

SOUTHERN LIVE OAK

Quercus virginiana

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Evergreen
- **Size at Maturity:** 40–80' tall × 60–100' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Massive, spreading, picturesque
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium; drought- and salt-tolerant
- **Growth Rate:** Moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, mammals, insects
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Legacy tree, shade, coastal planting

TREE CARE TIPS

- Water deeply in establishment years.
- Avoid soil compaction near roots.
- Keep mulch 2–3" deep around the base (but off the trunk).
- Regular inspections and professional pruning every 5–7 years will keep the tree structurally sound.

WHERE TO PLANT

These giants grow slowly but live for centuries. Plant at least 20–30 feet from structures, driveways, and power lines so your oak has room to spread its iconic canopy.

Pair your live oak with native understory plants like yaupon holly, beautyberry, or wax myrtle. These species thrive in the filtered light beneath the oak and provide extra food and shelter for wildlife.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

The quintessential southern tree, live oaks are living landmarks. Their sweeping, moss-draped branches create shade havens and iconic beauty.

FUN FACT

The Southern live oak is unmatched in stormwater and carbon benefits.

One mature tree can intercept and absorb tens of thousands of gallons of stormwater each year, reducing flooding and protecting our waterways.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

A single Southern live oak can be home to thousands of organisms—from lichens, mosses, and fungi clinging to its bark to insects, birds, bats, and mammals making use of its branches, leaves, and cavities.

It's not just a tree; it's an entire ecosystem.



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.



BRACKEN'S BROWN BEAUTY MAGNOLIA

Magnolia grandiflora

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Evergreen
- **Size at Maturity:** 30–50' tall × 15–25' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Pyramidal, dense
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade
- **Water Needs:** Medium; prefers moist, well-drained soils
- **Growth Rate:** Moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, pollinators
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Accent tree, screening

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.
- Prune only lightly—magnolias dislike heavy cuts.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

A cultivar of the Southern Magnolia, Bracken's Brown Beauty keeps its leaves tidy, with glossy green tops, velvety brown undersides, and creamy, fragrant summer blooms.

WHERE TO PLANT

Perfect for smaller yards or urban lots where a full-size magnolia would be too large. This variety grows to about 30 feet tall with a neat, pyramidal shape.

This magnolia thrives in full sun but tolerates partial shade, making it a great choice near patios, or as an evergreen screen—ensure the soil drains well and there's room for its form to develop.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Fragrant blooms support pollinators. Seed pods feed birds and small mammals. Canopy provides shelter.

FUN FACT

Magnolias are ancient—fossils date back 95 million years, before bees existed. They were pollinated by beetles!



BRANDYWINE RED MAPLE

Acer rubrum

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 25–35' tall × 15–25' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Upright, oval
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade
- **Water Needs:** Medium; adaptable
- **Growth Rate:** Moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, pollinators
- **Native to NC:** Yes (cultivar of native red maple)
- **Ideal Use:** Ornamental shade

TREE CARE TIPS

- Give your tree five gallons per week—more during dry spells. Slow, deep watering is best.
- Mulch to prevent root stress.
- Only remove dead, damaged, or rubbing limbs. Wait to shape your tree until it's more mature.

WHERE TO PLANT

Plant your Brandywine Red Maple in full sun with well-drained soil—front or back yards, wide roadside strips, or open lawn areas are ideal.

Avoid power lines and hardscapes; give it space to grow up to 50 feet tall with a broad, oval canopy.

This tree offers brilliant fall color and thrives where it can provide shade, beauty, and seasonal interest.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

This red maple cultivar was bred for knockout fall color—deep purple-red that lasts longer than most.

Plus, it's seedless, so you won't be raking up samaras ("helicopters")!

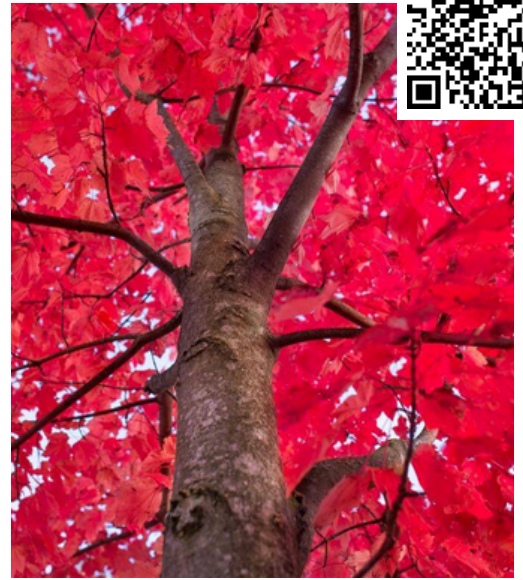
FUN FACT

In 1994, the Brandywine was developed by the U.S. National Arboretum for brilliant, reliable fall color and strong landscape performance.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Brandywine red maple is a powerhouse for pollinators and urban ecosystems.

Its early blooms provide food before most trees flower, and its broad canopy cools streets, cleans air, and captures stormwater—making it a strong ally for biodiversity.



OCTOBER GLORY RED MAPLE *Acer rubrum*

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 40–50' tall × 25–35' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Broadly oval
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium; adaptable
- **Growth Rate:** Fast
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—pollinators, birds
- **Native to NC:** Yes (cultivar of native red maple)
- **Ideal Use:** Shade, street trees, fall color

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

Famous for its spectacular crimson foliage that lingers into late fall—when most trees are bare, October Glory is just hitting its stride.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Supports pollinators in early spring; seeds and shelter for wildlife. Provides urban cooling benefits thanks to its large canopy.

TREE CARE TIPS

- Water deeply once a week during the first two years, especially in dry spells, to help roots establish.
- Avoid compacted or poorly drained soils, which can stress the tree and limit growth.
- Mulch 2–3 inches deep in a wide ring, keeping it away from the trunk to retain moisture and reduce weeds.
- Prune in late winter if needed to remove dead or crossing branches—this encourages healthy structure and vibrant growth.

FUN FACT

True to its name, October Glory's fall color is considered one of the best among maples in the South!

WHERE TO PLANT

Perfect for large yards, parks, or along streets with wide planting strips—just be sure there's room for roots and canopy to spread.

This tree needs room to shine! Planted in open, sunny spots with good air circulation.

Avoid cramped areas near sidewalks, driveways, or overhead wires.



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 inches 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.