



Native Plants for Alabama

Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines

What are native plants?

- Plants that grow naturally in a particular region without direct or indirect human intervention
- Plants that were present in a particular area prior to European settlement
- Plants that have inhabited a particular region for thousands of years
- Plants naturally occurring, either presently or historically, in any ecosystem of the United States.

Why use native plants ?

- Wildlife habitat
- Adapted to local conditions
- Ecological preservation



Tulip Poplar

Fothergilla

Virginia Sweetspire



MEDIUM AND LARGE TREES

Red Maple

Acer rubrum



Credit: Chris Evans



Credit: Wendy VanDyk Evans

Somewhat
overused in
southern
landscape

Many Cultivars: October Glory, Brandywine, etc

Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum



Credit: Ed McDowell

Fine specimen tree in moist well drained sites – try “Legacy” or “Reba Belle Tower” from TN



Credit: Ed McDowell

River Birch

Betula nigra



Fast growth –
somewhat
messy – try
“Duraheat for
better leaf
retention

American Yellowwood

Cladrastis kentukea (syn. *Cladrastis lutea*)



Medium size – fragrant
beautiful blooms in late
spring – golden fall color
Somewhat difficult to find.

1999 Georgia Gold Medal Winner



American Holly
Ilex opaca

Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana



Improved Cultivars
are available:
'Brodie', 'Idyllwild'
"Burki" (grey/green)

Needs full
sun – tolerant
of poor soils
and a wide
pH range



Tulip Poplar or Yellow Poplar

Liriodendron tulipifera



Med/Fast growth – leaves tulip shaped and fragrant orange to yellow blooms – moist deep soils

Credit : Chris Evans

Suited for large or commercial landscapes that are irrigated

Southern Magnolia

Magnolia grandiflora

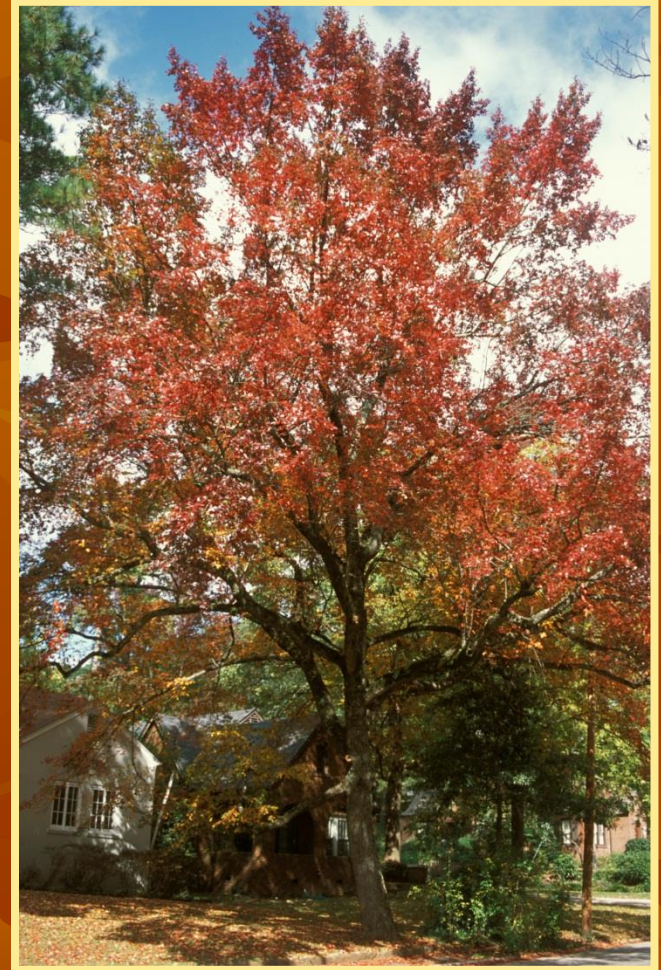


Needs ample
moisture –
med/slow
growth



Smaller Cultivars: Little
Gem, 'Bracken's Brown
Beauty', Teddy Bear and
DD Blanchard to name a
few.

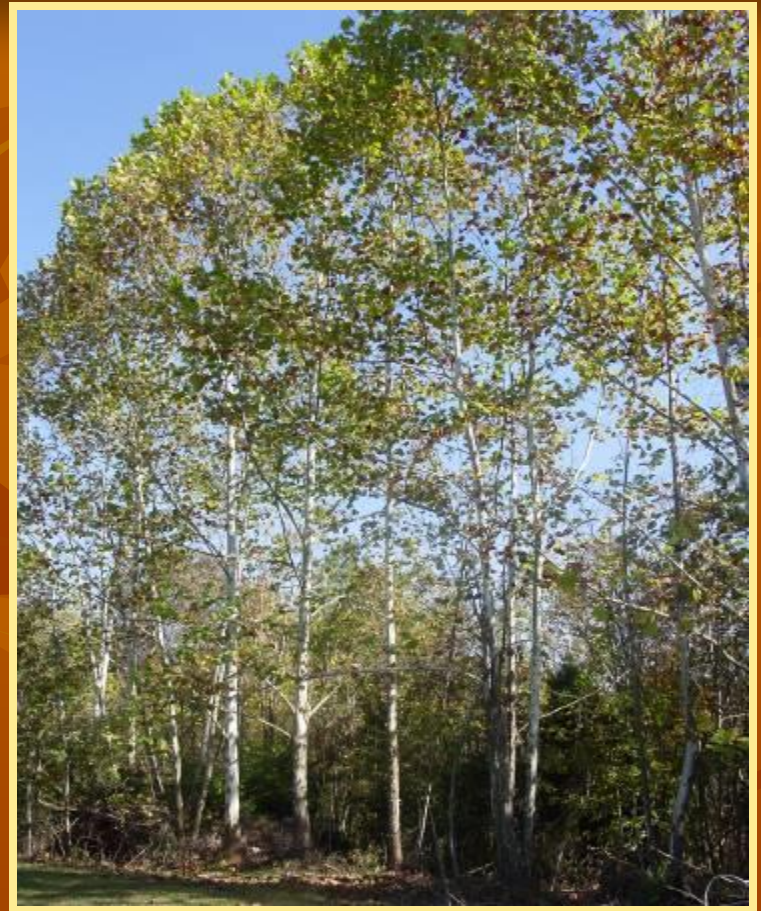
Black Gum *Nyssa sylvatica*



Outstanding red to burgundy fall color. Tolerates poor soil and drought (avoid alkaline soils)

Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis



Fast grower – weak wood – beautiful bark – insect/disease prone



White Oak *Quercus alba*



Slow/medium growth rate
Stately appearance – well
drained but moist soils
preferred but very adaptable

Q. Bicolor – swamp
white oak for wet areas



Southern Red Oak
Quercus falcata

Fairly fast grower
adapted to dry sites

Nuttal Oak

Quercus nuttalli



Relatively fast growing
Red/orange fall color
Transplants well

Willow Oak

Quercus phellos



Good urban tree
although it may heave
walkways over time.

Fast growing

Red oak group

Cultivars available: Wynnstar, Hightower

Overcup Oak

Quercus lyrata



Fast growing broadleaf oak, tolerant of wet sites. Yellow fall color, exfoliating bark (similar to white oak) at a young age. Transplant well.

Bald Cypress

Taxodium distichum



Fall Color



Beautiful specimen tree –
deciduous – bronze fall color –
wet (makes knees) dry (no knees)



SMALL TREES

Florida or Southern Sugar Maple

Acer barbatum



Credit: David J. Moorhead

Slow/med growth
– more tolerant of
high temps than
regular sugar
maple 35-40ft –
moist well drained

American Hornbeam, Ironwood, or Musclemwood

Carpinus caroliniana



Good specimen
– street
tree – wet
or dry
soils

Slow/med growth – smooth muscle like trunk 35-40ft

Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis



Use instead of flowering cherries

Mid season bloomer



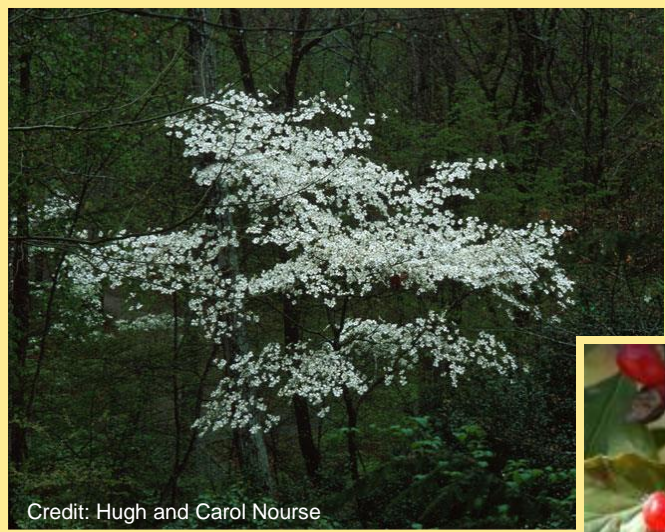
Fruit on female trees



Fringetree or Grancy-Greybeard

Chionanthus virginicus

Blooms when small



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Chris Evans



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Credit: Ed McDowell

Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

Improved disease
resistance available:
Appalachian Spring

Carolina Silverbell

Halesia tetraptera



Med growth rate – understory
Wet to Moist soil but
occasional drought is OK – 25’

Possumhaw

Ilex decidua



CVs: Warrens Red, Council Fire, Red Cascade, Sentry and Pocahontas (Finch's Gold)

Deciduous holly – med growth rate – beautiful with foliage gone – cedar wax wings love it in late winter
Full sun/part shade specimen plant or mixed border

Winterberry *Ilex verticillata*



Deciduous shrub to 10ft –
females produce wonderful
fruit loved by birds and
other wildlife – many
cultivars available – some
dwarf forms





Credit: Hugh Nourse

Yaupon Holly

Ilex vomitoria



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse

American Hophornbeam, Ironwood

Ostrya virginiana



Interesting bark
part to full sun
moist to dry soils

Slow growth rate – yellow fall color but
leaves remain – fruit look like hops

Sourwood

Oxydendrum arboreum



Credit: Ed McDowell



Med/slow growth rate – flowers June-July – Honey
Nice fall color – great landscape tree - understory

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum



Dioecious



Med growth rate – very interesting foliage and branching habit – flowers March – poor soils fine – spreads via suckers – fruit for birds
File' in the File' Gumbo also used as a tea



SHRUBS

Bottlebrush Buckeye

Aesculus parviflora



10 x 10 shrub. Yellow fall color.

Flowers March –
spreads – part
shade and good
moisture – prune
after bloom

Red Buckeye

Aesculus pavia



Moist areas only – 12-15ft –
defoliates in drought very early –
ruby throated hummingbirds
love it – flowers well in shade
but better in half day sun.



American Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana



Credit: Ed McDowell

Deciduous shrub to 4' - known for clusters of bright purple berries late summer and fall.

Important bird food and good for flower arrangements.

‘Lactea’ for white or ‘Welch’s Pink’ for pink berries in addition to the purple forms.

Prune hard in late winter.

Sweetshrub

Calycanthus floridus



Deciduous shrub of 6-10 ft. Foliage has spicy aroma when crushed, sweet-scented purple-brown flowers in spring. Upright form, yellow fall color. Grows along fertile woodlands, hillsides and sandy streams. Colonizes - great for naturalistic settings - an heirloom garden plant.



Cultivar, Athens has yellow blooms

Summersweet Clethra (syn. Sweet Pepperbush) *Clethra alnifolia*



Deciduous shrub to 5 ft. with many white flower spikes for 4-6 weeks in summer. Hummers and butterflies adore the spicy fragrance and you will too! Likes wet to moist, acid soils with full sun to partial shade

Red Titi or Swamp Titi

Cyrilla racemiflora

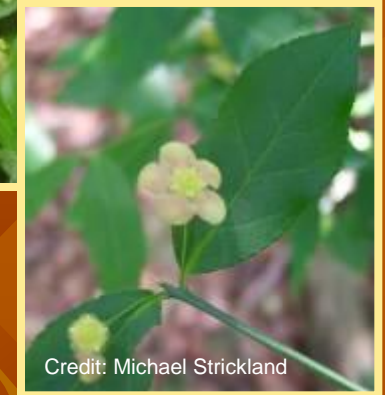


Med growth rate –
semi evergreen – fall
color orange to scarlet

Fragrant blooms in summer on new wood – moist
soils – bee plant – part to full sun – 10-20 ft – great
plant



Credit: Michael Strickland



Credit: Michael Strickland



Credit: Michael Strickland



Credit: Michael Strickland



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse

Strawberry Bush

Euonymus americanus

Description —
next slide

EUONYMUS AMERICANA

"HEARTS-A-BUSTIN"

- Distinctive strawberry pods with coral seed in the fall which the turkeys love. Green stems all year - grows to 5 ft. Prefers shade and moist, well drained soils.
- www.doddnatives.com



Dwarf Fothergilla

Fothergilla gardenii



- Multi season native plant
- Blooms in April
- 3-5 feet Dwarf form
- Nice fall color – Scarlet to yellow
- Tolerates drought and occasional wetness
- pH preference acid soils
- Partial sun, partial shade
- Cultivars: Mt. Airy and Blue Mist



Oakleaf Hydrangea *Hydrangea quercifolia*

Flowers on old wood – prune after bloom
Many improved cultivars

Hydrangea arborescens

Smooth or Wild Hydrangea

- Freely suckers; flowers on new growth so prune in early spring
- Sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained soil; not drought tolerant



'Annabelle' is one of a few improved cultivars
'Invincibelle Spirit' is the first pink *H. arborescens*

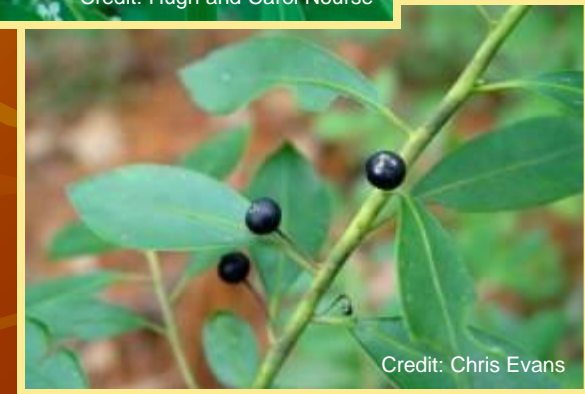
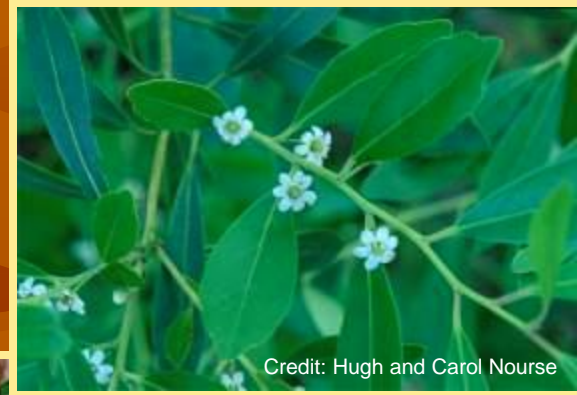
ILEX CASSINE 'TENSAW'
"TENSAW' DAHOON
HOLLY"

- Evergreen shrub or small tree to 15'. Tolerant of any conditions.
EXCELLENT SUBSTITUTE FOR ANY BROADLEAF EVERGREEN.
Round leaves, compact growth. Excellent for hedges, or specimens. Big red berries in winter. Good bird food. Zone 7 - 10. **FAST GROWING.** No known pest problems.



Gallberry or Inkberry

Ilex glabra



Evergreen –
very versatile –
sun or shade
moist only
8ft – wildlife -
bees

Compacta cultivar stays smaller
and more dense – Japanese holly
substitute

Florida Anise-tree

Illicium floridanum



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Steve Sanchez



Credit: Fred Mileszko

Evergreen – great shade plant for moist soils – 10ft

'Pink Frost'

PPAF

*Illicium
floridanum*



New from
Harp's Farm
and Plant
Introductions,
Inc.

Shade loving shrub from Plant Introductions



Introduction

Vigorous, cream-margined, green-centered leaf selection; leaves rose-tinted with the advent of the cold weather. Foliage held at ~60° angle to the strong upright stems; the overall plant vigor significantly greater than that of Shady Lady™. Flowers are deep red-maroon of the species; whereas those of Shady Lady™ are light pink.

This unique introduction comes via Mickey Harp, Harp's Farm, Fayetteville, GA. Mickey licensed Plant Introductions, Inc. to evaluate, propagate, and market. Intriguing to observe visitors who often ask the identity. Where the leaves of Shady Lady™ are somewhat "Dog-eared," those of the new introduction "Stand at Attention."

Features

- Strong growth and uniform habit
- 6 to 10' high and wide
- Beautiful leaf variegation (green-white) with cooler weather producing rose tints
- Flowers red-maroon, April-May
- Wet soil adaptable, shade tolerant
- Uses: shady border, groupings, masses, containers on a shady patio
- Zone 6 to 10 adaptability

For information on suppliers or becoming a licensed grower, please contact:

A US plant patent has been applied for. Propagation of this plant is prohibited.

Plant Introductions, Inc. 2690 Antioch Church Rd. Watkinsville, GA 30677
(P) 706-340-4100 (F) 706-769-4618 www.plantintroductions.com



Yellow Anise-tree

Illicium parviflorum



Credit: Steve Sanchez

Evergreen – faster – more sun – 6-10ft



Virginia Sweetspire

Itea virginica



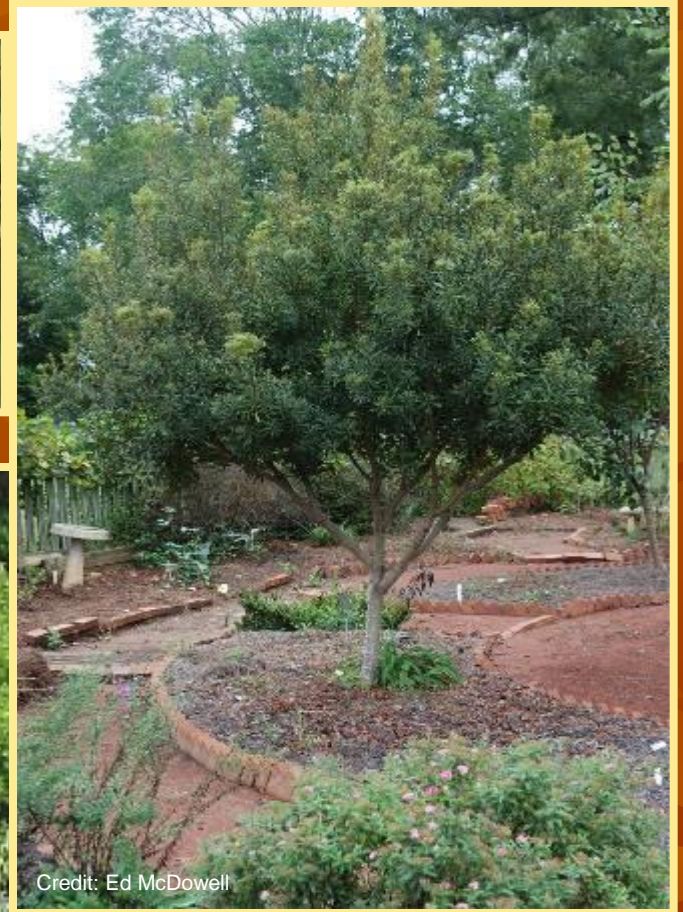
Deciduous – med
growth – great fall
color – moist
fertile soils – full
sun to light shade

Southern Wax Myrtle

Morella cerifera (syn. *Myrica cerifera*)



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Credit: Ed McDowell



Male and
female on
separate plants
– nice
specimen plant
– 15 to 20ft

Mapleleaf Viburnum

Viburnum acerifolium



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Steve Sanchez



Credit: Theresa Schrum

Deciduous – low growing – blooms April – moist shady areas – black fruit for birds and wildlife - colonizes in understory

Deciduous Azaleas

Rhodendron spp.





WOODY VINES

Crossvine

Bignonia capreolata



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Credit: Ed McDowell

Tough fast growing vine - sun

Semi-evergreen

Climbing Hydrangea

Decumaria barbara



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse

Deciduous – fragrant small bloom clusters – May-June – moist shady areas.

Carolina Yellow Jessamine

Gelsemium sempervirens



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Ed McDowell

Tough plant – fall/winter
fragrant blooms - sun

Trumpet Honeysuckle

Lonicera sempervirens



Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Only native honeysuckle –
hummingbird treat – more next

LONICERA SEMPERVIRENS “Coral Honeysuckle”



- Well behaved cousin of the invasive Japanese honeysuckle.
- Evergreen twining vine with tubular red flowers occurring in wooded areas throughout eastern US.
- Can be used on mailboxes, fences and arbors without fear of it taking over the world.
- Important for hummer fall migration.
- Sun or shade; any soil.



Virginia Creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

5 leaflets not 3

American Wisteria

Wisteria frutescens



Credit: Ed McDowell



Credit: Ed McDowell

Less aggressive
native cousin to
Chinese wisteria



American Holly



Carolina Jessamine



Flowering Dogwood

Credit: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Virginia Creeper



Yellowwood



American Hophornbeam



Yaupon Holly

White Oak – English Oak Hybrid



Crimson Spire™ Oak melds the best characteristics of its White and English Oak heritage to produce a fast-growing, hardy, columnar tree that's a great fit for streetscapes and landscape settings.

Ulmus parvifolia

Chinese or Lacebark Elm



- Bosque® maintains a central leader better than the species, has yellow fall color, and puzzle-like exfoliating bark. It is an excellent urban/street tree that is adaptable and drought tolerant.



Ulmus parvifolia.

Ginkgo biloba

- Slow growing
- Tough environments
- Street tree that needs limited rooting area
- Best yellow fall color
- Male trees only
(Golden Globe-Ga Selection)



Chioanthus retusus (Chinese Fringe Tree)



- 15-25' tall – slow\med
- Blooms mid-April
- Full Sun to light shade
- Very pretty small tree
- Adapted to most soils (can take wet soils)
- Narrow form – Tokyo Towers 5' wide

Cornus kousa var chinensis “Milky Way” Chinese Dogwood

- Semi shade
- 15-25’h 20w
- Slow growth
- Semi-Evergreen
- Blooms 2 weeks after native dogwood
- Some anthracnose resistance
- Heat tolerant



Malus x (Flowering Crabapple)

- Full sun
- 6-25'H 10-20'W
- Blooms in pink, red and white
- Early spring bloom
- Flowers usually fragrant and showy
- Small messy fruit



Parrotia persica

Persian Ironwood



- Outstanding small shade tree with showy red spring flowers and outstanding fall color. Multi-trunk form, exfoliating bark with age. Specimen or residential street tree planting.



- Notes: Drought tolerant when established but avoid poorly drained sites.

Pistacia chinensis

Chinese Pistacia

- Tough ornamental with outstanding fall colors of burgundy, bright red and orange, handles drought and urban conditions very well. Virtually pest free.
- **Notes:** Ungainly juvenile growth, prune annually to promote branching when young. Pistache fills out nicely starting at 3" caliper.



⑩ 30 x 30 tree when grown

Camellia sasanqua

- More cold hardy than japonica
- Also, grow in semi-shade
- Normally bloom in the fall
- Smaller blooms and smaller plant than japonica
- <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0202/>



Ilex latifolia (Lusterleaf holly)

- Large magnolia like leaves
- 15-25' pyrimidal shape
- Good tall screen or specimen plant
- Red berries in fall
- Sun or shade
- Takes very dry soils
- Could be used as small tree



Osmanthus fragrans

- Sun to part shade
- Very fragrant blooms
- Will reach 15' but can be kept smaller
- Slow growth rate
- Marginal cold tolerance but worth using because of the fragrance
- Useful as a dense screen (leyland replacement)



Viburnum plicatum (Double file viburnum)

“Shasta”



- Dogwood like bloom effect
- Sun to semi shade
- Tolerates some drought
- 10-12' tall and wide
- Deciduous
- Purple to red fall color
- ‘Summer Snowflake’ is only 6-8’ tall

Green Giant Arborvitae

Leyland Cypress Substitute

- Fast-growing, evergreen plant to define property lines, screen undesirable views or serve as a windbreak
- 2007 Georgia Gold Medal winner
- Tolerates almost any soil condition
- Has shown excellent pest resistance, including deer browsing.
- 50 to 60 feet at 3 ft per year



⑩ Green Giant
Arborvitae

Syringa hybrid

Bloomerang Purple Lilac

- It's very showy in spring, and continues to amaze with fragrant blooms from mid-summer to frost. This is a strong grower, and will add beauty and fragrance to gardens from spring to fall.
- Reblooming. Purple flowers.
- Fragrant
- Deer-resistant.
- Attracts Butterflies
- Trial Only-North Alabama



⑩ Proven Winners: Series also dark purple and pink

Callistemon rigidus 'RutCall'

Scarlet Torch™ Bottlebrush

- A favorite of hummingbirds, bright red bottlebrush-shaped flowers cover this new introduction from Rutgers University. Larger blooms than other varieties and non-drooping form. No pruning required!
- 8-10 ft after 10 years – 1 ft of growth per year.
- Marginal cold tolerance so plant in a protected area



⑩ Photo from
Monrovia Nursery

Hydrangea Paniculata

- Hydrangea paniculata
Variety:
Limelight and Phantom
Common Name: Hardy Hydrangea



© Photo by
www.provenwinners.com

Hydrangea paniculata 'Baby Lace'

Baby Lace Pee-Gee Hydrangea

- Full sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained soil
- Reaches 3.5' high and wide after 5 years
- Zones 4 to 8
- Strong stems hold the full inflorescences upright
- Healthy dark green foliage persists through summer



© Photos from
plantintroductions.com

Abelia X grandiflora “Glossy Abelia”

- Does well in sun or shade
- Very drought tolerant (no wet feet)
- Butterfly attractant
- 3-6 feet (high and wide)
- Many varieties (some variegated)
- Great Non-Native Plant



Campsis hybrid

Hot Lips

- Native x Chinese hybrid
- Heavy early bloomer and repeat blooms lighter
- Blooms most of the summer
- Does not sucker like native species



Photo from:
Cottagefarmdirect.com



Chaenomeles speciosa

Double Take™ Flowering Quince

- Scarlet Storm, Pink Storm and Orange Storm
- Thornless
- Fruitless
- Full to part sun
- 4-5' tall



⑩ Scarlet Storm



⑩ Pink Storm



⑩ Orange Storm

⑩ All photos from NCSU

Gardenia augusta 'MADGA I' Heaven Scent®

- Compact
- Cold tolerant
- Rebloomer
- Fragrant
- Acid soils
- Good drainage
- Full sun to part shade
- There is a non copyrighted plant by the same name that is a different plant



© Photo from:
Gossettsnursery.com

Loropetalum chinense

Ever Red™ Loropetalum

- 3 ft. to 6 ft. rounded
- Moderate Grower
- Full Sun to Part Shade
- Dry to Medium
- Maintenance Low
- Tolerance Deer and Drought Tolerant
- Characteristics Showy Flowers; Showy Foliage
- Bloom Time Early Fall; Early Spring; Late Summer
- Reddest bloom of all Loropetalums



© Photo from:
griffithnursery.com

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UGA Department of Horticulture

For use of pictures
and some content