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Dendrology Series

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Rare Trees of Georgia

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Georgia has an abundance of trees. A number are wetland trees and a number grow in upland areas. The diversity of tree species, and the varied habitats in which they grow, are great across Georgia. Among all these trees are a few species of great rarity. These rare native trees of Georgia are hidden ecological treasures. These trees are difficult to find in the field and have small populations. The federal and state government lists a number of these rare trees on species lists as endangered, threatened, or rare.

Below is a table showing the distribution of rarity values among Georgia's selected rare trees. The species list which follows gives the rarest native trees in Georgia, listed by scientific name, common name, and a relative rarity value of 1-10, with 1 being the rarest. A roadtrip to find all these species in Georgia would be a wonderful tree adventure.

Rarity Value Number of Species		
7	4	
6	9	
5	6	
4	10	
3	5	
2	4	
1	4	

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scientific name	common name	relative rarity value
<u>Acacia farnesiana</u> <u>Acer spicatum</u> <u>Aesculus glabra</u> <u>Aesculus parviflora</u>	sweet acacia mountain maple Ohio buckeye bottlebrush buckeye	5 6 4
<u>Carya laciniosa</u> <u>Carya myristiciformis</u> <u>Chamaecyparis thyoides</u> <u>Cotinus obovatus</u> <u>Crataegus brachyacantha</u> <u>Crataegus pulcherrima</u> <u>Crataegus triflora</u>	shellbark hickory nutmeg hickory Atlantic white-cedar American smoketree blueberry hawthorn beautiful hawthorn three-flower hawthorn	7 3* 4* 4 7 3 2*
Elliottia racemosa	Georgia plume	2*
<u>Franklinia alatamaha</u> Fraxinus quadrangulata	Franklin tree blue ash	1 X 5
<u>llex amelanchier</u> <u>Illicium floridanum</u> <u>Illicium parviflorum</u>	serviceberry holly Florida anise-tree yellow anise-tree	6 3* 4
Juglans cinerea	butternut	6
Leitneria floridana	corkwood	2*
<u>Magnolia pyramidata</u> <u>Morella inodora</u>	pyramid magnolia odorless bayberry	7 3
<u>Prunus mexicana</u> Prunus pensylvanica	Mexican plum fire cherry	4 6
Quercus arkansana Quercus austrina Quercus chapmanii Quercus imbricaria Quercus oglethorpensis Quercus prinoides	Arkansas oak bluff oak Chapman oak shingle oak Oglethorpe oak dwarf chinkapin oak	5 6 5 3* 7

scientific name	common name	relative rarity value
<u>Quercus similis</u> <u>Quercus sinuata</u>	swamp post oak bastard (Durand) oak	4 4
Rhus typhina	staghorn sumac	5
Salix floridana Sambucus simpsonii Sapindus marginatus Sideroxylon thornei Sorbus americana Stewartia malacodendron	Florida willow Southern elderberry Florida soapberry swamp bumelia American mountain-ash silky camellia	1* 6 4* 2 6 4*
<u>Torreya taxifolia</u> <u>Tsuga caroliniana</u>	Florida torreya Carolina hemlock	1** 1*
<u>Ulmus serotina</u>	September elm	4
Zanthoxylum americanum	northern prickly-ash	5

symbol key: * = State of Georgia listed species; ** = federally listed species; X = extinct.