



DURAHEAT® RIVER BIRCH

Betula nigra

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 30–40' tall × 25–35' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Oval, spreading
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade
- **Water Needs:** Medium to high; tolerates wet soils
- **Growth Rate:** Fast
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, pollinators
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Rain gardens, stream banks, shade

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

With cinnamon-peeling bark and golden fall color, this beauty looks good year-round.

Unlike other birches, the DuraHeat® cultivar resists heat stress and holds its leaves longer in southern summers.

FUN FACT

River birch bark was once used by Native Americans for canoes and shelters.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Seeds feed finches and other small birds. The foliage supports butterfly and moth caterpillars.

Its roots stabilize streambanks, filtering runoff and reducing erosion—a quiet hero for clean water and wildlife.

TREE CARE TIPS

- Water 1–2 times per week during the first 1–2 years. A slow, thorough soak encourages deep root growth.
- Mulch to keep roots cool. *Keep mulch a few inches away from the trunk's root flare to prevent rot.*
- Minimal pruning needed.

WHERE TO PLANT

The Dura Heat® River Birch is a native standout, tailor-made for the Southeast's soggy spots and sultry summers.

It thrives in low-lying, damp soils, soaking up stormwater and anchoring rain gardens, streambanks, and wet backyards.

River birch roots are vigorous! Avoid planting too close to sidewalks, driveways, or foundations, where root heaving could be a concern.



OVERCUP OAK

Quercus lyrata

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 45–70' tall × 35–50' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Rounded, uniform
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium to high; tolerates flooding
- **Growth Rate:** Moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, mammals
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Floodplain planting, shade

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

Adapted to floodplains, this oak can handle “wet feet,” making it ideal for soggy soils and low areas.

Its acorns are almost entirely enclosed by their cups—hence the name “overcup.”

FUN FACT

Because its acorns float, overcup oak spreads naturally via rivers and floodwaters!

TREE CARE TIPS

- Water deeply once a week during the first two years, especially in dry spells, to help roots establish.
- Avoid planting in sites that dry out quickly—this species prefers moist, well-drained soils.
- Mulch 2–3" deep in a wide ring, keeping it away from the trunk to retain moisture and reduce weeds.

WHERE TO PLANT

Ideal for low, flood-prone areas, stormwater basins, or sites near wetlands and streambanks. Well adapted to wet soils, the overcup oak thrives where many other trees won't, helping manage runoff and reduce erosion.

It prefers full sun but tolerates partial shade, and is a strong choice for both naturalized and urban landscapes—*just avoid drought-prone sites.*

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Overcup Oak supports wetland wildlife with food and shelter, including birds and small mammals.

Its strong roots reduce erosion and improve flood resilience, making it ideal for restoring lowland and riparian habitats.

Beyond stabilizing soils, the tree's tolerance for prolonged flooding helps sustain wetland ecosystems.



AUTUMN BRILLIANCE SERVICEBERRY

Amelanchier × grandiflora

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 15–25' tall × 15–20' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Upright, rounded, multi-stem or single trunk
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade
- **Water Needs:** Medium; tolerates most soils with good drainage
- **Growth Rate:** Moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—pollinators, birds, and small mammals
- **Native to NC:** Hybrid (serviceberry species)
- **Ideal Use:** Four-season interest, small yards, pollinator gardens

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

A true four-season showstopper: clouds of white flowers in spring, tasty red-purple berries in summer, fiery orange-red foliage in fall, and silvery bark in winter.

FUN FACT

Those summer berries aren't just for the birds—they're edible for people too! Early settlers baked them into jams and pies.

TREE CARE TIPS

- Water once a week during the first 1–2 years to help roots establish, especially in dry spells.
- Prune lightly after flowering if shaping is desired.
- Mulch to keep roots cool and moist.

WHERE TO PLANT

Great for smaller spaces, under power lines, or as a focal point near garden beds. Avoid consistently soggy or poorly drained sites, which can lead to root stress.

Note: This tree produces berries that attract birds and can create a bit of a mess—so it's best to avoid planting over hard surfaces like driveways, patios, or sidewalks.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Beloved by pollinators in spring, then feeds cedar waxwings, robins, and mockingbirds in summer. Provides shade and stormwater interception despite its smaller size.

Avoid heavy pesticide use nearby—its blooms and berries support sensitive wildlife.



BLACKGUM / TUPELO

Nyssa sylvatica

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 30–50' tall × 20–30' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Pyramidal when young, rounded with age
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade
- **Water Needs:** Medium; tolerates wet or dry sites once established
- **Growth Rate:** Slow to moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—bees, birds, mammals
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Shade, fall color, wildlife habitat

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

A Carolina classic! In autumn, black gums ignite with brilliant scarlet foliage, one of the earliest and brightest fall shows in the Southeast.

FUN FACT

The name “tupelo” comes from the Muscogee (Creek) language, meaning “tree of the swamp.” Its nectar produces a prized honey—Tupelo honey.

TREE CARE TIPS

- Water deeply during dry spells, especially in the first few years, to support root development and overall health.
- Blackgums are relatively low-maintenance, requiring little pruning—just remove any dead, damaged, or crowded branches in late winter if needed.
- Mulch well to retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and suppress weeds.

WHERE TO PLANT

Prefers moist, acidic soil but tolerates a range of conditions. Its deep taproot makes it wind-firm but hard to transplant—plant small and let it grow.

Choose a site with full sun to partial shade and give it space to develop its naturally upright, pyramidal shape.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Early fall berries are a high-energy feast for birds and mammals—including wood ducks, robins, wild turkeys, and black bears.

Spring flowers attract native pollinators, while dense foliage offers nesting cover for songbirds. In wetland or low-lying areas, blackgum's deep roots help stabilize soil and reduce erosion.



CLARYNETTE® AMERICAN HORNBEAM

*Carpinus
caroliniana*

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 20–30' tall × 20–30' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Rounded, dense
- **Sun Requirements:** Partial sun to full shade
- **Water Needs:** Medium; thrives in moist soils
- **Growth Rate:** Slow to moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, pollinators, mammals
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Shade tree for small yards, naturalistic plantings

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

This tree is graceful yet tough! Fall color ranges from yellow to orange to red.

This cultivar is prized for its uniform form.

FUN FACT

Known as “ironwood” or “musclewood” for its strong, sinewy trunk.

TREE CARE TIPS

- Keep soil consistently moist, especially when young; Water deeply once a week during dry spells to help young roots establish.
- Minimal pruning required.
- Mulch generously to mimic forest-floor conditions. Keep mulch a few inches away from the trunk to prevent rot and allow for air circulation.

WHERE TO PLANT

Thrives in low, moist sites like streambanks but also adapts well to urban settings with adequate shade. Requires full shade to partial sun—it is not ideal for full sun in southeastern NC's hot climate and sandy soils. If planted in a more open location, ensure it receives afternoon shade and regular moisture to prevent stress.

Early Americans used its extremely hard wood for tool handles and bowls.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Seeds feed songbirds and small mammals, while dense foliage provides nesting habitat.

Supports the caterpillars of several native butterfly and moth species, playing a key role in the food web for birds and beneficial insects.



FRINGE TREE

Chionanthus virginicus

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 12–20' tall × 12–20' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Rounded, spreading
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade
- **Water Needs:** Medium; prefers moist, well-drained soils
- **Growth Rate:** Slow to moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—pollinators, birds
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Accent tree, small yards, wildlife-friendly landscapes

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

With billowy white blossoms that look like delicate fringe or “old man’s beard,” this native tree is a springtime spectacle.

In fall, female trees may surprise you with deep blue fruit!

FUN FACT

The fringe tree is dioecious—male and female flowers grow on separate trees. **Female trees produce clusters of dark blue, olive-like fruit loved by birds and other wildlife.**

TREE CARE TIPS

- Water deeply during dry spells, especially in the first few years, to support root development.
- Mulch well to retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and suppress weeds.
- Minimal pruning needed.

WHERE TO PLANT

Fringe trees thrive in filtered light, especially near moist, well-drained soils. Avoid exposed, dry locations—these trees do best with some natural shelter. They can tolerate full sun, but will require consistent watering during establishment, especially in hot, dry sites. Fringe trees also perform better in clay soils better than many ornamentals.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Its fragrant, showy spring blooms support pollinators such as bees and butterflies, while its late-summer blue fruits are a food source for birds and small mammals.

The tree also offers cover and nesting habitat within its dense branching structure, making it an excellent choice for enhancing biodiversity in both urban and natural landscapes.



PRINCETON AMERICAN ELM

Ulmus americana
'Princeton'

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 60–80' tall × 30–50' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Vase-shaped, arching
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium
- **Growth Rate:** Fast
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, pollinators, mammals
- **Native to NC:** Yes (cultivar of native elm)
- **Ideal Use:** Street tree, shade, historic landscapes

TREE CARE TIPS

- Needs consistent moisture during their first 2–3 years after planting. Water deeply once or twice a week, especially during hot, dry spells.
- Mulch well to preserve soil moisture, regulate soil temperature, and protect roots.
- Prune in late winter to shape a strong central leader and remove weak or crossing branches.

WHERE TO PLANT

Ideal for large yards, this elm needs ample space to reach its full potential—maturing at 60–80 feet tall with an equally impressive canopy spread.

FUN FACT

Once the most popular street tree in America, the American elm lined entire avenues with its graceful canopy.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

The 'Princeton' cultivar, developed in 1922, is prized for its strong resistance to Dutch elm disease, helping to restore this iconic tree to our landscapes. Fast-growing and adaptable, it tolerates a wide range of urban conditions, from compacted soils to air pollution, while still displaying the classic form that once defined our nation's streetscapes.

Its tall, arching limbs makes every street look like a cathedral and every yard feel like a park.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Hosts the caterpillars, supporting butterfly and insect populations at the base of the food web. Its seeds and foliage feed countless birds and small mammals.



WHITE OAK

Quercus alba

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 60–80' tall × 60–80' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Broad, rounded, spreading
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium; prefers deep, well-drained soils
- **Growth Rate:** Slow to moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—acorns for birds and mammals
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Shade, legacy tree, wildlife habitat

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

The white oak is a symbol of strength and endurance, living for centuries. Its broad canopy casts shade, and its gray, plated bark is as iconic as it is beautiful.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

The acorns feed deer, turkeys, squirrels, and countless birds!

Provides critical canopy cover and climate resilience.

TREE CARE TIPS

- During the first 2–3 years after planting, consistent deep watering is crucial for establishing a strong root system. Aim to water once a week.
- **Always prune white oaks during the dormant season**—late fall to mid-winter—so as not to attract sap-feeding beetles that transmit disease.

FUN FACT

White oak wood was prized for shipbuilding—including the USS Constitution, “Old Ironsides”—thanks to its strength and resistance to rot. Its durable lumber has also been essential for barrel-making, imparting distinctive flavor to bourbon and wines.

WHERE TO PLANT

White oaks need plenty of room to grow—best suited for large yards, parks, or open landscapes where their iconic, spreading limbs can fully develop without obstruction.

Prefers deep, well-drained soils. When planting, stay away from compacted or shallow ground. These long-lived giants thrive in locations with good air circulation and plenty of sunlight.



SWAMP WHITE OAK

Quercus bicolor

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 50–60' tall × 50–60' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Rounded, open
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium to high; tolerates wet soils
- **Growth Rate:** Moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, mammals
- **Native to NC:** Yes (native to wetland areas)
- **Ideal Use:** Shade, stormwater management, wildlife habitat

TREE CARE TIPS

- During the first 2–3 years after planting, consistent deep watering is crucial for establishing a strong root system. Aim to water once a week.
- Mulch 2–3" deep in a ring, keeping it away from the trunk to retain moisture and reduce weeds.

WHERE TO PLANT

Perfect for low-lying or flood-prone yards, swamp white oaks thrive in moist, poorly drained, or clay-heavy soils. *Avoid dry, exposed, or overly sandy sites.*

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

This oak thrives where others falter—moist or swampy ground.

Its peeling bark adds character, and its yellow-gold fall foliage is a bonus.

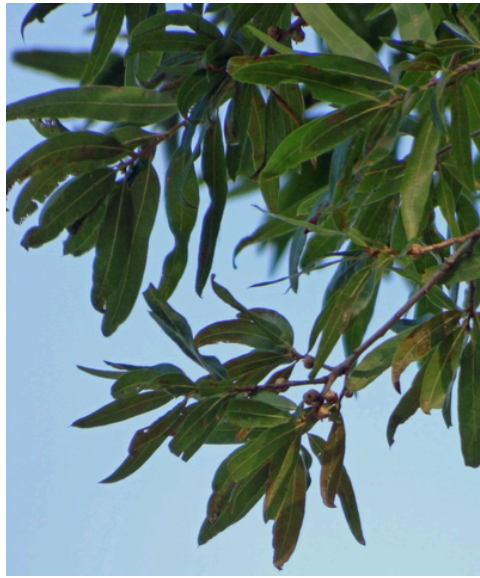
ECOLOGICAL VALUE

What a powerhouse! The oak's acorns provide a reliable food source for squirrels and a wide range of birds, while its leaves host hundreds of caterpillar species that fuel the food web for songbirds.

Adapted to wetter soils, it thrives along floodplains and streambanks where it stabilizes soil, improves water quality, and mitigates flooding through stormwater absorption.

FUN FACT

Its acorns are “two-toned”—light cap and darker nut—earning the name “bicolor.”



WILLOW OAK

Quercus phellos

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 60–80' tall × 40–50' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Broad, rounded
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium; prefers moist, acidic soils
- **Growth Rate:** Fast
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, mammals
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Street tree, shade, large yards

TREE CARE TIPS

- Water once or twice a week regularly for the first 2 years; focus on maintaining even moisture—especially in the sandy or compacted soils common in the Cape Fear region.
- Mulch to protect shallow roots.
- Willow oaks have a naturally uniform, oval shape and require little pruning beyond removing dead, damaged, or crossing branches.

FUN FACT

Willow oaks are a favorite of squirrels—don't be surprised if you see a few scurrying around once acorns drop!

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

Beloved in southern cities, willow oaks combine elegance with toughness.

Their narrow, willow-like leaves give a graceful texture, while the tree grows quickly into a broad, cooling canopy.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

The willow oak's acorns support dozens of bird and mammal species—an especially important food source because their smaller size makes them accessible to a wider range of species.

WHERE TO PLANT

This oak needs room to spread—great for big lawns!

Avoid tight residential spots where roots could crowd infrastructure or sidewalks, as mature trees require ample underground space for their extensive root systems.



SHUMARD OAK

Quercus shumardii

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 50–70' tall × 40–50' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Broad, spreading
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium; drought-tolerant once established
- **Growth Rate:** Moderate to fast
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, mammals
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Shade, urban planting, fall color

TREE CARE TIPS

- Water deeply in droughts to encourage the roots to grow downward, improving drought resilience in the long term.
- Prune to develop strong structure.
- For long-term health, avoid excessive pruning once mature—Shumards respond best to light, corrective cuts.
- Mulch to retain soil moisture.

FUN FACT

Often mistaken for red oak, Shumard is tougher in southern climates, making it a favorite for urban forestry.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

This oak combines resilience with beauty! **It thrives in urban soils and dazzles with crimson fall foliage—rare for oaks.**

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Shumard oaks produce large acorns that are a staple food for woodpeckers and squirrels, especially in fall and winter when other resources are scarce. Their foliage supports hundreds of species of caterpillars, which in turn sustain birds and wildlife!

WHERE TO PLANT

Perfect for large yards! They thrive in open, sunny spaces where their broad crowns can fully develop without crowding nearby structures. *Avoid planting too close to homes, driveways, or narrow strips; give them the space they need to shine as a legacy shade tree!*

They're remarkably adaptable to clay soils and periodic drought once established.