

Native Tree Species of Georgia

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The native trees of Georgia represent a great ecological bounty and a rich cultural history. Native trees live from the mountains to the sea in many diverse habitats and under many environmental constraints. Native trees add value, comfort, and beauty to life in Georgia. They have provided medicine, food, fiber, shelter, recreation and aesthetic values. Native trees witnessed the arrival of many groups of explorers and settlers, many Native Americans, and a number of ice ages. Native trees are wonderfully adapted to a local area's climate, soils, pests and other plants. There is a native tree well-suited for every planting site or landscape position.

A "tree" is defined here as a perennial plant capable of attaining a size greater than 15 feet in total height and greater than 4 inches in stem diameter. A "native" tree is defined as being found within the last three centuries growing wild and reproducing naturally in Georgia, and not introduced from outside the state by humans.

Table 1 lists the native trees of Georgia as determined by multiple sources. The first names listed in each line are each tree's unique scientific name. Following next on the same line is the most commonly used name for each tree. Several tree species can share the same common name, but each will have its own scientific name.

How many of these native trees are in your yard, at your school, or in a local park?
How many can you find?

Table 1: Native trees of Georgia listed alphabetically by scientific name and includes the most widely used common name.

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Abies fraseri</u>	Fraser fir	<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	redbud
<u>Acacia farnesiana</u>	sweet acacia	<u>Chamaecyparis thyoides</u>	Atlantic whitecedar
<u>Acer barbatum</u>	Southern sugar maple	<u>Chionanthus virginicus</u>	fringetree
<u>Acer leucoderme</u>	chalk maple	<u>Cladrastis kentukea</u>	yellowwood
<u>Acer negundo</u>	boxelder	<u>Clethra acuminata</u>	sweet pepperbush
<u>Acer nigrum</u>	black maple	<u>Cliftonia monophylla</u>	buckwheat tree
<u>Acer pensylvanicum</u>	striped maple	<u>Cornus alternifolia</u>	alternate-leaf dogwood
<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple	<u>Cornus florida</u>	flowering dogwood
<u>Acer saccharinum</u>	silver maple	<u>Cornus foemina</u>	stiff dogwood
<u>Acer saccharum</u>	sugar maple	<u>Cornus stricta</u>	swamp dogwood
<u>Acer spicatum</u>	mountain maple	<u>Cotinus obovatus</u>	smoketree
<u>Aesculus flava</u>	yellow buckeye	<u>Crataegus aestivalis</u>	mayhaw
<u>Aesculus glabra</u>	Ohio buckeye	<u>Crataegus aprica</u>	sunny hawthorn
<u>Aesculus parviflora</u>	bottlebrush buckeye	<u>Crataegus brachyacantha</u>	blueberry hawthorn
<u>Aesculus pavia</u>	red buckeye	<u>Crataegus calpodendron</u>	pear hawthorn
<u>Aesculus sylvatica</u>	Georgia buckeye	<u>Crataegus crus-galli</u>	cockspur hawthorn
<u>Alnus serrulata</u>	hazel alder	<u>Crataegus flabellata</u>	fanleaf hawthorn
<u>Amelanchier arborea</u>	serviceberry	<u>Crataegus flava</u>	yellow hawthorn
<u>Aralia spinosa</u>	devil's walkingstick	<u>Crataegus intricata</u>	Biltmore hawthorn
<u>Asimina parviflora</u>	dwarf pawpaw	<u>Crataegus marshallii</u>	parsley hawthorn
<u>Asimina triloba</u>	pawpaw	<u>Crataegus phaenopyrum</u>	Washington hawthorn
<u>Baccharis halimifolia</u>	Eastern baccharis	<u>Crataegus pruinosa</u>	waxy-fruit hawthorn
<u>Betula alleghaniensis</u>	yellow birch	<u>Crataegus pulcherrima</u>	beautiful hawthorn
<u>Betula lenta</u>	sweet birch	<u>Crataegus punctata</u>	dotted hawthorn
<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch	<u>Crataegus spathulata</u>	littlehip hawthorn
<u>Carpinus caroliniana</u>	American hornbeam	<u>Crataegus succulenta</u>	succulent hawthorn
<u>Carya aquatica</u>	water hickory	<u>Crataegus triflora</u>	three-flower hawthorn
<u>Carya australis</u>	Southern shagbark hickory	<u>Crataegus uniflora</u>	dwarf hawthorn
<u>Carya cordiformis</u>	bitternut hickory	<u>Crataegus viridis</u>	green hawthorn
<u>Carya glabra</u>	pignut hickory	<u>Cyrilla parvifolia</u>	littleleaf titi
<u>Carya laciniosa</u>	shellbark hickory	<u>Cyrilla racemiflora</u>	swamp titi
<u>Carya myristiciformis</u>	nutmeg hickory	<u>Diospyros virginiana</u>	persimmon
<u>Carya ovalis</u>	red hickory	<u>Elliotia racemosa</u>	Georgia plume
<u>Carya ovata</u>	shagbark hickory	<u>Euonymus atropurpureus</u>	burningbush
<u>Carya pallida</u>	sand hickory	<u>Fagus grandifolia</u>	American beech
<u>Carya tomentosa</u>	mockernut hickory	<u>Forestiera acuminata</u>	swamp-privet
<u>Castanea dentata</u>	American chestnut	<u>Forestiera segregata</u>	Florida-privet
<u>Castanea pumila</u>	chinquapin	<u>Franklinia alatamaha</u>	Franklin tree
<u>Catalpa bignonioides</u>	Southern catalpa	<u>Fraxinus americana</u>	white ash
<u>Celtis laevigata</u>	sugarberry	<u>Fraxinus caroliniana</u>	Carolina ash
<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>	hackberry	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash
<u>Celtis tenuifolia</u>	Georgia hackberry	<u>Fraxinus profunda</u>	pumpkin ash
<u>Cephalanthus occidentalis</u>	buttonbush	<u>Fraxinus quadrangulata</u>	blue ash

Table 1: Native trees of Georgia listed alphabetically by scientific name and includes the most widely used common name. (continued)

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Gleditsia aquatica</u>	water locust	<u>Morus rubra</u>	red mulberry
<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	honeylocust	<u>Myrica cerifera</u>	wax-myrtle
<u>Gordonia lasianthus</u>	loblolly bay	<u>Myrica heterophylla</u>	evergreen bayberry
		<u>Myrica inodora</u>	odorless bayberry
<u>Halesia carolina</u>	little silverbell	<u>Nyssa aquatica</u>	water tupelo
<u>Halesia diptera</u>	two-wing silverbell	<u>Nyssa biflora</u>	swamp tupelo
<u>Halesia tetraptera</u>	mountain silverbell	<u>Nyssa ogeche</u>	Ogeeche-lime
<u>Hamamelis virginiana</u>	American witch-hazel	<u>Nyssa sylvatica</u>	blackgum
<u>Ilex ambigua</u>	Carolina holly	<u>Osmanthus americanus</u>	devilwood
<u>Ilex amelanchier</u>	sarvis holly	<u>Ostrya virginiana</u>	Eastern hophornbeam
<u>Ilex cassine</u>	dahoon	<u>Oxydendrum arboreum</u>	sourwood
<u>Ilex coriacea</u>	large gallberry		
<u>Ilex decidua</u>	possumhaw	<u>Persea borbonia</u>	red-bay
<u>Ilex longipes</u>	Georgia holly	<u>Persea palustris</u>	swamp-bay
<u>Ilex montana</u>	mountain holly	<u>Pinckneya bracteata</u>	fevertree
<u>Ilex myrtifolia</u>	myrtle dahoon	<u>Pinus echinata</u>	shortleaf pine
<u>Ilex opaca</u>	American holly	<u>Pinus elliotii</u>	slash pine
<u>Ilex verticillata</u>	winterberry	<u>Pinus glabra</u>	spruce pine
<u>Ilex vomitoria</u>	yaupon	<u>Pinus palustris</u>	longleaf pine
<u>Illicium floridanum</u>	Florida anisetree	<u>Pinus pungens</u>	Table Mountain pine
<u>Illicium parviflorum</u>	yellow anisetree	<u>Pinus rigida</u>	pitch pine
<u>Juglans cinerea</u>	butternut	<u>Pinus serotina</u>	pond pine
<u>Juglans nigra</u>	black walnut	<u>Pinus strobus</u>	Eastern white pine
<u>Juniperus communis</u>	common juniper	<u>Pinus taeda</u>	loblolly pine
<u>Juniperus silicicola</u>	Southern redcedar	<u>Pinus virginiana</u>	Virginia pine
<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar	<u>Planera aquatica</u>	planertree
		<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	American sycamore
<u>Kalmia latifolia</u>	mountain-laurel	<u>Populus deltoides</u>	Eastern cottonwood
		<u>Populus heterophylla</u>	swamp cottonwood
<u>Leitneria floridana</u>	corkwood	<u>Prunus alabamensis</u>	Alabama cherry
<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum	<u>Prunus americana</u>	American plum
<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow-poplar	<u>Prunus angustifolia</u>	Chickasaw plum
<u>Lyonia ferruginea</u>	staggerbush	<u>Prunus caroliniana</u>	laurelcherry
		<u>Prunus mexicana</u>	Mexican plum
<u>Magnolia acuminata</u>	mountain cucumber-tree	<u>Prunus pensylvanica</u>	fire cherry
<u>Magnolia cordata</u>	Piedmont cucumber-tree	<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry
<u>Magnolia fraseri</u>	mountain magnolia	<u>Prunus umbellata</u>	flatwoods plum
<u>Magnolia grandiflora</u>	Southern magnolia	<u>Ptelea trifoliata</u>	hoptree
<u>Magnolia macrophylla</u>	bigleaf magnolia		
<u>Magnolia pyramidata</u>	pyramid magnolia	<u>Quercus alba</u>	white oak
<u>Magnolia tripetala</u>	umbrella-tree	<u>Quercus arkansana</u>	Arkansas oak
<u>Magnolia virginiana</u>	sweetbay	<u>Quercus austrina</u>	bluff oak
<u>Malus angustifolia</u>	Southern crabapple	<u>Quercus breviloba</u>	Gulf oak
<u>Malus coronaria</u>	sweet crabapple	<u>Quercus chapmanii</u>	Chapman oak

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<u>Quercus coccinea</u>	scarlet oak	<u>Sambucus canadensis</u>	American elder
<u>Quercus falcata</u>	Southern red oak	<u>Sambucus simpsonii</u>	Southern elder
<u>Quercus geminata</u>	sand live oak	<u>Sapindus marginatus</u>	Florida soapberry
<u>Quercus georgiana</u>	Georgia oak	<u>Sassafras albidum</u>	sassafras
<u>Quercus hemisphaerica</u>	laurel oak	<u>Serenoa repens</u>	saw palmetto
<u>Quercus imbricaria</u>	shingle oak	<u>Sideroxylon lanuginosa</u>	gum bumelia
<u>Quercus incana</u>	bluejack oak	<u>Sideroxylon lycioides</u>	buckthorn bumelia
<u>Quercus laevis</u>	turkey oak	<u>Sideroxylon tenax</u>	tough bumelia
<u>Quercus laurifolia</u>	swamp laurel oak	<u>Sorbus americana</u>	American mountain-ash
<u>Quercus lyrata</u>	overcup oak	<u>Staphylea trifolia</u>	bladdernut
<u>Quercus margaretta</u>	sand post oak	<u>Stewartia malacodendron</u>	silky camellia
<u>Quercus marilandica</u>	blackjack oak	<u>Stewartia ovata</u>	mountain camellia
<u>Quercus michauxii</u>	swamp chestnut oak	<u>Styrax americanus</u>	American snowbell
<u>Quercus minima</u>	dwarf live oak	<u>Styrax grandifolius</u>	bigleaf snowbell
<u>Quercus montana</u>	chestnut oak	<u>Symplocos tinctoria</u>	sweetleaf
<u>Quercus muehlenbergii</u>	chinquapin oak	<u>Taxodium ascendens</u>	pond-cypress
<u>Quercus myrtifolia</u>	myrtle oak	<u>Taxodium distichum</u>	bald-cypress
<u>Quercus nigra</u>	water oak	<u>Tilia americana</u>	American basswood
<u>Quercus oglethorpensis</u>	Oglethorpe oak	<u>Tilia caroliniana</u>	Carolina basswood
<u>Quercus pagoda</u>	cherrybark oak	<u>Tilia floridana</u>	Florida basswood
<u>Quercus palustris</u>	pin oak	<u>Tilia heterophylla</u>	white basswood
<u>Quercus phellos</u>	willow oak	<u>Torreya taxifolia</u>	torreya
<u>Quercus prinoides</u>	dwarf chinquapin oak	<u>Toxicodendron vernix</u>	poison sumac
<u>Quercus rubra</u>	Northern red oak	<u>Tsuga canadensis</u>	Eastern hemlock
<u>Quercus shumardii</u>	Shumard's oak	<u>Tsuga caroliniana</u>	Carolina hemlock
<u>Quercus similis</u>	swamp post oak	<u>Ulmus alata</u>	winged elm
<u>Quercus sinuata</u>	bastard (Durand) oak	<u>Ulmus americana</u>	American elm
<u>Quercus stellata</u>	post oak	<u>Ulmus rubra</u>	slippery elm
<u>Quercus velutina</u>	black oak	<u>Ulmus serotina</u>	September elm
<u>Quercus virginiana</u>	live oak	<u>Vaccinium arboreum</u>	farkleberry
<u>Rhamnus caroliniana</u>	buckthorn	<u>Viburnum cassinoides</u>	Northern possumhaw
<u>Rhododendron catawbiense</u>	purple-laurel	<u>Viburnum dentatum</u>	Southern arrowwood
<u>Rhododendron maximum</u>	rosebay-laurel	<u>Viburnum lentago</u>	nannyberry
<u>Rhus copallinum</u>	winged sumac	<u>Viburnum nudum</u>	Southern possumhaw
<u>Rhus glabra</u>	smooth sumac	<u>Viburnum obovatum</u>	small-leaf arrowwood
<u>Rhus typhina</u>	staghorn sumac	<u>Viburnum prunifolium</u>	blackhaw
<u>Robinia hispida</u>	pink locust	<u>Viburnum rufidulum</u>	rusty blackhaw
<u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u>	black locust	<u>Yucca aloifolia</u>	Spanish-bayonet
<u>Robinia viscosa</u>	clammy locust	<u>Yucca gloriosa</u>	moundlilly yucca
<u>Sabal palmetto</u>	cabbage palmetto	<u>Zanthoxylum americanum</u>	prickly-ash
<u>Salix caroliniana</u>	Coastal Plain willow	<u>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</u>	Hercules' club
<u>Salix floridana</u>	Florida willow		
<u>Salix nigra</u>	black willow		
<u>Salix sericea</u>	silky willow		

Native trees of Georgia statistics:

Number of trees on list = 253

Largest five genera (33% of all trees) =	<u>Quercus</u>	oak	(35 species)
	<u>Crataegus</u>	hawthorn	(18 species)
	<u>Ilex</u>	holly	(11 species)
	<u>Carya</u>	hickory	(10 species)
	<u>Pinus</u>	pine	(10 species)
Genera with taxonomic problems =	<u>Crataegus</u>	spp. hawthorn	
	<u>Tilia</u>	spp. basswood	

Primary sources include:

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