














Native Trees

Why Natives?

Natives have acclimated to our local growing conditions and can thrive in both wet and dry conditions. Plants that are indigenous to this area and acclimated to the growing conditions we find here in Southeastern North Carolina. Natives can also deal with the heat and humidity and do not require fertilizer or other soil amendments. Natives are low maintenance and support native butterflies, pollinators and birds. We have a wonderful selection of plants for you.

Symbols and What They Mean

				
Full Sun	Part Sun	All Shade	Part Shade	Hummingbird favorite
				
Drought tolerant	Moderate watering	Water frequently	Pollinator friendly	Butterfly attractor
	Deer Resistant		Rabbit Resistant	

Black Cherry

Prunus serotina

- 25-80' H 30-60' W
- Deciduous tree
- Aromatic white flowers in early spring after glossy leaves emerge
- Small juicy red fruit changes to black in Fall and leaves change to yellow
- Fruit consumed by 33 species of birds and many mammals
- Larval host to Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Cherry Gall Azure, Viceroy, Columbia Silkmoth, Promethea Moth, Small-eyed Sphinx Moth, Wild Cherry Sphinx Moth and more



Carolina Cherry Laurel

Prunus caroliniana

- 15-20' H 15-20' W
- Large evergreen shrub /small tree
- Fragrant white flowers that bloom in dense racemes (2-3" long) early Spring
- Flowers followed by green fruits turning purple then ripening to black in Fall
- Moist but well drained soils
- Host plant for Coral Hairstreak, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Red-spotted Purple, Spring/Summer Azures, and Viceroy butterflies
- Fruits are eaten by songbirds, wild turkey, quail, raccoon and fox



Chalkbark Maple

Acer leucoderme

- 25' H 25' W
- Deciduous tree in well drained soil
- Usually 2 – 3 trunks with pale gray to chalky white bark--small "version" of sugar maple
- Brilliant Fall foliage
- Seeds eaten by birds and small mammals
- The foliage is a host plant for 285 different species of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), making it #8 on the top 20 list of woody plants that provide host services



Fringe Tree

Chionanthus virginicus

- 12-20' H 12-20'W
- Deciduous shrub or small tree - slow to moderate grower
- Showy, fragrant creamy white blooms in Spring
- Plant in moist, well-drained soil
- Water frequently after planting
- Attracts birds
- Trees can be either male or female. Males sport larger, showier blooms, but females form attractive, blackish-blue fruits that birds like. Nurseries don't sell trees by sex, so you have to take your chances
- Larval host to Rustic Sphinx Moth



Ironwood / Hornbeam / Muscledwood

Carpinus caroliniana

- 25-30' H 20' W
- Small to medium-sized understory tree
- The smooth, gray trunk and larger branches of a mature tree exhibit a 'muscle-like fluting' that has given rise to another common name of 'Muscledwood' for this tree
- Host plant for the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly
- The seed and buds are eaten by songbirds, ruffed grouse, quail, wild turkeys, foxes, and squirrels



Overcup Oak

Quercus lyrata

- 35-45' H 35-40' W
- Long lived sturdy tree
- Pollen flowers in drooping, elongated clusters
- Range of soil types including moist sites
- Simple leathery leaves
- Acorns provide food for Squirrels and smaller rodents, Turkeys, Hogs and Deer
- Acorn cap covers almost the entire fruit



Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

- 15-20' H
- Small understory tree or large shrub which typically and occurs in low bottom woods, wooded slopes, ravines and along streams
- Flowers with 6 maroon-purple petals in early Spring
- Fruit is an aromatic, soft and fleshy, cylindrical berry with large, flat, brown seeds in Fall
- Sole source of food for the Zebra Swallowtail's caterpillars is the foliage



Post Oak

Quercus stellata

- 40-50' H 35-50' W
- Slow growing tree with cross shaped leaves
- Insignificant yellowish-green male and female flowers that appear in the spring as the leaves emerge
- Acorn fruit for wildlife
- Host plant for Northern Hairstreak, Horaces Duskywing Butterflies



Red Buckeye

Aesculus pavia

- 10-20'H 10-20'W
- The red blossoms attract hummingbirds and butterflies (Eastern Tiger Swallowtail)
- Fox squirrels sometimes eat the buckeyes
- Blooms late Spring
- It is normal for this plant to drop its leaves by the end of summer
- Abundant fruit in mid-October
- Prefers moist, well-drained alkaline soil but is moderately drought tolerant



Red Maple

Acer rubrum

- 40-60" H
- Deciduous shade tree that blooms in Winter/Early Spring
- Small, red flowers in clusters
- Light brown or red-winged samaras (fruit) mature
- In the fall the leaves turn orange-red fall
- Most tolerate wet sites
- Host to Cecropia and Rosy Maple Moth
- Used by birds small mammals
- Most abundant native tree in eastern North America



Swamp Dogwood / Stiff Dogwood

Cornus foemina

- 10-20' H 10-20' W
- Deciduous
- Noted for white flowers, showy blue fruits
- Hurricane wind resistant
- Spreading branches and multiple trunks
- Twigs are reddish turning gray with age
- Blooms in April - May
- Wet or moist soils adapting to drier sites
- Host for Summer Azure Butterfly
- Fruits are eaten by several species of birds including Quail, Catbirds, Mockingbirds, Robins, and Brown Thrashers



White Oak

Quercus alba

- 50-80' H 50-80' H
- Pyramidal tree when young, but matures into a substantial tree with a thick trunk and wide-spreading, rounded crown
- Insignificant yellowish-green flowers
- Fruits are rich brown oblong acorns for wildlife
- Supports 534 butterfly/moth species—the most of any tree

