



Arlington Tree Planting Program Species – Spring 2024

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.

Common Name	Genus Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
Section I - Large Shade Trees: may have width greater than 40 feet					
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.
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	60-75	60-75	Full sun to partial shade	High wildlife value, medium to fast growth rate. Prefers loamy soil, tolerates clay but not very wet soil. Better at tolerating urban conditions. Usually deep red fall color.
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	Striking fall color, corky ridges on branches, spiky gumballs in fall and winter, moderate wildlife value, growth rate is medium-fast. Bright green star shaped leaves.
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

Bald cypress	<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.
Black gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	30-50	20-30	Full sun to partial shade	Leaves lustrous dark green summer, striking fall color, high wildlife value, slow to medium growth, tolerates many soils (loam, clay, sandy, acidic, wet to well-drained).
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.

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.