

Recommended Ornamental Plants for Southeast Texas Including Houston and Beaumont

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Ornamental plants are the primary tool in developing functional and beautiful home grounds. The well-informed homeowner must know the plants' identity, their growth requirements, and how to use them properly in the home landscape.

Every plant in the landscape should satisfy a definite landscape need; otherwise, it becomes an added expense, a space taker, or a liability rather than an asset to the homeowner. To achieve full use of a plant in the landscape, the user must know the plant he chooses - its growth requirements and its abilities to satisfy the need for which it is intended.

The following list of plants is broken down into basic or general usage areas with basic growth demands, plant characteristics and sizes, and values and drawbacks. Common names and scientific names are listed. The scientific name should be used when possible because many plants have various common names. Quite often two plants may have the same common name. This plant listing is by no means all inclusive.

- Ground Covers
- Vines
- Small Shrubs
- Medium to Large Shrubs
- Small Trees
- Large Trees

Ground Covers

Surface plants to cover ground area usually maintained at a height less than 18 inches. Ground cover plants should be vigorous, with dense foliage and a spreading habit so as to adequately cover soil areas. Ground covers should be evergreen and winter hardy and may be a vine or low shrub. Ground covers are often used in tight leftover areas so as to reduce lawn maintenance in such areas. Plant selections for ground covers should require little or no maintenance.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Size	Exposure	Features	Problems
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	.	-shade -likes moisture	-fast growing -dense evergreen vine -propagated from runners or cuttings -harmless to trees -varieties have varying size and color of leaf	.
Ajuga	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	1-3 in.	-shade or partial sun -loamy well-drained soil	-fast growing evergreen -blue flower spikes in spring -good for rock gardens and recommended for small areas -green, bronze or purple variegated varieties	-will overcrowd itself -susceptible to crown rot and southern wilt
Confederate or Star Jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	.	sun or shade	-fast growing evergreen -twining vine	.
Dwarf Junipers	numerous varieties ex.: <i>Juniperus procumbens</i> and <i>Juniperous horizontalis</i> "Bar Harbor"	.	-sun -well-drained soil	-blue-green evergreen foliage -dense growth -good for rock gardens	-susceptible to red spider and bagworm
Trailing Lantana	<i>Lantana sellowiana</i> and other varieties	.	prefers sun	-tolerates poor soil -semi-evergreen -abundant lavender blooms all summer -trailing type	.
Liriope	<i>Liriope muscari</i>	.	sun or shade	-spike type foliage on plants which clump -lavender-blue spike flowers in summer	.

				-some varieties are variegated or have a double bloom	
Monkey or Mondo Grass	<i>Ophiopogon japonicum</i>	.	sun or shade	-very hardy -easy culture	.
Plumbago	<i>Plumbago capensis</i>	3 ft.	sun or semi-shade	-vining characteristic -blue flowers all summer into fall -easy culture	-not winter hardy but returns in spring
Strawberry Begonia	<i>Saxifrage decipiens</i>	-hugs ground -likes moisture	shade or filtered sun	-spreads by runners -good in rock gardens -rose colored foliage in winter -recommended for small areas	-tends to die back if exposed to too much summer heat
Cast Iron Plant	<i>Aspidistra</i>	2 ft.	prefers shade	-large coarse textured leaves -evergreen -variegated variety	-dies back with severe cold to return in spring
Purple Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica chinensis</i>	.	.	-shrub with vining characteristics -dense evergreen -rugged -honeysuckle blooms in late spring or early summer -purple foliage in fall and winter -fast growing	.
Vinca, Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	up to 18 in.	shade or partial sun	-fast growing evergreen -twining vine -blue flowers in late spring -recommended for large areas, ditch banks, rock gardens, etc. -variegated variety	.
Verbena	various species	.	-demands sun -good drainage	-vivid blooms -various colors depending on variety	-not completely winter hardy -susceptible to red spider, leaf miner and aphids

Silvermound	<i>Senecio</i>	.	sun	-mounds of fine, textured silver or green depending on variety -small heads of yellow blooms in mid to late summer -fast growth	-may be damaged by cold but returns in spring
Dusty Miller	<i>Senecio cineraria</i>	up to 30 in.	full sun	-summer flowering -attractive silver-gray foliage -fast growth	-may be damaged by cold but returns in spring
Moss Phlox	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	.	sun or partial shade	-low massive evergreen which creeps across the ground -vivid pink blooms in early spring -fast growth -recommended for rock gardens, bed borders and small areas	.
Dwarf blue fescue	<i>Festuca ovina glauca</i>	.	-demands sun -well-drained soils	-rounded mounds of silver-gray grass -evergreen -fast growth -good for rock gardens or interplanted in a rock ground cover	.
Winter Creeper or Creeping Euonymus	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> and varieties	.	.	-evergreen creeping character	-rather sparse, thus does not provide a solid cover -will often appear messy and unkempt
Daylilies	<i>Hemerocallis</i>	.	sun or semi-shade	-forms dense clumps which provide rich summer blooms -easy to culture -numerous varieties -fast growth	-susceptible to aphids

Vines

Climbing plants used on supports such as walls, fences, arbors, and trellises. Vines are an advantage in that they require less ground space, yet can provide attractive masses of bloom and/or foliage.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Exposure	Features	Problems
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i> and others	shade or partial sun	-evergreen -fast growth good for screening	.
Climbing Fig	<i>Ficus pumila</i>	sun or shade	-often used on walls and flat surfaces -vine lies flat -evergreen -fast growth	.
Wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	sun	-deciduous -fragrant lavender or white blooms in 6 to 12 in. clusters in late spring -may be pruned to form large shrub or small tree	-fast growth often gets out of control
Carolina or Yellow Jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	.	-twining semi-evergreen vine -yellow trumpet blooms in spring -climbs to high heights to reach the sun where it forms masses of foliage and bloom -fast growth -native to East Texas	.
Autumn Clematis	<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	sun with roots in shade (if possible)	-forms large masses of foliage and small clusters of white blooms in late summer and fall -semi-evergreen -fast growth -one of the only Clematis which does well in the lower south -provide good support and mulch root area	.
Confederate or Star Jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	prefers moist loamy soil	-evergreen twining vine -white star-shaped blooms in early summer are fragrant	-susceptible to scale and white-fly
Cypress Vine	<i>Quamoclit pinnata</i>	likes sun	-annual twining vine which reseeds to return each year -very fine textured foliage -fast growing	.

			-red or white small trumpet blooms in summer	
Potato Vine	<i>Dioscorea</i>	prefers sun	-grown for foliage effect -fast growth	-dies in winter to return in spring
Fatshedra	<i>Fatshedra lizei</i>	shade or partial sun (prefers sun)	-a cross between Fatsia and English Ivy -hardy evergreen -leaning type vine -large coarse textured leaves -fast growth	.
Rosa De Montana, Coral Vine	<i>Antigonon leptopus</i>	.	-very vigorous late summer blooming vine -vivid pink clusters on yellow-green foliage -will climb to 30 ft. in one growing season	-dies in winter to return in spring
Evergreen Smilax	<i>Smilax lanceolata</i>	.	-very rugged evergreen vine -grown for foliage effect -spreads by underground tubers	.
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	.	-fast growing deciduous vine -shows rich, red fall color -clings to walls or trellis -easy culture -native to North and East Texas	.
Snailseed or Moonseed Vine	.	.	-delicate native vine of North and East Texas -deciduous -displays clusters of rich, red berries in fall and early winter	.
Common Trumpet Creeper	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	demands sun	-clinging vine which grows to great heights -deciduous -displays large orange-red trumpets of blooms throughout summer -easy and fast growth -native to most of Texas -"Madam Galen" improved variety	.
Hyacinth Bean	<i>Dolichos lablab</i>	.	-non-woody twining vine -purple foliage, pinkish-lavender blooms in summer and fall -purple seed pods in the fall -very fast growing	-freezes back in winter to return in spring -not a dense vine

Coral or Red-honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	.	-evergreen twining vine -abundant red trumpet blooms in late spring -not as vigorous as common honeysuckle, thus not a pest -fast growth -native to East Texas	.
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Small Shrubs

In recent years, plant breeders have introduced many new and outstanding small or dwarf shrubs. Modern landscapes call for these plants which maintain a small dwarf-like effect. Normally, a dwarf plant is one that generally does not exceed three feet in ultimate height. Most dwarf plants are adaptable to planter boxes and tub plantings, or in restricted areas.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Size	Exposure	Features	Problems
Dwarf Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria nana</i>	2 ft. x 2 ft.	sun or shade	-fine textured evergreen -does not produce berries -medium to slow rate of growth	.
Dwarf Bamboo	<i>Bambusa sasa pygara</i>	1 ft.	sun or shade	-evergreen -spreading clumps -winter hardy	.
Dwarf Purple-leaf Barberry	<i>Berberis</i>	1 ft. x 1 ft.	sun (for good color)	-medium rate of growth	.
Dwarf Sasanqua	<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	.	-semi- or partial shade (but will grow in full sun) -prefers acid soil	-many good varieties -fall and winter flowering	.
Holly Fern	<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	18 in.	-shade -cool, well-drained soil	-hardy evergreen fern -slow growth -very good pot plant	.
Dwarf Junipers	<i>Several varieties</i>	.	-sun -well-drained soil	-low and compact -attractive blue to silver foliage -fine texture	-susceptible to spider mites and bagworm
Lantana	<i>Several varieties</i>	.	sun	-summer flowering -yellow, orange, pink or white blossoms depending on variety -fast growth	-winter kills but returns in spring
Dwarf Pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum nana</i>	3-4 ft.	.	-deciduous shrub -fine texture -small orange blooms in summer -medium to slow rate of growth	.
Aspidistra	<i>Aspidistra elatior</i>	2 ft.	prefers shade	-leafy evergreen -very rugged -slow rate of growth	-winter kills but will return
Dwarf or Kurume Azaleas	<i>Azalea obtusum</i>	2-3 ft.	-prefers shade -acid soil	-many varieties -slow growing evergreen	.

				-spring flowering of pink, white, red and salmon flowers -mulch to protect shallow roots -must have loose organic soil	
Boxwood	<i>Buxus</i>	2-3 ft.	sun or shade	-slow growing evergreen -will take severe clipping and pruning	-susceptible to nematodes
Cycad or Sago Palm	<i>Cycas revoluta</i>	3-4 ft. x 3-4 ft.	sun or shade (best in protected shaded areas)	-evergreen -very slow growing	-not completely winter hardy -may need protection
Leather-leaf Mahonia	<i>Mahonia bealii</i>	3-4 ft.	shade	-evergreen -very slow growth -clusters of yellow spiked blooms in fall -bluish-purple berries in February or early spring	.
Dwarf Nandina	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	.	sun or shade	-low, compact evergreen -rich fall color -easy, slow growing	.
Dwarf Pyracantha	<i>Pyracantha</i> "Tiny Tim"	3 ft.	.	-compact evergreen which is not as thorny as large Pyracantha -rich red-orange berries in late fall until early spring	.
Indian or Yeddo Hawthorne	<i>Raphiolepis umbellata ovata</i>	.	sun or shade	-many varieties -slow growing evergreen -clusters of soft pink, white, or bright pink blooms in late spring	.
Fatsia	<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	3-4 ft.	shade	-coarse textured tropical evergreen -medium-slow rate of growth	-may get scale insects
Dwarf Yucca	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	2 ft.	sun or shade	-waxy-white blooms on long stock in late spring into summer	.
Dwarf Chinese Holly	<i>Ilex cornuta</i> "Rotunda"	3 ft.	sun or shade	-dense evergreen -medium-slow rate of growth -no berries	.

Dwarf Holly	<i>Ilex cornuta rotundifolia</i>	.	.	-very dwarf and compact	.
Aucuba	<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	2-3 ft.	shade	-slow growing evergreen -variegated varieties -sometimes called "Gold Dust" plant	.
Purple Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica chinensis</i>	2-3 ft.	sun or partial shade	-mounding type evergreen shrub -fragrant honeysuckle blooms in late spring -purple winter color -fast growth	.

Medium to Large Shrubs

The selection and placement of these shrubs in the landscape will depend on their ultimate size and upon the plant's use in the landscape. For example, a shrub for screening should be 5 to 6 feet high and evergreen to provide a year-round screen; whereas, a medium sized shrub of 3 to 4 feet may be selected as a base planting to flank a bare wall of the home.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Size (height x width)	Culture	Features	Problems
Abelia	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	4-5 ft. x 3-4 ft.	sun or semi-shade	-fast growing evergreen -pale pink to white, small tubular blooms May-October -glossy green foliage -makes compact shrub when pruned	-straggly looking if unpruned
Althea, Rose of Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	6-8 ft. x 4-5 ft.	-sun or semi-shade -prefers alkaline soil -some moisture	-fast growing deciduous shrub -white, pink, lavender to rose, single or double bloom in late spring and summer -well-pruned hedge if maintained at 4-5 ft.	-gets scale insect
Indian Azalea	<i>Azalea indica</i>	4-6 ft. x 4-6 ft.	-sun or shade -loose, well-drained acid soil -mulch to preserve moisture	-medium-fast growing evergreen -pink, rosy purple, salmon, white or orange blooms in late Feb. and March -"Formosa"-most hardy; "Pride of Mobile"-more spreading	-gets flower and leaf blight and scale -slight freeze damage
Bamboo	<i>Bambusa</i>	6-8 ft.	-sun or shade -likes moisture	-fast growing, dense evergreen	-often killed back by cold to return in spring -objectionable root system -must be controlled because of root runners
Barberry	<i>Berberis Thunbergi</i>	4-5 ft. x 4-5 ft.	-sun -good drainage	-medium growing semi-evergreen -fine textured low, compact hedge -"Atropurpureum"-purple variety	.

Bottle Brush	<i>Callistemon rigidus</i>	4-5 ft. x 4-5 ft.	-sun -needs little pruning	-slow growing evergreen -spikes or bright orange and red flowers in March and scattered throughout summer -"Lancelate"-tall variety	-damaged by severe cold, but comes back
Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	25-30 ft. x 18-20 ft.	-easy	-fast growing evergreen -long clusters of small white flowers in early spring -makes excellent tall, narrow hedge -may be pruned severely	.
Cleyera	<i>Cleyera Japonica</i>	5-7 ft. x 2 ft.	-sun or shade	-medium growing evergreen -small white fragrant blooms in late spring- summer -waxy, purple-cast foliage -sparse shrub good for narrow, upright plantings	.
Eleagnus, Russian Olive	<i>Eleagnus augustifolia</i>	8-10 ft. x 8-10 ft.	-sun or shade -requires room to grow -more attractive when well pruned	-medium-slow growing evergreen -small, fragrant silver white flowers in axis of leaf in April-May -may be used on a bank or incline -graceful, hanging character	.
Chinese Eleagnus	<i>Eleagnus Pungens</i>	15 ft. x 15 ft.	-sun or shade -easy culture -more attractive when kept well pruned	-fast growing evergreen -small, fragrant white flowers in summer -leaves edged with yellow and white	.
Euonymus	<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	6-8 ft. x 2 ft.	-easy culture	-fast growing evergreen -variegated varieties with yellow or white markings -good for tall, upright, narrow planting	-gets scale insects
Flowering Pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum</i>	12-15 ft. x 12-15 ft.	-prefers sun -ample growing room	-medium-slow growing semi-evergreen -bright orange flowers with fleshy petioles -very showy in late spring and early summer -shiny green, rather sparse foliage -attractive copper new foliage in spring	.

Cape Jasmine Gardenia	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i>	5-7 ft. x 5-7 ft.	-sun or shade -acid soil -needs mulch	-medium-fast growing evergreen -very fragrant, white waxy flowers May-June and scattered throughout summer	-gets scale, white fly and sooty mold -some winter damage during severe cold
Burford Holly	<i>Ilex cornuta "Burfordii"</i>	10-15 ft. x 8-10 ft.	-sun or shade -acid soil	-medium growing evergreen -large red berries fall- winter -sexes are separate-males have no berries	.
Japanese Quince	<i>Chaenomeles lagenaria</i>	4-6 ft. x 4-6 ft.	-sun or shade (best in sun)	-fast growing deciduous shrub -red, white, pink, orange blooms in early spring (Feb.) -blooms appear before foliage -careful and select pruning needed	.
Japanese Yew	<i>Podocarpus macrophylla maki</i>	10-12 ft. x 2-3 ft.	-sun or shade -prunes to a neat dense shrub	-slow growing evergreen -purple-gray fruit in late summer and fall -good for narrow upright plantings -"nagi"-erect and formal; "elongata"-flopping, weeping foliage and character	.
Pfitzer's Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriana</i>	4-5 ft. x 6-8 ft.	-prefers sun -good drainage	-medium-fast growing evergreen -horizontal growth	-gets red spider and bagworm insects
Common Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	3 ft. x 6 ft.	-sun -good drainage	-medium-slow growing evergreen -use for low hedge	-gets red spider and bagworm
Sylvesia Juniper	<i>Juniperus sylvestris</i>	15-20 ft. x 5 ft.	-needs sun -good drainage	-medium-slow growing evergreen -good for tall dense hedge	-gets bagworm, red spider and rust disease
Blue Vase Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis "Blue Vase</i>	12-15 ft. x 8-10 ft.	-sun -good drainage	-fast growing evergreen -good tall dense hedge	-gets red spider and bagworms
Primrose Jasmine	<i>Jasminum primulinum</i>	6-8 ft. x 6-8 ft.	-prefers sun	-fast growing evergreen -fragrant, yellow flowers in late spring and through summer -makes a large rounded mound -good for ditch banks	.

Ligustrum	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	15 ft. x 15 ft.	-sun or shade	-fast growing evergreen -fragrant, creamy white flower clusters in April-May	-takes severe and continual pruning due to fast growth -gets white fly insects and scale
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	8-10 ft. x 6-8 ft.	-prefers sun	-medium-fast growing deciduous shrub -white, 4 petal flowers with yellow center on long stems in April-May -prunes readily	-pruning destroys natural form and causes more vigorous growth
Nandina	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	4-5 ft.	-sun or shade -easy culture	-medium-slow growing evergreen -white flower clusters in mid-late spring -red berries in fall and winter -good plant for a low hedge for a narrow planting space	.
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	10-15 ft. x 10-15 ft.	-sun or shade -will take salt conditions	-very fast growing evergreen -white, lavender, pink, yellow, salmon and red flower clusters in April-May and scattered in summer and fall	-poisonous -severe winter will kill to ground to return in spring
Redleaf Photinia	<i>Photinia glabra</i>	12-15 ft. x 9 ft.	-must have sun	-medium-fast growing evergreen -white flower clusters in March-April -bright red-wine new growth when pruned	-susceptible to fireblight
Photinia	<i>Photinia serrulata</i>	10-12 ft. x 10-12 ft.	-best in sun	-medium-slow growing evergreen -white flower clusters in spring -red berries in fall-winter -dense, large leafed hedge	-susceptible to fireblight
Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	10-12 ft. x 15-18 ft.	-easy culture -readily pruned	-fast growing evergreen -fragrant, cream white flowers in late spring -variegated green/white variety -may be pruned to form a medium sized shrub	-must have ample room for growth
Pineapple Guava, Feijoa	<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>	10-12 ft. x 10-12 ft.	-sun to partial shade -will grow in dry conditions	-medium-fast growing evergreen -white with purple and red flower cluster in summer	.

			-must have good drainage -easily pruned to form compact planting	-attractive gray-green foliage	
Pyracantha, Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha unnamemisis</i>	10-12 ft. x 15+ ft.	-sun or shade -must have ample growing room -readily pruned	-fast growing evergreen -white flower clusters in April -red or orange berries in fall and winter	-thorny branches make pruning difficult -fleshy root system makes transplanting difficult
Sasanqua	<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	10-15 ft. x 3-5 ft.	-sun or shade -readily pruned -well-drained soil	-medium-fast growing evergreen -white, pink, dark rose flowers in Oct., Nov. or Dec. depending on variety -very attractive -good dense, tall upright hedge	-gets various scale and white fly insects and die-back disease
Popcorn, Bridal Wreath Spirea	<i>Spirea prunifolia plena</i>	3-5 ft. x 3-5 ft.	-sun or shade -does not like severe pruning	-medium-fast growing deciduous shrub -many white rose-like flowers in late spring	-needs cold weather to bloom well
Reeve's Spirea	<i>Spirea Reevesiana</i>	5-7 ft. x 3-5 ft.	-best in sun -must have select pruning, not severe	-fast growing deciduous shrub -showy, white flower clusters in March -rounded weeping character often called Bridal Wreath	.
Baby's Breath	<i>Spirea thunbergi</i>	3-5 ft. x 3-5 ft.	-likes sun -does not require severe pruning	-fast growing deciduous shrub -small, dainty white flowers in March-April -fine textured	.
Texas Sage, Cenizo	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	4-6 ft. x 4-6 ft.	-sun -good drainage	-medium growing evergreen -red-wine blooms after rain during spring-fall -graceful, fine textured plant -will form a low, dense hedge or border -attractive blue-gray foliage	.
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i>	12-15 ft. x 12-15 ft.	-sun or shade -good drainage	-medium-fast evergreen -white flower clusters in March	-requires ample growing room

Viburnum	<i>Viburnum suspensum</i>	6-8 ft. x 6-8 ft.	-sun or shade -good drainage	-medium-fast growing evergreen -small white flowers in spring -lowest growing of the viburnums	.
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	8-10 ft. x 4-6 ft.	-sun or shade -good drainage	-medium growing evergreen -pale white or pinkish flowers in spring -good for narrow upright hedge	.
Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	12-15 ft. x 12-15 ft.	-sun or shade -moist loose soil -requires careful pruning so it will not be leggy for screening purposes	-fast growing evergreen -native to East Texas	-must have ample growing room -tends to become leggy at base or trunk
Texas Mountain Laurel, Mescalbean	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	8-12 ft.	-sun or semi- shade -alkaline soil	-slow-fast growing evergreen -fragrant lilac-purple blooms in late spring-early summer -attractive foliage -rugged	-poisonous seed pod in late summer-fall
Pampus Grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	5-6 ft. x 5-6 ft.	-sun	-fast growing semi- evergreen -tall plumes of silver in early summer-winter	-becomes messy with age, not neat looking
Banana	<i>Musa</i>	6-10 ft. x 6-8 ft.	-sun or shade	-fast growing tropical evergreen -pale pink blooms hidden among coarse foliage -attractive foliage	-not winter hardy but returns in southern areas -needs protection from wind and cold
French Mulberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	4-6 ft. x 4-6 ft.	-sun or shade -easy culture	-fast growing deciduous shrub -bright purple clusters of berries in fall -attracts birds -native to North and East Texas	.
Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	4-6 ft. x 4-6 ft.	-best in shade in northern exposure -moisture and well-drained	-medium-fast growing deciduous shrub -large blue or pink flower clusters in summer -prune when flowers fade	.

			soil	-acid soil-blue blooms; alkaline soil-pink blooms	
Chinese Holly	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	6-8 ft. x 6-8 ft.	-sun	-medium growing evergreen -red orange berries on female plants on old wood in fall and winter -continual pruning will reduce berries -dense plant	-more spiny foliage than Burford Holly
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia intermedia</i>	4-6 ft. x 4-6 ft.	-sun or semi- shade	-fast growing deciduous shrub -yellow trumpet blooms in early spring on bare stems -long, arching, graceful branches	.
Yucca, Spanish Dagger	<i>Yucca aloifolia</i> and others	6-8 ft. x 6-8 ft.	-sun or shade -easy culture	-fast growing evergreen -large terminal stalks of creamy white waxy blooms from early summer-fall -good accent plant or tub planting	-has needle like foliage which stick -may need support -severe cold may freeze back
Chinese Rice Paper Plant	<i>Tetrapanax papyrifera</i>	6-12 ft.	-sun or shade in protected areas -moisture	-very fast growing tropical evergreen -large panicles of creamy white blooms in late summer -very attractive -large foliage -gives lush, tropical effect	-susceptible to cold but returns in spring in mild areas -may be difficult to control due to underground runners

Small Trees

Normally we refer to small trees as those less than 25 to 30 feet in height. Many small trees are comparatively very fast growing providing the new landscape with quick shade; yet, many small trees are comparatively short-lived (15-25 years). Small trees are ideal for informal groupings as they require much less room than larger specimens. Many small trees provide major interest and accent with seasonal bloom, seed pods, and fall color, thus making excellent specimen plantings. They are best used as secondary plantings with larger trees on the homegrounds. There is no perfect tree. All have good and bad qualities.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Size	Features	Problems
Mimosa	<i>Albizzia julibrissin</i>	35 ft. x 35 ft.	-deciduous -summer blooms -fast and easy growth -fine texture -good climbing tree for kids	-messy with bloom, seed pod and foliage droppage -old strains susceptible to wilt disease
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	20 ft. x 20 ft.	-deciduous -rich pink or white blooms in spring before foliage -yellow fall color -fast growth	-short lived (15-20 yrs.) -demands loose, organic soil -susceptible to leaf disease
Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	30 ft. x 30 ft.	-deciduous -white blooms in early spring before foliage -medium fast rate of growth -interesting branching -deep red fall color and berries -attracts birds	-short-lived (15-20 yrs.) -demands acid, loamy soils in partial shade and summer moisture
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	30 ft. (conical form)	-conical evergreen -red berries in fall and winter (on female only)	-rather slow growth -susceptible to scale, sooty mold and white-fly -prefers acid, loamy soil--may yellow due to a lack of iron
Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	15-20 ft. (narrow and upright)	-evergreen--leggy form -red berries in fall and winter (female only) -easy culture	.
Dahoon, Cassine Holly	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	15-20 ft.	-good evergreen specimen -rich red berries -adaptable	-rather slow growth

Golden Rain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	25 ft. x 25 ft.	-deciduous -yellow flowers in late summer and fall -seed pod in late fall -fast growth -yellow fall color	-short lived (15-20 yrs.) -may be injured by severe winter cold -susceptible to minor insects and diseases
Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	15-20 ft. (leggy)	-deciduous -summer flowers (red, pink, purple or white); long period of bloom -leggy, upright form -vivid fall color -easy culture--fast growth	-prefers sunny locations only -susceptible to scale and white fly -susceptible to mildew (near east variety mildew resistant)
Japanese Magnolias	various varieties	15-25 ft.	-deciduous -abundant bloom in early spring before foliage -low branched -grows in sun or shade -good in mass plantings or as a single specimen	-difficult to transplant -prefers acid soils which are loamy and well-drained -susceptible to scale and mildew -late cold may injure early blooms
Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	15-20 ft. x 15-20 ft.	-neutral evergreen -fast rate of growth -easy culture--sun or shade -will stand moist or wet areas and salt conditions -may be pruned to form leggy trunks	.
Parkinsonia, Jerusalem Thorn	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	25 ft. x 25 ft.	-deciduous -fine, graceful texture -open character -yellow flowers all summer -fast growth	-very thorny -difficult to transplant -prefers sun and dry soil -may be injured by hard freeze
Japanese Black Pine	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i>	20 - 25 ft.	sun or shade	-evergreen sculptural form -slow growing -typical pine foliage and growth habit -an excellent accent plant
Lombardy Poplar	<i>Populus nigra italica</i>	30 ft.	-deciduous -fast growth -narrow, upright form	-demands moisture -short-lived (10 yrs.) -highly susceptible to borers -damaging, fibrous root system -weak wooded

Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	25 ft.	-small upright evergreen -fast growth -fruit attracts birds -easy culture--sun or shade	.
Chinese Tallow	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	30 ft.	-deciduous -excellent fall color -rapid rate of growth -easy culture -attractive seed pod in fall	-seed pod may be messy -severe cold may injure
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras varifolium</i>	30 ft. (upright character)	-deciduous -flowers and interesting branching in early spring -easy culture--sun or shade -excellent fall color -rapid rate of growth	-suckers badly -may be difficult to obtain
Japanese Plum, Loquat	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	15-20 ft.	-small evergreen -rapid rate of growth -coarse, large textured foliage -flowers and fruit -easy culture--tend to prefer shade or semi-shade	-susceptible to fireblight disease -does best in poor soil -prefers shady conditions
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarack</i>	20 ft. x 20 ft.	-deciduous -lavender late summer blooms -oriental character or effect -colorful yellow fruit in late summer and fall	-messy with droppage of fruit and twigs -poisonous -short-lived -susceptible to scale
Crabapples	<i>Malus varieties</i>	20 ft.	-deciduous -abundant spring flowers--pinks and whites -attractive fruit depending on variety -medium-fast rate of growth	-susceptible to fireblight and other common apple diseases -prefers sun -demands reasonable cold winter to flower and perform well
Red Buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	10-15 ft.	-deciduous -striking red spikes of blooms in late spring -fast growth -attractive foliage	-poisonous seed pod -prefers acid soil of loamy texture and semi- or partial shade -may be difficult to obtain
Eucalyptus, Silver Dollar Tree	<i>Eucalyptus</i> varieties suggested: <i>E. polyanthema</i> , <i>E. cinerea</i>	15-25 ft.	-evergreen -attractive silver-gray foliage -upright, graceful form	-may be injured by severe cold--needs protection -needs staking as may become top heavy
Japanese Red Maple	<i>Acer palmatum atropurpureum</i>	12-15 ft.	-deciduous -rich wine leaf color	-expensive and sometimes difficult to

			-outstanding fall color -very good tub or pot specimen	obtain -slow rate of growth -prefers light shade, yet colors best in sun
Moraine Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> 'Moraine'	15-20 ft.	-deciduous -attractive, fine textured, yellow-green foliage -attractive yellow fall color -fast growth	-weak wooded -sometimes susceptible to borers -demands sun
Ornamental Pear, Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	25-30 ft.	-deciduous -spring pear blooms -yellow-green foliage -medium-fast rate of growth -attractive shape or form -yellow fall color	-droppage of small and abundant fruit -slightly susceptible to fireblight disease
Purple-leaf Plum	<i>Prunus blireiana</i> "Newport"	15-20 ft.	-deciduous -rich wine leaf color -attractive and edible fruit -attractive accent tree	-susceptible to fruit tree diseases and insects
Deciduous Holly, Possumhaw	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	10-15 ft.	-deciduous -attractive red or orange berries (on female only) in fall-winter when plant is void of foliage -easy culture, sun or part shade -very adaptable	-susceptible to tent-caterpillars and aphids
Fringe Tree, Grancy-Gray Beard	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	10-15 ft.	-deciduous -attractive green foliage -attractive silver-white panicles -easy culture, sun or shade	-may be difficult to obtain -slow growth -only the female plant blooms -prefers acid, loamy soils
Silver Maple, White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	25-30 ft. (upright)	-deciduous -fast growth -silver-gray foliage	-suckers and sprouts badly -susceptible to borers -damaging fibrous roots
Fruitless Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i> "fruitless"	15-20 ft.	-deciduous -rapid rate of growth -attractive foliage -low branched for climbing	-susceptible to leaf diseases -may sucker or send out sprouts
Vitex or Chase Tree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	10-15 ft.	-deciduous -spikes of blue blooms in summer -fast growth -easy culture, prefers sun	.

River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	30 ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -deciduous -rapid growth rate -graceful branches -bark peel off to expose interesting texture and color -yellow fall color -tall, upright form 	-susceptible to leaf insects, aphids and caterpillars
Chinese Parasol Tree, Varnish Tree	<i>Firmiana simplex</i>	25-30 ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -deciduous -unusual upright form with no branching except at top-- parasol shape -rapid rate of growth -large coarse textured foliage -yellow fall color -interesting seed pod in fall 	-large leaves may be messy

Large Trees

Large trees in the landscape are primarily selected for shade purposes. The ideal tree does not exist. A tall tree may have beautiful flowers which may be followed by objectionable fruit or seed pod. A fast growing tree may be brittle and short lived. The first consideration in selecting a tree is to know the tree's characteristics, its growing habits, size, and requirements. Determine the characteristics which best fit the landscape need, and choose the tree accordingly.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Size	Features	Problems
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	60 ft. x 45 ft.	-deciduous -red flowers in spring -winged red fruit following flowers -will grow in wet or moist conditions -red, orange and yellow fall color -general neat appearance	.
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	60 ft. x 40 ft.	-deciduous -yellow-orange, red fall color -clean in appearance -easy culture -fast growth	-brittle branches -susceptible to insects and fungus diseases
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	40-60 ft.	-deciduous -fast growth -yellow fall color -easy culture	-brittle branches -short lived -susceptible to diseases
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	60 ft.	-deciduous -easy culture -clusters of white flowers in early summer -seed pod in winter -large coarse textured leaves	.
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	80 ft.	-deciduous -long lived -very clean -yellow fall color -good street tree -easy culture	-may be difficult to obtain -slow rate of growth -must choose the male tree for planting as female has objectionable fruit
Pecan	<i>Carya</i> varieties	60-80 ft.	-deciduous -early to lose leaves and late to make foliage in spring -nuts -good shade	-common pecan insects and diseases -root system may be damaging

Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	60-80 ft.	-deciduous -fall color -easy culture -upright, neat form	-difficult to transplant -seed balls
Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	60-80 ft.	-long lived -glossy, evergreen coarse textured foliage -large white, fragrant blooms beginning in early summer -attractive seed pod	-relatively slow growth -susceptible to scale insects and leaf diseases -prefers acid, loose organic soil
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	80-100 ft.	-deciduous -fast growth -attractive trunks and limbs -easy culture	-messy leaf and seed-ball droppage -susceptible to leaf diseases -root system can be damaging
Loblolly Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	60-80 ft.	-relative fast growth -evergreen--fine textured to allow filtered shade -easy culture if within native growth area	-susceptible to typical pine insects and diseases -pollen at bloom may be objectionable
Shortleaf Pine	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	40-60 ft.	-evergreen -makes low branched, screening tree -fast growth	-prefers sandy soils -susceptible to common pine insects and diseases
Longleaf Pine	<i>Pinus palustris.</i>	60-80 ft.	-evergreen -long graceful needles--open character -ideal specimen tree -relatively disease free	-slow growth as young tree
Water Oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	60-80 ft.	-deciduous -fast growth -relatively clean -slow to shed its foliage in winter	-gets heart rot -dead branches occur
Willow Oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	60-80 ft.	-deciduous -long lived -shiny, green foliage	.
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	40 ft. x 80 ft.	-evergreen -easy culture -long lived	-vigorous root system may be damaging -medium-slow rate of growth
Post Oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	60-80 ft.	-deciduous -large stately tree -easy culture -long lived	.

Shumard Red Oak	<i>Quercus shumardi</i>	60-80 ft.	-deciduous -good red fall color -long lived -very clean in appearance -easy culture	.
Weeping Willow	<i>Salix babylonica</i>	50 ft. x 50 ft.	-deciduous -fast growth -fine textured--graceful form -excellent accent tree -yellow fall color	-best in moist conditions -short lived -weak wooded -fibrous root system may be damaging -because of spread, must allow large growing area
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	60-80 ft.	-deciduous -yellow fall color -good street tree -easy culture	-fibrous roots may be damaging
Tulip Tree, Yellow Poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	60-80 ft. x 40 ft.	-deciduous -upright form -clean and neat in appearance -yellow fall color -attractive flowers	-somewhat temperamental in culture -demands moisture
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	60-80 ft.	-deciduous (conifer) -beautiful new foliage in spring -will grow in wet conditions -fine textured foliage -conical form (not a good shade tree) -easy culture--prefers sun	.
Deodara Cedar	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	60-80 ft.	-evergreen -conical form -fine textured--graceful branching -blue-green foliage -excellent specimen tree	-terminal may die which often mars the beauty of the tree form -slow rate of growth -low branched, thus not a good shade tree
Hackberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	50-70 ft.	-deciduous -easy culture -relatively fast growth	-weak wooded -berries which birds distribute
Blackgum, Black Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	60-80 ft.	-deciduous -upright form--horizontal branching -vivid red fall color -neat in appearance	-difficult to transplant -likes moisture and may be temperamental in culture

Arizona Ash	<i>Fraxinus berlandieriana</i>	40-60 ft.	-deciduous -rich green foliage -fast growth -easy culture -attractive seed pod	-remains in weak condition several years after planting, thus susceptible to borers
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