

Albemarle County Plant List & Canopy Calculations

10/31/2024: This update limits trees species available for planting adjacent to paved areas to improve safety by reducing conflicts between tree roots and sidewalks/paths.

The following list includes woody plants recommended for general purposes. **Selection of species and cultivars should involve further professional review of the site conditions and available space, as well as the growth habit, form, root patterns, and space requirements of the selected plants, in order to ensure appropriate placement and avoid damage to infrastructure. Review of individual plant characteristics, such as fruiting habits, presence of thorns, and toxicity is also recommended.**

Required plants must be chosen from this plant list. Plants not on this list will not be approved on any landscape plan. Both required and non-required plants must be shown on the landscape plan. It is recommended that non-required plants be chosen from this list. It is recommended that they not include invasive or disease-prone species. Native species are preferred.

Native plants can provide numerous benefits for wildlife, pollinators, and natural communities on the landscape, and are encouraged. Species that are locally native are particularly beneficial and well suited to the local climate and soils, therefore reducing the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and watering. The term 'locally native' in this context is defined as species that are native to the northern Piedmont of Virginia, including the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, and Orange, according to the Digital Atlas of the Flora of Virginia. Please note that plant species found to be non-native invasives will be removed in future updates of this list.

"Area of Canopy 10 yrs" is calculated for the listed planting sizes (see each category) and is based on information from Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc., Virginia Tech Urban Forestry "Tree Canopy Spread and Coverage in Urban Landscapes" database dated 11/3/2010, the Albemarle County Plant Canopy Calculations list, the Albemarle County Guide to Context Sensitive Site Design, and other sources as necessary.

Large Deciduous Trees (50'- 70')

Botanical Name	Common Name	Locally Native	Urban Tolerant	Screening	Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment*	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 1.5 - 1.75"	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 2-2.5"	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 3.5"
<i>Acer floridanum</i>	Southern Sugar Maple					106	-	-
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	X				397	452	510
<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Armstrong'	Red Maple - 'Armstrong'	X	X			44	53	57
<i>Acer x freemanii</i> "Jeffersred"	Autumn Blaze Maple				X*	397	452	510
<i>Betula lenta</i>	Sweet Birch	X						
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	X	X			397	464	535
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American Hornbeam	X	X		X	-	113	-
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory	X				452	-	-
<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut Hickory	X				61	77	95
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Pecan					-	227	-
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory	X				72	92	113
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry	X	X			-	154	-
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	X				151	186	224
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	X		X		227	275	327
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech			X		177	214	254
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Autumn Gold'	Autumn Gold' Ginkgo		X			-	95	-
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Magyar'	Magyar' Ginkgo		X			87	104	123
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Princeton Sentry'	Princeton Sentry' Ginkgo		X			14	17	20
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>	Thornless Honeylocust		X		X	424	481	541

<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree		X		X	570	637	708
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut	X				-	177	-
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	X				249	288	329
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba'</i>	Rotundiloba' Sweetgum	X			X	206	238	272
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tuliptree or Tulip Poplar	X		X		387	430	475
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumbertree Magnolia	X				254	289	327
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood		X	X		60	67	75
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red Mulberry	X				-	177	-
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Blackgum	X	X		X*	123	151	181
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore or American Planetree	X				1253	1362	1475
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Planetree					368	422	479
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	X				-	113	-
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	X				243	289	340
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	X			X*	299	339	382
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak	X				370	419	471
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern Red Oak	X				424	481	604
<i>Quercus hemisphaerica</i>	Sand Laurel Oak		X		X	335	-	-
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak	X				137	166	197
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak					-	113	-
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Chinquapin Oak	X	X		X	-	291	-
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin or Water Oak	X	X			370	419	471
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow Oak	X			X	370	419	471
<i>Quercus prinus</i>	Chestnut Oak	X	X			154	260	452
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak					329	372	419
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak	X	X		X	424	481	541
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard Oak				X	329	372	419
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress		X	X		79	92	106
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood	X				191	222	254
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden		X	X	X	249	288	329
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Linden		X	X		276	322	371
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm	X	X			397	464	535

Medium Deciduous Trees (40'- 50')

Botanical Name	Common Name	Locally Native	Urban Tolerant	Screening	Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment*	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 1.5 - 1.75"	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 2 - 2.5"
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European Hornbeam		X	X	X*	177	234
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Katsuratree		X		X*	222	289
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American Hophornbeam	X	X		X*	-	66
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	X				707	-
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Common Sassafras	X	X	X		197	249

Small Deciduous Trees (20'- 40')							
Botanical Name	Common Name	Locally Native	Urban Tolerant	Screening	Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment*	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 6-8'	
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Paw Paw	X				283	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Pyramidal European Hornbeam		X	X		69	
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Yellowwood		X			289	
<i>Crataegus crus-galli var. crus-galli</i>	Cockspur Hawthorn	X	X	X		184	
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>	English Hawthorn		X	X		125	
<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	Washington Hawthorn		X	X		145	
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	Green Hawthorn		X	X		184	
<i>Halesia diptera</i>	Two-winged Silverbell					123	
<i>Halesia monticola</i>	Silverbell Tree					214	
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Amur Maackia		X			92	
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood	X	X			138	
<i>Prunus campanulata</i>	Flowering Cherry		X			99	
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Flowering Plum		X	X		143	
<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	Sargent Cherry		X			128	
<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Japanese Flowering Cherry		X		X	87	
<i>Prunus x yeodensis</i>	Yoshino Flowering Cherry		X			99	

Ornamental Trees (10'- 40')						
Botanical Name	Common Name	Locally Native	Urban Tolerant	Screening	Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment*	Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 6-8'
<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark Maple				X	88
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Serviceberry	X	X	X	X ¹	113
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Shadblow Serviceberry	X	X	X		130
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny Serviceberry	X	X	X		130
<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i>	Serviceberry		X	X	X ¹	130
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud	X	X			124
<i>Cercis chinensis</i>	Chinese Redbud		X			79
<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Chinese Fringetree		X			113
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White Fringetree	X	X	X	X ¹	79
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood (Appalachian Spring or other anthracnose-resistant cultivars ONLY)	X				124
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Corneliancherry Dogwood		X	X		50
<i>Cornus x rutgeriensis</i>	Flowering Dogwood					124
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Royal Purple Smoketree			X		79
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i>	Carolinia Silverbell		X			79
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witchhazel	X		X		113
<i>Laburnum x watereri</i>	Goldenchain Tree					96
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crapemyrtle		X			77
<i>Magnolia liliiflora</i>	Magnolia			X		28
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	Star Magnolia					38
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweet Bay Magnolia	X	X			79
<i>Magnolia x loebneri</i>	Loebner Magnolia					87
<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>	Saucer Magnolia					145
<i>Malus</i>	Crabapple		X			113
<i>Malus sargentii</i>	Sargent Crabapple			X		41
<i>Parrotia persica</i>	Persian Parrotia		X			159
<i>Stewartia malacodendron</i>	Silky Camellia					113
<i>Stewartia ovata</i>	Mountain Stewartia					50
<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	Japanese Stewartia					77
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese Tree Lilac		X			143
<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch Elm					177

Evergreen (Screening) and Ornamental Evergreen Trees (20'-70')

Botanical Name	Common Name	Locally Native	Urban Tolerant	Screening	Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment*	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 4-5'
<i>Abies concolor</i>	White or Concolor Fir			X		44
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Blue Atlas Cedar			X		41
<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar Cedar			X		143
<i>Cedrus libani</i>	Cedar of Lebanon					70
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson's Cypress			X		143
<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Atlantic White Cedar			X		38
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Cryptomeria			X		123
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	Arizona Cypress			X		44
<i>Cupressocyparis x leylandii</i>	Leyland Cypress			X		23
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	X		X		44
<i>Ilex x attenuata</i>	Foster Holly			X		16
<i>Ilex x Nellie R. Stevens'</i>	Nellie R. Stevens Holly			X		44
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	Chinese Juniper		X	X		50
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	X	X	X		79
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern Magnolia			X		54
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce			X		79
<i>Picea omorika</i>	Serbian Spruce		X	X		20
<i>Picea orientalis</i>	Oriental Spruce			X		28
<i>Picea pungens var. glauca</i>	Colorado Blue Spruce			X		10
<i>Pinus bungeana</i>	Lacebark Pine					50
<i>Pinus cembra</i>	Swiss Stone Pine					41
<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	Japanese Red Pine					128
<i>Pinus echinata</i>	Shortleaf Pine	X				113
<i>Pinus flexilis</i>	Limber Pine			X		41
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian Pine			X		79
<i>Pinus parviflora</i>	Japanese White Pine			X		106
<i>Pinus pungens</i>	Table Mountain Pine	X				79
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White Pine	X				118
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly Pine	X		X		207
<i>Pinus thunbergiana</i>	Japanese Black Pine			X		143
<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	Virginia pine	X				113
<i>Platycladus orientalis</i>	Oriental Arborvitae		X	X		20
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Live Oak					177
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Eastern Arborvitae or Northern White Cedar	X	X	X		10

<i>Thuja orientalis</i>	Oriental Arbor-vitae			X		15
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Giant Arborvitae		X	X		7

Evergreen and Semi-Evergreen Shrubs (3'-15')

Botanical Name	Common Name	Locally Native	Urban Tolerant	Screening	Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment*	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 1.5-2.5'
<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	Glossy Abelia		X	X		14
<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	Japanese Aucuba		X	X		20
<i>Berberis canadensis</i>	American Barberry					5
<i>Berberis verruculosa</i>	Warty Barberry			X		5
<i>Berberis x gladwynensis</i>	Barberry			X		3
<i>Cotoneaster salicifolius</i>	Willowleaf Cotoneaster			X		22
<i>Daphne cneorum</i>	Rose Daphne					23
<i>Daphne odora</i>	Fragrant Daphne					10
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	Aaronsbeard St. Johnswort		X			10
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry Holly	X		X		23
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry Holly	X		X		41
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yaupon, Cassin holly			X		64
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	X		X		55
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel	X		X		28
<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	Coastal Doghobble					28
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	Drooping Leucothoe, Fetterbush	X		X		11
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Hollygrape			X		2
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Southern Wax Myrtle		X	X		44
<i>Morella pensylvanica</i>	Northern Bayberry		X	X		18
<i>Osmanthus x fortunei</i>	Fortune's Osmanthus			X		99
<i>Photinia x fraseri</i>	Fraser Photinia		X	X		20
<i>Pieris floribunda</i>	Mountain Pieris	X		X		14
<i>Pieris japonica</i>	Japanese Pieris			X		36
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Mugo Dwarf Mountain Pine			X		92
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel			X		10
<i>Rhododendron atlanticum</i>	Dwarf Azalea					13
<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Catawba Azalea	X		X		18
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Great Rhododendron	X		X		28
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Wild Azalea	X		X		20
<i>Rhododendron prinophyllum</i>	Roseshell Azalea	X		X		20

<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp Azalea	X				13
<i>Rhododendron x PJM</i>	Broadleaf Azalea - 'PJM'			X		13
<i>Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis</i>	Dwarf Himalayan Sweet Box					10
<i>Sarcococca ruscifolia</i>	Sweet Box					6
<i>Skimmia japonica</i>	Japanese Skimmia					6
<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	Farkleberry			X		64
<i>Viburnum utile & cvs.</i>	Viburnum- 'Conoy'					18
<i>Viburnum x burkwoodii</i>	Burkwood Viburnum			X		22
<i>Viburnum x pragense</i>	Prague Viburnum			X		44
<i>Viburnum x rhytidophylloides</i>	Lantanphyllum Viburnum			X		64

Deciduous Shrubs (3'-30')

Botanical Name	Common Name	Locally Native	Urban Tolerant	Screening	Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment*	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 1-1.5'
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Smooth Alder	X				113
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil's Walking-stick	X				44
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	X		X		7
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	X		X		13
<i>Aronia prunifolia</i>	Purple Chokeberry	X		X		28
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American Beautyberry					20
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Common Sweetshrub or Carolina Allspice	X				26
<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i>	Blue Mist Shrub					10
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey tea	X				20
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	X				9
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet Pepperbush					16
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	X		X		64
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-twig Dogwood			X		72
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American Hazelnut	X		X		22
<i>Cotoneaster apiculatus</i>	Cranberry Cotoneaster			X		7
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Rockspray Cotoneaster			X		10
<i>Deutzia gracilis</i>	Slender Deutzia		X			10
<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	Redvein Enkianthus					56
<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	Forsythia		X	X		16
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	Dwarf Fothergilla					3
<i>Fothergilla major</i>	Large Fothergilla					20
<i>Franklinia altamaha</i>	Franklinia					98

<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	Black Huckleberry	X				79
<i>Hamamelis mollis</i>	Chinese Witchhazel					64
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	Vernal or Ozark Witchhazel					23
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witchhazel	X				113
<i>Hamamelis x 'intermedia'</i>	Witchhazel					77
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea					16
<i>Hypericum densiflorum</i>	Bushy St. Johnswort	X	X			6
<i>Hypericum kalmianum</i>	St. Johnswort		X			6
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. Johnswort	X	X			6
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possumhaw	X		X		41
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire					64
<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>	Winter Jasmine		X			10
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Japanese Kerria					72
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	X				23
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Common Ninebark	X		X		20
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Cinquefoil		X			7
<i>Prunus x cistena</i>	Purpleleaf Sand Cherry			X		28
<i>Rhododendron canescens</i>	Mountain Azalea					35
<i>Rhododendron cumberlandense</i>	Cumberland Azalea					13
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	X	X			33
<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	Winged Sumac	X	X			289
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac	X	X			64
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	X	X			254
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Pasture or Carolina rose	X				27
<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose	X				27
<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	Virginia Rose					27
<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	Allegheny Blackberry	X		X		13
<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>	Black Raspberry	X				28
<i>Rubus odoratus</i>	Purple Flowered Raspberry	X				50
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Black Elderberry	X	X	X		50
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red Elderberry	X		X		50
<i>Spiraea alba var. alba</i>	Narrowleaf Meadowsweet	X				13
<i>Spiraea alba var. latifolia</i>	Broadleaf Meadowsweet	X				13
<i>Spiraea corymbosa</i>	Dwarf or Birch Leaved Spiraea	X				13
<i>Spiraea nipponica</i>	Spiraea					7
<i>Spiraea x bumalda</i>	Bumalda Spiraea					7
<i>Spiraea x vanhouttei</i>	Vanhoutte Spiraea					41
<i>Syringa meyeri</i>	Compact Meyer Lilac			X		44
<i>Syringa patula</i>	Manchurian Lilac			X		20
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberry	X				18

<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Mapleleaf Viburnum	X				9
<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Northern Wild Raisin	X				28
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum	X	X	X		31
<i>Viburnum lantanoides</i>	Hobblebush	X				113
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry Viburnum			X		64
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Southern Wild Raisin or Possum-haw	X	X	X		28
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	European Cranberrybush			X		72
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw Viburnum	X	X	X		64
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American Cranberrybush			X		50
<i>Viburnum x carlcephalum</i>	Fragrant Viburnum			X		28
<i>Viburnum x juddii</i>	Judd Viburnum			X		38
<i>Weigela florida</i>	Weigela			X		50

X* Trees marked with "X*" require special treatment when planted adjacent to paved surfaces. When proposed, the landscape plan must include a detail representative of tree installation and the following note: "A minimum of 750 cu ft soil volume will be excavated for each tree planted adjacent to pavement. Excavated material will be replaced with structural soil or similar performing alternative. Minimum depth of planter is 3' measured from the bottom of the rootball. Main trunk of tree will be a minimum of 4' from edge of pavement. Trees will be placed on the back side of the sidewalk."

X¹ Select single-trunk growth when used as a street tree.