

Native Trees of Georgia

by Dr. Kim D. Coder, Professor of Tree Biology & Health Care
Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Georgia

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

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

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

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

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

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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