

Baker County Arboretum Tree Tour

Learn about the unique tree species in the arboretum and their landscape uses!

Eastside

(pages 2-5)

Cabbage Palm
 Weeping Yaupon Holly
 'Autumn Flame' Red Maple
 Maidenhair Tree (Ginkgo)
 American Holly
 'Little Gem' Magnolia
 Longleaf Pine
 Rusty Blackhaw
 Fringe Tree
 White Ash
 White Oak
 Flowering Dogwood
 Cape Myrtle
 Black Walnut

Northside

(pages 6-9)

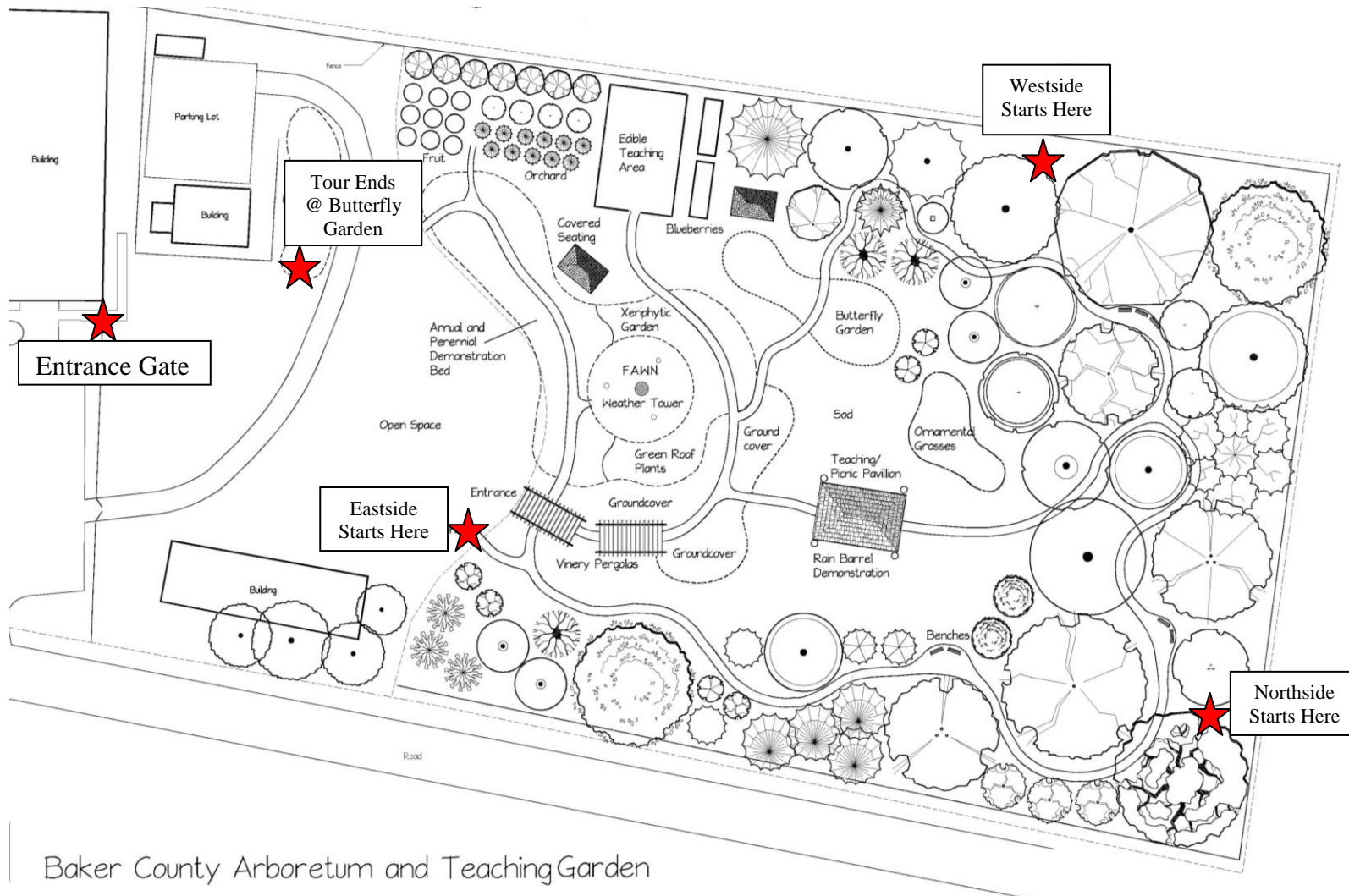
Winged Elm
 Southern Catalpa
 Tulip Poplar
 Swamp Chestnut Oak
 Green Ash
 'Red Sunset' Red Maple
 American Beech
 'Dura Heat' River Birch
 Mockernut Hickory
 Eastern Hophornbeam
 American Basswood
 American Elm
 Chickasaw Plum
 'High Rise' Live Oak

Westside

(pages 10-13)

Shumard Oak
 Florida Maple
 Flatwoods Plum
 'Pakistan' Red Mulberry
 Southern Red Cedar
 Sweet Gum
 Pignut Hickory
 American Hornbeam
 Spruce Pine
 Common Persimmon
 'Drake' Chinese Elm
 Japanese Persimmon
 'Oklahoma' Redbud

➤ A tour of the Arboretum takes approx. 1 ½ hrs; visitors may use this tree fact sheet for a self-guided tour.



Eastside

Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*)

- The Cabbage Palm is Florida's state tree and is well-suited for landscapes, reaching 40 to 50 feet in height. Cabbage Palm is topped with a very dense, 10 to 15-foot-diameter, round crown of deeply cut, curved, palmate leaves. The four to five-foot-long, creamy white, showy flower stalks in the summer are followed by small, shiny, green to black fruits which are relished by squirrels, raccoons, and other wildlife.
- Cabbage palm is about as hurricane-proof as a tree can be. They stand after many hurricanes have blown over the oaks and snapped the pines in two. They adapt well to small cutouts in the sidewalk, and can even create shade if planted on 6- to 10-foot centers.
- Cabbage Palm is exceptionally easy to transplant and will thrive in full sun or partial shade. It will adapt to slightly brackish water as well as dry, sandy locations and requires no special care once established. But it needs to be watered regularly until established since all cut roots die back to the trunk after transplanting. New roots are regenerated from the base of the trunk and require warm soil temperatures and plenty of water to survive. There is evidence showing that removing all the fronds increases transplant survival. (Which is why ours have no leaves – we are still waiting for them to fan out.)
- If you can't afford to purchase a transplant, trees can be started from seed which germinate readily.
- There are a few insect pests to watch for: the Giant palm weevil, cabbage palm caterpillar, and a large number of scales infest cabbage palm. The giant palm weevil attacks recently transplanted palms and can kill them. (So keep them well watered during establishment!)

Weeping Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria 'Pendula'*)

- Weeping Yaupon Holly makes a very distinct, irregular, weeping form with its upright crooked trunks and slender, curved, pendulous branches and small, oval, grey-green foliage.
- Weeping Yaupon Holly is most often seen 15 to 20 feet tall with a spread of only 6 to 12 feet. Old plants will spread to 25 feet.
- The flowers attract bees for several weeks and are followed in fall and winter by a spectacular display of red berries which attract wildlife. The inconspicuous male and female flowers appear on separate plants so purchase plants with berries on them (females) if you want a berry-producing tree.
- The tree is best used as an accent or specimen due to its unusual form, but planted about 8 to 10 feet apart makes a nice screen in the full sun.
- Weeping Yaupon Holly is adaptable to a wide range of cultural conditions, from well-drained to wet, acid to alkaline, and sun to part-shade. It is very tolerant of drought and sea salt, and is one of the most durable and adaptable of the small-leaved evergreen Hollies for use in southern landscapes.
- Light pruning may be necessary to maintain shape, but unlike the species it requires less maintenance because it does not sprout from the roots.

'Autumn Flame' Red Maple (*Acer rubrum 'Autumn Flame'*)

- This cultivar of Red Maple has a round shape and is a fast grower with strong wood, reaching a height of 45 to 50 feet. The crown is denser and more uniform than the species.
- The newly emerging leaves and red flowers and fruits signal that spring has come. The seeds of Red Maple are quite popular with squirrels and birds.
- The outstanding ornamental characteristic of this cultivar of Red Maple is the consistently good red to yellow fall color lasting several weeks. It is often one of the first trees to color up in autumn, and it puts on one of the most brilliant displays of any tree. Leaves also persist longer than the common red maple.

Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)

- Extinct in the wild, the Ginkgo tree is native to China where it was discovered growing in temple gardens. This tree is practically pest-free, resistant to storm damage, and casts light to moderate shade. Young trees are often very open but they fill in to form a denser canopy, growing slowly to 75 feet or more.
- The tree has a vivid yellow fall color which is second to none in brilliance, even in the south. However, leaves fall quickly and the fall color show is short.
- Female plants are wider-spreading than the males, but only male plants should be used since female plants produce foul smelling fruit in late autumn. (Some say the fruit smells like rotting flesh!) The only way to select a male plant is to purchase a named cultivar including 'Autumn Gold', 'Fastigiata', 'Princeton Sentry', and 'Lakeview' because there is no reliable way to select a male plant from a seedling until it fruits. It could take as long as 20 years or more for Ginkgo to fruit.
- Ginkgo may grow extremely slow for several years after planting, but will then pick up and grow at a moderate rate, particularly if it receives an adequate supply of water and some fertilizer. But do not overwater or plant in a poorly-drained area. Be sure to keep turf several feet away from the trunk to help trees become established.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)

- A popular landscape plant since the beginning of American history, this broad-leaved evergreen has served a variety of uses through the years. The American Indians used preserved Holly berries as decorative buttons and were much sought after by other tribes who bartered for them. The wood has been used for making canes, scroll work and furniture, and has even been substituted for ebony in inlay work when stained black.
- American Holly is a beautifully shaped tree, with a symmetrical, dense, wide pyramidal form. The spiny, dull green leaves are accented with clusters of red berries which persist throughout the fall and winter. Male and female flowers appear on separate trees and trees of both sexes must be located in the same neighborhood to ensure production of berries on the female plants.
- American Holly is ideal for use as a street or courtyard tree (with lower branches removed), specimen, barrier planting or screen.
- This native tree is ideal for naturalizing on moist, slightly acid soils, and the fruit is very attractive to wildlife, serving as an excellent food source. A 35-foot-tall tree can be 20 feet wide in 40 years.
- Growing well in full sun to partial shade, American Holly should be located on fertile, well-drained but moist, slightly acid soils. Berry production is highest in full sun on female trees. American Holly foliage thins during drought (and our trees are a good example of this right now) but these are tough trees with minimal insect and disease problems.

'Little Gem' Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem')

- This cultivar (man-made variety) of Southern Magnolia has a compact, upright growth habit more typical of a multi-stemmed shrub than a single-trunked tree. It grows at a slow rate to a height of perhaps 30 to 35 feet with an 8 to 12-foot spread, and forms a dense, dark green oval or pyramidal shape, making it suited for screen or hedge planting.
- The leathery, shiny leaves are shed as new foliage emerges in the spring (which is beginning to happen now on our trees). The large, slowly-decomposing leaves drop on the sidewalk or patio and are considered by some people to be messy or a nuisance to clean up.
- In late spring and sporadically throughout the summer, huge, 8-inch-diameter, fragrant, white blossoms open to perfume the entire garden. Fuzzy brown cones follow these blooms, ripening in fall and winter to reveal bright red seeds which are used by a variety of wildlife.
- If moist, organic soils are available, these trees will thrive in full sun and hot conditions once established. If irrigation cannot be provided periodically, plants located in partial shade for several years after planting seem to grow better. Very drought tolerant when grown in areas with plenty of soil for root expansion. Only moderately drought tolerant in restricted-soil areas or in areas with poor, dry soil. Southern Magnolia prefers acid soil but will tolerate a slightly basic, even wet or clay soil.

Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*)

- Longleaf pine is the legendary southern yellow pine of forest history. While the tall, stately longleaf pine once covered 30 to 60 million acres of the southeastern United States Coastal Plain, 200 years of logging and land clearing have greatly reduced its range. Longleaf pine takes 100 to 150 years to become full size and can live to 300 years old, reaching 80 to 125 feet in height with a 30 to 40-foot-spread.
- Longleaf Pine stays in its tufted, grass-like stage for five to seven years after germinating, growing very slowly while it develops a root system, then takes off at a moderate rate. If you look closely, you will see a few pines still in the grass stage planted among the other pine trees in the arboretum.
- A distinctive characteristic of Longleaf Pine is the new growth clusters, or buds, which are silvery white during the winter. The inconspicuous spring flowers are followed by a large, spiny cone, 6 to 10 inches long, which persist on the tree for a couple of years.
- Longleaf Pine is not usually planted in landscapes, but could be used due to its beautiful bark and nice, open habit. Just give it room to grow, with plenty of overhead space.
- Longleaf Pine should be grown in full sun or partial shade on well-drained, acidic soil. Once established, trees are very drought-tolerant and require no irrigation for survival.

Rusty Blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum*)

- Rusty Blackhaw forms a multiple or (occasionally) single-trunked small tree or large shrub, reaching 25 feet in height with an equal spread. Trunks usually grow no thicker than six inches and arch away from the tree, forming a pleasing, vase-shaped crown.
- Leaves are dark green, three inches long, leathery, and extremely glossy. The tree is covered in springtime with striking five-inch-wide clusters of small, white blooms. These flowers are followed by clusters of dark blue, waxy fruits that are extremely popular with wildlife and will occasionally persist on the plant from September throughout the autumn, if not eaten by wildlife. In fall, Rusty Blackhaw puts on a brilliant display of scarlet red to purple foliage.
- Rusty Blackhaw will grow and look nice in full sun or partial shade on any reasonably fertile, well-drained soil. The tree will also grow in shade but forms a more open habit and flowering is significantly reduced.
- Although tolerant of drought, it will not tolerate compacted soil. This would be a good tree for planting beneath power lines and in other limited space areas. Useful as a hedge, specimen, or border tree, this deciduous tree adapts well to urban areas. Pests are usually not a major problem.

Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

- Fringe tree (also known as Old Man's Beard) is one of the most beautiful flowering trees during spring bloom. Flowers are white with ribbon-like petals giving it the look of fringe. It blooms about the same time as dogwoods and azaleas, but often kicks in just as the dogwood blooms are fading. Fringetree is attractive to a variety of insects while in bloom, and to birds and small mammals when fruiting.
- The bark of the fringe tree is a source of tonic and has been used as a diuretic and fever reducer.
- The tree reaches 20-30 feet in height, with about equal spread. The fringe tree grows on moist, rich soil near streams, but is adaptable to a variety of light and soil conditions, making it good for use in landscapes.

White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

- White Ash grows 50 to 80 feet tall and wide. The tree grows rapidly and is almost pyramidal when young, but gradually slows down and develops a more spreading round or oval shape. A good tree for large open areas but much too large for small home landscapes unless you want lots of shade.
- White Ash prefers a sunny exposure where it develops a showy yellow fall color. Fall color can be striking or dull, depending on the tree and environmental conditions.
- Ash does not tolerate clay soils, soil compaction or construction injury due to an extensive root system. It is also susceptible to wood boring insects but can survive infestations if the tree is kept healthy.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

- White Oak is a long-lived, slow-growing tree, reaching 60 to 100 feet in height with a spread of 50 to 90 feet. Old specimens can be massive, growing to be several hundred years old. Since trunks can be six feet in diameter leave plenty of room for this tree in the landscape.
- The red fall color is fairly reliable year to year and is outstanding among the Oaks; Brown leaves may be held on the tree into the early part of the winter.
- White Oak grows in full sun or partial shade and prefers an acid, moist, well-drained soil. Unfortunately, it is not readily available in the nursery trade and not well adapted to dry areas. Supply new transplants with plenty of water and mulch the area beneath the canopy to eliminate grass competition.

Flowering Dogwood (*Corus florida*)

- The state tree of Virginia, Flowering Dogwood grows 20 to 35 feet tall and spreads 25 to 30 feet. It can be trained with one central trunk or as a picturesque multi-trunked tree.
- The flowers consist of four bracts which subtend the small head of yellow flowers. The bracts may be pink or red depending on cultivar but the species color is white. Pink-flowering cultivars grow poorly in USDA hardiness zones 8 and 9. The bright red fruits are often eaten by birds.
- The fall color depends on site and seed source but on most sun grown plants will be red to maroon. Fall color is more vivid in USDA hardiness zones 5 to 8a.
- Dogwoods can be grown in sun or shade but shaded trees will be less dense, grow more quickly and taller, have poor fall color, and less flowers. Trees prefer part shade (preferably in the afternoon) in the southern end of its range. Many nurseries grow the trees in full sun, but they are irrigated regularly. Flowering Dogwood prefers a deep, rich, well-drained, sandy or clay soil and has a moderately long life. It is not recommended for heavy, wet soils unless it is grown on a raised bed to keep roots on the dry side. The roots will rot in soils without adequate drainage.

Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)

- The crape myrtle has become a dominant landscape plant in Florida. Breeding programs over the last 30 years have produced superior forms with a wide range of plant sizes, habits, flower colors, ornamental bark and foliage.
- Crape myrtles can be found in all sizes: Dwarf (less than 4 feet), Semi-Dwarf (less than 12 feet), Intermediate (less than 20 feet), and Tree (greater than 20 feet).
- Valued for its prolific summer flowers, heat and drought tolerance, and year-round landscape interest. Flowering begins as early as May in some cultivars and continues into the fall. Flower colors include shades of purple, lavender, white, pink and red, including “true” red. Some cultivars have bicolor flowers (two colors on each petal), some cultivars have flower colors that fade with age, and other cultivars have panicles with of a mix of flower colors.
- Many cultivars feature beautiful, colorful bark. Strips of bark peel off in early summer to reveal mottled new bark ranging in color from pale cream to dark cinnamon to rich brown to bright orange. The bark color gradually fades over winter until it peels again the next summer.
- To determine which cultivar is right for your landscape, visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg266> for a list of cultivars and their characteristics.

Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

- Black Walnut grows with a rounded crown to about 70 feet (can reach 100 to 150 feet in the woods) and spreads 60 to 80 feet when open grown.
- Best growth occurs in a sunny open location and a moist rich soil. The tree grows rapidly when young but slows down with age. The tree is probably best used in a park, campus or other open space area.
- While highly valued as a lumber tree it may not make the best yard tree. The nuts are edible but are a nuisance to clean up and leaves often fall prematurely from some type of leaf disease. A different walnut tree species (*Juglans regia*) is the tree that brings us the edible walnut.

- Black Walnut roots release a chemical which inhibits growth of some plants beneath the tree, including turfgrass. Plants such as tomato and evergreens are quite sensitive.
- A yellow dye is made from the fruit husks. The seed is used in candy-making, cleaning abrasives and explosives.
- If you have a place on your property for this tree, plant the tree so it will receive an adequate supply of water. It is not drought tolerant, often dropping leaves in dry spells and is poorly adapted for urban soils.

Northside

Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*)

- Usually seen at 40 to 50 feet high, but can reach 90 feet in height in the woods with a 30 to 40-foot spread. Canopy form is variable from pyramidal to vase or rounded.
- This fast-growing deciduous tree is quickly identified by the corky, wing-like projections which appear on opposite sides of twigs and branches. The size of the wings varies greatly from one tree to another.
- This is a very adaptable tree for urban planting because it tolerates wet and dry sites and will easily adapt to full sun or partial shade, growing relatively quickly on any soil.
- It must be pruned regularly at an early age to eliminate double and multiple trunks. (This tree has only been in the ground a couple months and we have already started pruning it.) It is not an easy tree to train and prune, requiring three or four prunings in the first several years. But after this initial training period, trees fill in nicely to make a well-adapted, beautiful shade tree.

Southern Catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*)

- Southern Catalpas are very adaptable tough trees, having naturalized in many parts of the south. Popular in older gardens, they reach 20 to 40 feet tall and have a moderately-long life (60 years or so).
- This is a very adaptable tree because it tolerates wet and dry sites and will easily adapt to full sun or partial shade, although a sunny exposure and a well-drained, moist, rich soil is preferred for best growth of Catalpa.
- Growth is rapid at first but slows down with age as the crown begins to round out and the tree increases in spread. The main ornamental feature is panicles of white with yellow and purple markings produced in spring and early summer. Flowers make somewhat of a slimy mess for a short period when they drop on a sidewalk but are not a problem falling into shrubs, groundcovers, or turf. The fruit is a long pod (up to two feet long) resembling a string bean that can be a slight litter problem to some, but it is quite interesting.
- Catalpas are planted to attract Catalpa worms, a large caterpillar prized for fish bait because the skin is very tough and the caterpillar is juicy. The caterpillar (the larva of the Catalpa sphinx moth) can eat large quantities of leaves and defoliate the tree once or twice a year but there appear to be no adverse consequences to the tree.
- During hot, dry seasons the leaves may turn yellow and brown due to scorch, but the tree lives. Little can be done other than watering.

Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

- Tulip Poplar grows 80 to 100 feet tall and maintains a fairly narrow oval crown, even as it grows older. Depending on the site, Tulip Poplar has a moderate to rapid growth rate at first but slows down with age.
- The flowers appear in spring and are greenish-yellow with orange markings. The tree gets its name from the distinctive cup-shaped flowers which really do resemble tulips. Some people even think the leaf shape resembles the outline of a tulip. The fall color is gold to yellow.
- Although a rather large tree, Tulip-Poplar could be used as a specimen tree in large landscapes if provided plenty of soil for root growth.
- Tulip Poplars grow best in full sun to partial shade, and prefers well-drained, acid soil. Drought conditions in summer can cause premature defoliation of interior leaves which turn bright yellow and fall to the ground, especially on newly-transplanted trees.

Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*)

- Like many oaks, the swamp chestnut oak makes a good shade tree with its broad, spreading branches and large foliage.
- Also known as basket oak or cow oak, this 60-to-80-foot-tall tree is found on moist, periodically flooded, bottomland soils from southern New Jersey to northern Florida.
- While its name can be misleading, the Swamp Chestnut Oak does quite well in the urban landscape if provided occasional irrigation, especially during times of drought.
- Besides its use as a landscape tree, wood can be used to make traditional farming tools, flooring, furniture, baskets, posts, and barrels. The acorns are some of the largest in Florida, eaten by white-tailed deer, turkey, squirrels and hogs. Cows also eat the acorns, as the common name 'cow oak' suggests.

Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)

- The Green Ash is somewhat irregularly-shaped tree when young becoming an oval with age. It will reach a height of about 60 feet with a spread of 45 feet.
- Upright main branches bear twigs which droop toward the ground then bend upward at their tips much like Basswood. This usually does not interfere with traffic flow beneath the tree since branches do not droop to the ground. The glossy dark green foliage will turn yellow in the fall, but color is often muted here in the south.
- There is a good seed-set annually on female trees which are used by many birds but some consider the seeds to be messy. This fast growing tree will adapt to many different landscape conditions and can be grown on wet or dry sites, preferring moist.
- Green Ash requires regular pruning when it is young to develop a nice central trunk. Borers are common on Ash and they can kill trees. Heavily infested trees can be severely weakened. Keep trees as healthy as possible by fertilizing regularly and watering during dry weather.

'Red Sunset' Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Red Sunset')

- 'Red Sunset' and 'October Glory' have proven to be the best cultivars of Red Maple for the south. 'Red Sunset' has strong wood and is a vigorous, fast-grower, reaching a height of 50 feet with a spread of 25 to 35 feet.
- This tree is preferred when a fast-growing maple is needed, and will take on a pyramidal or oval silhouette. The newly emerging red flowers and fruits signal that spring has come. They appear in February in north Florida. Leaves retain an attractive high gloss throughout the growing season. The seeds of 'Red Sunset' Red Maple are quite popular with squirrels and birds.
- The outstanding ornamental characteristic of 'Red Sunset' red maple is the brilliant orange to red fall color lasting several weeks. It is often one of the first trees to color up in autumn, and it puts on one of the most brilliant displays of any tree.
- The tree is not particular about soil type but grows best in moist soils. The tree grows rapidly and has a dense canopy in the sun but opens up in partial shade. Problems you may encounter include yellowing leaves if soil is alkaline (high pH) and/or bark splitting on the southwest side of the trunk during winter (caused by freezing and thawing). Tree wraps are available to help prevent bark splitting problems.

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

- This massive tree will slowly reach a height and spread of 50 or more feet. Forest grown trees reach up to 120 feet.
- The tree is naturally low-branched with attractive glossy green leaves providing deep, inviting shade. Little grows in the dense shade of a Beech tree but if low branches are left on the tree no ground cover or grass is needed.
- In the fall, the leaves turn bronze but weather to a light tan color. Some leaves are held late into the winter if not blown off by the wind.
- The thin, smooth, silvery-gray bark is quite ornamental. The bark looks like elephant skin on older specimens.

- The four tiny nuts in each spiny bur of this American native are much prized by birds and various mammals, including man.
- The wood is almost white and is used most often in toys, cookware, furniture, and for barrels which age beer. The tree is very resistant to decay under water so it was used to make water wheels in Colonial times. The wood is also used for tool handles, chairs, cuttings boards, and for making charcoal.

'Dura Heat' River Birch (*Betula nigra 'Dura Heat'*)

- River birch can grow 50 to 90 feet tall but is often seen 40 to 50 feet. It lacks the white trunk bark associated with other birches but is distinguished by reddish, brown bark peeling off in film-like papery curls providing interest all year round.
- It is very well-suited for planting along stream banks where it is native and in other areas wet areas since it tolerates low soil oxygen, flooding, and clay soil. But this tree also does well in landscapes if planted in low areas and/or provided with adequate water.
- River birch is hardy and grows rapidly, but requires an acid soil, otherwise it becomes chlorotic.
- River Birches are not particularly adapted to heat but can make a nice tree if provided with irrigation and plenty of soil space. Our River Birch trees are cultivars (man-made varieties) called 'Dura Heat' which tolerate the heat better and retain their leaves longer into fall.
- This tree does provide a yellow fall color display, although usually of short duration.

Mockernut Hickory (*Carya tomentosa*)

- Mockernut hickory is the most abundant of the hickories. It is long lived, sometimes reaching the age of 500 years. It is a medium sized tree reaching 50-60 feet in height and broadly crowned.
- Mockernut Hickory nuts are edible for humans, although rarely eaten due to their size and taste. These trees are preferred mast for wildlife, particularly squirrels, which eat green nuts. Black bears, foxes, rabbits, beavers, and white-footed mice feed on the nuts, and sometimes the bark. The white-tailed deer browse on foliage and twigs and also feed on nuts. Hickory nuts are also a minor source of food for ducks, quail, and turkey.
- A high percentage of the wood is used for products where strength, hardness, and flexibility are needed, such as furniture, flooring, tool handles, baseball bats, and skis. It also makes great firewood. Smoked hams are usually cooked using Mockernut Hickory wood.

Eastern Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

- This shade-tolerant tree slowly grows to 50 feet in height with a 25 to 30-foot spread but is often 25 to 40 feet tall, forming an oval or round canopy.
- Hophornbeam has a lovely yellow fall color, and the small nutlets, which ripen in summer and fall, are used by birds and mammals during the winter. Bark is an attractive orange or grayish brown peeling off in longitudinal strips.
- This is a rugged tree, tolerant of poor soil conditions found in urban areas and should be grown and planted more. Can be purchased as a single or multi-trunked specimen. Multi-stemmed trees have a dramatic impact in the landscape with bright bark and wonderful form. Great for climbing.
- Hophornbeam has a shallow root system and will grow in most soils except those that are wet. Often found on dry, rocky slopes with little soil, Hophornbeam is quite tolerant of drought and needs little care once established. Relatively pest free.

American Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

- Also known as the American Linden, the Basswood tree can reach 80 to 100 feet in height, but is most often seen at 40 to 50 feet in height with a spread of 35 to 40 feet.
- The tree is pyramidal when young but develops into a striking specimen with an upright, oval canopy atop a tall, straight trunk. The lower branches remain on the tree and gently drape toward the ground before sweeping up in a gentle curve. The heart-shaped leaves are dark green throughout the year fading only to pale green or yellow before

dropping in autumn. In June, the trees produce abundant clusters of very fragrant, light yellow blooms which are extremely attractive to bees, who make a delicious honey from their harvests. The small, grey nut which is later produced will persist on the tree until midwinter.

- This tree is large and needs plenty of room to develop. Plant it as a specimen or shade tree where there is plenty of soil space available for root expansion. Be prepared to remove sprouts periodically from the base of the trunk.
- This tree prefers moist, fertile soils, acid or slightly alkaline, in full sun or partial shade. It is more shade-tolerant than many other large trees. The leaves will show appreciable browning and scorching after a particularly dry season, but the tree appears fine the following year.

American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)

- This native tree grows quickly when young, forming a broad or upright, vase-shaped silhouette, 80 to 100 feet high and 60 to 120 feet wide. Trunks on older trees could reach to seven feet across.
- The leaves are dark green throughout the year, fading to yellow before dropping in fall. In early spring, before the new leaves unfold, small, green flowers appear on hanging stalks. These blooms are followed by green, wafer-like seedpods which are quite popular with both birds and wildlife.
- Once a very popular and long-lived (300+ years) shade and street tree, American Elm suffered a dramatic decline with the introduction of Dutch elm disease, a fungus spread by a bark beetle.
- The wood of American Elm is very hard and was a valuable timber tree used for lumber, furniture and veneer. The American Indians once made canoes out of American Elm trunks, and early settlers would steam the wood so it could be bent to make barrels and wheel hoops. It was also used for the rockers on rocking chairs. Today, the wood that can be found is used mainly for making furniture.
- American Elm should be grown in full sun on well-drained, rich soil. If you plant American Elm, plan on implementing a monitoring program to watch for symptoms of Dutch elm disease.

Chickasaw Plum (*Prunus angustifolia*)

- Grown occasionally with a single leader and used as a street tree, Chickasaw Plum is usually seen growing as a multi-trunked tree, sprouting from the base to form a thicket.
- Growing 12-20 feet tall and wide, it makes a nice addition to the shrub border in the back yard and is well suited for planting around the patio or deck although it does not form a neat crown which often leans to one side or the other.
- A North American native tree, Chickasaw Plum is very easily grown and has no special cultural requirements. It tolerates drought, sandy or clay soil but does poorly in alkaline pH. These small trees grow quickly but have a relatively short life. This should not stop you from planting the tree since it serves the landscape well during its life.
- In spring, before the one to two-inch-long leaves appear, Chickasaw Plum is festooned with small, white, fragrant flowers which make the trees quite decorative in the presence of other trees which are often still dormant. The small fruits which follow are red, ripening to yellow, and are extremely popular with both humans and wildlife. The plums are either eaten fresh or used to make a delicious jelly.

'High Rise' Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

- Live Oaks have large spreading canopies, which is one of the limiting factors in using live oaks in smaller yards and landscapes. However, this Live Oak is a cultivar (man-made variety) called 'High Rise'.
- 'High Rise' has a low spread to height ratio. This means that, compared to a typical, wild live oak which can reach 60 to 100 feet in canopy width and 40 to 60 feet in height, a 'High Rise' will be only about 25 feet in width and 40 feet in height.
- Insect galls (growths caused by insects) are often observed on oaks (and we have quite a few on ours currently) but no treatment is recommended since these are mainly cosmetic and generally are not harmful to the tree.
- Live Oaks grow best in full sun on a wide variety of soils. They even tolerate occasionally wet soil and have high drought tolerance and high wind resistance.

Westside

Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*)

- Growing 80 feet tall with a 50 to 60-foot spread, Shumard Oak forms a large, stately tree with a narrow, rather open, rounded canopy, somewhat reminiscent of Red Oak. The crown spreads with age becoming round at maturity.
- The large deciduous leaves are deeply-lobed and have bristles on the tips of some lobes. A lovely dark green during most of the year, Shumard Oak puts on a vivid display of brilliant red to red-orange fall and winter foliage, providing a dramatic landscape statement. The large, 1.5-inch-wide acorns are popular with wildlife.
- Like other Oaks, this tree needs pruning to develop a strong branch structure while young to ensure proper development and longevity in the landscape. Pruning classes are available here at the Extension Office during January/February for those that wish to learn proper pruning techniques.
- Shumard Oak grows well in full sun on a wide variety of soils. Although it prefers moist, rich soil where it will grow rapidly, it will tolerate drier locations. Shumard Oak is highly stress-tolerant and will endure urban conditions quite well, including high soil pH and poorly-drained clay soils.

Florida Maple (*Acer saccharum var. floridum*)

- The deciduous Florida Maple reaches 50 to 60 feet in height but is most often seen at 20 to 30 feet.
- Displaying beautiful yellow or orange fall leaf color, Florida Maple is ideal for use as a specimen, park or street tree, or for use in woodland areas. The round to oval growth habit makes it an ideal shade or street tree. The edges of the leaves turn under slightly giving them a distinct appearance. The trunk on older specimens resembles that on the Northern Sugar Maple, which is an attractive gray with longitudinal ribs.
- Growing in full sun or partial shade, Florida Maple will tolerate a wide variety of soil types. Established trees look better when given some irrigation during dry weather. While leaves will eventually fall, most remain in the central portion of the canopy through winter giving the tree a somewhat unkempt appearance. Plant in an area where grass below it will not need to be mowed so as not to damage any shallow roots that may be exposed.

Flatwoods Plum (*Prunus umbellata*)

- A native of the woods in the southeastern United States, Flatwoods Plum is a round-topped, deciduous tree, reaching 20 feet in height with a 15-foot spread.
- It is most often planted in landscapes for its spectacular display of blooms. It may look a little ragged in winter, but in late February, these small trees take on a white, billowy, almost cloud-like appearance when they are clothed in the profuse, small, white flower clusters. The blooms are followed by edible, purple fruits which vary in flavor from very tart to sweet. The plums attract a variety of wildlife.
- Flatwoods Plum thrives in full sun or partial shade on a wide variety of soils. When placed in sandy soil, it grows best with irrigation and some shade in the afternoon. Trees grow quickly when young but considerably slower when mature and bearing fruit. A bit weedy in growth habit, proper training and pruning can create an attractive specimen or small tree for planting beneath power lines or in other areas where overhead space is limited.

'Pakistan' Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra 'Pakistan'*)

- The red mulberry can reach 70 feet in height, but makes an attractive tree which will bear fruit while young. They need full sun and adequate space (15 foot spacing between trees), and should not be planted near a sidewalk, driveway or patio since fallen fruit will not only stain the walkways, but are likely to be tracked indoors.
- Mulberries generally thrive with minimal fertilization. The trees are quite wind-resistant with some cultivars used as windbreaks. They are also somewhat drought-resistant, but need to be watered in dry seasons. If the roots become too dry during drought, the fruit is likely to drop before it has fully ripened.
- Our 'Pakistan' cultivar originated in Pakistan and has extremely large, sweet ruby-red fruit 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 inches long with firmer flesh than most other named cultivars. The tree has large heart-shaped leaves. This cultivar is recommended for the deep South and mild winter areas, but usually performs satisfactorily in cooler areas.

Southern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana var silicicola*)

- This densely-foliated, wide pyramidal, columnar or oval evergreen grows fairly quickly, ultimately reaching heights up to 40 feet with a 25-foot spread. Mature specimens of Southern Redcedar take on a flat-topped, almost windswept appearance, making them very picturesque.
- The dense growth and attractive foliage make Southern Redcedar a favorite for windbreaks, screens, and wildlife-cover for large-scale landscapes. Its high salt-tolerance makes it ideal for seaside locations.
- Redcedar can make a nice Christmas tree, and the fragrant wood is popular for repelling insects. Cedar Key, Florida, once had extensive Redcedar forests before the lumber was extensively harvested and the wood used for chests and pencils.
- These trees shouldn't be planted near apples because it is the alternate host for cedar-apple rust. On Juniper, the disease forms galls and orange jelly-like horns in spring. The horns usually form following periods of rainy, warm weather, producing spores that infect the alternate host. The disease is more serious on apples than Juniper. A separation of a few hundred yards may help avoid the disease. Prune out the spore horns when seen in the spring.

Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

- Sweetgum grows in a narrow pyramid to a height of 75 feet and may spread to 50 feet. The beautifully glossy, star-shaped leaves turn bright red, purple, yellow or orange in early winter. On some young trees, branches are covered with characteristic corky projections (similar to the Winged Elm).
- Sweetgum makes a nice residential shade tree for large properties, developing a more oval or rounded canopy as it grows older. But be careful when locating Sweetgum, since aggressive roots may lift driveways and sidewalks. (Plant trees 8 to 10 feet or more away.)
- The fruit are round and spikey, and may be a litter nuisance to some in the fall. The seeds provide food for wildlife, but the cultivar 'Rotundiloba' is fruitless.
- Sweetgum grows well in full sun to partial shade, is rarely attacked by pests, and tolerates wet soils, but yellowing is often seen in alkaline (high pH) soils.

Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*)

- Pignut Hickory is usually seen at 50 to 65 feet in height with a 30 to 40-foot-spread but is capable of slowly reaching 120 feet in the forest. The deciduous leaves create a coarse, oval canopy, and the strong but irregularly-spaced branches resist breakage in storms, making it useful as a shade tree.
- The green fruits are quite bitter and are popular with various forms of wildlife, but not man. Since fruits may damage cars as they fall and people could roll on the fruit and lose their balance, it may be best to locate the tree away from streets, parking lots and other areas where cars regularly park.
- This tree turns a striking bright yellow in the fall.
- Pignut Hickory grows best in sun or partial shade on well-drained, acid soils and is very drought-tolerant. Trees will show minor-element deficiencies on alkaline soils. It grows well in sand or clay, sending deep roots down below the trunk in well-drained soil.
- Hickory wood is versatile and is used for chair legs, tool handles, including axes and hammers, and for smoking meat and fish.

American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

- This tree slowly reaches a height and spread of 20 to 30 feet. It will grow with an attractive open habit in total shade, but be dense in full sun.
- The tree is also known as ironwood, having muscle-like bark that is smooth, gray and fluted. The wood is very hard and strong and dulls wood working tools quickly.
- The fall color is faintly orange to yellow and stands out in the landscape or woods in the fall. Brown leaves occasionally hang on the tree into the winter.

- Tolerant of pruning, the tree can be used as a hedge plant or lends itself well for use as a screen due to the densely foliated crown.
- Well-suited for small spaces in the shade or sun, and is tolerant of occasional flooding. Although moderately drought-tolerant, it is probably best to provide even established trees with some irrigation during dry spells.
- Nutlets and buds are eaten by many birds and squirrels. Relatively pest free.

Spruce Pine (*Pinus glabra*)

- This heavily-foliated, much-branched evergreen has a bushy, irregular canopy of dark green, soft, twisted needles and a trunk that often becomes twisted and curved with age.
- The lower branches on Spruce Pine make it ideal for use as a windbreak, large-scale screen or specimen, and also create light shade beneath larger trees. Although capable of reaching 80 feet in height in the woods, Spruce Pine is often seen at 30 to 50 feet when grown in the open and grows slowly. The 2.5-inch-diameter cones remain on the branches for three to four years and are a source of food for wildlife.
- Growing in full sun on moist fertile soils, this native will also tolerate poor, dry soils, as well as wet sites better than other Pines. Many people forget how picturesque this Pine can become as it grows older. It should be used more as specimen tree.
- Pines grow best on acid soil and are usually not recommended for planting in high pH soils. This tree also grows best without grass competition and is unusual among the Pines in that it will grow in partial shade.

Common Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

- An excellent small to medium tree, Common Persimmon is an interesting, somewhat irregularly-shaped native tree, for possible naturalizing in yards or parks. Its mature height can be 60 feet, with branches spreading from 20 to 35 feet and a trunk two feet thick, but it is commonly much shorter in landscapes.
- Common Persimmon prefers moist, well-drained, bottomland or sandy soils but is also very drought-tolerant and tolerates about any site conditions. It is seen colonizing old fields as a volunteer tree but grows slowly on dry sites.
- Its fruit is an edible berry; before ripening, however, the fruit is extremely astringent and not edible. Most American cultivars require both male and female trees for proper fruiting. The variety *pubescens* has fuzzy leaves and twigs. The fallen ripened fruit can make a slimy mess so plant away from patios and sidewalks.
- Common Persimmon is troubled by a leaf-spot disease which causes black spots on the leaves and premature defoliation. It will not kill the tree but the litter from early defoliation may be objectionable.

'Drake' Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Drake')

- A fast-growing, nearly evergreen tree, 'Drake' Chinese Elm forms a graceful, spreading, rounded canopy of long, arching, and somewhat weeping branches with shiny, dark green, leathery leaves.
- The tree is evergreen in the southern extent of its range. The showy, exfoliating bark reveals random, mottled patterns of grey, green, orange, and brown, adding great textural and visual interest, especially to its winter silhouette.
- The Chinese Elm species can reach 80 feet in height but this cultivar probably grows to about 40 to 50 feet tall. It makes an ideal shade, specimen, street or parking lot tree, provided it is trained and pruned to allow for vehicular and pedestrian clearance below. They look very nice planted in a grove or along a street.
- Chinese Elm will grow in full sun on a wide range of soils, adapting easily to extremes in pH (including alkaline) or moisture, and tolerates cold, urban heat, and wind. Trees will look their best, though, when grown in moist, well-drained, fertile soil but they adapt to drought and the extremes of urban sites.

Japanese Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*)

- Japanese Persimmon is a species related to Common Persimmon, but is native to Asia (China, Japan). It can grow to about 30 feet when mature. This is an excellent fruit tree for ornamental use and makes an excellent specimen.
- Similar to Common Persimmon, its preference is for a moist, well-drained soil in full sun locations. The tree has good drought tolerance. Japanese Persimmon develops an attractive red fall color, and the tree is a sight to behold when displaying the bright yellow-orange fruits throughout the canopy.
- A trouble-free tree, but the two to four-inch-diameter fruits can be a big mess when they fall from the tree. Planting the tree away from walks and concrete surfaces is recommended. Better yet, plant the tree in a loose, low-growing groundcover so dropping fruit will be hidden from view in the foliage of the groundcover.
- Both astringent and non-astringent cultivars are usually available in local garden centers. Our tree is called 'Tanenashi', an astringent cultivar with fruit that ripens from October through November.

'Oklahoma' Redbud (*Cercis reniformis* 'Oklahoma')

- The 'Oklahoma' Redbud is a deciduous tree, native to the southwestern United States including Texas. It reaches 30 to 40 feet in height with a 15 to 20-foot width, and grows slowly into a rounded or vase shape.
- The incredibly shiny, thick, leathery, dark green leaves have rounded or notched tips, are two to three inches wide, and turn yellow before dropping in the fall. Deep pink to red flowers appear in profusion up and down the tree limbs in springtime, well before the leaves begin to emerge, creating probably the best Redbud display. The four-inch-long seedpods which follow are a lovely purple color and remain on the tree well into the winter. This is one of the nicest (if not the nicest) Redbuds!
- This tree should be grown in full sun or partial shade on moist, well-drained soil. It is highly drought tolerant once established and grows well in all areas within its hardiness range.

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