TREES
For Landscaping

SUSAN SCHLENGER  BSLA, ASLA
Copyright
Copyright 2012 by Susan Schlenger. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, by any means, (electronic, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the author. No liability is assumed with respect to the use of the information contained within. Although every precaution has been taken, the author assumes no liability for errors or omissions. Neither is any liability assumed for damages resulting from the use of the information contained herein.
# Table of Contents

Copyright .............................................................................................................................. 1

Table of Contents .................................................................................................................. 2

**Ornamental Trees** ........................................................................................................... 11

**Crapemyrtle** ...................................................................................................................... 11

Lagerstroemia indica ........................................................................................................... 11

- Size ................................................................................................................................. 12
- Zone ............................................................................................................................... 12
- Sun/Shade Requirements ............................................................................................... 12
- Growth Rate .................................................................................................................. 12
- Flower Color .................................................................................................................. 12
- Fall Color ...................................................................................................................... 12

**Cleveland Pear** ............................................................................................................... 13

Pyrus calleryana ‘Cleveland’ .............................................................................................. 13

- Size ................................................................................................................................. 14
- Zone ............................................................................................................................... 14
- Sun/Shade Requirements ............................................................................................... 14
- Growth Rate .................................................................................................................. 14
- Flower Color .................................................................................................................. 14
- Fall Color ...................................................................................................................... 14

**Eastern Redbud** ............................................................................................................. 14

Cersis canadenis .................................................................................................................. 14

- Size ................................................................................................................................. 15
- Zone ............................................................................................................................... 15
- Sun/Shade Requirements ............................................................................................... 15
- Growth Rate .................................................................................................................. 15
- Flower Color .................................................................................................................. 15
- Fall Color ...................................................................................................................... 15

**Flowering Dogwood** ...................................................................................................... 16

Cornus florida ..................................................................................................................... 16

- Size ................................................................................................................................. 18
- Zone ............................................................................................................................... 18
- Sun/Shade Requirements ............................................................................................... 18
- Growth Rate .................................................................................................................. 18
- Flower Color .................................................................................................................. 18
- Fall Color ...................................................................................................................... 18
### Trees For Landscaping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Type</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flowering Plum Tree (Cherry Plum)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus cerasifera</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Color</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Maple Tree</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer palmatum</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Stewartia</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewartia pseudocamellia</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kousa Dogwood</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus kousa</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower color</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Birch</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betula nigra</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saucer Magnolia</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia soulangiana</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star Magnolia</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia stellata</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Color</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Trees – Quick Facts</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade Trees</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Beech</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fagus sylvatica</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginkgo</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginkgo biloba</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Zelkova</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zelkova serrata</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Name</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacebark Elm</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmus parvifolia</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littleleaf Linden</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilia cordata</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Maple ‘October Glory’</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer rubrum ‘October Glory’</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A to 8A</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Color</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade Trees – Quick Facts</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen Trees</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Holly</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex opaca</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arborvitae ‘Green Giant’</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thuja standishii x plicata 'Green Giant'</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado (Blue) Spruce</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Trees For Landscaping

- **Picea pungens** ................................................................. 45  
  Size .......................................................................................... 47  
  Zone ......................................................................................... 47  
  Sun/Shade Requirements .......................................................... 47  
  Growth Rate ........................................................................... 47

- **Douglas Fir** .......................................................................... 47  
- **Pseudotsuga menziesii** .......................................................... 47  
  Size .......................................................................................... 48  
  Zone ......................................................................................... 48  
  Sun/Shade Requirements .......................................................... 48  
  Growth Rate ........................................................................... 48

- **Japanese Cedar** ..................................................................... 48  
- **Cryptomeria japonica** ............................................................. 48  
  Size .......................................................................................... 49  
  Zone ......................................................................................... 49  
  Sun/Shade Requirements .......................................................... 49  
  Growth Rate ........................................................................... 49

- **Leyland Cypress** ................................................................. 49  
- **X Cupressocyparis leylandii** .................................................. 50  
  Size .......................................................................................... 50  
  Zone ......................................................................................... 50  
  Sun/Shade Requirements .......................................................... 50  
  Growth Rate ........................................................................... 50

- **Nellie R. Stevens. Holly** .......................................................... 51  
- **Ilex x Nellie R. Stevens** .......................................................... 51  
  Size .......................................................................................... 51  
  Zone ......................................................................................... 51  
  Sun/Shade Requirements .......................................................... 51  
  Growth Rate ........................................................................... 51

- **Norway Spruce** ................................................................. 52  
- **Picea abies** ............................................................................ 52  
  Size .......................................................................................... 53  
  Zone ......................................................................................... 53  
  Sun/Shade Requirements .......................................................... 53  
  Growth Rate ........................................................................... 53

- **White Pine** .......................................................................... 54  
- **Pinus strobus** ........................................................................ 54
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun/Shade Requirements</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen Trees – Quick Facts</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trees For Landscaping

By Susan Schlenger, BSLA, ASLA

Landscape Design Advice

Trees are one of the most important plants in a landscape design. You may think that is hard to believe. You might be thinking, “What about flowering shrubs, such as roses, or how about those fabulous perennials which provide all season color?” It’s true that shrubs and perennials add to the landscape also.

However, it is the trees that provide scale. They add height in relationship to your house and structure to open land. For example, trees can frame a house, which is something I always aim for in a design. Also, if you were to add some trees to your lawn or the beginning of your driveway, this brings your landscape out further for a more expansive and cohesive design.

There are basically three different categories of trees.

- Ornamental trees are typically smaller than shade trees and have striking features such as flowers, interesting bark or a unique form.

- Shade trees are large, take up a lot of space and cast shade both beneath the tree and out further depending on where the sun is.

- Evergreen trees can be a focal point but should be used carefully in this capacity since they have a lot of mass and block views. The more common use for them is for privacy. If the evergreen tree is not too wide, it can also anchor a house corner.
You Love a Particular Tree But It Is Right For Your Property?

Once you decide on the type of tree you want or need (ornamental, shade or evergreen) you must determine if it will look good and do well in its location.

1. The height must be appropriate. If you are installing a hedge of trees on your property line or placing a tree out in open lawn, the height should always be considered. However, height is less important than if you are placing the tree near your front door or at your house corners.

2. The width of the tree is often more important than the height. The sky is the ceiling and that is endless. In residential landscapes, we are usually working with more confined areas in width, and how wide a tree is becomes very important. You certainly do not want a tree to outgrow its space in 5, 10 or more years.

3. Sun and shade conditions are another consideration. Many trees like a full or partial day of sun. If your area is very shady, you must make a selection from plants that are happy without a lot of sun. There aren’t a lot but there are some.

4. Know your planting zone. Each tree has a geographical area that they will grow in. If you do not know your zone, you can find it here by just putting in your zip code.

   The National Gardening Association

5. Trees can have either a slow, medium or fast growth rate. Patience is a good thing to have with trees! If you purchase a good looking tree, even though it may not be that large, it can still be attractive. The time to focus on fast growing trees is when you are looking for privacy.

Various Locations of Trees
Trees can be placed in many different areas.

- Ornamental trees can be placed near your front door, at house corners, at driveway entries, at the beginning of walkways, out in the lawn, near a patio, next to a water feature, and any other place where you would enjoy looking at them. Spring or summer flowers and fall color are some of ornamental trees best features, although interesting bark and nice form can be attractive also.

- A shade tree can be planted near your house to provide shade. This will cool your home and reduce the need for air conditioning and fans. Place the tree a minimum of half its mature width away from the house. You can plant a little closer if you don’t mind the tree overhanging your roof somewhat. Shade trees can also be placed out in the lawn for shade and beauty.

- Evergreen trees are very useful for screening. They can either be planted in a row or staggered and this would depend on the type of evergreen tree it is. It is not a problem to plant them closer to each other than what their mature width calls for as they will adapt.

Listed below or 26 of my favorite landscape trees. There are 6 shade trees, 11 ornamental trees and 9 evergreen trees. I have written about my thoughts on each tree, some of my experiences, best features, and how to use them in the landscape. At the bottom of each listing is information regarding that tree’s height, width, planting zone, growth rate and other information if appropriate for that type of tree. Keep this book for a reference book during your landscape journey!
Ornamental Trees

Crapemyrtle
*Lagerstroemia indica*

I first became familiar with the Crapemyrtle tree when I lived in Virginia. There aren't that many varieties that do well in the colder areas, although there are some.

It's a very interesting tree in that it blooms in the summer for quite a long period of time. It's amazing how many cultivars there are...flowers of all different colors. There are many different sized Crapemyrtles too, from very small to quite large.

However, it is easy to find types to use as a small tree.

This tree also has beautiful bark which can be appreciated when up close or in the winter when the foliage is gone. It is not a very wide tree and therefore can be used in many places.
Some examples are:

- At the driveway entry
- Near the front door
- At house corners
- A few of them in a group out in the lawn
- At the start of a walkway near the driveway

**Size**
From shrub size to larger ornamental trees – variety dependent

**Zone**
7 to 9 – a few in Zone 6B

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun

**Growth Rate**
Medium

**Flower Color**
Pink, Red or White

**Fall Color**
Orange, Red and Yellow
Cleveland Pear
_Pyrus calleryana ‘Cleveland’_

In the spring, when you see one of the first trees covered in tiny white flowers, I will bet you are seeing Pear trees. Yes, they are a very early bloomer telling you that spring is really here.

They are one of the last trees to turn color in the fall too, giving it a long season of interest. When all of the other trees have finished, if you have a Pear tree, you can enjoy that fall color for an extended period of time. Red, yellow, orange and purple foliage adorns the trees in the fall and they are beautiful.

There are many varieties of Pear trees. 'Cleveland' is a good choice. It has a pyramidal form, but yet rather narrow. It has good disease resistance and less chance of splitting in later years as is the problem with the Bradford Pear.

This tree is a fast grower. Use it near your house, pulled away about 10 feet which is quite do-able. Use it to line your driveway (as shown in the above photo) or at the driveway entry. You can also use it out in open lawn.
**Size**
30'-50'h x 15'-20'w

**Zone**
5 to 9

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun

**Growth Rate**
Fast

**Flower Color**
Light Pink

**Fall Color**
Red, Yellow, Orange, and Purple

---

**Eastern Redbud**
*Cercis canadensis*

What is unique about this tree is the way it flowers. Both the flower buds and flowers themselves appear on the branches before the leaves! This makes it very showy since the flowers are there alone, putting on their own show.

The flowers are a reddish purple color and quite vivid. Eastern Redbud is a native tree. Although it can be used anywhere, it is particularly nice in a woodland setting. This might be bordering a wood edge or mixed in with other plantings. However, it can also be used almost anywhere that space allows. I had one out on my lawn in Virginia. It was striking when in flower and provided a nice amount of shade in the summer.
There is an interesting cultivar called ‘Forest Pansy’, which has dark purple leaves all season long. It is said to be hardy. However, that has not been my experience and have seen many (not all) that do not have the vigor of the green leaf varieties. Sometimes this occurs in hybridized plants as they are bred for a certain feature rather than quality. I will admit I have seen nice specimens also, but not many.

**Size**

15’-25’h x 15’-35’w

**Zone**

4B to 9A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**

Full sun to partial shade

**Growth Rate**

Medium to Fast

**Flower Color**

Pink

**Fall Color**

Yellow
Flowering Dogwood
*Cornus florida*

The Flowering Dogwood tree is special because it has great features throughout all the seasons. In the spring its lovely pink or white flowers are very showy. They are of medium to large size and numerous.

In the summer the Dogwood’s shape can be appreciated. It’s canopy is rather low to the ground compared to other trees and its branching is wide and lovely.

In the fall it produces lots of red berries. Birds are attracted to the berries which is a nice way to bring wildlife to your yard.

The only downside to this lovely, native tree is that it can be susceptible to Anthracnose, a type of fungus. There are ways to minimize this occurring, but there is always a chance that it can happen to your tree.

An alternative is to use either a Kousa Dogwood or one of the Hybrid crosses between the Kousa and the Flowering Dogwoods. These have very good disease resistance.
The Kousa Dogwood (see section on Kousa Dogwoods) is more of an upright tree in shape, it is multi-stemmed, and blooms later that the Flowering Dogwood.

The Flowering Dogwood hybrids are known as the Stellar series. Some of the names are Aurora, Celestial, Constellation, Ruth Ellen, Stardust and Stellar Pink. They all have different features so if you are considering one, compare it to the traits of the native Flowering Dogwood to know what you are getting.

Some Hybrids have shapes that are a bit different…more like the Kousa Dogwood. Some flower earlier or later. These are a few examples of differences since they can resemble either of the parents (Kousa and Flowering Dogwood) more one way than another.

The Flowering Dogwood will grow in full sun to part shade. It will tolerate more shade than many other trees. However, the amount of flowers, berry productions and fall color will be be less in full or almost full shade.

This information (below) is for the native Flowering Dogwood.
**Size**
20'-25’h x 20’-30’w

**Zone**
5 to 9

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun to part shade

**Growth Rate**
Medium

**Flower Color**
Pink or White

**Fall Color**
Red

---

**Flowering Plum Tree (Cherry Plum)**
*Prunus cerasifera*

These trees have dark purple foliage all through the season. The Flowering Plum tree is a great choice if you want your tree to stand out in the landscape. In the spring, it produces soft pink flowers which fade to a very light pink which is almost white. The flowers are showy against the dark purple leaves and create a very pretty sight.
The Cherry Plum is susceptible to many insects so it is best to spray them as advised. This is the trade-off for having this pretty purple leaf tree.

As a mid-sized ornamental tree, it is not difficult to incorporate it into the landscape. It can even be used as a privacy tree in front of a window, placed the appropriate distance away from your house. It’s also nice near a patio or at a driveway entry.

One of the hardiest varieties is ‘Newport’ and I would suggest this cultivar. There are other cultivars also. Some of the more popular ones are ‘Thundercloud’, ‘Nigra’, and ‘Atropurpurea’.

**Size**
15’-30’h x 15’-25’w

**Zone**
4 to 8

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun

**Growth Rate**
Fast
**Flower Color**
Light Pink

**Fall Color**
Purple

---

**Japanese Maple Tree**  
*Acer palmatum*

This Japanese Maple grows into a medium sized tree. Don’t get it confused with the Dissectum group, which is a much smaller ornamental tree.

You could make an entire study of all the Japanese Maple trees available! There are those with red leaves, green leaves, combination color leaves, and so on. I find the green leaf Japanese Maples intriguing because they are not that common and as a medium sized tree, the leaf shape is beautiful.

However, I also love the red leaf varieties. Who can argue with having beautiful colored foliage in the spring, summer and fall. Of course, all Japanese Maples do not have this feature. One that does is the cultivar ‘Bloodgood’. Leaves emerge in
the spring already red, hold the red color in the summer and become even more brilliant in the fall. It is a winner for sure!

Use this tree as a focal point. It can be placed out on the lawn, near the house, or even in front of a group of evergreen trees where the color will really pop. I love the form of this tree. It is somewhat round, but it has just the right amount of density so that the leaves stand out beautifully. It is also slightly pendulous.

In the more southern areas, this tree should be planted where it will receive some shade and protection from the hot sun, or its leaves can scorch.

**Size**
15’-25’h x 15’-25’wide

**Zone**
5 to 8

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun but prefers some shade, particularly in the south

**Growth Rate**
Slow to medium

**Fall Color**
Red
Japanese Stewartia
*Stewartia pseudocamellia*

This tree has quite a few nice features and I would recommend it for anyone’s landscape where a medium to large size tree is desired.

1. White flowers appear in July and are about the size of Dogwood flowers.
2. As the tree matures, it develops very beautiful exfoliating bark, which provides wonderful winter interest. The colors are tan, brown and hints of pale orange.
3. Along with wonderful bark and flowers, it also has very nice fall color of reds and purples.

Consider placing this tree where it has room to grow but also where you might enjoy its striking bark from inside your home in the winter!
**Size**
25'-40'h x 15'-20'w

**Zone**
4B to 7B

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun, but will take some shade

**Growth Rate**
Slow

**Fall Color**
Purple, Red and Yellow

**Kousa Dogwood**
*Cornus kousa*

I often use this tree in a design where I want more bulk. It is a heavier looking tree and even provides good privacy.
If you don’t care about screening in the winter, you can use a few of them along your property border. These can be a break between evergreen trees or they can be used alone, depending on how long the area is.

Kousa Dogwood is quite hardy and as mentioned in the section about the Flowering Dogwood, it was used as one of the crosses to create more problem free Dogwoods, the Stellar Hybrids.

Kousa Dogwood blooms later than the Flowering Dogwood. Most of the varieties have white flowers, but one of the pink flowering cultivars is ‘Satomi’.

**Size**
20’-30’h x 20’-30’w

**Zone**
5 to 8

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full shade to part sun

**Flower color**
White or Pink

**Growth Rate**
Purple and Red
River Birch
*Betula nigra*

Although you may love flowering trees, and I do too, you have to remember that they only flower for a short period. Therefore, a tree with a different year round feature may be a better choice and one that you will get more enjoyment out of.

An example of one of these trees is the River Birch.

It has beautiful peeling brown/rust and tan bark which apparent all the time. There is a multi-stem variety that is very nice and readily available. Instead of just one central trunk, there are many trunks emerging from the bottom. This of course offers even more beautiful bark to look at.

A River Birch was one of the first trees I purchased when I moved to my house, and I happily enjoyed the beautiful bark not only in the spring and summer, but also all winter long!

The leaves are small and flutter in the wind, providing dappled shade.
Another nice feature is that it can be limbed up so that it does not take up a lot of space beneath the canopy. This means that you can locate it in a more narrow area.

River Birch can take very wet conditions. If you have an area on your property that periodically stays wet, this tree will do well. It naturally grows near rivers.

Look for the variety ‘Heritage’ which is extremely hardy. This cultivar was chosen as a 1990 Gold Medal Plant by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.
Saucer Magnolia
*Magnolia soulangiana*

If you are looking for an ornamental tree with very showy flowers, this is it! The flowers are very large and a beautiful pink color. Actually, they are a combination of pink-purple and with some white also.

The issue is that it blooms very early and it is possible to have a frost at this time. If that unfortunately happens, the show is over. The flowers will look terrible or the buds will drop off.

My parents have this tree in their front yard and every spring I hope to get over there to see it in bloom, as it is a beautiful sight!
Place the Saucer Magnolia in the lawn as a specimen tree or near a patio. Even after it flowers it has a very nice shape and the leaves are large and pretty. Its canopy is lower than a lot of other trees which I happen to like.

**Size**
20’-30’h x 20’-30’w

**Zone**
4 to 9

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun to part shade

**Growth Rate**
Slow

**Fall Color**
Yellow
Star Magnolia
*Magnolia stellata*

Star Magnolia is a smaller type ornamental tree, particularly in width. This makes it a good choice in tight spots, such as in an area near the house. It will also take some shade, so if your area is partly sunny but has quite a bit of shade, consider this lovely tree.

There are many varieties that get white flowers, such as ‘Centennial’, ‘Royal Star’, and ‘Waterlily’. ‘Royal Star’ is the smallest with a height of 8 to 10 feet and a width of 6 to 8 feet.

As you can see, ‘Royal Star’ is quite small. Next in size is ‘Centennial’ which will get to be 12 to 15’ tall and 8 to 10 feet wide. ‘Waterlily is the tallest of the three and will be 15 to 20 feet tall and 10 to 15 feet wide.

One Star Magnolia that I really like is ‘Jane’ because it gets pink flowers and they are beautiful! This tree is actually across between two other Magnolias. Here is the information for Magnolia ‘Jane’. Most of the other Star Magnolias grow in Zones 4 to 8.
**Size**
10’-15’h x 6’-10’w

**Zone**
3A to 7A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Partial sun to part shade

**Growth Rate**
Slow

**Flower Color**
White or Pink

**Fall Color**
Yellow and Some Copper
Ornamental Trees – Quick Facts

Narrow Trees
- Star Magnolia
- Crapemyrtle
- River birch – narrow due to ability to limb up

Fall color
Note: All nine of the ornamental trees have nice fall color, but here are the ones that I feel are especially striking.
- Japanese maple
- Cleveland Pear (all Pear Trees)
- Flowering Dogwood

Pretty Bark
- River Birch - outstanding
- Kousa Dogwood
- Crapemyrtle
- Japanese Stewartia

Showiest Flowers
- Flowering Dogwood
- Eastern Redbud – small flowers but produces a mass of color
- Saucer Magnolia
- Crapemyrtle
Shade Trees

European Beech
*Fagus sylvatica*

European Beech is another true favorite of mine. The only downside is that it is a slow grower. That doesn’t mean you still can’t enjoy it while it is small though.

Once you see the bark of this tree, it is not hard to identify if you come across it. The bark is smooth and gray in coloring. But its elephant like texture is what is unusual with all those wrinkles!

If you have read the About Me page on my website, you will know that in some way it was this tree that got me started on my career of Landscape Architecture. If you haven’t read it, I will quickly summarize.

*I was visiting the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and came across this most amazing tree. It was massive and enchanting and somehow called to me. It was a Beech tree. I was hooked! I began taking classes at the New York Botanical Garden and soon was accepted at Rutgers University in the Landscape Architecture Department. A few years later I graduated, which was about 15 years ago as of this writing.*

This tree can be used out in the lawn where it has plenty of room to grow as it gets huge…over time. It also provides golden fall color and its foliage is lovely.
There are quite a few cultivars such as ‘Pendula’ which has a weeping form. ‘Purpurea’ has purple foliage. However, the typical European Birch is so beautiful that I would not mind having one without any special features.

The American Beech is similar but without the elephant like bark.

**Size**
50’ to 65’h x 50’-60’ww

**Zone**
4A to 7A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun to partial shade

**Growth Rate**
Slow

**Fall Color**
Yellow

---

**Ginkgo**

*Ginkgo biloba*
I love the leaves on this tree. They are very different than any other tree in that they are fan-shaped and charming.

The fall color of the Gingko is striking. I am partial to reds but this tree easily changes my mind with its vivid golden yellow foliage.

As it matures it develops a beautiful branching structure and the tree is very majestic looking. However this will take some time as it is a very slow grower.

Even so, you would not be sorry to have this tree in your yard.

**Size**
50’-80’h x 30’-40’w

**Zone**
3 to 9

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun

**Growth Rate**
Slow – 6 to 12” per year

**Fall Color**
Yellow
Japanese Zelkova
*Zelkova serrata*

Zelkova is another lovely shade tree. Its shape is similar to Elm trees of years ago. If you’ve ever been to an old estate or seen pictures of the grounds, they often show large, stately trees out in the lawn. The trees had almost a weeping form and were very graceful. Many of these were Elm trees.
Although Zelkova is not exactly the same as the Elm tree, it is similar, but without all the worry of disease. (See my section on Elm trees.)

It does not exemplify that weeping feature as much as the Elm but it still has a graceful look with a vase-like shape. I like the leaves on this tree. They are small, delicate and interesting. The bark is attractive also.

A hardy, vigorous variety is 'Green Vase'.

Depending on the place and weather, the fall color can be anywhere from dark orange to reddish. It’s a fairly fast grower.

**Size**
60'–70'h x 40'–50'w

**Zone**
5A to 8A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun

**Growth Rate**
Fast

**Fall Color**
Copper and Red
Lacebark Elm
_Ulmus parvifolia_

There are various types of Elms, but the most popular are the American Elm and the Lacebark Elm, also known as the Chinese Elm tree.

Years ago the American Elm suffered from Dutch Elm disease. However, for many years now new varieties have been introduced with the goal of being resistant to this disease. These have been both the American Elm and Lacebark Elm.

There is much controversial information on these trees pertaining to which varieties have proven to be disease resistant.

There is also the Elm leaf and Japanese beetle which can defoliate a tree. I know, as I had an Elm which was defoliated each and almost every summer. It was on the property of a house I rented at one time and it was disheartening.
Trees For Landscaping

- It takes many years for a tree to prove itself. The Lacebark Elm appears to be the better choice regarding cultivars that are resistant to both disease and beetles.

- The Lacebark Elm has beautiful bark. It is exfoliating with darker bark on top, peeling to show lighter bark beneath.

- It has a graceful shape with branches that appear to weep slightly. It is a very elegant shade tree which I like very much. There are very few trees that can compare to an elegant Elm tree out on open lawn.

**Size**
40'-65'h x 35'-45'w

**Zone**
4 to 9

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun to partial shade
Note: The Elm on my property grew in quite a bit of shade and did well.

**Growth Rate**
Medium

**Fall Color**
Yellow
Littleleaf Linden  
*Tilia cordata*

This is a great shade tree and to me exemplifies what you would imagine a typical shade tree to look like. I bought this tree when I lived in my first house. It was actually one of my first trees and I was not sorry. I loved the leaf shape, the tree form, and its hardiness.

Fall color is not as exciting as some other shade trees, but it will do. The leaves turn yellow mixed with green.

If you have a large area of open lawn, this will become a beautiful specimen.

You can also choose this tree to cast shade on your house or patio, as long as it is planted far enough away to give it room to grow.

Since it gets very tall, you should place it at least 25 feet away from any part of the house. You may place it closer to a patio and have the branches overhang for a very good shade alternative to a pergola or awning. You will just have to be a little patient as its growth rate is medium, growing about 12 to 18” per year.
Size
60'-70'h x 30'-45'w

Zone
3 to 7

Sun/Shade Requirements
Full sun to part shade

Growth Rate
Medium

Fall Color
Yellow

Red Maple ‘October Glory’
Acer rubrum ‘October Glory’
One alone is striking, while a mass of them, such as lining a driveway, is amazing.

The shape is very nice also, starting out more oval and increasing in spread as it ages. Over time it will have a beautiful, large canopy. This tree will also do well in wet areas.

- This is the perfect tree to use in the lawn to create shade and provide some interest.

- You can use one alone positioned towards the side of your property. You don't want to place it smack in the middle!

- Also consider using a group of three, set in a triangle spaced unevenly, if you have the room.

**Size**

25'-50'h x 25'-35'w

**Zone**

5A to 8A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**

Full sun to part shade

**Growth Rate**

Fast

**Fall Color**

Red
Shade Trees – Quick Facts

Fall Color
- Red Maple ‘October Glory’ – striking red color

Fast Growing
- Red Maple ‘October Glory’
- Japanese Zelkova

Attractive Bark
- Japanese Zelkova
- Lacebark Elm
Evergreen Trees

American Holly
Ilex opaca

American Holly is a beautiful evergreen tree. It is a broadleaf evergreen which means the leaves are wide as opposed to evergreens that have needle-like foliage. Each leaf is serrated, having pointy edges which give it some character, and it is dark green in color.

The berries which appear in the fall and linger on in the winter (if the birds don’t eat them all) are beautiful. The red color against the dark leaves is striking. It makes you realize how beautiful nature can be.

I once had Cedar Waxwing birds appear when one of my Holly trees was covered with berries. I enjoyed having the birds, but was not happy when they ate all of the berries in about two or three days!

American Holly can be used alone as a focal point or it can be used along a border for privacy. It is a slow grower though, so if it is within your budget, start with larger trees. Plant a male nearby so that the female can be pollinated for berry production.

It is also one of the few evergreen trees that will grow in quite a bit of shade.
**Size**
25’-50’h x 15’-25’w

**Zone**
5B to 9A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun to full shade

**Growth Rate**
Slow

---

**Arborvitae ‘Green Giant’**

*Thuja standishii x plicata ‘Green Giant’*

These trees are one of the fastest growing evergreen trees and can easily grow 3 feet per year! Although they can reach about 18 feet wide, if you want quick privacy, you can plant them about 5’ to 6’ apart. As mentioned earlier, evergreen trees will adapt in width.

There are many types of Arborvitae and it is easy to get confused. This particular cultivar will withstand ice and snow, where many other types can have branches that break easily under these conditions. That alone is a good reason to choose this variety.

Some Arborvitae turn color in the winter, but ‘Green Giant’ maintains its color well. It has a conical to pyramidal shape which is attractive.

Definitely use this tree for privacy where needed due to the fact that it is very nice looking, hardy, and grows very quickly.
Two other Arborvitae cultivars that are very nice are ‘Techny’ and ‘Nigra’. They are narrower than ‘Green Giant’. ‘Techny’ will get to be about 10 to 15’ tall which makes it a smaller evergreen tree.

‘Nigra’ has a mature size of about 20 to 30 feet and a width of 4 to 5 feet. Both of these types of Arborvitae are much slower growers than ‘Green Giant’. However, they are good choices if you need narrower trees. Arborvitae ‘Emerald Green’ is another type to consider as it will only get to be about 3 to 4 feet wide.

**Size**
40'-50'h x 12'-20'w

**Zone**
3B to 6A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun

**Growth Rate**
Very Fast
**Colorado (Blue) Spruce**  
*Picea pungens*

Colorado Spruce is known for its blue needles. It is rather striking in the landscape, particularly in the winter. Sometimes trees are difficult to use well in landscape design when they have a strong colored foliage as they do not blend in well.

I recommend using them as a focal point and not having more than one. A nice way of including a Blue Spruce in your plantings is to use one among a group of other green foliage trees, such as Norway Spruce.

If you are creating a hedge, use a mass of Norway Spruce and about one third of the way down add a Colorado Spruce.

It can also be used in the rear corner where it can be viewed from the distance and admired.
Here is a photo showing a close-up of the needles and also how nice the blue color can be.

Speaking of color, this can vary between specimens. It can range from very blue to blue-green to green with a hint of blue.

Take care in selecting if you want one that is quite blue.
**Size**
30'-60'h x 10'-20'w

**Zone**
2 to 7

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun

**Growth Rate**
Slow to medium

**Douglas Fir**
*Pseudotsuga menziesii*

Douglas Fir is similar in look to Norway Spruce but it is a little softer looking in youth. They are both majestic looking trees as they get older. This will become a very large evergreen tree and is not suitable near a house. However, it makes an excellent screen for privacy.
You can also use one or a few of them for winter interest along with screening on a large piece of property.

**Size**
40’-80’ x 25’-30’w

**Zone**
3B to 6A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun

**Growth Rate**
Medium

**Japanese Cedar**  
*Cryptomeria japonica*

This is another evergreen tree which should be featured, rather than massed. I have seen a few of them used together, but I think it takes away from their beauty. I would much rather see one standing alone as a focal point. Cryptomeria has both
interesting foliage and form. Its foliage is soft and the tree is not stiff. At the same time it is graceful.

The shape has somewhat of an irregularity to it and this is part of its charm. I would rather have Cryptomeria as a tree that stood out than a Blue Spruce. While it certainly makes a statement, it is still subtle in a sophisticated and stately way.

Consider using this tree at one of the corners of your house. It often happens to look very good there. Position it about 12 feet away from the corner to allow room for growth. Place a different evergreen, a strong deciduous tree, or a group of three ornamental trees at the other corner of your house for balance.

**Size**
25'-50' x 15'-25'w

**Zone**
5B to 8B

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun

**Growth Rate**
Slow
Leyland Cypress
*X Cupressocyparis leylandii*

This is one of the fastest growing evergreen trees, which makes it a great choice if you want to achieve privacy quickly. As with many other evergreen trees, you do not have to space them as far apart as their mature width would indicate.

![Leyland Cypress](image)

Evergreen trees will adapt to the space that they are growing in. If you were to plant trees for screening based on the actual future size, you would never get any privacy...well, probably not for a very, very, long time! Leyland Cypress has an oval shape as opposed to a tree such as the Norway Spruce that is conical in form like a typical Christmas tree. The foliage is a medium green in color and soft.

**Size**
25'-50'h x 15'-25'w

**Zone**
6A to 10A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**
Full sun to part shade

**Growth Rate**
Very Fast
Nellie R. Stevens. Holly

*Ilex x Nellie R. Stevens*

This is another beautiful Holly tree, especially if you need one that is not that wide. This makes its placement very versatile. It looks just like the American Holly except that it is much narrower and just a smaller version.

Here are some places they would fit nicely.

- For large formal homes, one can be placed on either side of the front door.
- Use one at a house corner.
- Use a few of them as a privacy screen.
- Choose this small evergreen tree anywhere you would like an evergreen that is tall and narrow.

It will need a male for pollination to produce berries. The berries provide nice color and interest in the fall. The broadleaf foliage is lovely and this is a very special tree.

**Size**

15’-25’h x 6’-10’w

**Zone**

6A to 9A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**

Full sun to part shade

**Growth Rate**

Medium
Norway Spruce

*Picea abies*

Norway Spruce is a very elegant evergreen tree, if you can describe a tree as such. It has a lovely look when young and becomes more and more majestic as it ages.

While the branches are rigid in its youth, later they become more pendulous. Its needle like foliage is a very dark green, which I like.

It is beautiful when used either alone, as a privacy screen, or as a great background for other plants.

Ornamental trees with nice bark or flowers, flowering shrubs, and all kinds of perennials can be used as another layer in front of Norway Spruce.
It is a rather slow grower though, so if you are going to use it for privacy be aware of this. That being said, it really is a great choice. This is one of the main trees I use when choosing an evergreen tree for my clients. I love the American Holly too. Both of these trees are deer resistant.

**Size**

60’-80’ x 25’-35”w

**Zone**

2B to 7A

**Sun/Shade Requirements**

Full sun

**Growth Rate**

Slow
White Pine

*Pinus strobus*

White Pine is a stately, native tree and that in itself is a good reason to consider it. It is also a fast grower. White Pine has long, dark green, soft needles which are very attractive.

However, it is rather large to use anywhere in the landscape other than as a hedge. White Pine is best used if you need screening for height. If there is a large house next to or behind your property, tall buildings, etc. that you want to block out, it does the job. Yet, it does not screen lower areas well. It has a tendency to not stay that compact and lose its lower needles and branches. These Pines can be sheared to keep them more compact, but you can only do this for so long.

Therefore, if you need privacy at eye level, I would recommend planting some evergreen shrubs in front of these trees to take up the area that will become rather barren. You don’t have to do this right away. Just be aware that it is something you will probably need as time goes on if you need that lower privacy.

If you use White Pine in this way, it can be a very successful as they are very nice trees.
Size
50'-75' x 25'-35'w

Zone
3B to 7A

Sun/Shade Requirements
Full sun to partial shade

Growth Rate
Fast

Evergreen Trees – Quick Facts

Narrow Trees
- Nellie R. Stevens Holly
- Japanese Cedar
- Arborvitae ‘Emerald Green’
- Arborvitae ‘Nigra’

Fast Growing
- Arborvitae ‘Green Giant’
- Leyland Cypress
- White Pine

Thank you for purchasing this book.
Please visit my website Landscape Design Advice where I provide over 600 pages of professional landscape design information, tips and photos.

Also, if you have enjoyed this book, you might enjoy my other books:
Designing Front Yards – Learn once and for all how to achieve a great front yard.
Patio Plans For Inspiration – See many of my designs. Get ideas or use them.
Landscaping Costs – Learn about actual landscape pricing with specific costs.

Regards,
Susan Schlenger, BSLA, ASLA