



‘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.



‘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.



‘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—hornbeam cultivar
- **Ideal Use:** Shade tree for small yards, narrow spaces, screening, naturalistic plantings, urban sites

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 (1–2 years); 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.



‘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—river birch cultivar
- **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.

FUN FACT

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

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.



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.*



‘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.

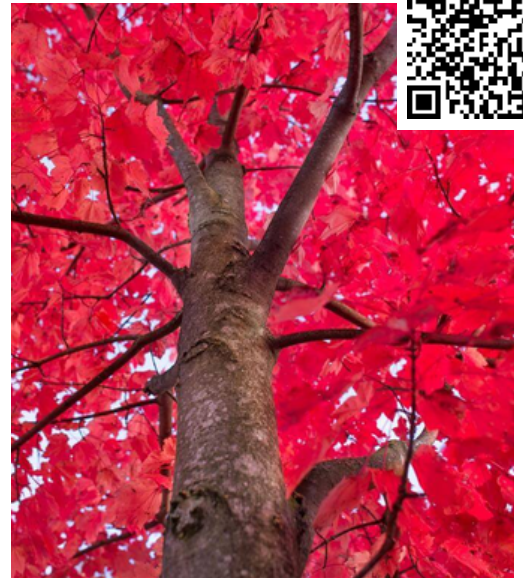
Avoid power lines and hardscapes; give it space to grow up to 50' tall with a broad, oval canopy.

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.



‘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—red maple cultivar
- **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.



‘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.