Small Native Trees for the Home Landscape

Kim Strader, Assistant Curator, Native Plant Trail
kas3a@virginia.edu

Chris Schmidt, Arborist  cms2cq@virginia.edu
Welcome to the Nancy Larrick Crosby Native Plant Trail. The Trail consists of three sections — Woodland, Meadow, and Wetland.

Today, we will explore the Woodland section highlighting eight small Virginia native trees that are well suited for the home landscape.

By adding these and other native plants to your yard, you are helping the environment by:

1. Providing much needed habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife species because natural areas are disturbed or destroyed every day at an alarming rate.

2. Conserving water because once established, these plants will require little to no additional moisture due to being adapted to our climate.

3. Reducing pesticide use because these plants attract beneficial insects that help keep harmful insect populations in balance.

By establishing native plants in your home landscape, you are helping the environment and creating a healthier place for all of us to live.

We hope you enjoyed the tour and please contact us if you have any questions.

Where to buy these trees

The Virginia Native Plant Society maintains a list of nurseries that specialize in native plants. The list is available on their website at www.vnps.org.

The trees highlighted in this booklet can be found at the following nurseries:

Edible Landscaping, Afton, VA
(434) 361-9134
www.ediblelandscaping.com

Fort Valley Nursery, Woodstock, VA
(540) 459-5151
www.fortvalleynursery.com

Hill House Farm and Nursery, Castleton, VA
(540) 937-1798
www.hillhousenativeplants.com

Merrifield Garden Center, Gainesville, VA
(703) 368-1919
www.merrifieldgardencenter.com

Piedmont Nursery, Markham, VA
(540) 364-0398
www.piedmontnursery.com

Call to verify availability.
**Flowering Dogwood**  
*Cornus florida*

- **Size:** Grows 25 to 40’ tall with an equal spread.
- **Culture:** Rich well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Plant in an area that receives morning sun to help control anthracnose disease by drying leaf surface moisture. Mulch shallow roots to keep them cool and moist.
- **Notes:** Disease resistant cultivars available. Fruits are an important food source for migrating birds. Host plant for 115 butterfly and moth caterpillars.

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**Fringe Tree**  
*Chionanthus virginicus*

- **Size:** Slow growing large shrub or small tree reaching heights of 12 to 25’ with an equal spread.
- **Culture:** Full sun to part shade in moist/well-drained to dry soil.
- **Notes:** Late to leaf out. Male and female flowers are borne on separate plants. Male flowers have longer petals.
**Silverbell**  
*Halesia tetraphylla*

**Size:** Grows 30 to 40’ tall with a spread of 20 to 35’.

**Culture:** Sun to part shade in rich, moist/well-drained to dry soil.

**Notes:** Bees pollinate the flowers, and fruits are eaten by small mammals. Formerly *Halesia carolina*.

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**Serviceberry**  
*Amelanchier arborea*

**Size:** Grows 15 to 25’ tall with a variable spread.

**Culture:** Full sun or partial shade in well-drained soil.

**Notes:** One of the first native trees to bloom in the spring, providing nectar and pollen for bees. Birds, mammals, and people eat the fruit, which is high in Vitamins A, B, and C, protein, calcium, and fiber.

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**Fruit turns brown and may persist into winter**

**Fall foliage**

**Blooms April to May**

**Multiple stem trunk**

**Blooms March to April**

**Fall foliage**

**Fruit ripens in June over a 3 to 4 week period**
**Pawpaw**
*Asimina triloba*

- **Size:** Grows 20 to 30’ tall and wide.
- **Culture:** Naturally grows in low-lying, well-drained floodplains but also grows well on drier sites. Sun or shade.
- **Notes:** Largest native edible fruit. Fruit is high in Vitamin C, magnesium, iron, potassium, calcium, zinc, and essential amino acids. Only host plant for Zebra Swallowtail caterpillars.

**Redbud**
*Cercis canadensis*

- **Size:** Grows 20 to 30’ tall with a spread of 25 to 35’.
- **Culture:** Full sun to light shade growing in all soil types but does not tolerate wet sites.
- **Notes:** Flowers pollinated by bees. Host plant for 19 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars.
**River Birch**  
*Betula nigra*

**Size:** Grows 40 to 70' tall with a spread of 40 to 60'.

**Culture:** Naturally grows along stream banks and areas that are periodically flooded but grows well in drier sites.

**Notes:** Birds eat seeds and male catkins plus search loose bark for insects and spiders. Host plant for 400 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars.

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**Pagoda Dogwood**  
*Cornus alternifolia*

**Size:** Grows 15 to 25' tall with a spread of 20 to 30'.

**Culture:** Partial shade in moist well-drained soil.

**Notes:** Whorled branching creates the appearance of layers or tiers. Prone to twig blight/canker about every 10 years killing stems to the ground. New stems then sprout.