

Native Trees

That Thrive in Poorly Drained Black Gumbo Soil

Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) is a long-lived shade tree (to 100') with feathery leaves and yellow-to-rust fall color. Leaves fall for the winter. The fruit is a 1" round cone.

Swamp Chestnut Oak's (*Quercus michauxii*) leaves turn bright red in the fall. This long-lived shade tree can grow to 80 feet. It can take standing water for up to a week. A beautiful tree.

Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*) is semi-evergreen which means that the leaves stay on in warm winters and fall off in cold. This shade tree grows rapidly to 30' with three different leaf shapes.

Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) has long, narrow willow-like leaves so there's not much to rake in fall.

River Birch (*Betula nigra*) is a lovely shade tree which grows to a height of 90 ft. and has triangular leaves rounded on the bottom which turn yellow in the fall. The flaking bark is outstanding. Saplings have red cherry-like bark and later peachy-white flaking to reveal darker peach-colored bark.

Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) is a large shade tree to 100 feet with short crooked branches which come off the trunk at right angles. It turns bright red in early fall (sometimes even in August). Female black gum trees bear 1/2 inch black berries which birds relish.

Drummond Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* var. *drummondii*) is a large shade tree to 90 feet tall. It grows fast but can live 50 years and features red flowers in January on males, and red winged fruits on females in spring called samaras. If the winter weather is cold enough, Drummond red maple leaves turn yellow then red before falling.

Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) is a fast growing shade tree to 50' with yellow fall color. Female Green Ashes have bunches of green matchstick-sized fruit which birds love.

Fringe Tree (*Chioanthus virginicus*) is an understory tree that blooms in spring with fragrant long-petaled white flowers that look like a fringe all over the tree. The leaves are 4 to 8 inches long.

Parsley Hawthorn (*Crataegus marshallii*) is an understory tree to 20 feet whose leaves look like parsley. This thorny tree has sparkling white flowers in spring with pink stamens, followed by red 1/3 inch fruit in the fall which birds and small mammals love, and yellow fall color. The gray bark flakes to reveal the orange inner bark. Butterfly larvae eat the foliage and birds like to nest in the tree.

Rough-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*) is very different from its "cousin" the showy flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*). The rough-leaf dogwood has clusters of white blooms in spring rather than the large white bracts of its cousin. This suckering tree has white berries in the fall.

Snowbell (*Styrax americana*) is a small shade tolerant (moist , acidic soils) ornamental tree with oval leaves that only gets 10 feet high. It has white blooms all over the tree in spring that hang downward showing the yellow stamens.

Indigo-bush Amorpha or False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) is an understory tree with small compound leaves and 4-8 inch spikes of purple flowers with electric orange anthers in spring. It gets 5 to 10 feet high and is good for erosion control.

Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) is much smaller than the Southern Magnolia and likes swampy places. It has the same fragrant white flowers in spring but smaller (2"-3"). This understory tree is semi-evergreen, the leaves have white undersides.