

Trees Recommended for Planting on Residential Properties in Falls Church

* Trees marked with an Asterisk are suitable for planting as street trees within 15' of the curb if there are no foreseeable conflicts with overhead power lines. The City right-of-way (ROW) varies from street to street but generally does not exceed 15'. Planting in the ROW is not permitted without authorization from the City Arborist.

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¹Canopy Credit refers to tree cover requirements on residential development plans. See section 48-1180 of Falls Church municipal code for more information.

Native Deciduous Trees of NoVA (in boldface type) & Virginia

Height Class: 60'+

Common Name	Botanical Name	Canopy Spread	Canopy Credit ¹	Nursery Availability	Moisture Needs	Shade Tolerance	Soil Notes
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	25-35'	125	Uncommon	Dry to moist	Full Sun	Slightly alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet and moderate drought tolerance
American Beech*	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	40-60'	125	Uncommon	Average	Full Shade/Full Sun	Well drained; pH 5.0-6.5; doesn't tolerate wet or compacted soils
Kentucky Coffee Tree*	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	45-60'	125	Uncommon	Moist to dry	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerates clay, loam, and sand; acidic or alkaline soil; drought tolerant
Sweetgum*	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	40-55'	175	Very Common	Moist	Full Sun	Can tolerate moderate drought and slightly alkaline soils; extended flooding
Tulip Poplar*	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	35-50'	175	Uncommon	Average	Full Sun	Prefers slightly acidic but pH adaptable; occasionally wet but well drained
Cucumbertree*	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	35-60'	100	Somewhat common	Average	Full Sun/Part Shade	Can tolerate moderate drought and slightly alkaline soils; occasionally wet
Tupelo*	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	25-35'	125	Very common	Moist to dry	Full Shade/Full Sun	Withstands drought and extended flooding; doesn't tolerate high pH
American Sycamore*	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	50-70'	175	Uncommon	Average	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerates extended flooding and alkaline soils
White Oak*	<i>Quercus alba</i>	60-80'	125	Very common	Average to dry	Full Sun/Part Shade	Prefers well drained acidic soil; can tolerate occasionally wet
Swamp White Oak*	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	50-70'	125	Very common	Moist to dry	Full Sun/Part Shade	Needs acidic soils or will show severe chlorosis; tolerates extended flooding and drought
Scarlet Oak*	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	40-50'	125	Very common	Dry	Full Sun/Part Shade	Should be grown on acidic soils; adapts to compacted soils
Cherry Bark Oak*	<i>Quercus pagoda</i>	60-70'	175	Uncommon	Average to dry	Full Sun/Part Shade	Well drained acidic soil; does not tolerate poor drainage
Pin Oak*	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	35-40'	175	Very common	Moist to dry	Part Shade/Full Shade	Very intolerant of high pH; tolerant of compaction and wet soils
Willow Oak*	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	40-50'	125	Very common	Moist to dry	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerates extended flooding, drought and compacted soil; chlorosis on high pH
Northern Red Oak*	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	50-60'	175	Very common	Average to dry	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerates slightly alkaline soils; moderately drought-tolerant; well drained
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	35-50'	175	Somewhat common	Average to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Acidic to slightly alkaline soils; moderate drought tolerance
American Elm 'cultivars'	<i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Princeton', 'Valley Forge', 'New Harmony'	50-70'	175	Very common	Average	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerant of extended flooding, drought, pH, and compaction

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Native Deciduous Trees of NOVA & Virginia

Height Class: 30-60'

Common Name	Botanical Name	Canopy Spread	Canopy Credit	Nursery Availability	Moisture Needs	Shade Tolerance	Soil Notes
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	25-35'	175	Very common	Moist to average	Full Sun	Needs acidic soil or becomes chlorotic; tolerates flooding but not drought
Hackberry*	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	40-50'	175	Somewhat common	Moist to average	Part Shade/Full Shade	acidic and alkaline soil; extended flooding and drought; soil compaction
Yellowwood*	<i>Cladrastis kentuckea</i>	40-50'	125	Somewhat common	Average	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerant of alkaline and acidic soils; occasionally wet and moderate drought tolerance; tolerates compaction
American Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	20-35'	100	Uncommon	Average to dry	Full Shade/Full Sun	Tolerant of drought and flooded soil conditions; pH adaptable
Honeylocust*	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	35-50'	175	Very Common	Moist to dry	Full Sun	Tolerates compaction; acidic and alkaline soil; occasionally wet and highly drought tolerant
Silverbell*	<i>Halesia tetraptera var. tetraptera</i>	15-20'	100	Uncommon	Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Does not tolerate drought and become chlorotic in high pH
Sweetbay Magnolia*	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	15-25'	100	Very common	Moist to dry	Part Shade/Full Shade	Drought and extended flooding tolerance
Hophornbeam*	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	25-30'	100	Uncommon	Moist to average	Part Shade/Full Shade	High drought tolerance and can grow on acidic or alkaline soils; does not tolerate wet soils
Sourwood*	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	25-30'	100	Somewhat common	Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Does best on moist, well drained soil; moderately drought tolerant
Shingle Oak	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	40-60'	125	Uncommon	Dry to moist	Full Sun	Slightly alkaline to acidic; extended flooding and highly drought tolerant
Overcup Oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	30-40'	125	Uncommon	Moist to dry	Full Sun/Part Shade	Well suited for poorly drained sites; moderate drought tolerance
Shumard Oak*	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	40-50'	125	Somewhat common	Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Alkaline soils; occasionally wet; high drought tolerance; tolerates compaction
Post Oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	35-50'	125	Uncommon	Dry to average	Full Sun	Extremely drought tolerant; sensitive to compaction; slight alkaline tolerance
Live Oak*	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	60-120'	125	Uncommon	Average to moist	Full Sun	High drought tolerance; adapts to soil compaction; tolerates alkaline soil
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	25-35'	100	Somewhat common	Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerates drought, salt, acidic and alkaline soils; does not tolerate permanently wet sites
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	25-40'	100	Uncommon	Moist to average	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerates dry sites

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Height Class: <30'

Common Name	Botanical Name	Canopy Spread	Canopy Credit	Nursery Availability	Moisture Needs	Shade Tolerance	Soil Notes
Red Buckeye**	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	15-25'	100	Uncommon	Average to moist	Part Shade/Full Shade	Moderate drought tolerance; can stand extended flooding
Serviceberry spp.**	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	15-20'	100	Very common	Average to dry	Full Sun/Part Shade	Moderate drought tolerance; needs acidic soil
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	15-20'	100	Uncommon	Moist to average	Part Shade/Full Shade	Moderate drought tolerance; occasionally wet soil and slightly alkaline
American Hornbeam*	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	20-30'	100	Somewhat common	Moist to average	Part Shade/Full Shade	Moderately drought tolerant; occasionally wet; only slightly alkaline tolerant
Eastern Redbud*	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	15-25'	100	Very common	Average to dry	Part Shade/Full Shade	Tolerates alkaline and occasionally we soil; high drought tolerance
American Fringetree**	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	15-20'	100	Very common	Moist to average	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerates occasionally wet soil; moderate drought tolerance
Dawn Redwood*	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	15-25'	50	Very common	Moist	Full Sun	Do not use on soils with high pH; moderate drought tolerance and extended flooding
London Plane Tree*	<i>Platanus x Acerifolia</i>	50-70'	90	Very common	Average	Full Sun	Tolerates extended flooding, drought and alkaline soil and compaction
Bur Oak*	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	60-80'	60	Somewhat common	Dry to Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerant of alkaline soils and poor drainage; very drought tolerant
Silver Linden*	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	40-60'	60	Uncommon	Average to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Moderately tolerant of soil compaction and drought; slightly alkaline soils
Elm Hybrids	<i>Ulmus spp.</i> ; 'New Horizon', 'Morton', 'Morton Glossy', 'Patriot', 'Morton Plainsman'	50-70'	90	Very common	Average	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerant of extended flooding, drought, pH, and compaction
Japanese Zelkova*	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	50-75'	60	Very common	Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	High drought tolerance; tolerates occasionally wet and slightly alkaline soils

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Evergreen Trees of NoVA & Virginia

Height Class: 60'+

Common Name	Botanical Name	Canopy Spread	Canopy Credit	Nursery Availability	Moisture Needs	Shade Tolerance	Soil Notes
Loblolly Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	30-35'	100	Somewhat common	Dry to average	Full Sun/Part Shade	Needs acidic soil; drought-tolerant once established
Baldcypress*	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	25-35'	100	Very common	Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Ideal for wet locations but highly drought tolerant; Slight alkaline tolerance

Evergreen Trees of NoVA & Virginia

Height Class: 30-60'

Common Name	Botanical Name	Canopy Spread	Canopy Credit	Nursery Availability	Moisture Needs	Shade Tolerance	Soil Notes
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	15-25'	25	Very common	Moist to average	Full Shade/Full Sun	Slight alkaline tolerance; high drought and occasionally wet
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	10-20'	25	Very common	Average to dry	Full Sun	Not tolerant of sites that are continually moist; drought and alkaline soil tolerant
Virginia Pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	20-35'	100	Uncommon	Dry	Full Sun	Highly drought tolerant; intolerant of alkaline soils
Northern White-Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	10-15'	25	Very common	Dry to Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerates alkaline soils; can tolerate wet soils but not extended drought

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The following trees are not native to Virginia but are known to perform well in the area.

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Common Name	Botanical Name	Canopy Spread	Canopy Credit	Nursery Availability	Moisture Needs	Shade Tolerance	Soil Notes
Northern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	40-50'	90	Somewhat common	Dry to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerates occasionally wet and alkaline soil; high drought tolerance
European Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	40-60'	60	Somewhat common	Moist to dry	Full Shade/Full Sun	Moderate tolerance of drought and alkaline soil
Ginkgo*	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	15-20'	50	Very common	Dry to moist	Full Sun	Tolerates drought, occasionally wet and alkaline soils; not for poorly drained area
Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	30-50'	60	Very common	Dry to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Can tolerate slightly alkaline soils and extended flooding but does best on well drained soil; moderate drought tolerance
Dawn Redwood*	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	15-25'	50	Very common	Moist	Full Sun	Do not use on soils with high pH; moderate drought tolerance and extended flooding
London Plane Tree*	<i>Platanus x Acerifolia</i>	50-70'	90	Very common	Average	Full Sun	Tolerates extended flooding, drought and alkaline soil and compaction
Bur Oak*	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	60-80'	60	Somewhat common	Dry to Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerant of alkaline soils and poor drainage; very drought tolerant
Silver Linden*	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	40-60'	60	Uncommon	Average to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Moderately tolerant of soil compaction and drought; slightly alkaline soils
Elm Hybrids	<i>Ulmus spp.</i> ; 'New Horizon', 'Morton', 'Morton Glossy', 'Patriot', 'Morton Plainsman'	50-70'	90	Very common	Average	Full Sun/Part Shade	Tolerant of extended flooding, drought, pH, and compaction
Japanese Zelkova*	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	50-75'	60	Very common	Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	High drought tolerance; tolerates occasionally wet and slightly alkaline soils

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Common Name	Botanical Name	Canopy Spread	Canopy Credit	Nursery Availability	Moisture Needs	Shade Tolerance	Soil Notes
Trident maple	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	20-40'	50	Somewhat common	Average to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Does not tolerate alkaline soil; tolerates compacted soil and drought
Katsuratree*	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	35-60'	50	Somewhat common	Moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Intolerant of drought; not suited for compacted soils; slight alkaline tolerance
Persian Ironwood*	<i>Parrotia persica</i>	20-35'	50	Somewhat common	Average to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	High drought tolerance and adapts to alkaline soil; will not tolerate wet soil conditions
Littleleaf Linden*	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	35-50'	60	Very common	Average to wet	Full Sun/Part Shade	tolerates alkaline soil if it is moist; only moderately tolerant of drought

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Japanese Hornbeam*	<i>Carpinus japonica</i>	10-15'	50	Uncommon	Average to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Moderate drought tolerance
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	15-20'	50	Very common	Average to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Not alkaline tolerant; soil should be kept moist
Cornelian Cherry Dogwood	<i>Cornus mas</i>	12-18'	50	Somewhat common	Average to moist	Full Sun/Part Shade	Soil should be kept moist; Alkaline tolerant
American Smoketree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	15-25'	50	Uncommon	Average to moist	Full Sun	Tolerant of wet soil, compaction, drought and high pH