

DEPOSITED BY
VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY

AUG 20 1985

University Libraries
V.P.I. & S.U.

Shade, Flowering, and Evergreen Trees for Virginia



Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Virginia Tech and Virginia State • Virginia's Land-grant Universities
Publication 430-597
Reprinted September 1984

LD
5655
A762
1984c

Shade, Flowering, and Evergreen Trees for Virginia

Paul L. Smeal and James S. Coartney*

Virginia has an ideal environment for growing nursery stock, especially shade, flowering, and evergreen trees, plus the big advantage of nearness to urban markets from Norfolk to Boston. Quality trees are in demand. Increased public awareness of the advantages of landscaping and ecology, combined with the trend to use larger plant material, accentuates the demand for larger shade trees. The future expansion of subdivisions, shopping centers, industrial developments, parks, highways, golf courses, and street plantings will create increased demand for ornamental plants. There is also an increased interest in re-landscaping existing homes, commercial firms, public buildings, parks, and highways.

The observations and comments of Virginia nurserymen and landscapers indicate that they can continue to increase production of quality trees without significantly increasing competition.

The question "What plants should be grown?" is frequently asked. To help you answer this question, listed in this publication are the most popular tree species and some of the more popular cultivars of some species.

Landscapers are requesting cultivars more and more often because cultivars are more uniform and predictable than natural seedling selections.

Cultivars are especially advantageous when it comes to street plantings. For example, plants of a given deciduous cultivar are genetically identical and all will drop their leaves at the same time, making it easier and more economical to pick up the leaves. They are also more likely to grow at a uniform rate and give a better cosmetic effect than a planting of seedlings that is genetically variable.

Cultivars have to be propagated asexually. This adds significantly to the cost of producing

young plants. It also increases prices at the wholesale, retail, and landscape levels. Liners of cultivars to be used for field production will cost \$1-2 more per plant than natural seedlings. At the finished level, prices are 25-50% above those for natural seedlings.

Over the years, there has been very little change in preference for the top 10 shade and flowering trees. Landscapers attending the National Landscape Nurserymen's Association (NLNA) meeting in January 1970 were asked to list their selections of the 10 best shade and 10 best flowering trees in order of importance. The trees selected were not necessarily those that sold in the highest numbers, but were those that designers and landscapers preferred to specify in landscape plans and recommended to their customers. Landscapers base such decisions on year-round beauty; disease resistance; ease of transplanting; and personal preference.

Fourteen years earlier, at the 1956 NLNA meeting, the same survey was conducted. By comparing the two surveys one can conclude that there was little change in preferences. Perhaps the greatest change has been the trend to specifying cultivars rather than natural seedlings. New and better cultivars are continuously being introduced to the nursery trade. Therefore, it is wise to try a few of the newer introductions.

Tables 1, 2, and 3 list the top ten shade and flowering species and those specific cultivars named in the NLNA surveys. These tables have been adapted from an article by M. Benko and J. Wimberley, 1970: "Landscape Group Meets in Illinois", *American Nurseryman* 131(4) 9, 114 & 115. Tables 4 and 5 list additional recommended species and cultivars that may be grown in Virginia; Tables 4 and 5 are based on Virginia nursery catalogs and personal communications. The species and cultivars listed in all tables may be grown in Virginia without difficulty.

*Extension Horticulturist, Nursery Production; Associate Professor of Horticulture; College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech.

Table 1. Top 10 Shade Trees and Flowering Trees Selected by National Landscape Nurserymen's Association Members (NLNA) (Listed in order of preference).

Ranking	Shade Trees		Flowering Trees	
	1956	1970	1956	1970
1	Pin Oak	Pin Oak	Flowering Crab	Flowering Crab
2	Sugar Maple	Red Maple	Redbud	Flowering Dogwood
3	Honeylocust	Honeylocust	Magnolia	Hawthorne
4	Silver Maple	Sugar Maple	Hawthorne	Redbud
5	Sweet Gum	Red-Scarlet Oak	Flowering Dogwood	Magnolia
6	Norway Maple	Linden	Flowering Cherry	Flowering Cherry
7	Red Maple	Ash	Flowering Plum	Flowering Plum
8	Sycamore	Norway Maple	Tree Lilac	Mountain Ash
9	White Birch	Sweet Gum	Amelanchier	Bradford Pear
10	American Elm	White Birch	Mountain Ash	Amelanchier

Table 2. Recommended Cultivars of the Top 10 Shade Trees as Selected by National Landscape Nurserymen's Association Members in 1970.

Pin Oak Seedlings	Ash Green
Red Maple Seedlings October Glory	Marshall's Seedless Modesto White
Honeylocust Rubylace Shademaster Sunburst	Norway Maple Seedlings Crimson King Schwedler Summershade
Sugar Maple Seedlings Columnare Green Mountain	Sweet Gum Seedlings
Red Oak Seedlings	White Birch Cutleaf Weeping European White
Linden Littleleaf	

Table 3. Recommended Varieties and Cultivars of the Top 10 Flowering Trees as Selected by National Landscape Nurserymen's Association Members in 1970.

Flowering Crab Hopa Japanese Katherine Sargent Scheidecker Siberian Tea Zumi	Flowering Dogwood Bloodtwig Cherokee Cornelian Cherry Japanese Redosier Rubra White
Redbud Seedlings Chinese White	Flowering Cherry Kwanzan Japanese Weeping
Magnolia Saucer Southern Star Sweet Bay	Flowering Plum Purpleleaf
Hawthorne Crimson Cloud Paul's Scarlet Washington	Mountain Ash European
	Pear Bradford Callery
	Amelanchier Seedlings

Table 4. Other Recommended Shade and Flowering Trees for Virginia

Ash	Flowering Pear
Autumn Purple	Aristocrat
Beech	Capitol
American	Redspire
Asplenifolia	Whitehouse
Pendula	Flowering Plum
Riversii	Thundercloud
Rivers Purple	Franklinia
Tricolor	Seedlings
Birch	Ginkgo
Monarch	Autumn Gold
Paper or Canoe	Grafted Male Plants
River	Golden Chain
Buckeye	Seedlings
Red Buckeye	Golden Rain
Crabapple	Seedlings
American Beauty	Gum, Black (Tupelo)
Flame	Seedlings
Floribunda	Gum Sweet
Indian Magic	Seedlings
Katherine	Hawthorn
Pink Perfection	Crimson Cloud
Profusion	Washington
Radiant	Japanese Pagoda
Royalty	Seedlings
Sargents	Magnolia, Saucer
Snowcloud	Seedlings
Snowdrift	Merril
White Angel	Alexandrinia
Dogwood, Chinese	Grozzoni
Kousa	Magnolia, Star
Elm	Ann
Chinese	Nigra
Flowering Cherry	Royal Star
Hally Jolivette	Rubra
Sargent's	Maple, Japanese
Weeping	Seedlings
Yoshino	Bloodgood
Maple, Japanese Dissectum	Oshiobeni
Crimson Queen	Oak, Willow
Ever Red	Seedlings
Maple, Norway	Redbud
Crimson King	Forest Pansy
Emerald Queen	Sarvis (Amelanchier)
Royal Red	Seedlings
Maple, Red	Sourwood
Seedlings	Seedlings
Columnare	Stewartia
October Glory	Seedlings
Red Sunset	White Fringetree
Maple, Sugar	Seedlings
Seedlings	Zelkova
Bonfire	Seedlings
Oak, Sawtooth	Village Green
Seedlings	
Oak, Scarlet	
Seedlings	

Table 5. Recommended Evergreen Trees for Virginia

Arborvitae	Holly, American
Techny	Seedlings
Bald Cypress	Fosteri No. 2 (Female)
Seedlings	Fosteri (Male)
Cedrus	John T. Stevens (Male)
Blue Atlas	Nellie R. Stevens (Female)
Deodara	Frances Kern (Self fruiting)
Weeping Blue Atlas	Photinia
Cryptomeria	Frazeri
Seedlings	Pine
Lobbi	Austrian
Cypress	Japanese Black
Leyland	Japanese White
Leyland; Silver Dust	White; weeping, fastigata
Dawn Redwood	Spruce
Seedlings	Colorado
Hemlock	Dwarf Alberta
Seedlings	Grafted Blue, Hoopsi
Canadian	Koster Blue
Carolina	Norway
Weeping forms	Serbian
	White

Recommended Reading:

Dirr, M. A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, Third Edition, 1983. Stipes Publishing Company, Champaign, Illinois.

Wyman, D. *Trees for American Gardens*, 1965. MacMillan Publishing Company, New York, New York.

Disclaimer:
Commercial products are named in this publication for information purposes only. The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and Virginia State University do not endorse or warrant these products, nor do they intend or imply discrimination against other products that also may be suitable.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service programs, activities, and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and September 30, 1977, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mitchell R. Geasler, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, and Vice Provost for Extension, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061; Clinton V. Turner, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia 23803.