



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

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Tree Common Name	Tree Botanical Name	Mature Size	Growth Rate	Light	Small Tree	Street Tree	Showy Flowers	Evergreen	Notes
Downy Serviceberry	Amelanchier arborea	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	Amelanchier canadensis	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	Amelanchier laevis	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	Asimina triloba	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	Benthamidia florida (formerly Cornus florida)	Height: 15'-20', Spread: 10'-12'	Medium	Full sun - part shade	Yes		Yes		Large spring flowers; red fall color
American Hornbeam	Carpinus caroliniana	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.
Eastern Redbud	Cercis canadensis	Height: 20'-30', Spread: 25'-30'	Fast	Full sun - part shade	Yes	Yes	Yes		Beautiful early spring-blooming tree with purple flowers
White Fringetree	Chionanthus virginicus	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.
American Smoketree	Cotinus obovatus	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	Crataegus crus-galli	Height: 25'-35', Spread: Same	Medium	Full sun	Yes		Yes		Attractive white flowers in spring followed by berries persisting into winter
Washington Hawthorn	Crataegus phaenopyrum	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	Crataegus pruinosa	Height: 15'-20', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade	Yes		Yes		Attractive white flowers in spring followed by berries persisting into winter



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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
American Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	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.
Common Witch-Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	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	<i>Halesia carolina</i>	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	<i>Halesia diptera</i>	Height: 20-30', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - full shade	Yes		Yes		Attractive white flowers in mass groupings in spring
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	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	<i>Malus</i> 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
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Height: 25'-30', Spread: same	Slow	Full sun - part shade	Yes		Yes		Outstanding red fall color. Summer flowers are attractive to pollinators.
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Height: 20'-30', Spread: 25'-40'	Medium-Fast	Full sun - part shade	Yes				Good fall color that is bright red, orange, or yellow