



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

www.abingtonpa.gov/stc

Tree Common Name	Tree Botanical Name	Mature Size	Growth Rate	Light	Small Tree	Street Tree	Showy Flowers	Evergreen	Notes
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Height: 40'-60', Spread: same	Fast	Full sun - part shade		Yes			Orange-red fall color
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.
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	Height: 40'-70', Spread: 40'-60'	Medium	Full sun - part shade		Yes			Attractive peeling bark
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
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.
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
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
Thornless Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>	Height: 30'-70', Spread: same	Fast	Full sun		Yes			Yellow fall color
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	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.
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



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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.
American Sycamore	Platanus occidentalis	Height: 80'-130', Spread: 50'-80'	Fast	Full sun - part shade		Yes			As tree matures, the trunk turns white. Mature sycamores are striking specimens.
White Oak	Quercus alba	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	Quercus bicolor	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	Quercus lyrata	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.
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.



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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.
Pagoda Dogwood	Swida alternifolia (formerly Cornus alternifolia)	Height: 20', Spread: 15'-20'	Medium	Full sun - part shade		Yes	Yes		Red fall color, attractive berries
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
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.