

Trees Under 30 Feet	Fall Color	Mature Size	Growth Rate	Flowers	Fruit	Tree Form	State Region	Comments
American mountain ash (<i>Sorbus americana</i>)	yellow	20-30 feet	slow	white	orange, red berries	spreading	north	Showy orange-red berries persist into winter. Good bird food.
European mountain ash (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	red	20-30 feet	slow	white	red berries	spreading	north	Showy red berries. Good bird food.
Southern bayberry (<i>Myrica cerifera</i>)	evergreen	15-20 feet	slow	fragrant not ornamental	small drupe with bluish-white wax	upright rounded	central, south	Waxy coated fruits used in candle making. Likes moisture. Used as ornamental screen or hedge.
Serviceberry (<i>Ame/anchier spp.</i>)	yellow red	20-30 feet	slow	white	small purple or red apples	rounded	north, central, south	Also called shadbush. Good mass of white flowers.
Red buckeye (<i>Aesculus pavia</i>)	brown	15-25 feet	slow	red	buckeye nut is poisonous	irregular	north, central, south	Showy red flowers.
Painted buckeye (<i>Aesculus sylvatica</i>)	brown	15-25 feet	slow	large yellow	buckeye nut	irregular	north, central	Large, showy.
Japanese flowering cherry (<i>Prunus serrulata</i>)	bronze to dull red	20-25 feet	moderate to fast	white to pink	not ornamental	vase-shaped, rounded, columnar, or upright	north	Short-lived in Alabama. Characteristics vary with variety. Yoshino most common.
Chinkapins (<i>Castanea spp.</i>)	yellow	20-30 feet	moderate	small white	small edible chestnut	rounded	north, central, south	Good wildlife food. Related to American chestnut.
Flowering crabapple (<i>Malus</i>) and hybrids	dull yellow, bronze, or brown	15-25 feet	moderate to fast	white to dark red	red, yellow, or green	rounded, pyramidal, upright, or vase-shaped	north or central	Short-lived in Alabama. Many diseases; characteristics vary with variety.
Crape myrtle (<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>)	yellow, orange, and red	6-25 feet	fast	white, pink, purple, or dark red	not ornamental	upright, rounded, or vase-shaped	north, central, south	Powdery mildew/aphids minor problems (easy mgt). Excellent bark effects; trained to multiple or single trunk. Choose mildew resistant varieties
Flowering dogwood (<i>Comus florida</i>)	red to purplish-red	15-30 feet	slow to moderate	white, pink, or red	red	rounded, spreading	north, central, south	Very popular. Insect, disease, stress problems, especially in poorly drained and shallow soils in opensun.
Hawthorns (<i>Crataegus spp.</i>)	brown	15-25 feet	slow	white	red, brown, or yellow, small pome (apple- shaped fruit)	upright, rounded, or vase-shaped	north, central, south	Stems have thorns.
Hollies (<i>Ilex</i>) and hybrids	evergreen	20-30 feet	Slow, moderate, or fast	not ornamental	red or yellow; on female only	pyramidal	north, central, south	Look like small American Holly trees. Popular varieties: Foster's #2, Nellie R. Stevens, Savannah, East Palatka, and Hume #2.
Common hoptree (<i>Pte/ea trifoliata</i>)	yellow	10-20 feet	slow	not ornamental	yellow-brown wafer-like seeds	rounded	north, central, south	Foliage and leaves have strong lemon-like odor.
American hornbeam (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>)	orange	20-30 feet	slow	not ornamental	green nutlet	spreading to rounded	north, central, south	Will grow in shade or sun, and dry or wet sites. Good form.

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Eastern hophornbeam (<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>)	yellow	20-30 feet	slow	not ornamental	small brown nut	rounded or vase-shaped	north, central, south	Will grow in shade or sun. Dry or wet sites. Good form.
Mountain laurel (<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>)	evergreen	15-20 feet	slow	large pink clusters	dark brown capsule	forms a thicket	north, central, south	Good ornamental shrub.
Saucer magnolia (<i>Magnolia soulangeana</i>)	brown	20-30 feet	moderate	white, pink, or purple	not ornamental	pyramidal to rounded, upright	north, central, south	Flowers early; blooms are frozen one out of every 3 or 4 years. Frequently called Tulip Tree (which is also a name of Tulip Poplar).
Chalk maple (<i>Acer leucoderme</i>)	red	20-30 feet	slow	not ornamental	brown winged	rounded	north, central, south	Has distinct white bark.
Japanese maple (<i>Acer palmatum</i>)	yellow, bronze, purple, or red	15-25 feet	slow	not ornamental	not ornamental or red	vase-shaped	north, central, south	Summer color varies; shades of maroons and greens. Leaf form varies; excellent branching character; sensitive poorly drained soils.
Paw paw (<i>Asimina triloba</i>)	yellow	20-30 feet	moderate	purple	small, edible banana-like berry	rounded to pyramidal	north, central, south	Will grow in shade or sun. Wet or dry sites.
Eastern redbud (<i>Cereis canadensis</i>)	yellow	20-30 feet	slow	deep pink	oblong green pod	spreading to rounded	north, central, south	Very showy, flowers heavily in early spring. Can be multi-stemmed. Likes moisture.
American smoketree (<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>)	orange red	20-30 feet	slow	greenish white	light brown kidney-shaped	spreading	north, central, south	Autumn foliage and unusual fruit are best characteristics.
Sourwood (<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>)	yellow, red, and purple	25-30 feet	slow	white, fragrant	brown	pyramidal, rounded	north, central, south	A beautiful tree all seasons. Sourwood honey considered special, native.
Titi or Swamp cyrilla (<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>)	evergreen	20-30 feet	slow	white	brown or yellow egg-shaped seeds	spreading	south	Good honey plant.
Buckwheat tree or Titi (<i>Cliftonia monophylla</i>)	evergreen	10-20 feet	slow	fragrant white	shiny yellow 2 & 4 winged seeds	spreading rounded	south	Good honey plant. Attractive form and ornamental.
Witch hazel (<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>)	yellow	20-30 feet	slow	yellow	light brown capsule	usually multi-stemmed	north, central, south	Leaves aromatic. Grows in sun or shade.

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Sweet bay (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>)	evergreen	40-60 feet	moderate	white fragrant	dark-red, cone-like, fruit	narrow and round	north, central, south	Can be grown like southern magnolia, but smaller in form.
Baldcypress (<i>Taxodium distichum</i>)	brown	50-70 feet	moderate	not ornamental	not ornamental	pyramidal	north, central, south	Good, for wet areas. Roots form 'knees' so avoid planting near lawns. Beautiful rust fall color in setting sun. A conifer that drops its leaves.
American beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>)	yellow-bronze	50-70 feet	slow	not ornamental	not ornamental	upright, spreading	north, central, south	Beautiful native tree. May be difficult to buy. Lower leaves persist in winter.
River birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	yellow	40-70 feet	moderate to fast	not ornamental	not ornamental	rounded	north, central, south	Papery plates of bark are very attractive. Does best in moist soil, native.
Leyland cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis x cupressus leylandii</i>)	evergreen	35-50 feet	moderate	not ornamental	green cone turns brown at maturity	pyramidal	north, central, south	Relatively pest-free; needs room to grow.
Chinese elm (<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>)	yellow and reddish-purple	40-50 feet	fast	not ornamental	not ornamental	rounded, weeping, or upright, spreading	north, central, south	Tough picturesque tree. Excellent bark. Do not confuse with Siberian Elm.
Maidenhair tree or ginkgo (<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>)	yellow	50-80 feet	moderate	not ornamental	not ornamental	pyramidal, spreading	north, central	Excellent tree. Fall color can be spectacular. Avoid female trees - rotting fruit is putrid.
Goldenrain tree (<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>)	yellow	25-40 feet	moderate	yellow	bladder-like	broad rounded		Adapts to a range of sites. Transplants well in winter; requires some deadwood removal.
Black gum (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>)	bright red	50-100 feet	fast	not ornamental	blue-black, berry	conical		Good shade tree with great fall color.
American holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>)	evergreen	40-50 feet	moderate	dull white, not ornamental	red or yellow on female only	pyramidal, irregular	north, central, south	Only females set fruit. Some varieties have yellow berries. Tolerant to air pollution, but many insects and diseases.
Southern magnolia (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>)	evergreen	60-80 feet	slow to moderate	white, fragrant	red	pyramidal, upright, rounded	north, central, south	A favorite in South. Lower limbs should not be cut so that leaves and fruits can be quickly raked under the tree before mowing.
Florida maple (<i>Acer barbatum</i>)	yellow red	30-60 feet	moderate	not ornamental	brown, winged	spreading rounded	north, central, south	Sometimes named Southern Sugar Maple
Red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	yellow-grn, yellow, bright orange to red	40-60 feet	moderate to fast	red	not ornamental	pyramidal, irregular, rounded	north, central, south	Early spring flowers, leaves are red. Good to great fall color. About the best maple. Competes with turf if soil is shallow.
Silver maple (<i>Acer saccharinum</i>)	green-yellow to yellow	50-70 feet	fast	not ornamental	not ornamental	upright, rounded	north, central, south	Many diseases and insects, weak wood, competes with turf more than red maples (surface roots not uncommon). NOT RECOMMENDED.
Sugar maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	yellow, orange, or red	60-75 feet	slow	not ornamental	not ornamental	upright, rounded	north, central	Excellent shade tree. Good fall color. May compete with turf.

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Bur oak (<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>)	yellow or brown	50-80 feet	slow	not ornamental	acorn	rounded	north, central	Can take dry sites but does best on loamy wet areas.
Chestnut oak (<i>Quercus prinus</i>)	yellow	60-80 feet	slow	not ornamental	acorn	irregular broad	north, central	Adapted to rocky, upland soils. Can excel on drained lowlands.
Laurel oak (<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>)	evergreen	50-60 feet	fast	not ornamental	acorn	pyramidal, upright, rounded	central, south	Transplants better than most oaks. Often evergreen, or leaves persist through winter on tree.
Live oak (<i>Quercus virginiana</i>)	evergreen	40-80 feet	moderate	not ornamental	acorn	spreading, rounded, irregular	north, central, south	May lose leaves in north Alabama. Stately tree, too large for average landscape.
Overcup oak (<i>Quercus lyrata</i>)	yellow, red or brown	60-80 feet	slow	not ornamental	acorn	rounded	north, central, south	Interesting droop-branches. Can survive poorly drained sites.
Pin oak (<i>Quercus palustris</i>)	bronze to red	60-70 feet	moderate	not ornamental	acorn	pyramidal	north, central	Transplants easily, native. Can have iron chlorosis problems.
Scarlet oak (<i>Quercus coccinea</i>)	bright-red	70-75 feet	moderate	not ornamental	acorn	rounded	north, central, south	Hard to buy. Best fall color of Oaks.
Shumard oak (<i>Quercus shumardii</i>)	red or brown	60-90 feet	moderate	not ornamental	acorn	rounded	north, central, south	Good oak on most sites. Easy to buy.
Southern red oak (<i>Quercus falcata</i>)	yellow-brown	60-80 feet	moderate	not ornamental	acorn	rounded, spreading	north, central, south	Attractive tree, should be used more.
Water oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>)	brown	60-100 feet	moderate to fast	not ornamental	acorn	rounded, spreading, upright	north, central, south	Transplants easily, weedy. Weak wood when growth is fast. Competes with turf in shallow soil.
Willow oak (<i>Quercus phellos</i>)	yellow to yellow-brown	60-80 feet	moderate	not ornamental	acorn	pyramidal, spreading, rounded	north, central, south	Fine texture, transplants well. Interesting ornamental tree.
Pecan (<i>Carya illinoensis</i>)	dull yellow	70-100 feet	moderate	not ornamental	nut	rounded	north, central, south	If soil deep and fertile, a good shade tree and produces edible nuts. Difficult to transplant, numerous insect pests. Tanins in leaves stains items below
Bradford pear (<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'</i>)	yellow, orange, red, or purple	30-60 feet	moderate	white	not ornamental	rounded	north, central, south	Short but spectacular flower show, usually excellent fall color. Pest resistant. Poor branching - look for other cultivars
Persimmon (<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>)	yellow	20-70 feet	moderate	white	edible orange fruit at maturity	cylindrical	north, central, south	Often forgotten as shade tree. Potential.
Tulip poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	yellow	70-90 feet	fast	yellow-green and orange	brown, not ornamental	pyramidal, rounded	north, central, south	Too large for most home landscapes. Some disease/insect problems. Messy leaf drop with drought and other stresses. Some have weak wood.

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Loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>)	evergreen	60-90 feet	fast	not ornamental	cone	pyramidal, rounded	north, central, south	Not a graceful pine but more adaptable to various soils than most pines.
Longleaf pine (<i>Pinus palustris</i>)	evergreen	80-100 feet	fast	not ornamental	cone	upright, rounded	north, central, south	Mature tree picturesque. Slow early growth, becoming more available. Largest cones and needles of any pine; needles used to make baskets.
White pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	evergreen	80-120 feet	moderate	not ornamental	cone	pyramidal, rounded	north, central	Very attractive. Needs well-drained soil.
Chinese pistache (<i>Pistachia chinensis</i>)	scarlet to golden	35-50 feet	moderate	not ornamental	not ornamental	oval	north, central, south	Drought tolerance; recommended street tree. Good fall color.
Eastern redcedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>)	evergreen	40-50 feet	moderate	not ornamental	dark blueberries	pyramidal, columnar, irregular	north, central, south	Can be an excellent ornamental, fragrant foliage. Problems - Cedar-apple rust and bagworms.
Dawn redwood (<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>)	reddish brown	30-40 feet	moderate	not ornamental	cone	conical	north, central, south	Good for screening.
Sassafras (<i>Sassafras albidum</i>)	yellow, orange, or red	30-60 feet	slow	not ornamental	bluish-black, berry	spreading	north, central, south	Excellent fall color. Roots used to make sassafras tea and root beer.
Carolina silverbell (<i>Halesia carolina</i>)	yellow	30-40 feet	moderate	white	brown	spreading, rounded, irregular	north, central, south (except Gulf Coast)	Excellent native tree, may be difficult to purchase. Very pest resistant.
Japanese zelkova (<i>Zelkova serrata</i>)	bronze	40-50 feet	moderate	not ornamental	not ornamental	rounded	north, central, south	Resembles elm leaf. Resistant to Dutch elm disease. Likes moist soils.