



TULIP POPLAR

Liriodendron tulipifera

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 70–100' tall × 30–50' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Tall, upright, pyramidal
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun
- **Water Needs:** Medium; prefers moist, well-drained soil
- **Growth Rate:** Fast
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—pollinators, birds
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Fast shade, large yards, pollinators

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water deeply for the first 2 years—especially during dry periods.** Tulip poplars have fast growth rates and need consistent moisture to establish strong roots.
- **Stake, if needed.** These trees can grow tall quickly and may need support in windy or exposed areas.
- **Maintain a 2-3" layer of mulch** to stabilize soil temperature, conserve moisture, and reduce weeds. Leave the trunk's root flare visible!
- **Prune as needed in winter** to maintain structure. Remove any dead, damaged, or crossing limbs.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

Few native trees grow as quickly or as gracefully.

Tulip poplars produce striking green-and-orange flowers in late spring, resembling tulips, and their golden fall foliage is a showstopper.

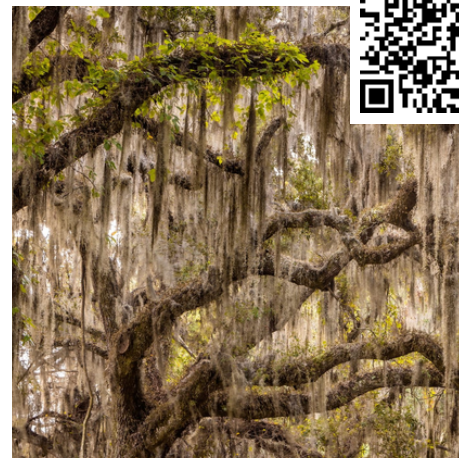
ECOLOGICAL VALUE

A pollinator powerhouse! Tulip poplar's nectar-rich blooms support bees and other insects, while its leaves host the Eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly. Its towering canopy provides nesting space for birds and shade for generations.

WHERE TO PLANT

This tree needs sunlight and space. Plant in large yards or along forest edges with good drainage. *Avoid dry, compacted soils or confined spaces.*

FUN FACT: *Despite its name, it's not a poplar—it's actually in the magnolia family!*



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, shade, habitat, large yards

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.

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1-2x/week) and deeply** during the first one to two years to encourage strong 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.*

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 canopy trees like oaks!



AMERICAN 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

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.**

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.*



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

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.

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.

FUN FACT

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



‘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:** Yes—serviceberry hybrid
- **Ideal Use:** Edible berries, 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.

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.

TREE CARE TIPS

- **Water routinely (1-2x/week) and deeply** during the first 1-2 years—especially during dry spells—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.
- If shaping is desired, **prune lightly after flowering.**

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.

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.



‘LITTLE GEM’ SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

Magnolia grandiflora

At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Evergreen
- **Size at Maturity:** 15–20' tall × 8–10' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Compact, dense, upright to pyramidal
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade
- **Water Needs:** Medium; prefers moist, organically rich, well-drained soil
- **Growth Rate:** Slow
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Yes—birds, pollinators
- **Native to NC:** Yes—magnolia cultivar
- **Ideal Use:** Small yards, evergreen screens

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 only if necessary, preferably in late winter** after the threat of severe cold has passed. Southern magnolias naturally develop an attractive form and rarely require much pruning.

FUN FACT

Magnolias are among the oldest flowering plants on Earth. Fossils dating back 95 million years show they evolved before bees, relying on beetles for pollination—a partnership that continues today.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

Nothing says "Southern landscape" quite like a Southern magnolia!

Its glossy evergreen leaves, fragrant dinner-plate-sized white flowers, and striking reddish-brown seed cones make it one of North Carolina's most iconic native trees.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Large, fragrant flowers provide pollen and nectar for native beetles and other pollinators. Bright red seeds feed songbirds, squirrels, and other wildlife, while the dense evergreen canopy offers year-round shelter and nesting sites.

WHERE TO PLANT

Southern magnolia is best suited for medium to large landscapes where its broad canopy has room to develop.

Allow at least 20–30' between the tree and buildings, driveways, or other large trees so your magnolia can mature into its iconic form.