

Select Native Flowering Trees of Georgia

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Native trees have been formed on the anvil of our local environment. Our pests, climate, and soils have combined to generate a wide diversity of native trees. Out of more than 215 native trees in Georgia, there are a few which deserve closer attention for use in landscapes. Within the forest, along field edges, and in swamps are a number of flowering trees -- a splash of color in an ocean of forest green. Many of these native flowering trees are small, having grown below the forest giants, hidden in out-of-the-way places.

Below are listed a number of native flowering trees. Although technically all trees flower, the trees listed below have showy single flowers or flower clusters. These are the tree jewels of Georgia.

scientific name	common name	region	height	comments
<i>Aesculus flava</i> (octandra)	yellow buckeye	N	65'	showy whitish-yellow flowers
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	red buckeye	C-S	15'	showy red flowers
<i>Aesculus sylvatica</i>	painted buckeye	N-C	10'	showy orange-red flowers
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	downy serviceberry (shad bush)	all (not SE)	25'	early bloom, white flowers
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	devil's walkingstick	all	16'	thorns! small greenish-white flowers
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Eastern baccharis (groundsel tree)	S	16'	plant female, minute clustered white flowers
<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Southern catalpa	C-S	60'	showy, white flowers with yellow spots
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	buttonbush	all	18'	unique, minute creamy white flowers in round heads
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	redbud	all (not SE)	18'	pea-like, purple flowers
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	fringetree (grancy-greybeard)	all	22'	unique, plant female, showy white flowers



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scientific name	common name	region	height	comments
Cladrastis kentukea	yellowwood	N	35'	rare! protected areas moist but well-drained soils, showy white flowers
Cliftonia monophylla	buckwheat tree (black titi)	C-S	18'	small white flowers
Cotinus obovatus	American smoketree	N	25'	rare! plant female, massed hairy grey flowers
Cyrilla racemiflora	swamp cyrilla (red titi)	C-S	20'	small white flowers
Gordonia lasianthus	loblolly-bay	C-S	35'	rare! showy fragrant white flowers
Halesia carolina	Carolina silverbell	all	35'	showy white bell flowers with hint of pink
Halesia diptera	two-wing silverbell	C-S	25'	showy white bell flowers
Kalmia latifolia	mountain laurel	all (not SE)	18'	showy white to rose flowers
Magnolia acuminata	cucumbertree	N-C	70'	yellowish-green flowers
Magnolia virginiana	sweetbay	all	50'	showy white fragrant flowers
Malus angustifolia	Southern crabapple (narrow-leaf crabapple)	all (not SE)	25'	showy pink fragrant flowers, wildlife!
Malus coronaria	Sweet crabapple	N	20'	showy, fragrant pinkish white flowers, wildlife!
Oxydendrum arboreum	sourwood	N-C	25'	small white bell flowers
Pinckneya pubens	pinckneya (fevertree)	S	14'	rare! pink with yellow flowers
Prunus angustifolia	chickasaw plum	all	12'	thicket forming, thorns, wildlife! white flowers
Prunus serotina	black cherry	all	60'	white flowers, wildlife!
Ptelea trifoliata	hoptree	all	18'	unique fruit, greenish-white flowers

scientific name	common name	region	height	comments
Stewartia malacodendron	Virginia stewartia (silky camellia)	C-S	16'	showy white flowers
Stewartia ovata	mountain stewartia (mountain camellia)	N	12'	protected area, showy white flowers
Styrax americana	American snowbell	all	10'	understory with sun, white bell flowers
Styrax grandifolia	bigleaf snowbell	C-S	18'	white bell flowers
Vaccinium arboreum	tree sparkleberry (farkleberry)	all	20'	small white bell, flowers, wildlife!
Viburnum rufidulum	rusty blackhaw	all	16'	small fragrant white flowers

region = region of the state for best performance where:
all = statewide, N = North, C = Central, S = South, and SE = Southeast Georgia.
height = mature height in feet (juvenile height will be 60-80% of mature height.)
comments = primarily flower attributes.

flowering trees numbers:	
-- north	= 8
-- central	= 11
-- south	= 10
-- all Georgia	= 11
-- all Georgia except the SE	= 4

