



# 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.**

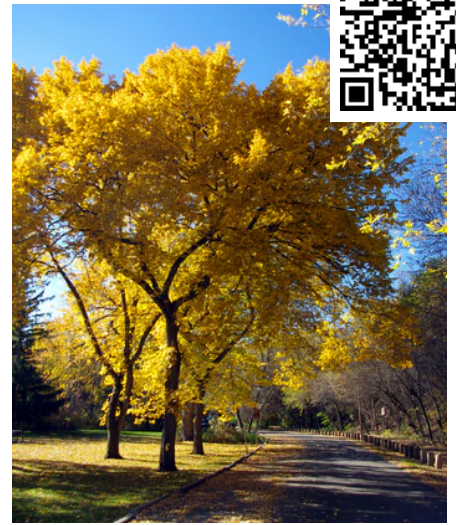
## TREE CARE TIPS

- **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!



# '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.



# BLACK CHERRY

*Prunus serotina*

## At a Glance

- **Tree Type:** Deciduous
- **Size at Maturity:** 50–80' tall × 30–60' wide
- **Canopy Style:** Upright when young, then develops a broad, rounded crown
- **Sun Requirements:** Full sun to part shade
- **Water Needs:** Medium; adaptable once established
- **Growth Rate:** Fast
- **Wildlife Attractant:** Exceptional—birds, pollinators, mammals
- **Native to NC:** Yes
- **Ideal Use:** Wildlife gardens, reforestation projects, 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** near roots.

## FUN FACT

Black cherry supports more caterpillar species than almost any other tree in North Carolina—over 450 species use it as a host plant!

## WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

In spring, black cherry erupts in cascading clusters of fragrant white flowers that attract a wide range of pollinators. By summer, those blooms give way to dark cherries. Its leaves turn yellow-orange in fall, adding seasonal interest.

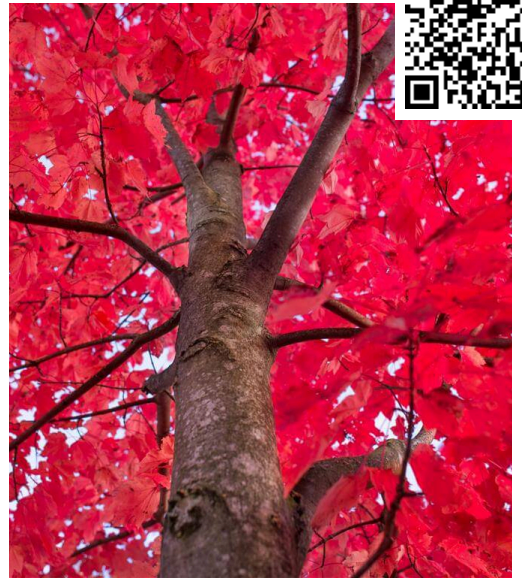
## ECOLOGICAL VALUE

One of the most valuable native trees for wildlife on the east coast! Its flowers provide nectar and pollen for native bees, while its fruit feeds 40+ species of birds. Even more importantly, it serves as a larval host plant for hundreds of species of moths and butterflies, helping support the insects that songbirds rely on to raise their young.

## WHERE TO PLANT

Thrives in full sun and adapts to a wide range of soil conditions, including sand and clay.

Best suited for larger spaces where it can reach full size and provide maximum shade and habitat.



# ‘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, ornamental, lawns

## 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

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

## 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.

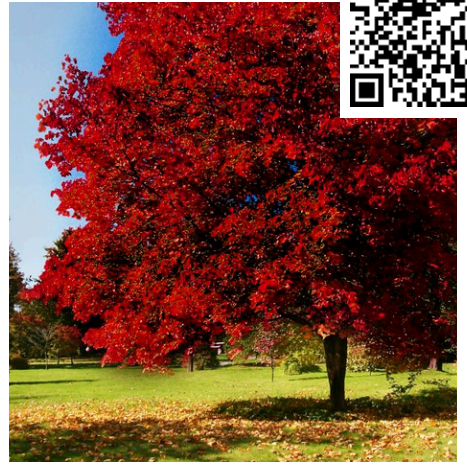
## ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Red maples are pollinator powerhouses, great for urban ecosystems. Their very early blooms provide nectar before most trees flower. Unlike the ‘Brandywine’ variety of maple, ‘October Glory’ typically sets showy red samaras, adding spring food for birds and small mammals.

## WHERE TO PLANT

**This tree needs room to shine and space for the roots and canopy to spread!** *Avoid cramped areas near sidewalks, driveways, or overhead wires.*

Plant in open, sunny spots with good air circulation.



# ‘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 maple
- **Ideal Use:** Shade, compact sites, fall color

## 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!*

## 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”)!

## 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’ tall with a broad, oval canopy.*

## ECOLOGICAL VALUE

**Red maples are pollinator powerhouses, great for urban ecosystems.** Their early blooms provide nectar before most trees flower. The ‘Brandywine’ variety is largely seedless, so it provides less fruit for wildlife than seed-bearing maples, but it still supports biodiversity and provides year-round habitat.

## FUN FACT

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



# '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:** Evergreen screening, accent tree, year-round interest

## WHERE TO PLANT

**Perfect for smaller yards or urban lots where a full-size magnolia would be too large.** Great for use as an evergreen screen! Protect from prolonged soggy soil; once established, it tolerates heat and brief dry spells.

## ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Showy summer blooms supply nectar and pollen for native pollinators. Produces red seeds relished by songbirds and small mammals. The dense, evergreen canopy offers year-round cover and nesting sites.

## WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

**A cultivar of the Southern magnolia, Bracken's Brown Beauty keeps its form tidy in a neat, pyramidal shape.**

You'll positively swoon over the leaves with their glossy green tops and velvety brown undersides, and oh, those creamy, fragrant summer blooms!

## FUN FACT

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

## 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 lightly in late winter if needed**—magnolias dislike heavy cuts.