

SELECTING THE BEST TREE TO PLANT

Follow these questions to determine the *stature, mature size, growth rate, and lifespan* you need

Location determines the tree

1 Shade trees provide the most property value and reduce electric bills in the summer. Do you want to plant a tree for shade?

NO

Do you want a smaller tree to beautify your lawn?

YES



You probably want a tree with ornamental stature

Most ornamental trees are less than 20 ft tall. Do you want a taller tree?

NO

Short mature size

YES

Medium mature size



NO

Do you have a spot at least 10 ft wide with no trees or power lines overhead?

YES

You should choose a tree with shade stature. These may also be called canopy trees.



Medium mature size



NO

Most shade trees are 20-40 ft tall. Do you want a taller tree?

YES

Tall mature size



2

Fast growing trees are able to quickly provide shade and benefits, but often at the expense of a shorter lifespan. Let's see if a fast growth rate is necessary for you.

NO

Do you have other trees on your property?

YES

Are your existing trees young and healthy?

YES

It may be a good idea to plant a tree with fast growth rate



Slow growing species typically live longer, but be aware of the lifespan of your chosen species

Avoid having all of your trees planted at the same time and having short or medium lifespans.

Are you planting more than 1 tree?

YES

Plant a mix of trees with different life expectancy and different mature sizes



Common Name	Species	Growth Rate	Lifespan	Stature	Mature Size	Local?	Minimum Structure Clearance
Slash pine	Pinus elliottii	Fast	Long	Shade	Tall & Narrow	Yes	8
Austrian pine	Pinus nigra	Fast	Long	Shade	Tall & Narrow	No	8
Loblolly pine	Pinus taeda	Fast	Medium	Shade	Tall & Narrow	Yes	7
American sycamore	Platanus occidentalis	Fast	Long	Shade	Tall & Narrow	Yes	5
Pond cypress	Taxodium ascendens	Fast	Long	Shade	Tall & Narrow	No	5
Pine species	Pinus sp.	Fast	Medium	Shade	Tall & Narrow	Yes	5
American elm	Ulmus americana	Slow	Very Long	Shade	Tall & Broad	Yes	10
Native pecan	Carya illinoensis	Fast	Long	Shade	Tall & Broad	Yes	8
Chinkapin oak	Quercus muehlenbergii	Fast	Long	Shade	Tall & Narrow	Yes	4
Arizona cypress	Hesperocyparis arizonica	Slow	Long	Shade	Tall & Narrow	No	3
Lacey oak	Quercus laceyi	Slow	Long	Shade	Tall & Narrow	Yes	3
Western soapberry	Sapindus saponaria	Fast	Long	Shade	Tall & Narrow	Yes	3
Netleaf white oak	Quercus polymorpha	Fast	Medium	Shade	Tall & Narrow	No	3
Sweetgum	Liquidambar styraciflua	Fast	Short	Shade	Tall & Narrow	No	3
Southern magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora	Slow	Long	Shade	Medium & Narrow	No	2
Afghan pine	Pinus Eldarica	Fast	Medium	Shade	Medium & Narrow	No	2
Magnolia species	Magnolia sp.	Slow	Long	Shade	Medium & Broad	No	2
Common persimmon	Diospyros virginiana	Slow	Long	Shade	Medium & Broad	Yes	2
Juniper species	Juniperus sp.	Fast	Medium	Shade	Medium & Narrow	Yes	2
Eastern redcedar	Juniperus virginiana	Fast	Medium	Shade	Medium & Narrow	Yes	2
Ginkgo	Ginkgo biloba	Fast	Medium	Shade	Medium & Narrow	No	2
Honeylocust	Gleditsia triacanthos	Slow	Very Long	Shade	Medium & Narrow	Yes	2

Common Name	Species	Growth Rate	Lifespan	Stature	Mature Size	Local?	Minimum Structure Clearance
Japanese black pine	Pinus thunbergii	Slow	Long	Ornamental	Medium & Narrow	No	2
Gum bumelia	Sideroxylon lanuginosum	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Medium & Narrow	Yes	2
Spartan juniper	Juniperus chinensis	Fast	Medium	Ornamental	Medium & Narrow	No	2
Saucer magnolia	Magnolia soulangiana	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Broad	No	2
Florida maple	Acer floridanum	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Narrow	No	2
Boxelder	Acer negundo	Fast	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Narrow	Yes	2
Trident maple	Acer buergerianum	Fast	Short	Ornamental	Short & Narrow	No	2
Eve's necklace	Styphnolobium affine	Fast	Short	Ornamental	Short & Narrow	Yes	2
Mexican buckeye	Ungnadia speciosa	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Broad	Yes	2
Possumhaw viburnum	Viburnum nudum	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Broad	Yes	2
Rusty blackhaw viburnum	Viburnum rufidulum	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Broad	Yes	2
Common fig	Ficus carica	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Broad	No	2
Vitex	Vitex agnus-castus	Fast	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Broad	No	2
Texas persimmon	Diospyros texana	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Narrow	No	2
Flowering dogwood	Cornus florida	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Narrow	Yes	2
Deciduous holly	Ilex decidua	Fast	Short	Ornamental	Short & Broad	No	2
Roughleaf dogwood	Cornus drummondii	Slow	Medium	Ornamental	Short & Broad	Yes	2
Yaupon	Ilex vomitoria	Fast	Short	Ornamental	Short & Broad	Yes	2