

TOP 10 SHADE TREES FOR OUR AREA

The following selections are trees that tend to grow best in our climate and soil conditions. However, there are many others to choose from. Contact your local County Agriculture Agent or local garden center/nurseryman for more options.

Acer saccharum 'Green Mountain' Green Mountain Sugar Maple

Growth Rate: Slow to medium
Drainage: Needs a well drained soil
Fall Color: Bright orange, yellow/red
Value: Excellent large shade tree for lawn or street tree planting. Fall Color is one of the best, lasts in color only 10 days to 2 weeks.
Notes: Other cultivars: Majesty, Legacy and Bonfire

Acer rubrum 'October Glory' October Glory Red Maple

Growth Rate: Medium to fast
Drainage: Will tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, especially moist to wet sites.
Fall Color: Excellent dark red late October to Early November
Value: Excellent shade tree for lawn or street tree planting.
Notes: Developed locally by Princeton Nurseries. Other cultivars: Red Sunset which is similar except the fall color is 1-2 weeks earlier in our area.

Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis* 'Skyline' Skyline Locust

Growth Rate: Fast
Drainage: Will tolerate dry conditions, very adaptable.
Fall Color: Yellow
Value: Provides a nice dappled shade due to open spreading crown. Small leaves make fall clean up a minimal chore.
Notes: Other cultivars: 'Sunburst' has new growth with yellow tips throughout the season. 'Halka' developed locally by Halka Nurseries in Freehold Twp and Shademaster which is similar to Skyline.

Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' Greenspire Linden

Growth Rate: Medium
Drainage: Needs a well drained soil
Fall Color: Green/yellow
Value: Excellent shade tree for lawn or street tree planting. Growth habit is rounded to pyramidal with dense branches.
Notes: There have been a few isolated reports of Japanese beetle damage on the foliage in July-August.

Quercus palustris Pin Oak

Growth Rate: Fast
Drainage: Very tolerant of all soil types and conditions
Fall Color: Bronze or red; color varies from year to year
Value: Tough tree; perhaps the most widely used Oak in New Jersey. Its ascending lower branch habit with age makes it an undesirable street tree.

Quercus rubra Red Oak

Growth Rate: Fast
Drainage: Well-drained soil is needed.
Fall Color: Russet red to bright red in the fall
Value: The Red Oak is our state tree and should be planted more often. It has a nice branching structure and grows to be quite old.
Notes: Transplanting of Red Oak should be done in the spring only.

Sophora japonica Japanese Pagoda Tree

Growth Rate: Medium to fast
Drainage: Needs a well drained soil; drought tolerant
Fall Color: Insignificant
Value: Provides a great flower display in July/August with a creamy white puffy appearance. With maturity the crown develops quite broad and rounded.
Notes: Other cultivars: Regent also developed locally at Princeton Nurseries; has a fast growth rate and a straight growth habit.

Cercidiphyllum japonica Katsura Tree

Growth Rate: Medium to fast
Drainage: Needs a well drained soil

Fall Color: Yellow/soft apricot orange.
Value: Beautiful tree reaching a height of 40-60'. Highly under used.
Notes: During the growing season leaves emerge reddish purple and change to a bluish green.

Liriodendron tulipifera Tulip Tree; Tulip Poplar

Growth Rate: Fast; 15' over 6-8 years
Drainage: Needs a well drained soil
Fall Color: Yellow
Value: Fast growing shade tree; mature height can be 70-90' by 35-50' wide.

Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase' Japanese Zelkova Tree

Growth Rate: Medium to fast
Drainage: Needs a well drained soil
Fall Color: Striking brick/orange red
Value: A very desirable tree, vase shaped growth habit. Considered to be a replacement for the American Elm which declined as a result of Dutch elm disease.
Notes: Other cultivars: Village Green another Princeton Nurseries selection with a less arching appearance than Green Vase and is more compact.