



Abington Township Shade Tree Commission Recommended Evergreen 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
Atlantic White Cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Height: 30'-50', Spread: 30'-40'	Medium	Full sun - part shade				Yes	Appropriate for wet conditions
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	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.
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Height: 40'-50', Spread: 8'-20'	Medium	Full sun				Yes	Evergreen tree that produces attractive blue berries that persist into winter
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.
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.
Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	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.
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.



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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 Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Height: 40-60', Spread 10-15'	Slow - Medium	Full sun				Yes	Evergreen, native arborvitae
Arborvitae Hybrids	<i>Thuja</i> hybrids	Varies	Varies	Full sun				Yes	This includes various <i>Thuja</i> hybrids, such as <i>Thuja standishii</i> x <i>plicata</i> '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.
Canadian Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	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.