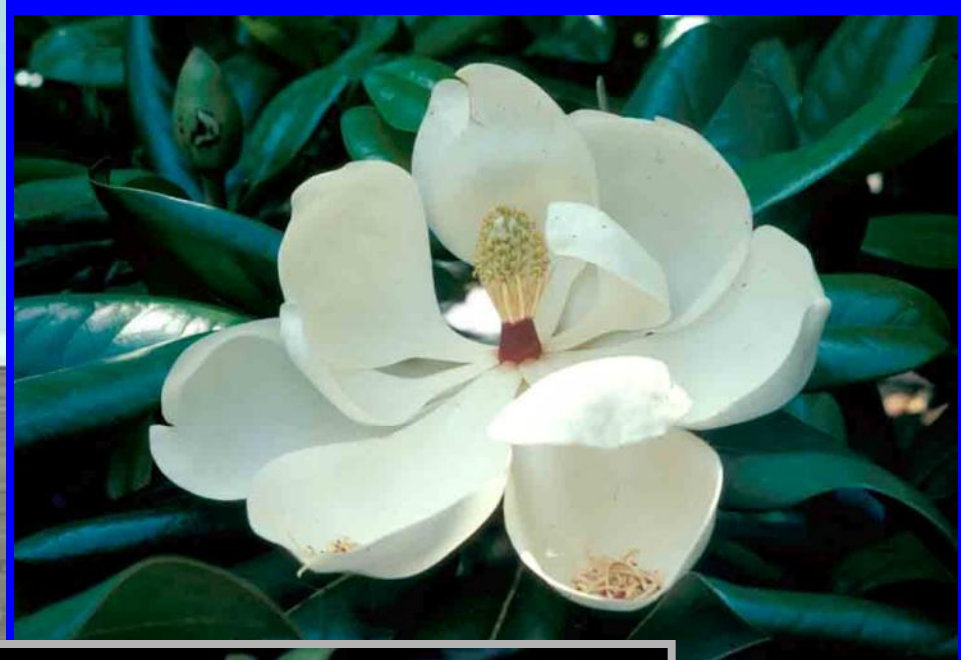




# *Liriodendron tulipifera*

## Tuliptree; Tulip-poplar

- **Size:** large shade tree (75' tall by 45' wide); taller than wide; very fast growing
- **Flowers:** unique “tulip” flowers in May/June
- **Fruit:** not significant and somewhat messy
- **Fall Color:** clear yellow
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Use:** shade tree, woodland



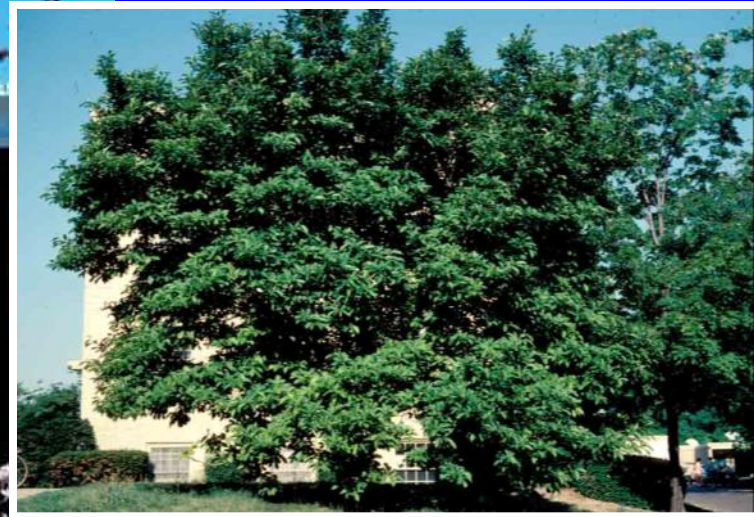
*Magnolia grandiflora*  
Southern Magnolia



# *Magnolia grandiflora*

## Southern Magnolia

- **Size:** medium-sized tree (55' tall by 50' wide)
- **Flowers:** large, white flowers during summer
- **Fruit:** somewhat messy
- **Fall Color:** none; broadleaf evergreen; messy leaves
- **Culture:** full sun; adaptable to soils
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant
- **Use:** signature tree of the South; requires quite a bit of room



*Magnolia x  
soulangiana*

**Saucer Magnolia**



# *Magnolia x soulangiana*

## Saucer Magnolia

- **Size:** small-sized tree (22' tall by 22' wide)
- **Flowers:** urn-shaped, early spring (March), pink/white; easily damaged by frosts
- **Fruit:** none
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Culture:** full sun; requires deep, rich, moist soil
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant
- **Use:** single-season plant that is hard to beat when in flower



*Morus alba 'Pendula'*

**Weeping White Mulberry**



# *Morus alba 'Pendula'*

## **Weeping White Mulberry**

- **Size:** small, specimen tree
- **Flowers/Fruit:** not significant; typically a male form so no problem with messy fruits
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Culture:** very adaptable to soil; full sun
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant
- **Use:** specimen
- **Cultivars:** 'Chaparral', 'Pendula'



*Pinus taeda*  
Loblolly Pine





# *Pinus taeda*

## Loblolly Pine

- **Size:** medium-sized tree (50' tall by 35' wide)
- **Needles:** 3 (sometimes 2) per bundle; 6" to 10" long
- **Culture:** full sun; very adaptable to soil; very common timber tree across Arkansas



*Pistacia chinensis*  
Chinese Pistache



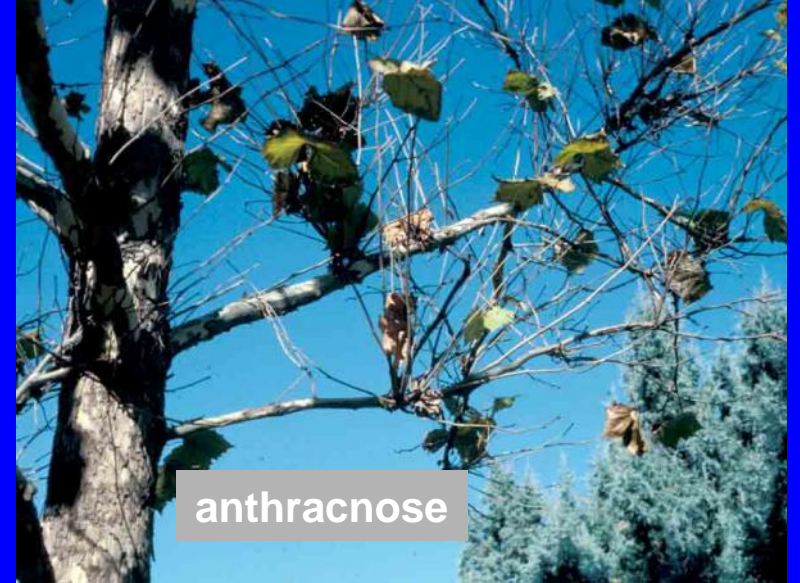
Male flowers



# *Pistacia chinensis*

## Chinese Pistache

- **Size:** small-sized tree (25' tall by 25' wide); rounded crown
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** pistache fruits on female trees; dioecious (male and female plants)
- **Fall Color:** exceptional, but varies in color from red to orange or yellow
- **Culture:** full sun; drought tolerant
- **Disease/Insect:** none serious
- **Use:** small shade tree



anthracnose



*Platanus x acerifolia*

London Planetree





# *Platanus x acerifolia*

## London Planetree

- **Size:** very large-sized tree (75' tall by 75' wide); very fast growing
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** **2 fruit “balls” per stalk**
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Bark:** very attractive; exfoliates to the ground
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Disease/Insect:** anthracnose
- **Use:** parks, pastures, large commercial properties; messy (anthracnose, leaf and twig litter)
- **Cultivars:** **hybrid of native (*P. occidentalis*) and oriental species**



*Platanus occidentalis*  
Sycamore



*P. X acerifolia*



*P. occidentalis*



# *Platanus occidentalis*

## American Sycamore

- **Size:** large-sized tree (75' tall by 75' wide); very fast growing
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** **1 fruit per stalk**
- **Bark:** not quite as nice as London planetree, exfoliating mainly on upper trunk
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Disease/Insect:** susceptible to anthracnose
- **Use:** parks; very messy (twigs, leaves); **native to river bottoms**



*Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan'  
Flowering Cherry



# *Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan'

## Flowering Cherry

- **Size:** small-sized tree (12' tall by 12' wide); distinct vase shape
- **Flowers:** beautiful, early spring flowers; double, light pink
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Culture:** full sun; requires constant moisture
- **Use:** specimen flowering tree



*Prunus subhirtella* 'Pendula'  
Higan Weeping Cherry



# *Prunus subhirtella 'Pendula'*

## Weeping Higan Cherry

- **Size:** small-sized tree (18' tall by 18' wide); weeping
- **Flowers:** beautiful, early spring flowers; light pink
- **Fruit:** not significant; pea-sized, red
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Culture:** full sun; best in rich, moist soil
- **Use:** fabulous weeping specimen



*Pyrus calleryana*

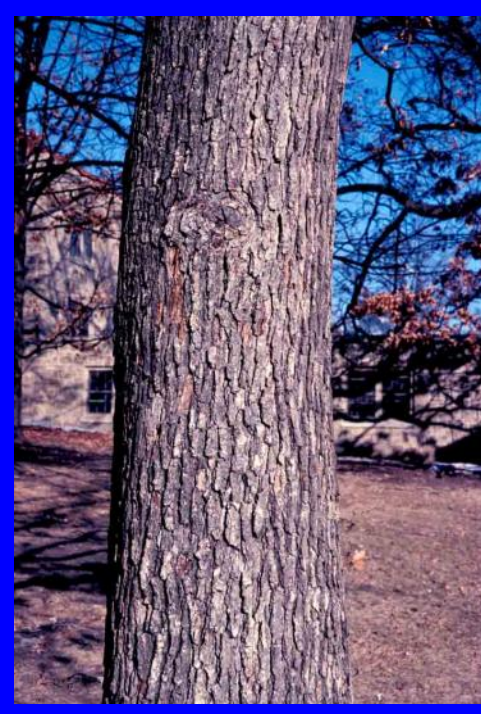
Callery Pear



# *Pyrus calleryana*

## Callery Pear

- **Size:** small/medium-sized tree (25' tall by 20' wide)
- **Flowers:** beautiful, early spring flowers; white
- **Fruit:** small, rounded pear
- **Fall Color:** exceptional maroon fall color
- **Culture:** very adaptable to soils, full sun
- **Disease/Insect:** fireblight
- **Use:** small flowering tree; growing concern over overplanting, fireblight, crown break-up on 'Bradford'
- **Cultivars:** 'Bradford', 'Aristocrat', 'Capital', 'Chanticleer'



*Quercus alba*

White Oak



# *Quercus alba*

## White Oak

- **Size:** large-sized tree (75' tall by 55' wide)
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** exceptional maroon
- **Culture:** probably best in rich, deep soils
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant
- **Use:** excellent large shade tree
- **White oak group (rounded leaf lobes); acorn germinates in the fall**



*Quercus nigra*

Water Oak



# *Quercus nigra*

## Water Oak

- **Size:** medium- to large-sized tree (60' tall by 60' wide)
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** no fall color; semi-evergreen; distinctive leaf shape
- **Culture:** adaptable to soils
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant
- **Use:** shade tree; red oak group



Pin Oak

N. Red Oak



Pin Oak

N. Red Oak

*Quercus palustris*

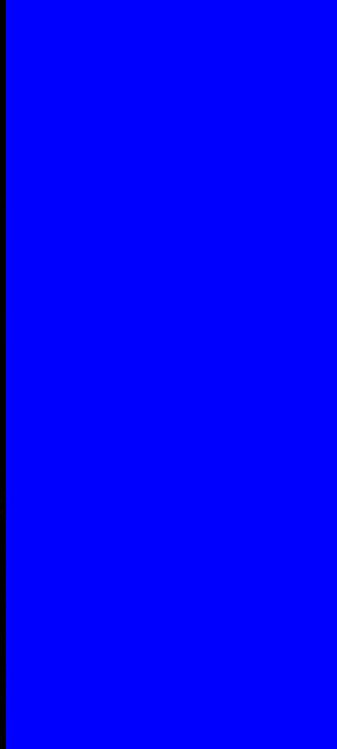
Pin Oak



# *Quercus palustris*

## Pin Oak

- **Size:** medium- to large-sized tree (65' tall by 45' wide)
- **Flowers/Fruit:** not significant; small acorn
- **Fall Color:** excellent maroon fall color
- **Culture:** fairly adaptable to most soils except high pH (iron chlorosis)
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant
- **Use:** street tree; shade tree
- **Red oak group** (lobes pointed)
- **Likely confused with** *Q. coccinea* (Scarlet Oak) and *Q. shumardii* (Shumard Oak) in trade (Shumard Oak) in trade



*Quercus phellos*  
Willow Oak



# *Quercus phellos*

## Willow Oak

- **Size:** medium- to large-sized tree (60' tall by 60' wide)
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** fair; dull orange at best; narrow, willow-like leaves
- **Culture:** very adaptable to soils
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant
- **Use:** probably in top three most common shade trees sold in Arkansas; red oak group (bristle tip; acorns ripen in two years)



*Quercus rubra*  
Northern Red Oak



# *Quercus rubra*

## Northern Red Oak

- **Size: medium- to large-sized tree (65' tall by 65' wide)**
- **Flowers: not significant**
- **Fruit: not significant**
- **Fall Color: exceptional maroon fall color**
- **Culture: very adaptable**
- **Disease/Insect: none significant**
- **Use: great shade tree**
- **Red oak group**



*Salix alba* 'Tristis'  
Weeping Willow



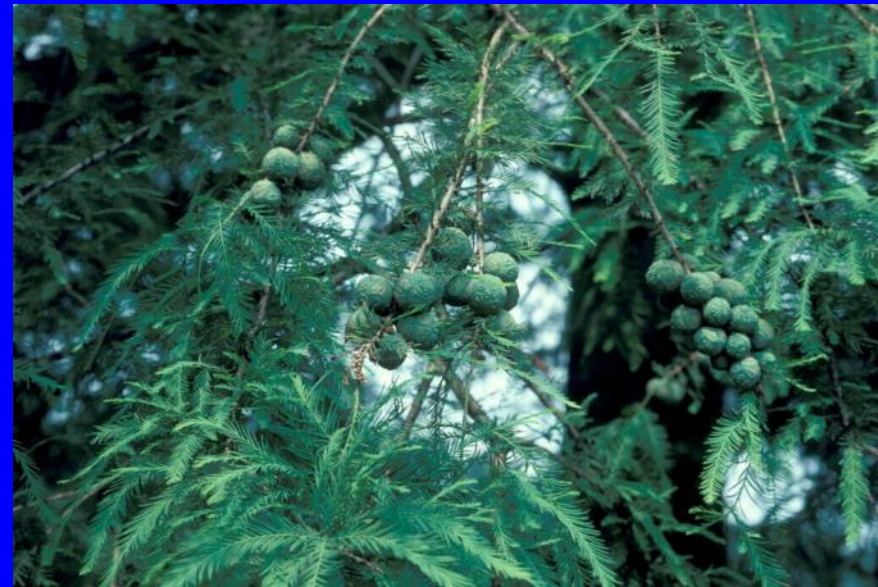
# *Salix alba 'Tristis'*

## Weeping Willow

- **Size:** cascading habit; 30' tall by 35' wide
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Culture:** loves wet soils, however, tolerates dry soils
- **Disease/Insect:** none serious
- **Use:** useful near ponds and streams; do not plant near septic lines; short-lived



'knees'



*Taxodium distichum*  
Baldcypress



# ***Taxodium distichum***

## **Baldcypress**

- **Size: medium-sized, deciduous conifer tree (50' tall by 40' wide)**
- **Flowers: not significant**
- **Fruit: not significant**
- **Fall Color: nice red-brown fall color**
- **Culture: very adaptable from wet to dry**
- **Disease/Insect: none serious**
- **Use: deciduous shade tree, deer camps, urban tree**
- **Native to wet areas in Arkansas**



*Ulmus parvifolia*  
Chinese Elm



# *Ulmus parvifolia*

## Chinese Elm; Lacebark Elm

- **Size:** medium-sized tree (50' tall by 45' wide)
- **Flowers/fruits:** not significant
- **Fall color:** typically not great in Arkansas;  
leaves small and glossy
- **Bark:** known for exfoliating bark
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Use:** lawn tree, good urban tree
- **Cultivars:** Allee®, Athena®, 'Drake'