Trees for Landscapes or Urban Areas in Alabama

Tony Glover, County Extension Coordinator – Cullman, Al
Why use native plants?

- Wildlife habitat
- Adapted to local conditions
- Ecological preservation
‘Jeffsred Autumn Blaze’ Maple

*Acer x freemanii* cv. ‘Jeffsred Autumn Blaze’

Silver/Red maple hybrid – better branching angles than Silver maple and better wind resistance than Red maple

50-60’ tall
Florida or Southern Sugar Maple
*Acer saccharum var. floridanum*

Slow/med growth — more tolerant of high temps than regular sugar maple 35-40ft — moist well drained

Credit: David J. Moorhead
River Birch
*Betula nigra*

Fast growth – somewhat messy – try “Duraheat”
American Yellowwood

*Cladrastis kentukea* (syn. *Cladrastis lutea*)

Medium size – fragrant beautiful blooms in late spring – golden fall color
American Hornbeam, Ironwood, or Musclewood

*Carpinus caroliniana*

Good specimen – street tree – wet or dry soils

Slow/med growth – smooth muscle like trunk

35-40ft
Fruit on female trees

Fringetree or Grancy-Greybeard
*Chionanthus virginicus*
Green Hawthorne ‘Winter King’
Crataegus viridis cv ‘Winter King’

Bradford pear replacement
Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora

Needs ample moisture – med/slow growth

Smaller Cultivars: Little Gem and DD Blanchard,
Black Gum

*Nyssa sylvatica*

Somewhat difficult to transplant but worth the effort. ‘Wildfire’ is a newer selection that is smaller than the species 30-50’
Sourwood

*Oxydendrum arboreum*

Credit: Ed McDowell

Med/slow growth rate – flowers June-July – Honey

Nice fall color – great landscape tree - understory
White Oak
*Quercus alba*

- Slow/medium growth rate
- Stately appearance – well drained but moist soils preferred – difficult to transplant
Overcup Oak

Quercus lyrata

Suited for almost any soil and tolerates wet poorly drained urban soils - strong branching habit with nice bark.
Burr Oak

*Quercus macrocarpa*

Well suited for street, park and parking lots with large spaces for roots. Uniform crown. Highly adaptable.

Photos from Univ of Florida - IFAS
Nuttall Oak
*Quercus nuttallii*

Red Oak species – relatively fast – symmetrical straight leader – tolerates poor wet compacted soils
Willow Oak
Quercus phellos

Good shade or specimen tree

Do not use near concrete – shallow heaving roots
Not extremely wind resistant
Shumard Oak (a southern red oak species *Quercus shumardii*)

Fast Growing Shade tree and transplants well
Bald Cypress
*Taxodium distichum*

Beautiful specimen tree – deciduous – bronze fall color – wet (makes knees) dry (no knees)

Credit: Chris Evans

Fall Color
Non-Native Trees
Amur Maple ‘Flame’
*Acer ginnala* ‘Flame’

Good under power lines – fast initially but slows later. Nice fall color 20-30’ tall

Photos from Univ of Florida - IFAS
Japanese Maple Seedling
*Acer palmatum*

Good under power lines – fast initially but slows later. Nice fall color 20’ tall – Good for understory areas. Need well drained soils and late frost may burn.
European Hornbeam 'Fastigiata`
*Carpinus betulas* ‘Fastigiata’

Very strong wood – excellent street tree
choice 30-40’ by 20’ wide

Photos from Univ of Florida - IFAS
Chinese Fringe Tree

*Chionanthus retusus*

Beautiful small tree of 15-20 ft – sun to part shade – moderately drought tolerant
Ginkgo biloba

Great street tree. Tolerates compacted urban soils and transplants easily.

‘Autumn Gold’ is an excellent male cultivar.
Goldenraintree

*Koelreuteria paniculata*

Fast growing small tree (25-40’) with bloom interest – small street use but wood somewhat brittle.
Flowering Crabapple

*Malus spp*

Very adaptable small tree with wonderful ornamental qualities – Bradford Pear replacement option

Malus x Callaway
Dawn Redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Looks a little like our native Bald Cypress with a similar growth habit. 70-90’ tall or more. Could be a street tree with lower branches removed – Specimen Tree
Persian Ironwood
Parrotia persica

This thickly branched 20-40’ tree should be used more as a street and specimen tree.
Chinese Pistache
*Pistacea chinensis*

It has not been widely planted but should be due to its adaptability to urban soils and its nice fall color.
Flowering Cherry ‘Snowgoose’

*Prunus serrulata* ‘Snowgoose’

Somewhat more pest resistant than other flowering cherries – upright vase form – Bradford Pear replacement tree
Japanese Snowbell  
*Styrax japonicus*

Blooms in Mid Spring

Nice small tree – prefers afternoon shade and moist soils – many cultivars
Japanese Zelkova

*Zelkova serrata*

Somewhat resembles and American Elm. Can reach 50’ at maturity but usually smaller as an urban street tree. A newer cultivar called ‘Myrimar’ is a vigorous heat tolerant selection from Georgia that also tolerates drought well.
Websites that can provide more information:

http://lyra.ifas.ufl.edu/FloridaTrees/index.html
http://www.aces.edu/forestry/dendrology/
http://www.aces.edu/ucf/
http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/
http://www.huntertrees.com
http://www.doddnatives.com
http://www.ag.auburn.edu/hort/landscape/database/search.php3
http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/ohld220/index.html
http://www.mortonarb.org/urban-tree-root-systems.html
http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/csc/article.html
http://urbanext.illinois.edu/treeselector/search.cfm
http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/factsheets.cfm
http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/idit.htm
http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/treeselector/search.htm
http://plants.usda.gov
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http://lyra.ifas.ufl.edu/FloridaTrees/index.html

For use of pictures and notes