



## Abington Township Shade Tree Commission Recommended Trees: updated October 2025

[www.abingtonpa.gov/stc](http://www.abingtonpa.gov/stc)

Tree Common Name	Tree Botanical Name	Mature Size	Growth Rate	Light	Small Tree	Street Tree	Showy Flowers	Evergreen	Notes
Southern Sugar Maple	<i>Acer floridanum</i>	Height: 20'-60', Spread: 25'-40'	Medium	Full sun - part shade					Fall color of yellow, orange, and red.
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Height: 40'-60', Spread: same	Fast	Full sun - part shade		Yes			Orange-red fall color
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Height: 50'-80', Spread: 35'-50'	Fast	Full sun - part shade					Exceptionally fast growth, but as a consequence the wood is not strong and the tree is more prone to storm damage, particularly if not pruned into a good shape
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Height: 60'-70', Spread: 40'-50'	Slow	Full sun - part shade					Fall color of yellow, orange, and red.
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Height: 20'-40', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade			Yes		White flowers in spring and distinctive "buckeye" seeds in fall
Downy Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Height 15'-25', Spread: up to 35'	Medium	Full sun - part shade	Yes		Yes		White spring flowers followed by berries, which are similar to blueberries and are edible if you can beat the birds to them
Shadblow Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Height: 15'-25', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade	Yes		Yes		White spring flowers followed by berries, which are similar to blueberries and are edible if you can beat the birds to them
Allegheny Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Height: 30'-30', Spread: 15'-20'	Medium	Full sun - part shade	Yes	Yes	Yes		White spring flowers followed by berries, which are similar to blueberries and are edible if you can beat the birds to them. Warning: these trees are not expected to fare well with rising temperatures due to global warming. They may fare well for the time being, but use sparingly.
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Height: 15'-25', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade	Yes				Mango-banana like fruits are edible, but need two genetically-different trees for cross-pollination; yellow fall color
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Benthamidia florida</i> (formerly <i>Cornus florida</i> )	Height: 15'-20', Spread: 10'-12'	Medium	Full sun - part shade	Yes		Yes		Large spring flowers; red fall color
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	Height: 40'-70', Spread: 40'-60'	Medium	Full sun - part shade		Yes			Attractive peeling bark
American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Height: 20'-30', Spread: same	Slow	Part shade - full shade	Yes				Orange fall color. Mature trees have attractive, sinewy trunks. Excellent understory tree for shady areas.
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Height: 50'-80', Spread: 30'-50'	Slow	Full sun					Appropriate for wet areas
Pignut Hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>	Height: 50'-60', Spread: 25'-35'	Slow	Full sun - part shade					Edible nuts; yellow fall color



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Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Height: 75-100', Spread: 40-70'	Slow	Full sun					Edible pecans
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	Height: 60'-80', Spread: 30'-50'	Slow	Full sun - part shade					Attractive peeling bark; edible nuts; yellow fall color
Mockernut Hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Height: 60'-80', Spread: 40-60'	Slow	Full sun					Edible nuts; yellow fall color
Southern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Height: 30-40', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade			Yes		White flowers in late spring
Northern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Height: 40-60', Spread: 20-40'	Fast	Full sun		Yes	Yes		White flowers in early summer
Sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Height: 60-80'; Spread: same	Fast	Full sun - part shade		Yes			Can handle tough conditions
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Height: 40'-60', Spread: same	Medium- Fast	Full sun		Yes			Can handle tough conditions
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Height: 20'-30', Spread: 25'-30'	Fast	Full sun - part shade	Yes	Yes	Yes		Beautiful early spring-blooming tree with purple flowers
Atlantic White Cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Height: 30'-50', Spread: 30'-40'	Medium	Full sun - part shade				Yes	Appropriate for wet conditions
White Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Height: 15'-30', Spread: same	Slow	Full sun - part shade	Yes	Yes	Yes		Drifts of white flowers are attractive in spring, followed by small berries and yellow fall color. Tree is generally dioecious, meaning that only the female tree produces fruits, and only if a male is nearby; oddly, the trees occasionally produce some flowers from the other sex, meaning they are able to make some fruits even without a partner.
Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Height: 30-50', Spread: 40-55'	Medium	Full sun			Yes		Hanging white flowers in late spring/early summer. The branches can be damaged in storms if not properly pruned.
American Smoketree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	Height: 20-30', Spread: same	Slow	Full sun	Yes		Yes		Attractive cloud of flowers gives a smoky pink appearance when in flower in late spring
Cock-Spur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	Height: 25-35', Spread: Same	Medium	Full sun	Yes		Yes		Attractive white flowers in spring followed by berries persisting into winter
Washington Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	Height: 25'-30', Spread: 20'-25'	Medium	Full sun	Yes	Yes	Yes		Attractive white flowers in spring followed by berries persisting into winter
Frosted Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus pruinosa</i>	Height: 15-20', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade	Yes		Yes		Attractive white flowers in spring followed by berries persisting into winter
Green Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	Height: 20'-35', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade	Yes	Yes	Yes		Attractive white flowers in spring followed by orange berries persisting into winter



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American Persimmon	Diospyros virginiana	Height: 20'-50', Spread: 25-35'	Slow	Full sun - part shade	Yes				The species is dioecious, meaning that only the female will produce fruit and needs a male nearby. Fruits are edible although smaller than the Asian persimmons found in the grocery store.
American Beech	Fagus grandifolia	Height: 50'-70', Spread: 50'-70'	Slow	Full sun - part shade					Holds leaves through winter. Warning: the emerging threat of Beech Leaf Disease imperils the viability of these trees. Use them sparingly and with the knowledge that they may decline.
Thornless Honeylocust	Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis	Height: 30'-70', Spread: same	Fast	Full sun		Yes			Yellow fall color
Kentucky Coffeetree	Gymnocladus dioicus	Height: 60-80'; Spread: 40-50'	Medium	Full sun		Certain cultivars			The species is dioecious, meaning that only the female will produce seed pods and needs a male nearby to pollinate. Cultivars like Espresso are male and make good street trees.
Common Witch-Hazel	Hamamelis virginiana	Height: 15-20', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - full shade	Yes		Yes		Yellow flowers emerge in late fall when nothing else is flowering
Carolina Silverbell	Halesia carolina	Height: 30-40', Spread: 25-30'	Medium	Full sun - full shade	Yes		Yes		Attractive white flowers in mass groupings in early spring
Two-Winged Silverbell	Halesia diptera	Height: 20-30', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - full shade	Yes		Yes		Attractive white flowers in mass groupings in spring
American Holly	Ilex opaca	Height: 40-50', Spread: 18'-40'	Slow	Full sun - part shade				Yes	Our native evergreen holly with attractive red berries. The species is dioecious, meaning that only the female will produce fruit and needs a male nearby to pollinate.
Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	Height: 50'-75', Spread: 30'-50'	Medium	Full sun					Roots produce a chemical that inhibits the growth of many common non-native plants such as tomatoes. Walnuts are edible.
Eastern Red Cedar	Juniperus virginiana	Height: 40'-50', Spread: 8'-20'	Medium	Full sun				Yes	Evergreen tree that produces attractive blue berries that persist into winter
American Sweetgum	Liquidambar styraciflua	Height: 60'-80', Spread: 40'-75'	Fast	Full sun					Excellent fall color. Gumballs can be a nuisance, but there are cultivars that produce few; animals eat the seeds in the gumballs.
Tulip Poplar	Liriodendron tulipifera	Height: 70'-120', Spread: 30'-50'	Fast	Full sun			Yes		Very fast growing and long-lived, but will self-prune by dropping branches as it ages; large flowers



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Cucumber Tree	Magnolia acuminata	Height: 40'-70', Spread: 20'-35'	Medium	Full sun - part shade			Yes		Large yellow, tulip-like flowers followed by cucumber-like seedcones that mature to an attractive red
Southern Magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora	Height: 60'-80', Spread: 30'-50'	Slow-medium	Full sun - part shade			Yes	Yes	Fragrant, creamy white flowers in late spring. Evergreen tree with leathery leaves that are dark green on top and rusty underneath.
Bigleaf Magnolia	Magnolia macrophylla	Height: 30'-40', Spread: same	Slow	Full sun - part shade			Yes		Large leaves, more than 2' in length. Showy white flowers in spring.
Sweetbay Magnolia	Magnolia virginiana	Height: 10'-20', Spread: same	Medium-Fast	Full sun - part shade	Yes		Yes	Yes	Creamy white flowers with a lemony scent in late spring.
Crabapple	Malus spp.	Height: 15'-35', Spread: 10'-25'	Medium	Full sun	Yes	Yes	Yes		Showy flowers in spring; whether the fruits are palatable depends on the variety
Red Mulberry	Morus rubra	Height: 40'-50', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade					Produces edible mulberry fruits
Black Tupelo	Nyssa sylvatica	Height: 30'-70', Spread: 30'-45'	Slow	Full sun - part shade		Yes			Among the best bright red fall color
American Hophornbeam	Ostrya virginiana	Height: 30'-50', Spread: 25'	Slow	Full sun - part shade		Yes			Cascading flowers look like hops.
Sourwood	Oxydendrum arboreum	Height: 25'-30', Spread: same	Slow	Full sun - part shade	Yes		Yes		Outstanding red fall color. Summer flowers are attractive to pollinators.
Norway Spruce	Picea abies	Height: 40'-60', Spread: 25'-30'	Medium-Fast	Full sun				Yes	Warning: This species is approved for use in Abington Township only if: 1) no other native evergreen trees species are appropriate based on the unique conditions of the property; or 2) if all appropriate native evergreens are also being used and it is necessary to use a non-native evergreen species to preserve appropriate species diversity. This species has the potential to become invasive in our area, so it should be used sparingly and as a last resort.



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Serbian Spruce	<i>Picea omorika</i>	Height: 40'-60', Spread: 15'-20'	Slow	Full sun - part shade				Yes	Warning: This species is approved for use in Abington Township only if: 1) no other native evergreen trees species are appropriate based on the unique conditions of the property; or 2) if all appropriate native evergreens are also being used and it is necessary to use a non-native evergreen species to preserve appropriate species diversity. This species has the potential to become invasive in our area, so it should be used sparingly and as a last resort.
Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Height: 50'-80', Spread: 20'-40'	Fast	Full sun - part shade				Yes	Evergreen. Warning: these trees are not expected to fare well with rising temperatures due to global warming. They should fare well for the time being, but use sparingly.
Loblolly Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Height: 40'-90', Spread: 20'-40'	Fast	Full sun				Yes	Evergreen.
Virginia Pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	Height: 50'-80', Spread: 25'-35'	Medium	Full sun				Yes	Evergreen.
American Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Height: 80'-130', Spread: 50'-80'	Fast	Full sun - part shade		Yes			As tree matures, the trunk turns white. Mature sycamores are striking specimens.
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Height: 50'-60', Spread: 20'-30'	Fast	Full sun - part shade			Yes		Among the fastest growing native trees, with exceptional wildlife value. As a consequence of the fast growth, it is more prone to damage.
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Height: 80'-100', Spread: 50'-80'	Slow- medium	Full sun		Yes			Oaks are stately in stature and the most important trees ecologically because they support more wildlife than any other species. Oaks can live for hundreds of years if properly planted and cared for.
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Height: 60'-80', Spread: 50'-80'	Medium	Full sun		Yes			Warning: these trees are not expected to fare well with rising temperatures due to global warming. They should fare well for the time being, but use sparingly.
Overcup Oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	Height: 40'-60', Spread: same	Slow	Full sun		Yes			Oaks are stately in stature and the most important trees ecologically because they support more wildlife than any other species. Oaks can live for hundreds of years if properly planted and cared for.



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Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	Height: 70'-80', Spread: same	Slow-medium	Full sun		Yes			Oak with the largest acorns. Oaks are stately in stature and the most important trees ecologically because they support more wildlife than any other species. Oaks can live for hundreds of years if properly planted and cared for.
Swamp Chestnut Oak	Quercus michauxii	Height: 60-100', Spread: 40-60'	Medium	Full sun		Yes			Oaks are stately in stature and the most important trees ecologically because they support more wildlife than any other species. Oaks can live for hundreds of years if properly planted and cared for.
Chestnut Oak	Quercus montana	Height: 60'-70'; Spread: same	Slow-medium	Full sun		Yes			Oaks are stately in stature and the most important trees ecologically because they support more wildlife than any other species. Oaks can live for hundreds of years if properly planted and cared for.
Chinkapin oak	Quercus muehlenbergii	Height: 50'-80', Spread: same	Slow-medium	Full sun		Yes			Good fall color with yellow, yellow brown, and russet. Oaks are stately in stature and the most important trees ecologically because they support more wildlife than any other species. Oaks can live for hundreds of years if properly planted and cared for.
Willow Oak	Quercus phellos	Height: 40'-60', Spread: 30'-40'	Medium	Full sun		Yes			Oaks are stately in stature and the most important trees ecologically because they support more wildlife than any other species. Oaks can live for hundreds of years if properly planted and cared for.
Shumard Oak	Quercus shumardii	Height: 40'-60', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade		Yes			Oaks are stately in stature and the most important trees ecologically because they support more wildlife than any other species. Oaks can live for hundreds of years if properly planted and cared for.
Post Oak	Quercus stellata	Height: 35-50', Spread: same	Slow	Full sun		Yes			Oaks are stately in stature and the most important trees ecologically because they support more wildlife than any other species. Oaks can live for hundreds of years if properly planted and cared for.
Black Willow	Salix nigra	Height: 30-60', Spread: same	Fast	Full sun - part shade					Requires moist soils



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Sassafras	Sassafras albidum	Height: 20'-30', Spread: 25'-40'	Medium-Fast	Full sun - part shade	Yes				Good fall color that is bright red, orange, or yellow
Pagoda Dogwood	Swida alternifolia (formerly Cornus alternifolia)	Height: 20', Spread: 15'-20'	Medium	Full sun - part shade		Yes	Yes		Red fall color, attractive berries
Bald Cypress	Taxodium distichum	Height 50'-70', Spread 20'-30'	Medium	Full sun - part shade					Conifer that drops its needles in the fall
American Arborvitae	Thuja occidentalis	Height: 40'-60', Spread 10'-15'	Slow - Medium	Full sun				Yes	Evergreen, native arborvitae
Arborvitae Hybrids	Thuja hybrids	Varies	Varies	Full sun				Yes	This includes various Thuja hybrids, such as Thuja standishii x plicata 'Green Giant'. Warning: This species is approved for use in Abington Township only if: 1) no other native evergreen trees species are appropriate based on the unique conditions of the property; or 2) if all appropriate native evergreens are also being used and it is necessary to use a non-native evergreen species to preserve appropriate species diversity. This species has the potential to become invasive in our area, so it should be used sparingly and as a last resort.
American Linden	Tilia americana	Height: 50'-70', Spread: 35'-50'	Medium	Full sun - part shade		Yes			Covered in flowers in late spring that are popular with pollinators
Canadian Hemlock	Tsuga canadensis	Height: 40'-70', Spread: 25'-35'	Medium	Part shade - full shade				Yes	A shade-tolerant evergreen. Warning: these trees are slowly killed by the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Only plant these trees if there is a long-term management plan to control the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.
American Elm	Ulmus americana	Height 60'-80', Spread 50'-80'	Medium-Fast	Full sun		Yes			Plant only a native variety that is resistant to Dutch Elm disease, such as 'Jefferson,' 'Princeton,' 'Valley Forge,' or 'New Harmony'. Beware of inadvertently planting a hybrid of a non-native Elm.