



PERSIMMON

Diospyros virginiana

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 30–60' tall × 20–35' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Oval or irregular
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium; drought-tolerant once established; prefers acidic to neutral soils
- **Growth Rate:** Moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—mammals, birds
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Edible fruit, wildlife gardening

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

This low-maintenance native fruit tree offers delicious golden-orange persimmons (when fully ripe!) and fiery fall foliage.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Persimmons feed foxes, opossums, raccoons, deer, and more. Its leaves and flowers also support insects and pollinators.

FUN FACT

Early American settlers used persimmon seeds as a coffee substitute—and folklore says you can predict winter weather from the seed's pattern!

WHERE TO PLANT

Prefers sunny sites with well-drained soil. Great for naturalized areas, edible landscapes, or woodland edges.

Give it space—it may sucker to form small groves. *Avoid overly wet or compacted areas.*

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1-2x/week) and deeply** during the first year to encourage root growth. Mature trees tolerate drought but benefit from occasional watering in dry spells.
- **Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. *Leave the trunk's root flare visible to avoid rot!*
- Avoid soil compaction or construction near roots.
- **Prune during winter dormancy** to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches and maintain structure. *Avoid warm-season pruning. Never top!*
- **Plant in full sun for best fruit production.**



AMERICAN HOLLY

Ilex opaca

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 well-drained soil
- **Growth Rate:** Slow to moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, pollinators
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Screening, privacy hedge, specimen tree, wildlife garden

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1–2x/week) and deeply** during the first 1–2 years to establish strong roots, especially during dry spells.
- **Maintain a 2–3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. Keep mulch away from the trunk, and leave the root flare visible!
- **Prefers slightly acidic soils.** *Avoid over-liming.*
- **Prune during winter dormancy** to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches and to maintain form. Avoid heavy pruning or topping.

FUN FACT

American holly has been used in holiday décor for centuries—and its wood was once prized for fine furniture, tool handles, and even early piano keys.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

With its glossy green leaves and bright red berries, the American holly is a classic Southern evergreen!

It's elegant, resilient, and unmistakably festive.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

A powerhouse for winter wildlife! American holly berries persist into winter, feeding birds when food is scarce. In spring, its flowers support pollinators, and its dense branches offer year-round shelter and nesting habitat.

WHERE TO PLANT

Ideal for privacy screens, woodland edges, or as a striking specimen tree.

Appreciates protection from afternoon sun when young. Once established, it tolerates heat, humidity, and drought.

Note: To produce berries, you'll need at least one male plant nearby to cross-pollinate.



DURA HEAT® 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, wet yards

WHERE TO PLANT

The Dura Heat® river birch is a native standout, tailor-made for 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.

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.

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1-2x/week) and deeply** during the first 1-2 years to encourage root growth.
- **Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. *Leave the trunk's root flare visible to avoid rot!*
- Avoid soil compaction or construction near roots.
- **Prune during winter dormancy** to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches and maintain structure. *Avoid warm-season pruning. Never top!*

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

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

Unlike other birches, this 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.



HERITAGE® RIVER BIRCH

Betula nigra

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 40–50' tall × 40–60' 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, wet yards

WHERE TO PLANT

The Heritage® river birch is a native standout, tailor-made for 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.

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.

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1-2x/week) and deeply** during the first 1-2 years to encourage root growth.
- **Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. *Leave the trunk's root flare visible to avoid rot!*
- Avoid soil compaction or construction near roots.
- **Prune during winter dormancy** to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches and maintain structure. *Avoid warm-season pruning. Never top!*

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

With cinnamon-peeling bark and golden fall color, this beauty looks good year-round! This cultivar handles heat and humidity with grace—holding its foliage longer through southern summers and resisting common pests.

FUN FACT

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



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

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1-2x/week) and deeply** during the first 1-2 years to encourage root growth.
- **Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. Leave the trunk's root flare visible to avoid rot!
- Avoid soil compaction or construction near roots.
- **Relatively low-maintenance**, blackgum trees require little pruning—just remove any dead, damaged, or crowded branches in late winter if needed.

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.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

A Carolina classic, blackgum trees ignite in autumn 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.

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, deep roots help stabilize soil and reduce erosion.



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—disease-resistant cultivar of native elm
- **Ideal Use:** Fast shade, urban areas

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1-2x/week) and deeply** during the first 1-2 years to encourage root growth.
- **Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. *Leave the trunk's root flare visible!*
- Avoid soil compaction or construction near roots.
- **Prune during winter dormancy** to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches and maintain structure. *Avoid warm-season pruning. Never top!*

FUN FACT

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

WHERE TO PLANT

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

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

Developed in 1922, the 'Princeton' cultivar is prized for its 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 its iconic form.

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 well-drained soils
- **Growth Rate:** Slow to moderate
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, mammals, insects
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Legacy, shade, habitat, large yards

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.

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1–2x/week) and deeply** during the first one to two years to encourage root growth.
- **Maintain a 2–3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. *Leave the trunk's root flare visible to avoid rot.*
- Avoid soil compaction or construction near roots.
- **Prune during winter dormancy** to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches and maintain strong structure. *Avoid warm-season pruning, and never top.*

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

The white oak is a symbol of strength and endurance, living for centuries. Take one home and plant your legacy!



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—wetland areas
- **Ideal Use:** Shade, moist soils, large yards

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1-2x/week) and deeply** during the first 1-2 years to encourage root growth.
- **Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. *Leave the trunk's root flare visible!*
- Avoid soil compaction or construction near roots.
- **Prune in winter dormancy** to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches. *Never top!*

FUN FACT

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

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.

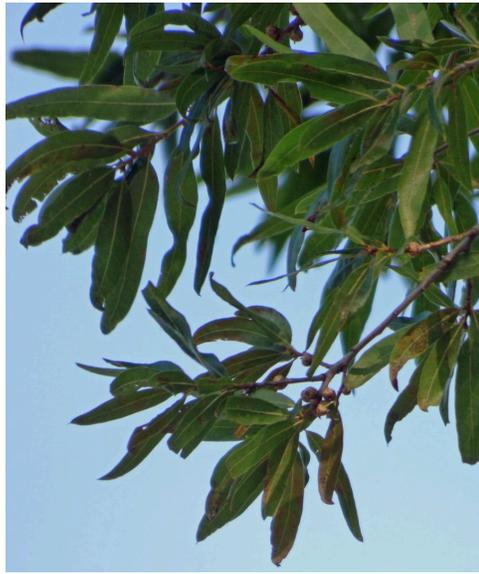
ECOLOGICAL VALUE

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.

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.*



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:** Fast shade, big yards, street tree

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.

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1-2x/week) and deeply** during the first 1-2 years to encourage root growth.
- **Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. *Leave the trunk's root flare visible to avoid rot!*
- Avoid soil compaction or construction near roots.
- **Prune during winter dormancy** to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches and maintain structure. *Avoid warm-season pruning. Never top!*

FUN FACT

Squirrels love willow oaks! Don't be surprised if you see a few scurrying around when acorns drop.