

Small flowering trees for the home landscape

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Tree Notes:

Hamamelis vernalis

Vernal Witchhazel

March 11,2018

Native to US Missouri through northwestern Arkansas to eastern Oklahoma

6 to 10 feet high and 6-10 feet wide; growth rate slow

rounded to upright form.

Prune in late winter to removed dead stems and to keep in shape. Cut stems can be forced inside to bloom.

Will tolerate poorly drained clay soil.

Likes acidic, soil but tolerant of high pH (alkaline) soil

Tolerate: Deer, Erosion, Clay Soil

Yellow, orange or red flowers with a spicy fragrance with 4 strap-like petals in late winter to very early spring lasts three to four weeks. Interesting that the flowers roll up in extreme cold

Blooms before the leaves

Leaves 2-5" matures to dark green and then turns a rich butter yellow to golden yellow in fall.

seeds that are attractive to birds

Parrotia persica

Persian Parrotia

Native to Iran and Caucasus

4 season specimen tree flowers, especially good fall color, ornamental Bark

Height 20-35' spread 15-25' layered look medium growth rate

Flowers very early in spring. March Flowers apetalous tassel like marron red stamens

Fruits small 3/8" fuzzy capsule

Leaves alternate simple oval waxy crenate toward tip 2 ½-5" glossy undulate

Excellent fall color yellow, orange and red full sun for best fall color

Bark smooth exfoliating patches of gray green and orange tan

Soil slightly acid very drought tolerant will take some alkalinity

Cornus mas

Cornelian Cherry Dogwood

April 5, 2018 blooms about the same time as the return of Red Wing Blackbirds heralds the coming of spring

Native Range: Europe Turkey has been in cultivation for 7000 years

Height: 15.00 to 25.00 feet and 15.00 to 20.00 feet wide growth rate medium

Used as a fruit tree

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade.

Bloom time March to April

Flowers dense, showy, rounded clusters (umbels to 3/4" wide) vivid yellow before the leaves and flowers last 2-3 weeks

Leaves: Opposite simple, ovate to elliptic dark green leaves (2 to 4" long) typically develop insignificant fall color muted purple red.

Fruits fleshy, one-seeded berries (drupes to 5/8" long) olive like which mature to cherry red to wine in color in mid-summer. Fruits used for jam and syrups some cultivars have been selected for fruit qualities

Fruit Attracts: Birds

Fruit: Showy, Edible

Tolerate: Deer, Clay Soil avoid permanently wet sites

When properly grown, this dogwood usually has few insect or disease problems. Stressed trees may become vulnerable to borers. Leaf miner, gall midge and scale are less serious potential insect pests.

Amelanchier laevis

Allegheny Serviceberry There are many *Amelanchier* species that cross easily so species identification can be difficult

Native to Newfoundland to Georgia west to Michigan

Small tree Multi-stemmed, upright oval most tree like member of the genus the most upright and least likely to sucker

Height: 15-25 feet 15-25 feet spread growth rate moderate

Light Exposure: Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Soil Preference: Moist, well-drained soil but will tolerate alkaline or clay soil

Poor Drainage: Tolerant

Ornamental Interest: understory tree with four-season interest
Spring showy fragrant blossoms, fall color, showy edible fruit, attractive bark

Flower Color & Fragrance: Fragrant, White early to mid-spring star like

Fruit blue purple 1/4-3/8" edible sweet mid-summer

Leaves: leaves alternate simple emerge bronze turning shiny dark green (1.5-3" long) in summer yellow to orange-red fall color

Wildlife: Birds, Insect pollinators, Mammals

Tree & Plant Care An understory tree best sited in part shade. This is a great tree for naturalizing. Wonderful when mixed with conifers and hardwoods.

Disease, pests and problems Member of the rose family rust, powdery mildew (not serious) fireblight (serious).

Cultivars

Lustre® Allegheny serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis* 'Rogers'): 20-30 feet high and 15 to 20 feet wide; upright habit; flowers abundantly in spring; leaves emerge purplish, become shiny green in summer and turn to orange and red in fall.

Prince Charles Allegheny serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis* 'Prince Charles'): 20 to 25 feet high and 12 to 15 feet wide; upright form. New leaves emerge bronzy-red, turning blue-green in summer, then change to an attractive orange-red fall color.

Spring Flurry® Allegheny serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis* 'JFS-Arb'): 30 feet high by 20 feet wide; upright-oval form; orange fall color. Good street tree

Cercis canadensis

Eastern Redbud

Native to eastern and central North America from Connecticut to New York to southern Ontario and the Great Lakes south to Florida and west to Texas

Small tree

Height: 15.00 to 30.00 feet Spread: 15.00 to 20.00 feet growth rate medium

Vase shape to rounded there are also cultivars with weeping habit

Flowers: pinkish purple to fuchsia purple with classic pea shape about 1/2" in size borne in clusters bloom time about 2-3 weeks blooms at a young age flowers before leaves **Good trees for bees**

Fruit: pea like 3" brown pod member of family Fabaceae

Leaves: alternate simple heart shape leaves 2-5" wide in either green or purple forms fall color yellow usually not showy

Tolerate: Deer, Clay Soil

Avoid wet or poorly drained soils. Since this tree does not transplant well, it should be planted when young and left undisturbed

Diseases: Canker can be a significant disease problem. Verticillium wilt, dieback, leaf spots, mildew and blights may also occur

Keeping the tree vigorous by regular watering and fertilization and by pruning out dead branches as needed will help keep the tree healthy.

Cultivars

Variety Alba

'Forest Pansy' and 'Black Pearl' upright form purple leaves and purple pink flowers most popular purple leaf forms

'Ruby Falls' weeping habit purple leaves and flowers

'Lavender Twist' weeping form with purple flowers and green leaves

'Vanilla Twist' weeping form with white flowers and green leaves

'Pink Pom Poms' fruitless double deep rose pink (**NOT for bees**)

'Hearts of Gold' and 'The Rising Sun' yellow foliage in spring both very slow growing

'Carolina Sweetheart' white pink green foliage semi arching branches very graceful

'Appalachian Red' found in Maryland brilliant pink

Halesia carolina

Carolina Silverbell

Native Range: Southeastern United States West Virginia to Florida

Understory specimen tree, patio tree

Crown shape: round; upright small flowering tree

Height: 20.00 to 35.00 feet Spread: 15.00 to 25.00 feet growth rate slow

Flowers: showy white bell-shaped flowers ½-1" long pendulous 2-5 flowers per cluster

Bloom Time: early May

Fruit: 4 winged brownish, nut-like fruits appear in the fall and often persist well into the winter.

Leaves: Alternate simple ovate dull, green finely toothed, dark yellowish-green, ovate-oblong leaves (2-5" long) turn a somewhat attractive yellow in fall, but may drop rather early Good Fall color

Location : Full sun to part shade well drained soil **moist sandy acid soil pH 5-6 high organic matter**

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low No serious insect or disease problems. Susceptible to chlorosis in high pH soils.

Synonymous with *Halesia tetraptera* (*tetraptera* meaning four-winged).

Cultivar pink flowered form

'Arnold Pink' most common pink cultivar tree form 20-30'

'Emily Rose' 12-15' most intense pink

Styrax japonicus

Common Name: Japanese snowbell

Native Range: China, Japan, Korea

Small low branched flowering tree rounded to broadly rounded form

Height: 15.00 to 25.00 feet Spread: 15.00 to 20.00 feet growth rate slow

Flower: White flowers showy fragrant perfect, bell-shaped pendulous, ¾" wide with yellow stamens, each on a pendulous stalk and bloom Time: late May to June

Fruit: greenish-brown, olive-shaped drupes that often persist into late autumn

Leaves alternate, simple, broad-elliptic to elliptic oblong, 1-3" long, 3/4-2" wide, acute to acuminate, medium to dark green, glabrous above

Fall color is usually insignificant, however leaves may sometimes turn yellow to red

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Medium

Culture

Best grown in organically rich, **acidic**, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Prune as needed in winter to shape.

This tree is in the same family as and closely related to *Halesia* (silverbell).

Genus name comes from the classical Greek name derived from a Semitic name for these resin producing plants.

Specific epithet means of Japan.

Problems ambrosia beetles in stressed trees.

Just a few of multiple cultivars available, including:

'Emerald Pagoda' - columnar habit

'Evening Light' white flowers, maroon-purple leaves

'Pink Chimes'- pink flower 15' high and wide

Aesculus pavia

Red Buckeye

flowering small tree

Native to southeastern US from Virginia to Florida west to Texas

Height 20-25' spread 10-15' growth rate slow

Blooms between Mother's day and Memorial Day

Flowers: Showy, erect, 4-10" long panicles of red to orange-red, narrow-tubular flowers appear in spring.

Attracts: Hummingbirds Flowers are attractive to ruby-throated hummingbirds and bloom in St. Louis at about the same time that the hummingbirds return to the area in spring migration.

Bloom Time: May

Fruit: Smooth, light brown, globular (1-2" diameter) seed capsules encase 1-3 shiny honey colored seeds called buckeyes that ripen in the fall.

Leaves: Leaf out while the Forsythia is in bloom Palmately compound, shiny, dark green leaves are attractive in spring and early summer, but usually begin to decline by August. No fall color Often leafless before seeds are fully mature

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Medium

Tolerate: Clay Soil

Suggested Use: Flowering Tree, Excellent for Rain Garden

When purchasing buy in flower to insure red color Pavia crosses with all other tree species native to eastern US

Chionanthus virginicus

White Fringetree

Spreading open form

Native to the savannas and lowlands of the southeastern United States, from New Jersey south to Florida, and west to Oklahoma and Texas

Small tree (15-25 feet), Compact tree (10-15 feet), growth rate slow

Mature Height: 15-20 feet **Mature Width:** 15-20 feet

Flowers Dioecious porcelain white fragrant sweet very showy male more fragrant and showy than females

Borne in panicles 6-10" in May or early June

Fruit Dark blue drupe 1/2" favorite of wildlife

Leaves: opposite or subopposite simple entire 3-8" long dark green Yellow green fall color

Light Exposure: Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily), Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Soil Preference: Acid soil, Moist, well-drained soil

Acid Soils: Prefers 6.0-6.5 Intolerant to drought and poor drainage

Prone after flowering

Same family as Ash some reports of damage from Emerald ash borers

Cornus kousa

Kousa Dogwood

Native Range: Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan

Four season tree

Maturing to a more rounded form with strong horizontal branches closely related to flowering dogwood

Height: 15.00 to 30.00 feet Spread: 15.00 to 30.00 feet growth rate slow

Flowers: Showy Four white to pinkish (bracts) Bracts are pointed 3-5" across surround the center cluster of insignificant, yellowish-green, true flowers.

Bloom Time: June 2-3 weeks after Flowering Dogwood

Attracts: Butterflies

Fruit: showy and edible, raspberry-like fruits (to 1" diameter) which mature to a pinkish red in summer and persist into fall. Fruits are usually left for the birds.

Leaves: opposite simple entire oval, pointed leaves (2 to 4" long) are dark green, more narrow and elongated than Flowering Dogwood but usually good fall color turns attractive shades of orange red reddish-purple to scarlet in autumn.

Bark: Mottled, exfoliating, tan and gray bark on mature trees is attractive in winter.

Suggested Use: Street Tree, Flowering Tree

Tolerate: Deer

Sun: Full sun to part shade takes more sun than Flowering Dogwood

Pests and diseases: No serious insect or disease problems. This plant has better disease resistance and better cold hardiness than flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*, and is an excellent alternative to flowering dogwood in areas where dogwood anthracnose is a problem. In full sun locations, leaf scorch may appear, particularly if soils are allowed to dry out. Resistant to anthracnose and powdery mildew

Many cultivars are available

'Milky Way Select' very larger flowers, heavy flowering orange red fall color best resistance to anthracnose

'Scarlet Fire' is a pink flowered form. It produces pink-bracted flowers in late spring. It is noted for having excellent yellow, red and purple fall foliage color. Bright true pink

List of 33 cultivars

Syringa reticulata

Japanese Tree Lilac

Native to Japan

Used as street tree in Westlake and Oberlin

Oval-rounded crown being used as street tree

Height 20-30' spread 15-20'

Flowers 6-12" panicles color creamy white flowers in mid-June to July 1

Flowers showy and fragrant attracts hummingbirds and butterflies

Each flower ¼" 4 petals panicles 8-16" long and wide

Leaves: Opposite simple entire ovate dark green fall color is dull yellow green not showy

Bark: cherry like reddish brown with prominent lenticels

Maintenance requirements low.

Tolerates urban conditions, pollution, clay soil and salt

Prefers moist slightly acidic soil but is pH adaptable. Prune after flowering
pH adaptable

Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata* ssp. *Reticulata*)

'Ivory Silk': best known cultivar flowers profusely and begins to flower at an early age. Upright form proven reliable

Ivory Pillar™ *Syringa reticulata* 'Willamette' narrow upright form

Magnolia virginiana

Sweetbay Magnolia

Native Massachusetts to Florida and Texas

Patio or specimen tree

Spreading or broad rounded crown

Height: 10 – 20' Spread: 10 – 20' growth rate slow

Flowers: Cup shaped creamy white sweet fragrant (lemony) showy flowers 2-3" in diameter with 9-12 petals

Bloom time June into July and will produce occasional flowers all summer

Fruit aggregate with orange and red seeds

Leaves: Alternate simple and entire elliptical, shiny dark green above and silvery beneath 3 – 6" long and 1 – 1 ½" wide

Prefers organic acidic soils, but, unlike most other magnolias, tolerates wet, boggy soils. Also does quite well in the heavy clay soils

Tolerate: Clay Soil, Wet Soil, Air Pollution but is susceptible to chlorosis in alkaline soils.

No serious insect or disease problems.

Use in foundation plantings, near patios or on the periphery of woodland areas.

Will grow in wet soils such as those found in low spots or near ponds/streams.
slow-growing

10 cultivars listed in Durr's Tree Book

Emerald Tower™ compact 20' ht 8' wide

Oxydendrum arboreum

Sourwood

Native Range: Eastern and southern United States from Pennsylvania south to Florida and Louisiana

Four season tree

Family: Ericaceae

Form Pyramidal

Height: 20.00 to 30.00 feet Spread: 10.00 to 20.00 feet growth rate very slow

Fine texture requires patience

Flowers: White Showy, pleasant fragrant Waxy, lily-of-the-valley-like, urn shaped white flowers bloom on slender, drooping, one-sided terminal panicles (4-8" long) in early summer. Flowers have a slight fragrance. Flower panicle stems remains in place even after the flowers fall

Flowers are quite attractive to bees.

Bloom Time: June to July

Fruit: Showy Capsules contrast well with the red fall color and provide continuing ornamental interest after leaf drop into winter

give way to 5-parted dry capsules that ripen to silver-gray in September

Leaves alternate, simple, elliptic-oblong with acuminate tip 3-8" dark green and lustrous produce consistently **outstanding fall color**, typically turning bright to crimson red.

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Tolerate: Deer

Best grown in moist acidic 5.5-6.5 pH, moist, organically rich, **well-drained** soils in full sun. Tolerates part shade, but with somewhat diminished flowering and fall color. Intolerant to drought and urban pollution and soil compaction.

Stewartia pseudocamellia

Japanese Stewartia

Native Japan

Most sought after member of the genus

Shape pyramidal best with multiple trunks to show off bark patterned and exfoliating

Four season interest

Family: Theaceae

Height: 20 to 30 feet Spread: 8 to 25 feet growth rate slow

Flowers: White Cup-shaped, 5 petal camellia-like white flowers (2.5-4" diameter) with showy orange-yellow anthers appear in early summer.

Bloom Time: July to August

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Leaves: Elliptic, dark green foliage (to 3" long) turns attractive shades of yellow reddish-orange and burgundy in autumn. Excellent fall color

Bark: Exfoliating, reddish-brown bark provides good winter color and interest.

Landscape moist well drained acidic soil does not tolerate drought

Maintenance: Low

Problems no serious insect or disease problems on foliage

Specimen plant good for woodland understory

Cultivars

'Ballet' a selection out of Polly Hill Arboretum on Martha's Vineyard MA this plant is unique due to its more spreading habit and larger flowers to almost 4" wide

'Cascade' this is a semi-weeping form with gently drooping branches and growing tips It grows very slowly

'Milk and Honey' occasionally offered by specialty nurseries this Polly Hill introduction reportedly bears profuse quantities of larger blooms and bark color that is brighter in intensity

Heptacodium miconioides

Seven-son flower

Three season plant

Introduced into the U.S. in 1980 from China and promoted by Arnold Arboretum

Height 15-25' upright spreading habit

Flowers cream white in 6" terminal panicles fragrant that open base to tip
effective for 1 month attracts butterflies and hummingbirds

Bloom time August/September 3-4 weeks

Rose purple sepals last with fruit color into September and October

Leaves dark green with impressed veins giving a pleated texture and wavy margin
Fall color yellow not note worthy

Bark exfoliating gray brown with light gray underneath

Soil well drained acid but good specimen at Secrest Arboretum

Drought tolerant once established

Franklinia alatamaha

Franklin tree or Franklinia

Native Range: Southeastern United States no longer found in the wild

Height: 10.00 to 20.00 feet Spread: 6.00 to 15.00 feet growth rate slow

Flowers: Camellia-like, cup-shaped, 5-petaled, sweetly-fragrant, white flowers (to 3" diameter) bloom in late summer to early fall. Each flower sports egg-yolk yellow center stamens Bloom Time: late August through September

Fruit: Five valved dry brown capsule ½-¾" in diameter

Leaves: alternate, simple entire, narrow, oblong-obovate, glossy dark green leaves (to 5" long) turn quality brilliant shades of orange, red and purple in autumn. Good fall color Late to leaf out and holds leaves late into fall

Suggested Use: Flowering Tree

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Moist well drained acidic soil with organic matter

Appreciates some afternoon shade in hot summer climates. May not be reliably winter hardy in the northern parts of USDA Zone 5 where it should be planted in a protected location. Hard to transplant because of its sparsely fibrous root system, and is best left undisturbed once planted in the landscape.

Must have good drainage **does not tolerate** poorly drained heavy clay soils

Discovered franklinia growing in a 2-3 acre tract along the banks of the Altamaha River in southeastern Georgia. Franklinia has never been observed growing in any other place than along the Altamaha River.

This tree has been extinct in the wild since 1790. It has been perpetuated in cultivation (all plants derive from the seed collected by Bartram) not only because of its rarity but also because of its attractive flowers and foliage.

Specimen tree or large shrub valued for its late summer flowers, good fall color and interesting history. Franklinia deserves a prominent location in the landscape.

Plants that Merit Attention: Trees. 1985. Horticultural Committee of the Garden Club of America, Janet Meakin Poor, Nancy Peterson Brewster

The Tree Book: Superior Selections for Landscape, Streetscapes, and Gardens. 2019. Michael A. Dirr and Keith S. Warren

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses. 1998. Michael A. Dirr