An iconic tree in the eastern U.S., Bur Oaks have heavily furrowed bark and produce large, mossy-looking acorns. Bur Oaks grow in a rounded shape and can reach 60-80 feet tall with a canopy spread of about 60-80 feet as well. Since these will be large trees, don’t plant them too close to a house or under obstructions such as power lines. These trees prefer full sunlight, and will provide shade for years to come!

*Quercus macrocarpa*
The Princeton Elm is a cultivar of a midwestern variety of elm; however, it is well adapted for temperate climates. Notable about this elm is its resistance to Dutch Elm disease. Princeton Elms can grow up to 50-70 feet tall with a canopy spread of around 30-50 feet. They prefer full sunlight and moist soils, though their resistance to drought and tolerance of many soil conditions make this an excellent urban tree. Princeton Elms also have great fall colors.
The Red Maple is a classic deciduous tree, native to the southeastern U.S. This tree displays bright red foliage in the fall. Red Maples typically grow straight and upright and can reach a height of 40-60 feet, with a canopy spread of 35-45 feet. Plant this tree in areas of full sunlight. They prefer moist soils, but can grow in a variety of soil conditions and have a relatively high tolerance to drought. Red Maples are heavily browsed upon by deer, so consider placing a trunk guard around newly planted trees.
Native to the southeastern U.S., the River Birch is a fast-growing canopy tree that can reach heights of 40-70 feet. Due to its height and canopy spread (around 40-60 feet), be sure that there are no obstructions overhead when planting this tree, and plant away from your home because they can be somewhat messy. As its name suggests, the River Birch is typically found in moist clay or loam soil, often near river banks, making this species excellent for erosion control. This tree prefers areas of partial shade and produces berries that native birds enjoy.
Sweetbay Magnolia is a semi- to full-evergreen tree that produces relatively large, oval-shaped light green leaves. White, lemon-scented flowers bloom in the spring, followed by bright red seed pods that appear in the fall. Sweetbay Magnolias can grow to heights of 10-35 feet, with a canopy spread of 10-35 feet. They prefer moist, well-drained soils and can tolerate full or partial sun exposure. Deer often feed on the new twigs and branches, so consider using a deer guard.
Sugar Maples are similar in size and shape to Red Maples. This maple species is known for its large size (growing up to 40-80 feet tall, with a canopy spread of 30-60 feet), and its beautiful orange and yellow leaves in the fall. Full or partial sun is best for this tree, along with moist and well-drained soil. Like Red Maples, deer browse heavily on young Sugar Maples. Deer guards are recommended, if you live in a wooded neighborhood.

Acer saccharum
The Swamp White Oak is a prominent feature of the landscape in Tennessee, along with the rest of the southeastern U.S. This oak is tolerant of most soil conditions, making it an excellent tree for urban and suburban settings. Swamp White Oaks should be planted in full sun. Expect this tree to reach heights of 50-60 feet with a similar canopy spread.

- Grows large
- Full sun
- Hardy
- A favorite tree of many
- "Two-toned" leaves

*Quercus bicolor*
The Thornless Honey Locust, also known as an Imperial Locust, develops a broad and airy canopy, making it an ideal shade tree. The mature height of this tree is typically between 30-40 feet, with a canopy spread of 25-35 feet. This is a fast-growing tree, especially in full sunlight. They are tolerant of most soil conditions, as well as flooding and drought. These qualities make the Thornless Honey Locust an excellent urban tree. Long brown seed pods develop in the fall, and the leaves develop a dazzling yellow coloration.

Gleditsia triacanthos f. Inermis
The Tulip Poplar is the state tree of Tennessee. They grow relatively straight and tall, coming in at around 60-90 feet with a canopy spread of 30-50 feet. They bloom in the spring and produce large, green and orange tulip-shaped flowers. Fall leaf color takes on a yellow to orange hue. Tulip Poplars can thrive in a variety of soil conditions and should be planted in full sunlight.

Liriodendron tulipifera
As the name suggests, the leaves of this tree are long and slender, much like a willow. The Willow Oak grows to about 40-75 feet tall, with a canopy spread of 25-50 feet. The canopy is light and airy, and leaves turn a golden brown color in the fall. Willow Oaks prefer full sunlight and can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. Wildlife love the acorns, but be sure to protect this tree from deer! 

**Willow Oak**

- full sun
- grows large
- upright growth when young
- unique leaves -- not like other oaks

_Quercus phellos_
Crabapples are well-known landscaping trees and accentuate any yard nicely due to their rounded shape and vivid pink flowers that are produced when the tree is in bloom. These trees will grow 15-20 feet in height and with a canopy spread of about 15-20 feet as well. Large red berries are produced in the fall. These are not typically consumed by humans, but make a great food source for squirrels and birds. These trees thrive in moderately moist soils and full sunlight. (Note: both pink and white varieties are available.)
The Eastern Redbud is an iconic springtime tree in our region, producing densely packed clusters of bright purple-pink flowers when it blooms. After flowering, heart-shaped leaves appear. Redbuds typically reach heights of 20-30 feet (with a canopy spread of 25-35 feet) and can grow well in only partial sun. This is a well adapted tree for most soil types, and a favorite for bees and other pollinating insects that are attracted to the bright flowers.
The Dogwood is another staple tree species in our region. It is typically a smaller tree, growing to a maximum height of about 15-30 feet (with a 15-30 foot canopy spread). Dogwoods often grow well in a variety of conditions. White flowers appear in the spring, giving way to glossy green leaves that turn a purple or red color in the fall. This tree also provides quite a lot of wildlife value, as it is a favorite of squirrels, rabbits, birds, and pollinating insects.
Pink Dogwoods are genetically identical to their White Dogwood counterparts, aside from the fact that they produce pink flowers, of course! The gene for pink flowers is recessive, meaning that the gene must be inherited from both parents for the trait to be expressed. This makes Pink Dogwoods much more rare in nature. However, these trees have become a popular choice for yards all over the world and will provide all of the same attributes one would expect from the more common White Dogwood. Pink Dogwoods generally grow to a height of 15-30 feet, with a 15-30 foot canopy spread.
Little Gem Magnolia

A smaller variety of the Southern Magnolia, this species will grow to heights of 15-20 feet, with a canopy spread of 7-10 feet. Little Gem Magnolias thrive in well-drained loam and clay soils with full to partial sunlight. Large white flowers begin blooming just two or three years after planting. The seeds also attract many species of birds. These trees create excellent screens in yards.

- evergreen
- smaller in size
- beautiful blooms
- mostly sun
- great screen/covering tree

Magnolia grandiflora
Kwanzan Cherry

The Kwanzan Cherry is a unique cherry cultivar. Smaller than the Yoshino Cherry, the Kwanzan will typically grow to heights of just around 25-30 feet, also with a canopy spread of 25-30 feet. The flowers produced by this cherry are just as stunning as the Yoshino, but tend to take on a deeper shade of pink or red. Another interesting trait of this tree is that no fruit or berries are produced, making it an excellent choice to plant along roads or sidewalks as leaf and/or fruit litter is not an issue. Full sun is best for the Kwanzan Cherry, and it can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. These trees typically live for 15 to 25 years.

Prunus serrulata 'Kanzan'
Though its native habitat is Japan, the Yoshino Cherry is well adapted for life in the eastern U.S. These trees are famous for their amazing displays of white and pink flowers in the spring. Yoshino Cherry trees grow in a rounded fashion and can reach heights of 25-40 feet with a 20-40 foot canopy spread, making them relatively large understory (smaller in size) trees. Full or partial sunlight is suitable for this tree, and though Yoshino Cherries prefer moist soil, they will readily grow in most soil conditions. Small black fruit is produced in the fall and is eaten by birds, but is not edible for humans.
Fruit Trees: Apple Varieties

Most of the fruit species available require one or multiple partners planted together. This is to ensure cross-pollination and allows the trees to bear fruit. Partners should typically be either the same or a different species of the fruit. For example, a Gala Apple can be planted with a Fuji Apple to achieve the best yield for each of them. Be sure to research which partner species your tree should be planted with so that effective cross-pollination can take place, and the Root Nashville team can help as well.


Gala Apple: Produces a thin skin, slightly tart red apple. Fruit is medium size and perfect for baking and cooking. Same size as Anna Apple and prefers full sunlight. Keep this tree watered, as it is not very drought tolerant.

Red Delicious: One of the most common cultivated apple species, the Red Delicious produces a medium- to large-sized red apple. The apple is sweet and mild, and can be stored in the refrigerator for several months. Heights of 10-25 feet, canopy spread of 10-25 feet.

Yellow Delicious: The fruit of the golden delicious is very sweet and tender, with a yellow skin. This apple is perfect for simply biting into, but works equally well baked into a pie. Heights of 10-25 feet, canopy spread of 10-25 feet.

Fuji: With its sweet and slightly tart fruit, the Fuji is a crisp eating apple. These trees should be grown in full sunlight and moist soil. Heights of 15-20 feet, canopy spread of 15-20 feet.

Honeycrisp: The Honeycrisp is a modern apple variety that has quickly become one of the most sought after apples due to their firm, crunchy texture and sweet, juicy taste. These trees prefer full sunlight and moist soil. Heights of 12-15 feet, canopy spread of 12-15 feet.
**Fruit Trees: Pear & Plum**

### Pear

**Ayers:** The Ayers fruit is sweet and soft. The Ayres pear should reach heights of 20-30 feet in full sun (canopy spread of 12-15 feet). This pear species is self-pollinating, but will typically produce higher yields if planted with a partner pear species.

**Moonglow:** The Moonglow is a red pear with a juicy, slightly mushy texture. Prefers moist soil and full sunlight. Plant the Moonglow with another pear species to ensure cross-pollination. Heights of 15-20 feet, canopy spread of 12-15 feet.

**Orient:** The Orient is yellow pear with a light, creamy texture and mild taste. This makes it an excellent choice for salads and other dishes. Expect heights of 15-20 feet with a similar canopy spread. This tree grows best in full sun and heavy clay or loam soil. Cross-pollination is required.

### Plum

**Methley:** The Methley is a cultivar of a Japanese species of plum. These trees bear heavy yields of plums, which are sweet and juicy. While not picky about soil conditions, this tree should be grown in full sunlight. Methley is a self-pollinating plum species, but yields typically increase if grown with a partner. This plum grows to 15-20 feet with a similar canopy spread and blooms with large flowers.

**Santa Rosa:** This large, juicy red plum is great for eating, cooking, or canning. These fast growing trees thrive in full sunlight and well drained soils. Santa Rosa plums reach heights of 15-20 feet with a similar canopy spread. These trees are self-pollinating, however a partner is usually recommended to increase yield.
**Fruit Trees: Pecan & Persimmon**

**Pecan**

**Choctaw:** The Choctaw pecan tree produces large quantities of sweet and crunchy pecans that are perfect for eating and cooking with. These trees grow in full or partial sunlight and may reach heights of up to 30-40 feet. Can be difficult to grow.

**Kanza:** Kanza pecan trees produce a smaller, but just as flavorful nut as the Choctaw. This species is known particularly as being cold tolerant and disease resistant. Heights of 75-100 feet, with similar canopy spread.

**Mohawk:** The Mohawk nut is large, though yields seem to be quite variable on a yearly basis. This tree is also very susceptible to cold. Heights of 60-80 feet, with similar canopy spread.

**Oconee:** Regarded as one of the highest quality pecan cultivars because of the size and flavor of the nut, as well as its reliability in nut production. Heights of 75-100 feet, with a canopy spread of 50-70 feet.

**Persimmon**

**Common:** This persimmon is a small, hardy tree which stands out as a champion in urban settings due to its tolerance of most soil conditions, as well as its impressive heat and drought resistance. Heights of 30-60 feet, canopy spread of 20-35 feet. Native to our region.

**Fuyu:** A Japanese persimmon variety, the Fuyu grows to heights of 15-25 feet (with a similar canopy spread) and like the Common Persimmon, this variety also tolerates urban environments very well.
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Image and information sources:
Arbor Day Foundation
Metro Tree Advisory Committee
SelecTree: A Tree Selection Guide (Cal Poly)
US Forest Service
USDA PLANTS Database