

Small and Understory *(under 40 feet)*

Shade Trees for the Town of University Park, Maryland



June 2018

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American Hornbeam

Carpinus caroliniana

HEIGHT: 13'-40'

SPREAD: 35'-50'

GROWTH RATE: medium to slow growing

FALL COLORS: orange and red

FLOWERS: April-May, red or reddish green catkins, about one and a half inches long.

LEAF: Alternate, 3–12 cm long, with prominent veins giving a distinctive corrugated texture, and a serrated margin.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Great small to medium landscape tree for a home garden. Gives good shade when mature and has interesting fruit. Also known as blue beech, musclewood, and ironwood. The common name musclewood, names refer to tree trunk, which is blue gray and smooth, with undulations that look like flexing muscles.



American hornbeam tree.

Photo: The Tree Center



American hornbeam flower

American Wild Plum

Prunus americana

HEIGHT: 20'-35'

SPREAD: 20'-35'

FALL COLORS: Pale yellow

FLOWERS: Month of May, white, flowers appear before leaves.

LEAF: Deciduous, simple alternate leaf with oval shape.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Hundreds of varieties of fruiting and ornamental (non-fruiting) varieties so choose wisely for your particular landscape use.

Plum trees have a rounded vase shape with a dense canopy. Tree produces edible fruit typically used for making pies and jellies.



American wild plum trees in flower
Photo: Greatplainsnursery



American wild plum tree flower close-up



American wild plum tree fruit

Blackhaw viburnum
Viburnum prunifolium

HEIGHT: 12-30', shrub to tree

SPREAD: 6 to 12'

FALL COLORS: red to purple in fall

FLOWERS: non-fragrant creamy white giving way to small blue-black fruit that is eaten by birds.

LEAF: Superficially looking like some species of prunus, hence the species prunifolium. Deciduous, dark green in color with rusty shades on underside.

NATIVE: Native to eastern North America.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Attracts birds and butterflies, provides fall color and can be used as a hedge for screening.



Blackhaw viburnum tree in bloom.

Photo: Houzz



Close-up of blackhaw viburnum flower.

Photo: North Carolina State University

Chinese fringe tree
Chionanthus retusus

HEIGHT: 15'-20'

SPREAD: 20'-25'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FALL COLORS: yellow

FLOWERS: May –June, pure white fragrant, that hang down in clusters covering the tree.

LEAF: Deciduous, leaves are broad, simple ovate to oblong-elliptic, hairy.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Beautiful flowering tree that is best used as an airy shrub.

Prefers rich, moist, well drained soil slightly acidic. Good as a specimen plant. Bark is an attractive gray.



Chinese fringe tree in bloom



Chinese fringe tree flower close-up.

Cornelian dogwood

Cornus mas



Cornelian dogwood tree in bloom.

Photo: Permies.com



Cornelian dogwood fruit.

Photo: Mother Earth News

HEIGHT: 15-25'

SPREAD: 12-18'

FALL COLORS: Bright red berries with bright yellow leaves.

FLOWERS: Bright yellow flowers decorate bare branches in early spring.

LEAF: Deciduous, oppositely attached, simple oval shaped leaves 2-5 inches long dark above and lighter on underside.

NATIVE: Non-native

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Adds great beauty with its arching form. Fruit is suitable for jellies and preserves. Plant two for proper pollination.

Crab apple

Malus sp.

HEIGHT: 8'-30'

SPREAD: varies, generally 20'-30'

FALL COLORS: variable depending on variety, yellow.

FLOWERS: white to pink

LEAF: The apple tree leaves are deciduous, alternately, simple ovals 5-12 cm long and 3 -6 cm wide. The leaf has an acute tip, serrated edges and a slightly fuzzy underside. Deep green to purple in color

NATIVE: Apples are generally believed to be native to Turkey, but there are native varieties throughout Asia and Europe.



Crab apple tree in bloom.



Close-up of crab apple flowers

Dogwood

Cornus florida

HEIGHT: 20'-40'

SPREAD: 20'-40'

FALL COLORS: Scarlet red

FLOWERS: April –May, large star shaped white, can also find pink and red.

LEAF: Deciduous, oppositely attached, simple oval shaped leaves 2-6 inches long and about 2 ½ inches wide.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Has been called the most beautiful native tree of North America. Fall migrating birds eat berries. Unfortunately an anthracnose fungus has been killing these trees. Best in moist, well drained soil. Non native *Cornus kousa* is also widely planted, and along with some of the hybrids provides more disease resistance.



Dogwood in bloom



Dogwood flowers

Eastern redbud

Cercis canadensis



Eastern redbud tree in flower.



Eastern redbud leaf

HEIGHT: 20'-30'

SPREAD: 20'-35'

FALL COLORS: Golden yellow

FLOWERS: April- May, very showy, pea like, pink to lavender, ½ inch long, emerge prior to leaves.

LEAF: Deciduous, alternate, simple, cordate, 3 to 5 inches long and wide, with an entire margin, thin and papery.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Beautiful tree that can be used as a specimen tree or as an understory planting.

This adaptable tree is prized for showy flower buds, flowers, vibrant fall color and rounded heart shaped leaves.

Fig, edible

Ficus carica

HEIGHT: Up to 20' if in a protected location

SPREAD: To 20'

FALL COLORS: Orange, red, to yellow.

FLOWERS: Invisible, inside fruit, fig wasp enters fruit to pollinate it. All flowers are female so pollination is not essential.

LEAF: Deciduous, large rough textured, bright green, three to seven-lobed.

NATIVE: Presumed to originate from Western Asia and spread to the Mediterranean by humans.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: The trees provide a tropical look in the northern landscape.

The tree has been cultivated as far back as 5,000 B.C for its edible fruit. The roots are hardy to 0 degrees but will benefit from a sheltered location. Many cultivars to choose from, with the best being: Chicago Hardy, Brown Turkey, Black Mission and Celeste.



Fig tree



Close-up of fig leaves



Fig, fruit

Hawthorn

Crataegus sp.

HEIGHT: 20'-35'

SPREAD: 20'-35'

FALL COLORS: Orange to red, purple to scarlet.

FLOWERS: May- June, white

LEAF: Deciduous, serrate margins and are somewhat variable in shape.

NATIVE: At least to Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia depending on the species.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Has small attractive small apple-like red fruit.

Two recommended species are cockspur hawthorn, *Crataegus crus-galli* and southern thorn or green hawthorn, *Crataegus viridis*. Hawthorn had cultural significance for many ancient cultures.



Hawthorn tree in flower



Close-up of Hawthorn flowers.

Kwanzan cherry

Prunus X incamp kanzan



Kwanzan cherry tree in bloom.
Photo: Greenss Shop



Kwanzan cherry tree close-up of blossoms.



Okame cherry tree in bloom.
Prunus X incamp Okame
Photo: Talbott Nursery

Height: 20-30' Okame gets up to 20'.

Spread: 20-30'

Fall colors: red, yellow, orange.

Flowers: Rosey red buds in spring opening to double deep-pink blooms with red calyces and reddish flower stalks (Okame has bright, single, pink flowers).

Fruit: Kanzan is sterile so no fruit.

Leaf: Deciduous green leaves that turn to shades of yellow, orange and red in fall.

Native: non-native

Landscape value: Kwanzan is grown for ornamental value. Tolerant of heat and humidity but not drought. Okame is an option for a smaller tree with a vase shape. There are many other varieties of cherry trees including weeping varieties.

Paperbark maple

Acer griseum



Paperbark maple close-up of distinctive bark.
Photo: Fine Gardening



Paperbark maple close-up of leaves.

HEIGHT: 20'-30'

SPREAD: 18'

FALL COLORS: Spectacular orange to red.

Flowers: Green, small and inconspicuous in spring.

LEAF: Deciduous, blunt, toothed leaves that are trifoliate. Dark green above with paler hairy undersides.

NATIVE: Non-native

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Is said to be one of the most beautiful small trees. Has unusual exfoliating bark that gives rise to new bark with bright brown-red color.

Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

HEIGHT: 20'-35'

SPREAD: 20'-35'

FALL COLORS: Yellow/copper-red

FLOWERS: March to May, dark lavender to maroon, upside-down flowers up to 2 inches across. Each flower has multiple ovaries and can produce multiple fruit from a single flower. The pawpaw is not self-fertile and requires cross pollination.

LEAF: Deciduous, dark green, oblong, drooping leaf that can grow up to 12 inches long and is widest just behind the tip. The leaves do not do well in strong windy areas and require some protection.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Grown for the delicious fruit which is in the same family as the cherimoya.

Buy grafted varieties as seedlings are highly variable.



Pawpaw tree foliage



Pawpaw flower



Pawpaw fruit

Persimmon

Diospyros ebenaceae



Persimmon tree



Persimmon fruit

HEIGHT: Up to 25'

SPREAD: Up to 25'

FALL COLORS: Yellow to purple.

FLOWERS: March- June, greenish yellow to cream

LEAF: Deciduous, glossy, alternate, simple, up to 7 inches long and 4 inches wide.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Persimmons can be either a multi-stem or single-stem trunk, with drooping leaves and branches that give it a tropical appearance. It can also form thickets from root suckers.

Fruit is very astringent until ripe. Fruit ripens in early fall, both male and female trees are needed to produce fruit. There are self fertile varieties available.

River Birch

Betula nigra (compact)



River birch showing characteristic bark
Photo by Joel Floyd



River birch leaves

HEIGHT: 15-20'

SPREAD: Up to 15'

FALL COLORS: Yellow to purple.

FLOWERS: insignificant flowers, instead uses catkins

LEAF: Deciduous alternate, diamond-shaped, with a doubly serrated margin. They are a shiny, medium green color on the upper surface and a slightly paler, more silvery color on the underside.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: It is one of the very best fast-growing shade trees, valued as a landscape tree for the colorful exfoliating bark which is particularly noticeable in the winter.

Saucer magnolia

Magnolia x soulangiana



Saucer magnolia in bloom



Saucer magnolia flower

HEIGHT: To 25'

SPREAD: to 12'

FALL COLORS: Green to yellow

FLOWERS: Large flowers 6 inches across in white, pink or purplish red.

LEAF: Deciduous, alternate, simple, oblong to obovate, 3 to 6 inches long, entire margin, green above, paler and fuzzy below.

NATIVE: Hybrid origin

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Beautiful specimen flowering tree for lawns, grown for short height early blooming on leafless trees.

Purchase named varieties as seedling are highly variable. Native sweetbay magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana* is a good alternative for wet areas. For a yellow variety choose 'Lois'.

Serviceberry

Amelanchier canadensis

HEIGHT: 15'-20'

SPREAD: 15'-20'

FALL COLORS: Spectacular shades of reds, oranges and yellows.

FLOWERS: April, serviceberries are covered in tiny white to light pink flowers, resembling tiny single-petaled roses.

LEAF: Alternate, simple, ovate, finely serrate, green above and paler below, may be pubescent below, especially when young.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Besides the beautiful foliage the tree produces edible fruit which serves as a major source of food for birds like catbirds, grosbeaks, cardinals, vireos, and cedar waxwings.



Serviceberry tree in the fall



Serviceberry flowers

Star magnolia
Magnolia stellata

HEIGHT: To 20'

SPREAD: To 12'

FALL COLORS: Green to yellow

FLOWERS: Start out as oval gray buds in winter. Medium size many petalled flowers in profusion before the leaves about 3 inches across in white.

LEAF: Deciduous, Alternate, simple, oblong 3 inches long, entire margin.

NATIVE: to Japan

LANDSCAPE VALUE:
Beautiful specimen flowering tree for lawns, grown for short height and early blooming.



Star magnolia tree in bloom.

Photo: Gardeners Dream



Close-up of Star magnolia flowers.

Photo: Van Windgerden H&G Center

Silver Bell

Halesia carolina



Silver bell tree in bloom



Silber bell flowers

HEIGHT: 15'-20'

SPREAD: 15'

FALL COLORS: Orange and scarlet to blackish purple

FLOWERS: White bell-shaped flowers in clusters in late spring and early summer.

LEAF: Narrow 5 to 8 inches

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Nice as a specimen tree or patio tree. Young trees do well in large containers. Beautiful showy tree that has year round interest. Attracts nectar insects and fruit birds. Needs wet soil.

Snowbell

Styrax americanus



Snowbell tree in flower



Close-up of snowbell flowers

HEIGHT: 15'-20'

SPREAD: 15'

FALL COLORS: Orange and scarlet to blackish purple

FLOWERS: White bell-shaped flowers in clusters in late spring and early summer.

LEAF: Narrow 5 to 8 inches

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Nice as a specimen tree or patio tree. Young trees do well in large containers. Beautiful showy tree that has year round interest. Attracts nectar insects and fruit birds. Needs wet soil.

Sourwood

Oxydendrum arboreum



Sourwood tree in flower



Sourwood tree fall foliage

HEIGHT: 20'-25'

SPREAD: 20'

FALL COLORS: Yellow, crimson and purple

FLOWERS: Drooping 10 inch long fragrant white flowers in mid June to late July.

LEAF: Deciduous, dark green leaves are arranged along the twig in an alternate or spiral form. Leaves are simple, thin, and oblong-elliptical to oblong-lanceolate in shape. The leaf margin can be a combination of several forms.

NATIVE: DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Outstanding as a focal point, patio tree or in front of taller trees. Among the most beautiful flowering trees and one of the best for crimson fall color.

Acknowledgements

Information on trees adapted from:

Heriteau, Jacqueline and Cathey, Marc 1990. *The National Arboretum Book of Outstanding Garden Plants*. Simon and Schuster.

Northeastern Garden Book 2001. Sunset Book Publishing.

Casey Trees DC <http://caseytrees.org>

Photos from Yahoo.com images and Google.com images.

Booklet by Karen Sondak, University Park resident.

Thank you to Eric Erickson and Tim Young for valuable contributions and to Joel Floyd for formatting.

Contents and design approved by University Park Tree Committee and Town Council pending.

June 2018