Shade Trees
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Master Gardener Core Training

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Arkansas
Hardiness Zones
6 north
7 central
8 south
Shade trees should be:

• Look up when planting a tree
• Fall planting is best
• Container grown plants can plant at any season
• Keep large shade trees at least 15 feet from a building
• Prune trees while young to prevent future problems
Sugar Maple

Hard Maple

• *Acer saccharum*
• Height 60 feet
• Spread 30 feet
• Rate of Growth - slow to medium
• Hardy zones 3-7
• Easily transplanted
• Trees are shallow rooted
• Great fall color
• Not for south Arkansas
Sugar Maple
Red Maple
• *Acer rubrum*
• Height 45 feet
• Spread 35 feet
• Rate of growth - fast
• Hardy zones 4 to 8
• Named selections have good fall color ‘October Glory’ and ‘Red Sunset’, etc.
• Good in suburban sites
• May be shallow rooted
Red Maple
Japanese Maple

- *Acer palmatum*
- Height 8 - 25 feet
- Spread 10 - 25 feet
- Rate of growth - very slow
- Hardy zones 5 - 9
- Beautiful specimen tree available in purple or green forms; cutleaf or palmate leaves.
Viridis
Japanese Maple
Pin Oak

- *Quercus palustris*
- Height 65 feet
- Spread 35 feet
- Rate of growth - medium
- Hardy zones 5 - 8
- The most common oak in the nursery trade. Lower limbs droop. Easily transplanted.
Pin Oak
Willow Oak

• *Quercus phellos*
• Height 100 feet
• Spread 80 feet
• Rate of growth – medium to fast
• Hard zones 6 - 9
• Where a really big tree is needed this is one of the best.
  Easily transplanted.
  Good for parks and large properties.
Willow Oak
Japanese Sawtooth Oak
*Quercus acutissima*
Two subclasses of oaks
Arkansas has over 40 species

• Red oaks
  – always have a spine on the leaf
  – acorns mature in two years
  – wood is porous across grain

• White Oak
  – leaves never have a spine
  – acorns mature in one year
  – wood is porous with the grain
White Oak
Wye Mills Maryland

- *Quercus alba*
- Height 100 feet
- Spread 120 feet
- Growth rate - slow
- Hardy zones 4 - 9
- Difficult to transplant so not common in nursery trade.
  Trees may live to be 500+ years old.
White Oak
Council Oaks, Dardanelle, AR
• *Ginkgo biloba*
• Height - 60 feet
• Spread - 30 feet
• Rate of growth - slow
• Hardy zones 5 - 9
• Fossil tree 150+ million years old. Deciduous conifer. Male forms are best for landscape usage.
Ginkgo
Sweetgum

- *Liquidambar styraciflua*
- Height - 50 feet
- Spread - 25 feet
- Growth rate - fast
- Hardy zones 5 - 9
- Good fall color
- Very adaptable tree
- Shallow rooted
- Sweet gum balls!!!
Sweetgum and Fruitless Sweetgum
• *Liriodendron tulipifera*
• Height - 150 feet
• Spread - 70 feet
• Growth rate - fast
• Hardy zones 4 - 9
• Good tree for large sites but needs deep, moist, fertile soil to do its best.
Tulip Poplar
London Plane Tree

- *Platanus acerifolia*
- Height 60 feet
- Spread 60 feet
- Growth rate – fast
- Resistant to Sycamore Anthracnose
- A tough tree for difficult sites
• *Betula nigra*
• 40 feet tall
• 20 feet wide
• Growth rate – fast
• A native tree usually found in wet areas
• Pest resistant
• May drop most of leaves in a dry spot in August
• Often grown with multiple trunks

**River Birch**
Black Gum

- *Nyssa sylvatica*
- 45 feet tall
- 20 feet wide
- Growth rate – slow
- One of the best for vivid red fall color
- Pest free
American Elm

- *Ulmus americana*
- Height - 100 feet
- Spread - 100 feet
- Growth rate - medium to fast
- Hardy zones 3 - 9
- Dutch elm disease nearly wiped this species out but now new selections such as Liberty and Valley Forge are available
Lacebark Elm

*Ulmus parvifolia*
Zelkova serrulata
‘Village Green’
60’ x 35’
medium growth rate
disease resistant
Weeping Willow

- *Salix babylonica*
- Height - 45 feet
- Spread - 35 feet
- Growth rate - very fast
- Hardy zones 3 - 9
- Great around water; graceful. Short lived but beautiful while it lasts!
Bald Cypress

- *Taxodium distichum*
- 80 + feet tall
- 40 + feet wide
- Rate of growth - slow
- A deciduous conifer
- Must have water for seed germination but capable of growing in dry sites
- Pyramidal while young