

Franklin Township Shade Tree Commission

Best Trees for Franklin

Early Flowering:

Prunus campanulata, Okame Cherry

Bloom: Carmine pink petals; March to April.
Growth Rate: Medium to fast 20'-30' high and wide
Exposure: Sun
Drainage: Needs good drainage
Notes: Received the Styer Award from Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Magnolia stellata, Star Magnolia

Bloom: White 1 ½-2" large petals 3-4" flowers in March
Growth Rate: Slow 3-6' over 5-6 years; 15-20 high by 12-20' wide
Multi-branched; shrub like
Exposure: Sun
Drainage: Needs good drainage
Notes: Great early flowering display

Cercis canadensis, Eastern Redbud

Bloom: Purple/pink pea like flowers born along entire stem, mid April, blooms before leaves emerge
Growth Rate: Fast 3-4' if in right location, 20-30' high 25-30' wide.
Exposure: Will tolerate light shade to full sun
Drainage: Needs good drainage

Mid Season Flowering:

Magnolia – Little Girl Hybrids; Jane, Betty, Ann

Bloom: Depending on variety pink to purple blooms early to mid April
Growth Rate: Medium to fast
Exposure: Sun to part shade
Drainage: Needs good drainage

Notes: Developed by USDA much improved over older hybrids. Size 8-15' depending on variety. Jane blooms sporadically throughout the season.

Prunus serrulata Kwanzan, Kwanzan Cherry

Bloom: Double pink blossoms; mid to late April; very showy
Growth Rate: Medium to fast; vase shaped; heavy branched texture 30-40' tall by 20-30' wide
Exposure: Sun
Drainage: Needs good drainage

Prunus subhirtella Higan, Weeping Cherry

Bloom: Dark pink fading to soft pink ½" single flower, very showy and graceful. Mid to late April
Growth Rate: Medium to fast, 30-40' high; 20-30' wide
Exposure: Sun
Drainage: Needs good drainage

Prunus cerasifera 'Thundercloud'; Thundercloud flowering Plum

Bloom: Dark pink flowers before foliage emerges
Growth Rate: fast; 20' high by 20' wide
Exposure: Sun
Drainage: Needs good drainage

Malus var.; Crabapples

Bloom: Depending on variety, pink, white, or red.
Growth Rate: Medium to fast 15-25' high and wide. Weeping form exists.
Exposure: Sun
Drainage: Needs good drainage
Notes: Many new disease resistant varieties have been developed over the past several years – too many to list.

Cornus florida var.; Pink Dogwoods

Bloom: Flowers emerge before leaves 3" dark pink first week of May
Growth Rate: medium; 20-30' by 15' wide
Exposure: Will tolerate light shade to sun
Drainage: Must have good drainage
Notes: Traditional flowering tree for Mom. Cherokee Chief is a dark pink. Cherokee Brave is an improved pink with new red growth during the summer.

Late Flowering:

Cornus florida x Kousa 'Rutgers Hybrids

Pink – Stellar Pink

White – Aurora (3 or 4 other varieties as well)

Bloom: After leaves emerge mid May to approximately June 1st.
Growth Rate: Medium to fast; 25-30' by 20-35' Growth rate is rapid and more upright. Resembles the shape of the Kousa Dogwood parent.
Exposure: Sun
Drainage: Needs good drainage
Notes: Developed in the Rutgers Display Gardens in New Brunswick by Dr. Elwin Orton.

Cornus kousa var. chinensis, Kousa or Chinese Dogwood

Bloom: White 3" pointed petals against green leaves. Flowers between the 3rd week of May and early June.
Growth Rate: Medium to fast. 25' upright and somewhat vase shaped.
Exposure: Sun to part shade
Drainage: Needs good drainage
Notes: Pink variety is also available: Satomi and Heart Throb; these are not common varieties.

Styrax japonica; Japanese Snowbell

Bloom: White ¾" wide star-shaped blossoms which hang down resembling a bell shape. Very Showy. Blooms early to mid June
Growth Rate: Medium; 20-30' high and wide
Exposure: Sun
Drainage: Needs good drainage
Notes: Pink form also available 'Pink Chimes'

Magnolia virginiana, Sweetbay Magnolia

Bloom: Creamy white 2-3" very fragrant blossoms. A 10-15' tree may have 20-30 flowers blooming sporadically over a 5-6 week period.
Growth Rate: Medium to fast 15-20' multi-stem
Exposure: Sun to part shade
Drainage: **Will tolerate a moist location
Notes: Perhaps one of my favorites due to the fact it is a tough tolerant tree which adapts so well.

Saphora japonica 'Regent', Japanese Pagoda Tree

Bloom: White 6-12" long panicles with a 'puffy' appearance. Slightly fragrant. Blooms July to mid August.

Growth Rate: Medium to fast 40-50' by 30-40' wide.

Exposure: Sun

Drainage: Will tolerate a dry or poor quality soil, however, good drainage is necessary.

Notes: Also serves as a nice street tree and shade tree. Tolerant of tough city conditions.

10 BEST SHADE TREES

Acer saccharum 'Green Mountain', Sugar Maple

Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset', 'October Glory', Red Maple

Gleditsia var. Skyline, Sunburst (yellow tip growth), Halka, Honeylocust

Tilia cordata 'Greenspire', Linden

Quercus palustris, Pin Oak

Quercus rubra, Red Oak

Saphora japonica, Japanese Pagoda Tree

Cercidiphyllum japonica, Katsura tree

Liriodendron tulicifera, Tulip Tree

Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase',