

Rare Trees of Georgia

by Dr. Kim D. Coder, Professor of Tree Biology & Health Care,
Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Georgia

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.

<u>Rarity Value</u>	<u>Number of Species</u>
7	4
6	9
5	6
4	10
3	5
2	4
1	4

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

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

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