



Department of
Horticultural Science

SMALL AND INTERMEDIATE TREES FOR NORTH CAROLINA

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Small and intermediate size trees play an important role in the landscape. They can be quite functional and offer seasonal beauty. These trees are generally very easy to maintain and require a minimum of pruning.

The limited space in urban settings requires the extensive use of small and intermediate sized trees. This is especially true in street, mall, and plaza projects, where a pavement will completely surround the tree and utilities (telephone, electrical) wires are either above or below ground. One needs to choose a tree which will remain relatively

small in stature but offer large aesthetic benefits.

Residential landscapes utilize many of these trees as "under-story" trees in natural areas where shade is a factor.

Blooms, berries and foliage color are also strong assets for most of the trees in this group.

Several of these trees are native to North Carolina, i.e., Flowering Dogwood, Redbud and River Birch. Care must be taken to assimilate these environmental conditions so the trees will grow and mature with a minimum of problems.

Botanical Name and COMMON NAME	Hardiness		Growth			Texture	Form	Height		Landscape Remarks
	Zone	Group	Rate	Exposure	Spread			Spread		
Acer palmatum JAPANESE MAPLE	6,7,8	D	slow	part shade	medium to fine	dense rounded top	<u>15-25'</u> 10-15'	excellent specimen tree; several varieties with interesting habits		
Albizia julibrissin MIMOSA	7,8	D	rapid	sun	fine	spreading low open	<u>20-30'</u> 20-30'	relatively short-lived good summer color		
Betula nigra RIVER BIRCH	6,7,8	D	moderate	part shade	medium	upright open	<u>25-40'</u> 10-15'	multi-trunk is desired - excellent native tree which can be transplanted		
Betula pendula EUROPEAN WHITE BIRCH	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun	medium	umbrella crowned	<u>25-40'</u> 10-15'	excellent for white bark and yellow fall foliage		
Carpinus caroliniana AMERICAN HORNBEAM	6,7,8	D	slow	sun to part shade	medium	irregular crooked stem with horizontal branches	<u>25-35'</u> 20-25'	very slow growing but should be planted more		
Cercis canadensis EASTERN REDBUD	6,7,8	D	slow	sun to part shade	medium	wide spreading branches	<u>20-30'</u> 15-20'	good tree tolerant of adverse conditions		
Cornus florida FLOWERING DOGWOOD	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun to part shade	medium	broad crowned small tree	<u>20-30'</u> 20-25'	excellent landscape tree for good soils; many varieties to plant - <u>Cultivars</u> 'Cherokee Chief' - dark pink 'Cloud 9' - white 'White Cloud' - white 'Rubra' - pink		
Cornus kousa KOUSA DOGWOOD	6,7	D	moderate	sun to part shade	medium	horizontal branching habit	<u>10-15'</u> 8-10'	beautiful specimen landscape tree		
Cotinus coggyria SMOKETREE	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun	medium	oval crown	<u>10-15'</u> 10-12'	'Daydream' - purple form very interesting habit		
Crataegus phaenopyrum WASHINGTON HAWTHORN	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun	medium to fine	dense, rounded top	<u>25-30'</u> 20-25'	nice fall color, berries persisting through winter		
Eriobotrya japonica LOQUAT	7,8	E	rapid	sun to part shade	coarse	short trunk dense head	<u>10-20'</u> 8-10'	excellent accent plant; fruits on coastal areas		
Halesia carolina CAROLINA SILVERBELL	6,7	D	moderate	shade	medium to coarse	rounded open crown	<u>20-40'</u> 15-20'	beautiful multi-trunk tree		
Ilex cassine DAHOON HOLLY	7,8	E	medium	sun to part shade	fine	large shrub form, dense branches	<u>20-30'</u>	beautiful tree with green foliage, red berries, gray bark		
Ilex opaca AMERICAN HOLLY	6,7,8	E	slow	sun to part shade	medium	upright and conical	<u>20-30'</u> 10-20'	excellent native tree - must have both sexes for fruit		
Koelreuteria paniculata GOLDEN-RAIN TREE	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun to part shade	medium	upright open	<u>20-30'</u> 15-20'	interesting seed display in fall compound leaves		
Laburnum x watereri GOLDEN-CHAIN	6,7	D	slow	sun	fine	multi-trunked upright form	<u>25-30'</u> 10-15'	specimen tree, rather short lived		
Lagerstroemia indica CRAPE-MYRTLE	7,8	D	moderate	sun	medium	multi-trunk rounded crown	<u>20-25'</u> 10-15'	interesting in tree form, showy display of blooms in summer, excellent fall color <u>Cultivars</u> 'Potomac' - pink 'Catawba' - dark purple 'Flame' - pink 'Natchez' - white 'Durant Red' - red		

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Magnolia soulangeana SAUCER MAGNOLIA	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun to part shade	medium to coarse	broad, spreading	<u>20-25'</u> 15-20'	frost often claims flowers	
Malus spp. FLOWERING CRABAPPLE	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun	medium	round spreading crown	<u>15-25'</u> 10-20'	very showy for short period of spring color <u>Cultivars</u> 'Adams' 'Centurion' 'Prairifire' 'Robinson'	
Oxydendrum arboreum SOURWOOD	6,7,8	D	slow	sun or shade	coarse	slender trunk upright branches	<u>20-30'</u> 10-15'	excellent native tree - interesting panicles in fall	
Prunus caroliniana CAROLINA CHERRY LAUREL	7,8	E	rapid	sun or part shade	medium	dense rounded head	<u>20-30'</u> 15-20'	excellent green foliage, black fruit	
Prunus cerasifera PURPLE LEAF PLUM	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun	medium	vase shape dense foliage	<u>15-25'</u> 10-15'	foliage is purple from spring to fall 'Atropurpurea'	
Prunus persica PEACH	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun	medium	spreading open	<u>10-20'</u> 8-10'	many varieties for excellent fruiting - good for edible landscaping	
Prunus serrulata JAPANESE CHERRY	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun to part shade	medium	upright with spreading branches	<u>15-25'</u> 15-20'	excellent for spring color and fragrance	
Punica granatum POMEGRANATE	7,8	D	slow	sun	medium	wide spreading	<u>10-20'</u> 10-15'	good shrub-like plant tolerant of adverse conditions	
Pyrus calleryana CALLERY PEAR	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun to part shade	medium	upright conical shape	<u>20-40'</u> 20-30'	excellent street tree 'Bradford' - better selection	
Salix caprea PUSSY-WILLOW	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun to part shade	medium	upright, dense multi-trunk	<u>12-25'</u> 8-15'	fast growing plant-tolerant of adverse conditions	
Sorbus aucuparia EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN ASH	6,7	D	rapid	sun	fine	slender trunk spreading crown	<u>25-30'</u> 20-25'	very interesting fruit in late summer	