



Check List For Native Trees In Georgia

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The native trees of Georgia represent a great ecological bounty and a rich cultural history. Native trees grow from the mountains to the sea in many diverse habitats and under many environmental constraints. Native trees add value, comfort, and beauty to life in Georgia. They have provided medicine, food, fiber, shelter, recreation and aesthetic values.

Native trees witnessed the arrival of many groups of explorers and settlers, many Native Americans, and many ice ages. Native trees are wonderfully adapted to a local area's climate, soils, pests and other plants. There is a native tree well-suited for every planting site or landscape position.

Definitions

A tree is defined as normally reaching at least 15 feet in height, with a single, self-supporting stem and a distinct crown. A tree is considered native in Georgia if it grows and reproduces naturally in the landscape, it was not originally planted here by people and escaped into the wild, and its gene sets developed and succeeded under Georgia environmental conditions. Trees listed as native here are part of the natural landscapes of Georgia.

A few trees listed might be considered naturalized. Naturalized trees grow and successfully reproduce in a landscape after having escaped from human plantings and cultivation. Here aggressive exotic species would not be included as naturalized, and are considered invasive. Tree inclusion on this list is based upon the references provided, the University of Georgia herbarium holdings, and personal knowledge of the author.

The List

Figure 1 lists native trees of Georgia alphabetically by scientific name. Included is a common name. Several tree species can share a common name, but each will have its own unique scientific name. Georgia has about 268 native trees. It should be noted genera Tilia (basswood) and Crataegus (hawthorn) have major taxonomic problems. For example, there are 18 hawthorn species listed here, but there could be more than 52 native hawthorn species in Georgia.

Figure 2 lists the 12 largest native tree genera in Georgia. The top five genera represent roughly one-third of all species, and all twelve genera in the figure represent roughly 50% of all native tree species. Oaks are by far the largest number of species, with 34 species representing ~13% of all native tree species in Georgia.

How many native trees are in your yard, at your school, or in a local park? How many can you find?

Figure 1: Trees native to Georgia listed alphabetically by scientific name.

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Abies fraseri</u>	Fraser fir	<u>Carya texana</u>	black hickory
<u>Acer barbatum</u>	Southern sugar maple	<u>Carya tomentosa</u>	mockernut hickory
<u>Acer leucoderme</u>	chalk maple	<u>Castanea dentata</u>	American chestnut
<u>Acer negundo</u>	boxelder	<u>Castanea pumila</u>	chinquapin
<u>Acer nigrum</u>	black maple	<u>Catalpa bignonioides</u>	Southern catalpa
<u>Acer pensylvanicum</u>	striped maple	<u>Catalpa speciosa</u>	Northern catalpa
<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple	<u>Celtis laevigata</u>	sugarberry
<u>Acer saccharinum</u>	silver maple	<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>	hackberry
<u>Acer saccharum</u>	sugar maple	<u>Celtis pumila</u>	dwarf hackberry
<u>Acer spicatum</u>	mountain maple	<u>Celtis tenuifolia</u>	Georgia hackberry
<u>Aesculus flava</u>	yellow buckeye	<u>Cephalanthus occidentalis</u>	buttonbush
<u>Aesculus glabra</u>	Ohio buckeye	<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	redbud
<u>Aesculus parviflora</u>	bottlebrush buckeye	<u>Chamaecyparis thyoides</u>	Atlantic whitecedar
<u>Aesculus pavia</u>	red buckeye	<u>Chionanthus virginicus</u>	fringetree
<u>Aesculus sylvatica</u>	Georgia buckeye	<u>Cladrastis kentukea</u>	yellowwood
<u>Alnus maritima</u>	seaside alder	<u>Clethra acuminata</u>	sweet pepperbush
<u>Alnus serrulata</u>	hazel alder	<u>Cliftonia monophylla</u>	buckwheat tree
<u>Amelanchier arborea</u>	downy serviceberry	<u>Cornus alternifolia</u>	alternate-leaf dogwood
<u>Amelanchier canadensis</u>	Canadian serviceberry	<u>Cornus asperifolia</u>	toughleaf dogwood
<u>Amelanchier laevis</u>	Allegheny serviceberry	<u>Cornus drummondii</u>	roughleaf dogwood
<u>Amelanchier sanguinea</u>	roundleaf serviceberry	<u>Cornus florida</u>	flowering dogwood
<u>Aralia spinosa</u>	devil's walkingstick	<u>Cornus foemina</u>	stiff dogwood
<u>Asimina parviflora</u>	dwarf pawpaw	<u>Cornus stricta</u>	swamp dogwood
<u>Asimina triloba</u>	pawpaw	<u>Cotinus obovatus</u>	smoketree
<u>Baccharis halimifolia</u>	Eastern baccharis	<u>Crataegus aestivalis</u>	mayhaw
<u>Betula alleghaniensis</u>	yellow birch	<u>Crataegus aprica</u>	sunny hawthorn
<u>Betula lenta</u>	sweet birch	<u>Crataegus brachyacantha</u>	blueberry haw
<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch	<u>Crataegus calpodendron</u>	pear hawthorn
<u>Carpinus caroliniana</u>	American hornbeam	<u>Crataegus crus-galli</u>	cockspur haw
<u>Carya aquatica</u>	water hickory	<u>Crataegus flabellata</u>	fanleaf hawthorn
<u>Carya australis</u>	Southern shagbark hickory	<u>Crataegus flava</u>	yellow hawthorn
<u>Carya cordiformis</u>	bitternut hickory	<u>Crataegus intricata</u>	Biltmore haw
<u>Carya glabra</u>	pignut hickory	<u>Crataegus marshallii</u>	parsley hawthorn
<u>Carya laciniosa</u>	shellbark hickory	<u>Crataegus phaenopyrum</u>	Washington haw
<u>Carya myristiciformis</u>	nutmeg hickory	<u>Crataegus pruinosa</u>	waxy-fruit haw
<u>Carya ovalis</u>	red hickory	<u>Crataegus pulcherrima</u>	beautiful haw
<u>Carya ovata</u>	shagbark hickory	<u>Crataegus punctata</u>	dotted hawthorn
<u>Carya pallida</u>	sand hickory	<u>Crataegus spathulata</u>	littlehip hawthorn
		<u>Crataegus succulenta</u>	succulent haw
		<u>Crataegus triflora</u>	three-flower haw

Figure 1: Trees native to Georgia listed alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Crataegus uniflora</u>	dwarf hawthorn	<u>Ilex myrtifolia</u>	myrtle dahoon
<u>Crataegus viridis</u>	green hawthorn	<u>Ilex opaca</u>	American holly
<u>Cyrilla parvifolia</u>	littleleaf titi	<u>Ilex verticillata</u>	winterberry
<u>Cyrilla racemiflora</u>	swamp titi	<u>Ilex vomitoria</u>	yaupon
<u>Diospyros virginiana</u>	persimmon	<u>Illicium floridanum</u>	Florida anisetree
<u>Elliottia racemosa</u>	Georgia plume	<u>Illicium parviflorum</u>	yellow anisetree
<u>Euonymus atropurpureus</u>	burningbush	<u>Juglans cinerea</u>	butternut
<u>Fagus grandifolia</u>	American beech	<u>Juglans nigra</u>	black walnut
<u>Forestiera acuminata</u>	swamp-privet	<u>Juniperus communis</u>	juniper
<u>Forestiera segregata</u>	Florida-privet	<u>Juniperus silicicola</u>	Southern redcedar
<u>Frangula caroliniana</u>	Carolina buckthorn	<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar
<u>Franklinia alatomaha</u>	Franklin tree	<u>Kalmia latifolia</u>	mountain-laurel
<u>Fraxinus americana</u>	white ash	<u>Leitneria floridana</u>	corkwood
<u>Fraxinus caroliniana</u>	Carolina ash	<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum
<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash	<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow-poplar
<u>Fraxinus profunda</u>	pumpkin ash	<u>Lyonia ferruginea</u>	staggerbush
<u>Fraxinus quadrangulata</u>	blue ash	<u>Magnolia acuminata</u>	mountain cucumber-tree
<u>Gleditsia aquatica</u>	water locust	<u>Magnolia cordata</u>	Piedmont cucumber-tree
<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	honeylocust	<u>Magnolia fraseri</u>	mountain magnolia
<u>Gordonia lasianthus</u>	loblolly bay	<u>Magnolia grandiflora</u>	Southern magnolia
<u>Gymnocladus dioicus</u>	Kentucky coffee-tree	<u>Magnolia macrophylla</u>	bigleaf magnolia
<u>Halesia carolina</u>	little silverbell	<u>Magnolia pyramidata</u>	pyramid magnolia
<u>Halesia diptera</u>	two-wing silverbell	<u>Magnolia tripetala</u>	umbrella-tree
<u>Halesia tetraptera</u>	mountain silverbell	<u>Magnolia virginiana</u>	sweetbay
<u>Hamamelis virginiana</u>	American witch-hazel	<u>Malus angustifolia</u>	Southern crabapple
<u>Ilex ambigua</u>	Carolina holly	<u>Malus coronaria</u>	sweet crabapple
<u>Ilex amelanchier</u>	sarvis holly	<u>Morella caroliniensis</u>	Southern bayberry
<u>Ilex cassine</u>	dahoon	<u>Morella cerifera</u>	wax-myrtle
<u>Ilex coriacea</u>	large gallberry	<u>Morella heterophylla</u>	evergreen bayberry
<u>Ilex cuthbertii</u>	Cuthbert holly	<u>Morella inodora</u>	odorless bayberry
<u>Ilex decidua</u>	possumhaw	<u>Morus rubra</u>	red mulberry
<u>Ilex laevigata</u>	smooth winterberry	<u>Nyssa aquatica</u>	water tupelo
<u>Ilex longipes</u>	Georgia holly	<u>Nyssa biflora</u>	swamp tupelo
<u>Ilex montana</u>	mountain holly	<u>Nyssa ogeche</u>	Ogeeche-lime

Figure 1: Trees native to Georgia listed alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Nyssa sylvatica</u>	blackgum	<u>Quercus geminata</u>	sand live oak
<u>Osmanthus americanus</u>	devilwood	<u>Quercus georgiana</u>	Georgia oak
<u>Ostrya virginiana</u>	Eastern hophornbeam	<u>Quercus hemisphaerica</u>	laurel oak
<u>Oxydendrum arboreum</u>	sourwood	<u>Quercus imbricaria</u>	shingle oak
<u>Persea borbonia</u>	red-bay	<u>Quercus incana</u>	bluejack oak
<u>Persea palustris</u>	swamp-bay	<u>Quercus laevis</u>	turkey oak
<u>Pinckneya bracteata</u>	fevertree	<u>Quercus laurifolia</u>	swamp laurel oak
<u>Pinus echinata</u>	shortleaf pine	<u>Quercus lyrata</u>	overcup oak
<u>Pinus elliotii</u>	slash pine	<u>Quercus margaretta</u>	sand post oak
<u>Pinus glabra</u>	spruce pine	<u>Quercus marilandica</u>	blackjack oak
<u>Pinus palustris</u>	longleaf pine	<u>Quercus michauxii</u>	swamp chestnut oak
<u>Pinus pungens</u>	table mountain pine	<u>Quercus minima</u>	dwarf live oak
<u>Pinus rigida</u>	pitch pine	<u>Quercus montana</u>	chestnut oak
<u>Pinus serotina</u>	pond pine	<u>Quercus muehlenbergii</u>	chinquapin oak
<u>Pinus strobus</u>	Eastern white pine	<u>Quercus myrtifolia</u>	myrtle oak
<u>Pinus taeda</u>	loblolly pine	<u>Quercus nigra</u>	water oak
<u>Pinus virginiana</u>	Virginia pine	<u>Quercus oglethorpensis</u>	Oglethorpe oak
<u>Planera aquatica</u>	planertree	<u>Quercus pagoda</u>	cherrybark oak
<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	American sycamore	<u>Quercus palustris</u>	pin oak
<u>Populus deltoides</u>	Eastern cottonwood	<u>Quercus phellos</u>	willow oak
<u>Populus heterophylla</u>	swamp cottonwood	<u>Quercus prinoides</u>	dwarf chinquapin oak
<u>Prunus alabamensis</u>	Alabama cherry	<u>Quercus rubra</u>	Northern red oak
<u>Prunus americana</u>	American plum	<u>Quercus shumardii</u>	Shumard's oak
<u>Prunus angustifolia</u>	Chickasaw plum	<u>Quercus similis</u>	swamp post oak
<u>Prunus caroliniana</u>	laurelcherry	<u>Quercus sinuata</u>	bastard (Durand) oak
<u>Prunus mexicana</u>	Mexican plum	<u>Quercus stellata</u>	post oak
<u>Prunus munsoniana</u>	wild goose plum	<u>Quercus velutina</u>	black oak
<u>Prunus pensylvanica</u>	fire cherry	<u>Quercus virginiana</u>	live oak
<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry	<u>Rhododendron catawbiense</u>	purple-laurel
<u>Prunus umbellata</u>	flatwoods plum	<u>Rhododendron maximum</u>	rosebay-laurel
<u>Ptelea trifoliata</u>	hoptree	<u>Rhus copallinum</u>	winged sumac
<u>Quercus alba</u>	white oak	<u>Rhus glabra</u>	smooth sumac
<u>Quercus arkansana</u>	Arkansas oak	<u>Rhus typhina</u>	staghorn sumac
<u>Quercus austrina</u>	bluff oak	<u>Robinia hispida</u>	pink locust
<u>Quercus chapmanii</u>	Chapman oak	<u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u>	black locust
<u>Quercus coccinea</u>	scarlet oak	<u>Robinia viscosa</u>	clammy locust
<u>Quercus falcata</u>	Southern red oak	<u>Sabal palmetto</u>	cabbage palmetto
		<u>Salix caroliniana</u>	Coastal Plain willow
		<u>Salix floridana</u>	Florida willow
		<u>Salix nigra</u>	black willow

Figure 1: Trees native to Georgia listed alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Salix sericea</u>	silky willow	<u>Tsuga canadensis</u>	Eastern hemlock
<u>Sambucus nigra</u>	American elder	<u>Tsuga caroliniana</u>	Carolina hemlock
<u>Sambucus racemosa</u>	red elder		
<u>Sambucus simpsonii</u>	Southern elder	<u>Ulmus alata</u>	winged elm
<u>Sapindus saponaria</u>	wingleaf soapberry	<u>Ulmus americana</u>	American elm
<u>Sassafras albidum</u>	sassafras	<u>Ulmus rubra</u>	slippery elm
<u>Serenoa repens</u>	saw palmetto	<u>Ulmus serotina</u>	September elm
<u>Sideroxylon alachuense</u>	Alachua bully		
<u>Sideroxylon lanuginosa</u>	gum bumelia	<u>Vaccinium arboreum</u>	farkleberry
<u>Sideroxylon lycioides</u>	buckthorn bumelia	<u>Vachellia farnesiana</u>	sweet acacia
<u>Sideroxylon tenax</u>	tough bumelia	<u>Viburnum carolinianum</u>	Carolina arrowwood
<u>Sorbus americana</u>	American mountain-ash	<u>Viburnum dentatum</u>	Southern arrowwood
<u>Staphylea trifolia</u>	bladdernut	<u>Viburnum lentago</u>	nannyberry
<u>Stewartia malacodendron</u>	silky camellia	<u>Viburnum nudum</u>	Southern possumhaw
<u>Stewartia ovata</u>	mountain camellia		
<u>Styrax americanus</u>	American snowbell	<u>Viburnum obovatum</u>	small-leaf arrowwood
<u>Styrax grandifolius</u>	bigleaf snowbell		
<u>Symplocos tinctoria</u>	sweetleaf	<u>Viburnum prunifolium</u>	blackhaw
		<u>Viburnum recognitum</u>	arrowwood
<u>Taxodium ascendens</u>	pond-cypress	<u>Viburnum rufidulum</u>	rusty blackhaw
<u>Taxodium distichum</u>	bald-cypress		
<u>Tilia americana</u>	American basswood	<u>Yucca aloifolia</u>	Spanish-bayonet
<u>Tilia caroliniana</u>	Carolina basswood	<u>Yucca gloriosa</u>	moundlilly yucca
<u>Tilia heterophylla</u>	white basswood		
<u>Torreya taxifolia</u>	torreya	<u>Zanthoxylum americanum</u>	prickly-ash
<u>Toxicodendron vernix</u>	poison sumac	<u>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</u>	Hercules' club

genus	name	number of species	species running total
<u>Quercus</u>	oak	34	34
<u>Crataegus</u>	hawthorn	18	52
<u>Ilex</u>	holly	13	65
<u>Carya</u>	hickory	11	76
<u>Pinus</u>	pine	10	86
<u>Acer</u>	maple	9	95
<u>Prunus</u>	cherry	9	104
<u>Magnolia</u>	magnolia	8	112
<u>Viburnum</u>	viburnum	8	120
<u>Cornus</u>	dogwood	6	126
<u>Aesculus</u>	buckeye	5	131
<u>Fraxinus</u>	ash	5	136

Figure 2: List of the 12 tree genera with the most species native to Georgia.

Primary Sources

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Outreach

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