Landscape Trees for Specific Uses

James Robbins
Extension Horticulture Specialist - Ornamentals

Trees add a great deal of value to our landscapes. They add value in a variety of ways including providing shade, reducing energy costs on buildings and homes, increasing property values, stabilizing soil, improving the health of our environment and adding beauty to our landscapes.

Trees are planted in the landscape for a variety of aesthetic and environmental reasons. In locations where trees may be planted near or under utility wires, the ultimate size of the tree must be considered so long-run conflicts do not develop. A number of large shrubs or small trees can provide planting options near or under utility wires (Table 1). Trees also offer options as street trees (Table 2), in narrow planting situations (Table 3), and as lawn or shade trees (Table 4). Some trees are less desirable than others due to short lifespan or excessive debris from flowers, fruits or brittle wood (Table 5). Before planting any vegetation, contact Arkansas One Call (http://www.arkanascall.com).

1-800-462-9999 to locate any underground utilities. Unless specified otherwise in local ordinances, trees and other vegetation should not be planted within 10 feet of any utility service equipment, including access holes for buried power lines.

Table 2. Trees appropriate in urban settings as street trees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Landscape Size (height x width)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acer platanoides</td>
<td>&quot;Cleveland&quot;</td>
<td>40' x 30'</td>
<td>Upright with no fall color; possibly good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. rubrum (Red Sunset™, October Glory™)</td>
<td>Red Maple</td>
<td>60' x 60'</td>
<td>Red fall color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. x xtra®</td>
<td>Maple</td>
<td>35' x 25'</td>
<td>Untreatable when young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cercidiphyllum &quot;Fastigiata&quot;</td>
<td>Fastigiate Maple</td>
<td>35' x 25'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus oxycanthus</td>
<td>&quot;Haw&quot;</td>
<td>40' x 25'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euonymus fortunei</td>
<td>&quot;Emerald &quot;</td>
<td>45' x 45'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus americana (Autumn Purple™, Autumn Ash™)</td>
<td>White Ash</td>
<td>65' x 65'</td>
<td>Purple, orange fall color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginkgo biloba (male)</td>
<td>Ginkgo</td>
<td>70' x 50'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginkgo biloba (female)</td>
<td>Ginkgo</td>
<td>70' x 50'</td>
<td>Upright, yellow fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis (&quot;Mississippi&quot;, &quot;Skyline&quot;)</td>
<td>Honeylocust</td>
<td>45' x 60'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnocladus dioicus - male (&quot;Espresso&quot;); Prairie Titan™</td>
<td>Kentucky Coffee</td>
<td>60' x 60'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagerstroemia sp. (many suitable tree cultivars)</td>
<td>Crape Myrtle</td>
<td>10' x 40'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquidambar styraciflua (mosty seedless cultivars such as &quot;Tatooine&quot;); &quot;Chinese Maple&quot;</td>
<td>Sweetgum</td>
<td>50' x 45'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malus sp. (mosty seedless cultivars such as &quot;Red Baron&quot;); &quot;Heavenly Gothic&quot;</td>
<td>Redbud</td>
<td>40' x 30'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ostrya virginiana</td>
<td>American Hornbeam</td>
<td>40' x 25'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ptelea triloba</td>
<td>Chinese Pistache</td>
<td>20' x 25'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilia americana</td>
<td>Balsam Poplar</td>
<td>50' x 40'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. cordata &quot;Greenspire&quot;</td>
<td>Littleleaf Linden</td>
<td>40' x 30'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmus americana (&quot;Alata&quot;); &quot;Athena™&quot;)</td>
<td>Elm</td>
<td>40' x 30'</td>
<td>Upright, no fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. x xtra® &quot;Fastport&quot;</td>
<td>Maple</td>
<td>25' x 10'</td>
<td>U.S. Natl Arb. Release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. x xtra® &quot;Prospector&quot;</td>
<td>Elm</td>
<td>50' x 25'</td>
<td>U.S. Natl Arb. Release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zelkova serrata (&quot;Green Vase&quot;); &quot;Village Green&quot;)</td>
<td>Zelkova</td>
<td>35' x 30'</td>
<td>Upright, yellow fall color; good in NW Ark.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plant Database
Introduction

This plant list reflects a typical palette of plants sold in the Arkansas nursery trade or plants commonly found in the Arkansas landscape. Plants followed by an asterisk (*) are not generally recommended for sale and use but are included on the list for identification purposes.

This list is arranged by both common name and scientific name. Select from lists of Groundcovers, Landscape Shrubs, Landscape Trees, Ornamental Grasses, Perennials, Turf, and Vines.
HORT PLANTS APP

version 2

70 trees
120 shrubs
10 groundcovers
11 vines
31 annuals
24 perennials
10 ornamental grasses
SEARCH function

University of Arkansas System
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
Acer palmatum var. atropurpureum
Redleaf Japanese Maple
**Acer palmatum var. atropurpureum**

**Redleaf Japanese Maple**

- **Size:** typically small tree (8’ to 15’)
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** not significant
- **Fall Color:** depending on cultivar, can be colorful
- **Culture:** avoid windy sites; requires moist soil especially in summer; typically not well suited to full sun in Arkansas
- **Cultivars:** variety atropurpureum is a large group of red foliage forms; cultivars include ‘Bloodgood’ and ‘Trompenberg’
Seedling variation

Variation in leaf color
Acer rubrum
Red Maple
Male flowers

Fruit (samara)
Acer rubrum

Red Maple

- Size: medium-sized shade tree (60’); fast growing
- Flowers/Fruit: although small, adds distinctive red color to landscape in early spring
- Fall Color: variable (reason for cultivars) but excellent; typically red
- Culture: tolerant of soil type; fast growing
- Use: street tree, lawn shade tree
- Cultivars: ‘October Glory’, ‘Red Sunset’, ‘Autumn Flame’; native from Florida to Canada in river bottoms
Acer saccharum
Sugar Maple

Pointed bud; petiole sap clear
Acer saccharum

Sugar Maple

• Size: medium- to large-sized shade tree (65’ tall by 55’ wide)

• Flowers: not significant

• Fruit: not significant

• Fall Color: exceptional orange/red fall color

• Culture: best in moist, rich soil; intolerant of heat and dry sites; **typically best suited in Northwest Arkansas**

• Use: shade tree in Northwest Arkansas

• Cultivars: ‘Legacy’, ‘John Pair’
Betula nigra
River Birch
Betula nigra
River Birch

• Size: small-sized tree (35’ tall by 25’ wide)
• Flowers: not significant
• Fruit: not significant
• Fall Color: yellowish; beautiful, exfoliating bark
• Culture: very adaptable
• Disease/Insect: none significant; avoid alkaline soils (iron chlorosis)
• Use: small landscape tree; typically selected for attractive bark
• Cultivars: Heritage™ (salmon white bark), Dura-Heat™
Cercis canadensis

Eastern Redbud

- Size: small-sized tree (18’ tall by 18’ wide)
- Flowers: very attractive, pink-purple (white form ‘Alba’ also available but not as common) flowers; early spring
- Fruit: small pod
- Fall Color: none
- Culture: best in partial shade; best with constant moisture
- Disease/Insect: none significant; occasional canker
- Use: specimen small flowering tree; woodland
- Cultivars: ‘Oklahoma’ (texensis), more drought tolerant, ‘Alba’ (white-flowered form)
Chionanthus virginicus
Fringetree
**Chionanthus virginicus**

**Fringetree, Grancy Gray-beard**

- **Size**: large shrub/small-sized tree (20’ tall by 20’ wide)
- **Flowers**: dramatic, lacy, white flowers in mid-April
- **Fruit**: not significant; dark blue drupe
- **Fall Color**: none
- **Culture**: adaptable; even flowers well in shade
- **Disease/Insect**: none
- **Use**: woodland landscape; native
Cornus florida
Eastern Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida

Eastern Flowering Dogwood

- Size: small-sized tree (15’ tall by 20’ wide)
- Flowers: exceptional flower (bracts) display in early spring
- Fruit: noticeable red fruits in spring
- Fall Color: attractive maroon
- Culture: best in partial shade and adequate moisture during Arkansas summer months
- Disease/Insect: leaf spots
- Use: small, flowering tree; woodland
- Cultivars: many for larger bracts and bract color (pink)
**Cornus kousa**

Kousa Dogwood

- **Size:** small-sized tree (18’ tall by 22’ wide)
- **Flowers:** 3 to 4 weeks after *C. florida*; bract is pointed in contrast to *C. florida* (notched)
- **Fruit:** red, looks like a strawberry
- **Fall Color:** nice, orange-red fall color
- **Culture:** slightly more tolerant of heat than *C. florida*
- **Disease/Insect:** none serious
- **Use:** small flowering tree

[Back to index]
Fraxinus americana

White Ash

- Size: medium- to large-sized tree (65’ tall by 65’ wide)
- Flowers: not significant
- Fruit: not significant
- Fall Color: nice, purple fall color
- Culture: very adaptable to soils
- Disease/Insect: none serious
- Use: shade tree; very fast growing; favored over green ash
- Cultivars: ‘Autumn Purple’, ‘Royal Purple’
Ginkgo biloba

Ginkgo

- Size: medium- to large-sized tree (75’ tall by 60’ wide); slow growing
- Flowers: not significant
- Fruit: 1” ‘plum’; avoid female trees (very foul-smelling fruits)
- Fall Color: excellent clear yellow; distinctive webbed leaf
- Culture: very tough tree; good urban tree
- Use: street tree, lawn tree
Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis
Thornless Honeylocust
**Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis**

**Thornless Common Honeylocust**

- **Size:** medium- to large-sized tree (60’ tall by 60’ wide); very fast growing
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** 12” long, twisted pod; messy; you do not want a female honeylocust
- **Fall Color:** nice yellow
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Use:** street tree; lawn tree for light shade
- **Cultivars:** ‘Shademaster’, ‘Moraine’ and ‘Sunburst’ are fruitless (males) and thornless (var. inermis)
Koelreuteria paniculata
Goldenraintree
Koelreuteria paniculata

Goldenraintree

- Size: small-sized tree (25’ tall by 30’ wide)
- Flowers: exceptional summer-flowering tree; deep yellow, terminal panicles
- Fruit: bladder-like fruit capsule
- Fall Color: none
- Culture: adaptable
- Use: small, flowering tree
Lagerstroemia indica
Crape myrtle
Lagerstroemia indica

Crapemyrtle

- **Size**: small shrub to small-sized tree (3’ to 40’ tall)
- **Flowers**: exceptional summer flowering plant; flower colors vary from white to pink to purple
- **Fruit**: woody capsule; not showy and somewhat messy
- **Fall Color**: nice flame colors on some cultivars
- **Bark**: exceptional on some tree cultivars (‘Natchez’, ‘Biloxi’)
- **Culture**: full sun; drought tolerant once established
- **Disease/Insect**: powdery mildew, leaf spot
- **Use**: specimen, summer-flowering shrub/tree; best in zones 7 and 8
- **Cultivars**: many for size and flower color

*See Crapemyrtle Database for cultivars*
## Crapemyrtle (Lagerstroemia) Cultivars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultivar</th>
<th>Flower Color</th>
<th>Size/habit</th>
<th>Parentage</th>
<th>Exfoliating Bark</th>
<th>Susceptibility to Powdery Mildew</th>
<th>Susceptibility to Leaf Spot</th>
<th>Fall Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basham's Party Pink</td>
<td>lavender-pink</td>
<td>30'/broad tree</td>
<td>hybrid</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biloxi</td>
<td>light pink</td>
<td>28' x 14'</td>
<td>hybrid</td>
<td>exceptional</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>orange red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byer's Standard Red</td>
<td>soft red</td>
<td>25'/upright vase</td>
<td>indica</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fantasy</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>25'/upright vase</td>
<td>fauriei</td>
<td>exceptional</td>
<td>VR</td>
<td>VR</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiowa</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>25' x 23'</td>
<td>fauriei</td>
<td>exceptional</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>VR</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>dark pink</td>
<td>24' x 14'</td>
<td>hybrid</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskogee</td>
<td>light lavender</td>
<td>25' x 20'</td>
<td>hybrid</td>
<td>exceptional</td>
<td>VR</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>red orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natchez</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>28' x 25'</td>
<td>hybrid</td>
<td>exceptional</td>
<td>VR</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>red orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townhouse</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>25'/upright vase</td>
<td>fauriei</td>
<td>exceptional</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Liquidambar styraciflua
Sweetgum
Liquidambar styraciflua

Sweetgum

• Size: large-sized tree (75’ tall by 50’ wide), fast growing
• Flowers: not significant
• Fruit: obnoxious woody capsule, spiny ball
• Fall Color: variable, but often very attractive
• Culture: very adaptable
• Disease/Insect: shade tree with messy fruits; shallow rooted
• Cultivars: select mostly fruitless cultivars: ‘Rotundiloba’, Cherokee™:
Liriodendron tulipifera
Tulip-poplar
Liriodendron tulipifera

Tuliptree; Tulip-poplar

- Size: large shade tree (75’ tall by 45’ wide); taller than wide; very fast growing
- Flowers: unique “tulip” flowers in May/June
- Fruit: not significant and somewhat messy
- Fall Color: clear yellow
- Culture: very adaptable
- Use: shade tree, woodland
Magnolia grandiflora
Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora
Southern Magnolia

- **Size**: medium-sized tree (55’ tall by 50’ wide)
- **Flowers**: large, white flowers during summer
- **Fruit**: somewhat messy
- **Fall Color**: none; broadleaf evergreen; messy leaves
- **Culture**: full sun; adaptable to soils
- **Disease/Insect**: none significant
- **Use**: signature tree of the South; requires quite a bit of room

Back to index
**Magnolia x soulangiana**

**Saucer Magnolia**

- **Size:** small-sized tree (22’ tall by 22’ wide)
- **Flowers:** urn-shaped, early spring (March), pink/white; easily damaged by frosts
- **Fruit:** none
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Culture:** full sun; requires deep, rich, moist soil
- **Disease/Insect:** none significant
- **Use:** single-season plant that is hard to beat when in flower
Morus alba ‘Pendula’
Weeping White Mulberry
Morus alba ‘Pendula’

Weeping White Mulberry

• Size: small, specimen tree

• Flowers/Fruit: not significant; typically a male form so no problem with messy fruits

• Fall Color: none

• Culture: very adaptable to soil; full sun

• Disease/Insect: none significant

• Use: specimen

• Cultivars: ‘Chaparral’, ‘Pendula’
*Pinus taeda*
Loblolly Pine
**Pinus taeda**

Loblolly Pine

- **Size:** medium-sized tree (50’ tall by 35’ wide)
- **Needles:** 3 (sometimes 2) per bundle; 6” to 10” long
- **Culture:** full sun; very adaptable to soil; very common timber tree across Arkansas
**Pistacia chinensis**

Chinese Pistache

Male flowers
**Pistacia chinensis**

**Chinese Pistache**

- **Size:** small-sized tree (25’ tall by 25’ wide); rounded crown
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** pistache fruits on female trees; dioecious (male and female plants)
- **Fall Color:** exceptional, but varies in color from red to orange or yellow
- **Culture:** full sun; drought tolerant
- **Disease/Insect:** none serious
- **Use:** small shade tree

[Back to index]
Platanus x acerifolia
London Planetree
**Platanus x acerifolia**

**London Planetree**

- **Size:** very large-sized tree (75’ tall by 75’ wide); very fast growing
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** 2 fruit “balls” per stalk
- **Fall Color:** none
- **Bark:** very attractive; exfoliates to the ground
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Disease/Insect:** anthracnose
- **Use:** parks, pastures, large commercial properties; messy (anthracnose, leaf and twig litter)
- **Cultivars:** hybrid of native (*P. occidentalis*) and oriental species

*Back to index*
Platanus occidentalis
Sycamore
**Platanus occidentalis**  
American Sycamore

- **Size:** large-sized tree (75’ tall by 75’ wide); very fast growing
- **Flowers:** not significant
- **Fruit:** 1 fruit per stalk
- **Bark:** not quite as nice as London planetree, exfoliating mainly on upper trunk
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Disease/Insect:** susceptible to anthracnose
- **Use:** parks; very messy (twigs, leaves); native to river bottoms
Prunus serrulata ‘Kwanzan’
Flowering Cherry
**Prunus serrulata ‘Kwanzan’**

**Flowering Cherry**

- Size: small-sized tree (12’ tall by 12’ wide); distinct vase shape
- Flowers: beautiful, early spring flowers; double, light pink
- Fruit: not significant
- Fall Color: none
- Culture: full sun; requires constant moisture
- Use: specimen flowering tree
Prunus subhirtella ‘Pendula’
Higan Weeping Cherry
Prunus subhirtella ‘Pendula’

Weeping Higan Cherry

- Size: small-sized tree (18’ tall by 18’ wide); weeping
- Flowers: beautiful, early spring flowers; light pink
- Fruit: not significant; pea-sized, red
- Fall Color: none
- Culture: full sun; best in rich, moist soil
- Use: fabulous weeping specimen
Pyrus calleryana
Callery Pear
Pyrus calleryana

Callery Pear

- Size: small/medium-sized tree (25’ tall by 20’ wide)
- Flowers: beautiful, early spring flowers; white
- Fruit: small, rounded pear
- Fall Color: exceptional maroon fall color
- Culture: very adaptable to soils, full sun
- Disease/Insect: fireblight
- Use: small flowering tree; growing concern over overplanting, fireblight, crown break-up on ‘Bradford’
Quercus alba
White Oak
Quercus alba

White Oak

- Size: large-sized tree (75’ tall by 55’ wide)
- Flowers: not significant
- Fruit: not significant
- Fall Color: exceptional maroon
- Culture: probably best in rich, deep soils
- Disease/Insect: none significant
- Use: excellent large shade tree
- White oak group (rounded leaf lobes); acorn germinates in the fall
Quercus nigra
Water Oak
Quercus nigra

Water Oak

• Size: medium- to large-sized tree (60’ tall by 60’ wide)
• Flowers: not significant
• Fruit: not significant
• Fall Color: no fall color; semi-evergreen; distinctive leaf shape
• Culture: adaptable to soils
• Disease/Insect: none significant
• Use: shade tree; red oak group
*Quercus palustris*

**Pin Oak**

**N. Red Oak**
**Quercus palustris**

*Pin Oak*

- **Size**: medium- to large-sized tree (65’ tall by 45’ wide)
- **Flowers/Fruit**: not significant; small acorn
- **Fall Color**: excellent maroon fall color
- **Culture**: fairly adaptable to most soils except high pH (iron chlorosis)
- **Disease/Insect**: none significant
- **Use**: street tree; shade tree
- **Red oak group** (lobes pointed)
- Likely confused with *Q. coccinea* (Scarlet Oak) and *Q. shumardii* (Shumard Oak) in trade (Shumard Oak) in trade
Quercus phellos

Willow Oak

- Size: medium- to large-sized tree (60’ tall by 60’ wide)
- Flowers: not significant
- Fruit: not significant
- Fall Color: fair; dull orange at best; narrow, willow-like leaves
- Culture: very adaptable to soils
- Disease/Insect: none significant
- Use: probably in top three most common shade trees sold in Arkansas; red oak group (bristle tip; acorns ripen in two years)
Quercus rubra
Northern Red Oak
Quercus rubra

Northern Red Oak

• Size: medium- to large-sized tree (65’ tall by 65’ wide)
• Flowers: not significant
• Fruit: not significant
• Fall Color: exceptional maroon fall color
• Culture: very adaptable
• Disease/Insect: none significant
• Use: great shade tree
• Red oak group
Salix alba ‘Tristis’
Weeping Willow
Salix alba ‘Tristis’

Weeping Willow

• Size: cascading habit; 30’ tall by 35’ wide
• Flowers: not significant
• Fruit: not significant
• Fall Color: none
• Culture: loves wet soils, however, tolerates dry soils
• Disease/Insect: none serious
• Use: useful near ponds and streams; do not plant near septic lines; short-lived
Taxodium distichum
Baldcypress
**Taxodium distichum**

**Baldcypress**

- **Size**: medium-sized, deciduous conifer tree (50’ tall by 40’ wide)
- **Flowers**: not significant
- **Fruit**: not significant
- **Fall Color**: nice red-brown fall color
- **Culture**: very adaptable from wet to dry
- **Disease/Insect**: none serious
- **Use**: deciduous shade tree, deer camps, urban tree
- **Native to**: wet areas in Arkansas

[Back to index]
Ulmus parvifolia
Chinese Elm
**Ulmus parvifolia**

**Chinese Elm; Lacebark Elm**

- **Size:** medium-sized tree (50' tall by 45' wide)
- **Flowers/fruits:** not significant
- **Fall color:** typically not great in Arkansas; leaves small and glossy
- **Bark:** known for exfoliating bark
- **Culture:** very adaptable
- **Use:** lawn tree, good urban tree
- **Cultivars:** Allee®, Athena®, 'Drake'