



## Abington Township Shade Tree Commission Recommended Flowering 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
Ohio Buckeye	Aesculus glabra	Height: 20-40', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade			Yes		White flowers in spring and distinctive "buckeye" seeds in fall
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.
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
Southern Catalpa	Catalpa bignonioides	Height: 30-40', Spread: same	Medium	Full sun - part shade			Yes		White flowers in late spring
Northern Catalpa	Catalpa speciosa	Height: 40-60', Spread: 20-40'	Fast	Full sun		Yes	Yes		White flowers in early summer
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.
Yellowwood	Cladrastis kentukea	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	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



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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
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
Tulip Poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	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
Cucumber Tree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	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	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	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	<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>	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	<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.
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.
Pagoda Dogwood	<i>Swida alternifolia</i> (formerly <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> )	Height: 20', Spread: 15'-20'	Medium	Full sun - part shade		Yes	Yes		Red fall color, attractive berries