

Shade Trees

Genus	Species	Common Name	Type	Mature size (WxH)	Minimum Spacing (Ft.) Along streets	Growth Rate	Light	Street Tree	Pollution Resistant	Limit Use	Powerline Compatible	Native to region	Visual Attraction	Wildlife value	Shade Tree	Suggested Cultivars	Notes for use/Disease susceptibility
<i>Acer</i>	<i>negundo</i>	Boxelder	Deciduous canopy tree	40x50		Fast	Full to partial sun					✓	Striking fall color	Moderate	✓		Susceptible to limb breakage. Use for restoration or open areas. Great for stream restoration
<i>Acer</i>	<i>rubrum</i>	Red maple	Deciduous canopy tree	40x35	20	Fast	Full to partial sun	✓		X		✓	Striking fall color	Moderate	✓	Brandywine, October Glory, Red Sunset, Bowhall	Can have issues with girdling roots. Prefers a wet environment. Limit use due to overplanting
<i>Asimina</i>	<i>triloba</i>	Pawpaw	Deciduous medium tree	35x35		Slow	Full sun				✓	✓	Large leaves, red flowers, large fruit	High	✓		Edible fruit. Must be pollinated from a different tree to bear fruit
<i>Carpinus</i>	<i>betulus</i>	European hornbeam	Deciduous medium tree	40x20	15	Slow	Partial sun to shade	✓		X			Attractive bark	None	✓	Fastigiata	Limit use outside of formal landscapes, due to low heat tolerance
<i>Carya</i>	<i>cordiformes</i>	Bitternut hickory	Deciduous canopy tree	30x50	20	Slow	Full sun	✓				✓	Large fruit	High	✓		Must be transplanted at very young age and size
<i>Carya</i>	<i>glabra</i>	Pignut hickory	Deciduous canopy tree	30x50		Slow	Full sun to shade					✓	Large fruit	High	✓		Must be transplanted at very young age and size
<i>Carya</i>	<i>ovata</i>	Shagbark hickory	Deciduous canopy tree	25x60	20	Slow	Full sun	✓	✓			✓	Large fruit	High	✓		Must be transplanted at very young age and size
<i>Carya</i>	<i>tomentosa</i>	Mockernut hickory	Deciduous canopy tree	30x50		Slow	Full sun					✓	Large fruit	High	✓		Must be transplanted at very young age and size
<i>Catalpa</i>	<i>speciosa</i>	Catalpa	Deciduous canopy tree	60x40		fast	Full to partial sun		✓				White flowers, large heart-shaped leaves	Low	✓		Use for specimen tree. Can be somewhat messy.
<i>Cedrus</i>	<i>atlantica</i>	Blue atlas cedar	Evergreen canopy tree	30x40		Slow	Full sun		✓				Evergreen with blue needles	None	✓		Must be transplanted at very young age and size
<i>Cedrus</i>	<i>deodara</i>	Deodar cedar	Evergreen canopy tree	30x40		Medium	Full sun						Evergreen	None	✓		
<i>Cedrus</i>	<i>libani</i>	Cedar of lebanon	Evergreen canopy tree	30x40		Medium	Full sun						Evergreen	None	✓		
<i>Celtis</i>	<i>laevigata</i>	Sugar hackberry	Deciduous canopy tree	40x50	25	Fast	Full to partial sun	✓	✓			✓	Attractive bark	High	✓		
<i>Celtis</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>	Common hackberry	Deciduous canopy tree	40x50	25	Fast	Full to partial sun	✓	✓			✓	Attractive bark	High	✓		
<i>Cercidiphyllum</i>	<i>japonicum</i>	Katsuratree	Deciduous medium tree	40x35	15	Medium	Full sun to shade	✓					Year-round color	None	✓		
<i>Chamaecyparis</i>	<i>thyoides</i>	Atlantic whitecedar	Evergreen canopy tree	20x50		Medium	Partial sun to shade					✓	Evergreen, blue fruit	Moderate	✓		
<i>Cladastris</i>	<i>kentukea</i>	American yellowwood	Deciduous medium tree	40x30		Medium	Full sun						Yellow flowers	Low	✓		
<i>Cryptomeria</i>	<i>japonica</i>	Cryptomeria	Evergreen canopy tree	15x50		Slow	Full sun to shade						Evergreen, unusual needles	None	✓		Susceptible to leaf blight in north-facing areas
<i>Diospyros</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	Common persimmon	Deciduous medium tree	20x30		Medium	Full sun to shade		✓			✓	Attractive Fruit and creamy whiteflowers	High	✓		
<i>Fagus</i>	<i>grandifolia</i>	American beech	Deciduous canopy tree	40x50		Medium	Full to partial sun					✓	Attractive smooth bark	High	✓		Needs very well-drained, uncompacted soils
<i>Ginkgo</i>	<i>biloba</i>	Ginkgo	Deciduous canopy tree	50x50	20	Slow	Full sun	✓	✓				Striking fall color	None	✓	Autumn Gold, Princeton Sentry	Male only
<i>Gleditsia</i>	<i>triacanthos</i>	Honeylocust	Deciduous canopy tree	30x35	20	Fast	Full sun	✓	✓				White clustered flowers. Large seedpods	Moderate	✓	Inermis	Vulnerable to nectria canker
<i>Gymnocladus</i>	<i>dioicus</i>	Kentucky coffeetree	Deciduous canopy tree	40x50	20	Medium	Full sun	✓	✓				Attractive bark	None	✓		
<i>Ilex</i>	<i>Opaca</i>	American holly	Evergreen medium tree	15x40		Slow	Full to partial sun		✓			✓	Attractive winter berries	Moderate	✓		Single-trunked for street trees, multi-trunk in large plantings
<i>Juglans</i>	<i>nigra</i>	Black Walnut	Deciduous canopy tree	60x60		Medium	Full sun		✓			✓	Large fruit	High	✓		Will kill some plants beneath it. Specimen tree use only. Susceptible to Thousand canker disease. Must be transplanted at very young age and size.
<i>Liquidambar</i>	<i>styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	Deciduous canopy tree	60x50	20	Medium	Full to partial sun	✓				✓	Striking fall color	Moderate (Low if fruitless)	✓		Use only fruitless varieties as street tree. Roots may be aggressive
<i>Liriodendron</i>	<i>tulipifera</i>	Tuliptree	Deciduous canopy tree	25x80		Medium	Full to partial sun			X		✓	Tulip-shaped flowers and leaves	High	✓		Provide significant root space for this tree. Limit use due to hazard issues.
<i>Maclura</i>	<i>pomifera</i>	Osage orange	Deciduous canopy tree	30x30		Fast	Full to partial sun		✓				Large yellow fruit	Low	✓		Large fruit can be a nuisance. Plant in large open spaces.
<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>acuminata</i>	Cucumber tree	Deciduous canopy tree	50x60		Fast	Full sun					✓	White flowers	Moderate	✓		
<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>grandiflora</i>	Southern magnolia	Evergreen canopy tree	30x70		Medium	Full to partial sun		✓				White flowers	Low	✓		'Little Gem' can be used under power lines
<i>Metasequoia</i>	<i>glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn redwood	Deciduous canopy tree	60x25		Fast	Full sun						Deciduous conifer	None	✓		
<i>Morus</i>	<i>rubra</i>	Red mulberry	Deciduous canopy tree	30x35		Medium	Full to partial sun					✓	White flowers and edible fruit	Moderate	✓		Do not confuse with <i>Morus alba</i> (White mulberry), which is an invasive plant
<i>Nyssa</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>	Black tupelo	Deciduous canopy tree	30x25	20	Slow	Full to partial sun	✓	✓			✓	Striking fall color	High	✓		
<i>Ostrya</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	Eastern hophornbeam	Deciduous canopy tree	25x25	20	Slow	Partial sun to shade	✓	✓			✓	Hop-shaped fruit	Moderate	✓		
<i>Picea</i>	<i>pungens</i>	Colorado blue spruce	Evergreen canopy tree	10x30		Slow	Full to partial sun		✓				Evergreen with blue needles	None	✓		Susceptible to cytospora canker
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>bungeana</i>	Lacebark pine	Evergreen canopy tree	20x30		Slow	Full sun						Evergreen	None	✓		
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>echinata</i>	Shortleaf pine	Evergreen canopy tree	35x50		Slow	Full sun		✓			✓	Evergreen	Low	✓		
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>rigida</i>	Pitch pine	Evergreen canopy tree	25x50		Medium	Full sun		✓			✓	Evergreen	High	✓		
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>taeda</i>	Loblolly pine	Evergreen canopy tree	30x60		Fast	Full sun		✓			✓	Evergreen	High	✓		
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>virginiana</i>	Virginia pine	Evergreen canopy tree	20x30		Medium	Full sun					✓	Evergreen	High	✓		
<i>Platanus</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>	American sycamore	Deciduous canopy tree	70x70		Fast	Full sun		✓			✓	Large leaves, interesting seeds	Moderate	✓		Susceptible to anthracnose
<i>Platanus</i>	<i>x hispanica</i>	London planetree	Deciduous canopy tree	70x70	25	Fast	Full sun	✓	✓	X			Large leaves, interesting seeds	Low	✓	Columbia, Liberty	Limit use due to overplanting
<i>Prunus</i>	<i>serotina</i>	Black cherry	Deciduous canopy tree	30x50		Fast	Full sun					✓	White flowers	High	✓		Susceptible to limb breakage. Use for restoration or open areas. Edible fruit

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<i>Quercus</i>	<i>alba</i>	White oak	Deciduous canopy tree	60x60		Slow	Full to partial sun		✓			✓	silver-white bark	High	✓		Provide significant root space for this tree.
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>bicolor</i>	Swamp white oak	Deciduous canopy tree	60x50	25	Medium	Full to partial sun	✓	✓			✓	Attractive peeling bark	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>coccinea</i>	Scarlet oak	Deciduous canopy tree	60x45	25	Medium	Full sun	✓	✓			✓	Striking fall color	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>falcata</i>	Southern red oak	Deciduous canopy tree	70x60	25	Medium	Full sun	✓	✓			✓	Striking fall color	Low	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>hemisphaerica</i>	Darlington oak	Deciduous canopy tree	70x50	25	Medium	Full sun	✓					Thin, sun-filtering leaves	Low	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>imbricaria</i>	Shingle oak	Deciduous canopy tree	50x60	25	Medium	Full sun	✓				✓	Semi-evergreen	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>macrocarpa</i>	Bur oak	Deciduous canopy tree	70x70	25	Medium	Full sun	✓	✓				Attractive leaves and fruit	Moderate	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>marilandica</i>	Blackjack oak	Deciduous canopy tree	35x35		Slow	Partial shade					✓	Blocky bark	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>michauxii</i>	Swamp chestnut oak	Deciduous canopy tree	80x90		Medium	Full sun					✓	Interesting leaves	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>montana</i>	Chestnut oak	Deciduous canopy tree	60x70		Medium	Full sun					✓	Silver-grey bark	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>nigra</i>	Water oak	Deciduous canopy tree	60x50		Fast	Full to partial sun					✓	Evergreen	Moderate	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>pagoda</i>	Cherrybark oak	Deciduous canopy tree	70x60		Fast	Full sun						Cherry-like bark	Moderate	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>palustris</i>	Pin oak	Deciduous canopy tree	60x35	25	Medium	Full sun	✓				✓	Even form, small acorns	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>phellos</i>	Willow oak	Deciduous canopy tree	60x40	25	Fast	Full sun	✓	✓	X		✓	Thin, sun-filtering leaves	Moderate	✓		Limit use due to overplanting
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>robur</i>	English oak	Deciduous canopy tree	40x40	15	Medium	Full sun	✓	✓				Striking fall color	None	✓		Q. bicolor x robur may be an appropriate variant
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>rubra</i>	Northern Red oak	Deciduous canopy tree	60x50	25	Fast	Full sun	✓	✓			✓	Striking fall color	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>shumardii</i>	Shumard Oak	Deciduous canopy tree	60x40	25	Fast	Full sun	✓	✓	25		✓	Striking fall color	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>stellata</i>	Post oak	Deciduous canopy tree	35x35	20	Medium	Full sun	✓				✓	Cross-shaped leaves	High	✓		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>velutina</i>	Black oak	Deciduous canopy tree	75x75		Medium	Full sun					✓	Striking fall color	High	✓		
<i>Rhus</i>	<i>typhina</i>	Staghorn sumac	Deciduous medium tree	20x35		Medium	Full sun		✓			✓	Striking fall color, large colored flower spikes	High	✓		Spreads readily, excellent for slope control along roads.
<i>Robinia</i>	<i>pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust	Deciduous medium tree	20x40	20	Fast	Full sun	✓	✓			✓	Large clusters of white flowers	High	✓		Single stem only for street tree. Requires structural pruning.
<i>Salix</i>	<i>nigra</i>	Black willow	Deciduous medium tree	30x40		Fast	Full to partial sun					✓	Slender leaves	High	✓		Susceptible to limb breakage. Use for restoration or open areas. Great for stream restoration
<i>Sassafras</i>	<i>albidum</i>	Sassafras	Deciduous medium tree	25x30		Medium	Full to partial sun					✓	Striking fall color, variegated leaves	High	✓		
<i>Taxodium</i>	<i>distichum</i>	Baldcypress	Deciduous canopy tree	60x25	20	Fast	Full sun	✓	✓			✓	Deciduous conifer	Low	✓		
<i>Tilia</i>	<i>americana</i>	American Linden	Deciduous canopy tree	50x35	25	Medium	Full sun	✓				✓	White flowers, striking fall color	High	✓		
<i>Tilia</i>	<i>cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden	Deciduous medium tree	60x35	25	Full to partial sun	Full to partial sun	✓		X			Green	Low	✓		Avoid "Greenspire", due to girdling tendencies
<i>Tsuga</i>	<i>canadensis</i>	Eastern hemlock	Evergreen canopy tree	30x50		Slow	Partial shade			X		✓	Evergreen	High	✓		Susceptible to Hemlock woolly adelgid
<i>Ulmus</i>	<i>americana</i>	American elm	Deciduous canopy tree	80x60	25	Fast	Full sun	✓	✓			✓	Attractive bark	High	✓		Plant Dutch elm disease resistant cultivars only
<i>Ulmus</i>	<i>rubra</i>	Slippery elm	Deciduous canopy tree	60x60		Medium	Partial sun to shade					✓	Attractive bark	High	✓		

Notes:

A list of trees likely to grow to a size where it will cast significant shade on the surrounding environment, reducing energy costs and urban heat island effect. These trees provide the greatest benefit to our community and your energy savings. Consider planting these trees if space allows for it.

These trees are not compatible with overhead powerlines. Plant these trees a significant distance away from powerlines.

Please consult Dominion Virginia Power's guide on planting near power lines:

https://www.dom.com/dominion-virginia-power/customer-service/your-service/pdf/tree_planting_guidelines.pdf

This list contains species that do well in Arlington County, and have been screened to exclude fragile, often hazardous species, as well as ecologically threatening invasive species.

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Glossary:

Genus	A group of plants marked by common characteristics, like Quercus (Oaks), Acer (Maples), or Cornus (Dogwoods)
Species	An individual type of plant, capable of interbreeding within its designation, like Quercus stellata (Post oak), or Tilia americana (American linden)
Common Name	The common description of a plant, like American Holly, or Tuliptree. A tree can have several common names, which is why latin names are often preferred.
Mature Height	The height a tree of a species can reach, in an ideal environment, usually within 20 years
Growth Rate	The speed at which a species grows to its mature size. Keep in mind a fast-growing small tree may grow fast for its species, but due to genetic limitations, may not reach the size of a slow-growing large tree
Light	The light requirements for a tree to grow optimally. Trees preferring full sun should be in full sun for at least 6 hours a day, while trees preferring shade can live with less than 3 hours of sunlight a day
Street Tree	Trees well suited for planting along roads, or in tree pits. Street trees should be limbed up to a safe height, and not obstruct view for traffic.
Pollution Resistant	Trees well suited for planting in tough areas with high pollution from both the air, as well as salt spray from the road. These species are often also well-suited for stormwater control facilities.
Limit Use	Restrict the use of these species to less than 10% of your planting list. They have been overplanted, have a disease risk , or have a potential to become invasive
Powerline Compatible	Species that may be acceptable to be planted below powerlines, due to size or stature. These species have not been reviewed by Dominion Virginia Power, and utility companies maintain the right to prune or trim any trees or vegetation away from their lines.
Native to Region	Trees native to the Mid-Atlantic. Refer to the Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping guide by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information
Visual Attraction	Interest from the tree that sets it apart from other trees, from an aesthetic perspective.
Wildlife Value	Value in the form of edible fruits, foliage, or bark, for our native insects. Wildlife value should not be confused with attracting large amounts of insects or wildlife, but should be seen as a benefit to our ecosystem.
Shade tree	A tree likely to grow to a size where it will cast significant shade on the surrounding environment, reducing energy costs and urban heat island effect.
Suggested Cultivars	Cultivars of the species that have shown promise in our landscape and provide added aesthetic value

Contact the County Urban Forestry office at urbanforestry@arlingtonva.us for questions

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