

Recommended Trees

Name (*native to VA)		< 30'	30' - 50'	> 50'	Evergreen	Fall / Winter Color	Showy Flowers	Interesting Bark	Tolerates Salt	Tolerates Wet	Tolerates Dry	Comments
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>		✓		✓							Birds are attracted to berry-like fruit that ripen fall.
American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>		✓			✓		✓				A low-maintenance understory tree for shady sites.
American Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓				Edible fruit attracts birds.
American Sycamore*	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>			✓		✓		✓				A large tree for a large space. Exfoliating bark.
Bald Cypress *	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>			✓		✓				✓	✓	Long-lived tree. Characteristic root growth (knees) occurs when grown in wet sites.
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>			✓		✓				✓	✓	Flowers are nectar source for bees. Edible fruit attract birds and wildlife. Spectacular scarlet fall color.
Chaste Tree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	✓				✓	✓					Tiny, fragrant, lavender to pale violet flowers appear mid to late summer. Flowers attract butterflies.
Cornelian cherry dogwood	<i>Cornus mas</i>	✓					✓	✓				Sour tasting edible fruit.
Dawn Redwood ' Gold Rush'	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>			✓		✓		✓		✓		Deciduous large tree with deep fissured bark. Feathery, fern-like foliage golden-yellow throughout summer
Eastern Red Cedar*	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	Blackish-green berry-like cones on female trees ripen in fall and attract birds.
Eastern Redbud*	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	✓				✓	✓					Good understory tree with purple flowers in spring. Attracts butterflies.
Fringetree*	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>		✓			✓	✓					Fruit ripens in late summer and are a food source for birds and wildlife.
Japanese Black Pine	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i>			✓	✓					✓	✓	Irregular spreading branches as tree matures.
Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	✓				✓		✓				Many cultivars with multiple sizes, shapes and colors.
Japanese Snowbell	<i>Styrax japonicus</i>		✓				✓					Bell-shaped, fragrant white flowers May-June.
Japanese Stewartia	<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓				Low maintenance with showy cup-shaped, camellia-like white flowers.
Japanese Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>			✓		✓		✓			✓	Good lawn, shade or street tree.
Katsura Tree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>		✓			✓						Small specimen shade tree or street tree.
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>		✓			✓	✓					Berry-like fruit provide food for birds.
Lacebark Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>			✓				✓		✓	✓	Chinese elm has good resistance to Dutch elm disease.
Little Leaf Linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>			✓			✓					Fragrant, creamy yellow flowers in June attract bees.
Live Oak*	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>			✓	✓					✓		Long-lived tree with majestic spreading branches. Acorns food source for wildlife.
Loblolly Pine*	<i>Pinus taeda</i>			✓	✓							Can tolerate poor drainage areas.
Oak (all N. American)	<i>Quercus</i>			✓		✓						Native to most of North America and important hardwood timber tree. Supports wildlife.
Paperbark Maple	<i>Acer griseum</i>		✓			✓		✓				Rich cinnamon exfoliating bark.
Pawpaw*	<i>Asimina triloba</i>		✓			✓				✓		Edible fall fruit taste and consistency resembles bananas.
Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>			✓								A tall ornamental shade tree for large properties.
Persian Ironwood	<i>Parrotia persica</i>		✓			✓		✓				Exfoliating bark.
River Birch ' Little King'	<i>Betula nigra</i>	✓				✓		✓		✓		Extremely resistant to the bronze birch borer.
Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>	✓					✓					Deciduous magnolia. Hybrid cultivars feature flowers in shades of white, pink, rose, purple, magenta and burgundy.
Serviceberry*	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	✓				✓	✓					Edible berries can be used in jams, jellies and pies. Best in shrub borders, woodland or naturalized.
Southern Magnolia 'Little Gem'	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	✓			✓		✓					Large fragrant white flowers in summer.
Star Magnolia	<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	✓					✓					Late winter to early spring bloom of fragrant star-shaped white flowers.
Sweetbay Magnolia*	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓		Multi-stemmed tree features fragrant white flowers mid-spring to summer.
Trident Maple	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>		✓			✓		✓			✓	Three-lobed leaves resemble a trident.
Tulip Poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>			✓		✓	✓					Very large shade or lawn tree for large landscapes.
White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>		✓		✓							aka American arborvitae, Eastern white cedar or Northern white cedar. Compact dwarf cultivars.
Witch Hazel*	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	✓				✓	✓					Fall blooming.
Yaupon Holly*	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	✓			✓	✓					✓	Birds are attracted to berry-like fruit that ripen fall.

Interactive Tree Selector Websites:

[arborday.org/shopping/trees/treewizard/intro.cfm](http://arborday.org/shopping/trees/treewizard/intro.cfm)

[dendro.cnre.vt.edu/treeselector/](http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/treeselector/)

[missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx](http://missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx)

Additional Print Resources:

Norfolk Botanical Gardens – Plants for Hampton Roads by Brian O’Neil

Best Plants for Hampton Roads – by Dawn Alleman, Ed Bradley, Laurie Fox, Norman Grose, Brenda Johnson-Asnicar, Sherry Kern, Eva Lyn Trump, and Jim Williams

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping – Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Plant HR Natives - Native Plants for Southeast Virginia - Hampton Roads Region

Dominion Resources – Right Tree Right Place

Virginia Cooperative Extension Publications:

430-295 – Tree Planting Guide

420-180 – Urban Forestry Issues

Virginia Beach Master Gardener  
Tree Stewards

2449 Princess Anne Rd.  
Building 14  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

757-385-8156 or [vbmghelp@vbgov.com](mailto:vbmghelp@vbgov.com)

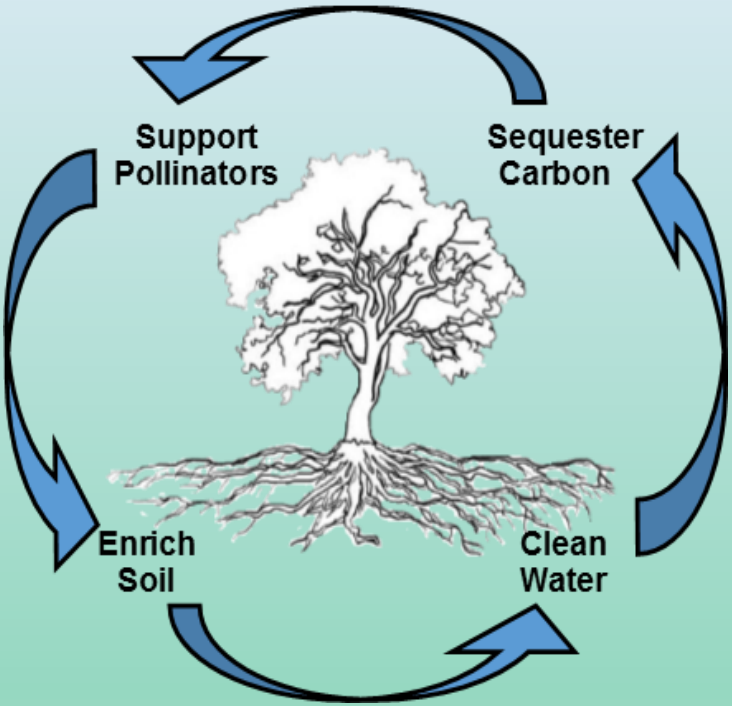
[www.vbmg.org](http://www.vbmg.org)

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Virginia Beach  
Master Gardener  
Tree Stewards

Right Tree, Right Place

- Selection
- Placement
- Planting & Care



**Benefits of Planting a Tree:**

- ~ Add to property value
- ~ Block undesirable view
- ~ Energy saving
- ~ Enhance landscaping
- ~ Wildlife habitat

**Improve Air Quality and Environment:**

- ~ Cool streets
- ~ Create buffer zone
- ~ Filter noise
- ~ Filter pollutants
- ~ Prevent erosion
- ~ Produce oxygen
- ~ Store carbon

Purchase the tree that provides the most benefit and satisfaction from your investment long-term. The best tree will not grow well if it is situated in the wrong place. Account for mature height, crown and root spread.

**Select Trees That:**

- ~ perform best in our area
- ~ can tolerant site conditions
- ~ are low maintenance
- ~ are disease and pest resistant

**Avoid the Following Trees:**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Callery Pear    | Mimosa         |
| (all cultivars) | Norway Maple   |
| Chinaberry      | Princess Tree  |
| Ginkgo (female) | Red Mulberry   |
| Leyland cypress | Tree of Heaven |

Use a checklist along with tree selector websites to find the most suitable tree for your design and site.

**Purpose:**

- ~ Color, Form, Texture
- ~ Energy
- ~ Shade
- ~ Screening
- ~ Wildlife

**Environmental Factors:**

- ~ Hardiness / Heat Zone
- ~ Micro-climate
- ~ Moisture / Drainage
- ~ Soil pH
- ~ Soil Compaction
- ~ Sun / Shade
- ~ Wind / Erosion

**Height and Crown Size at Maturity:**

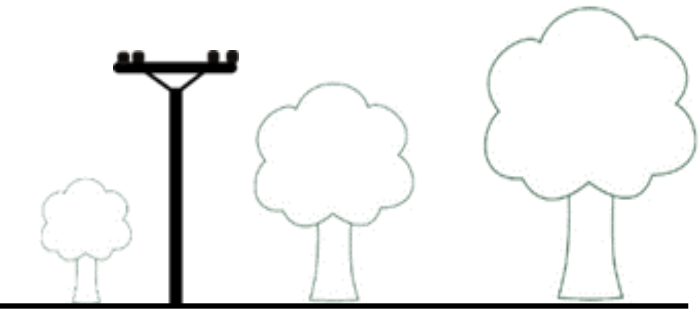
- ~<30’ - Small
- ~30’-50’ - Medium
- ~>50’ – Large

**Location:**

- ~Building / Hardscape
- ~Car / Pedestrian
- ~Foundation / Lawn
- ~Open / Wooded
- ~Power Lines / Utilities
- ~ View / Screening
- ~Public / Private

Eliminate trees that do not conform to site restrictions or planting conditions.

Plant small to medium trees 15-35’ away from power lines and tall trees 35’ away.



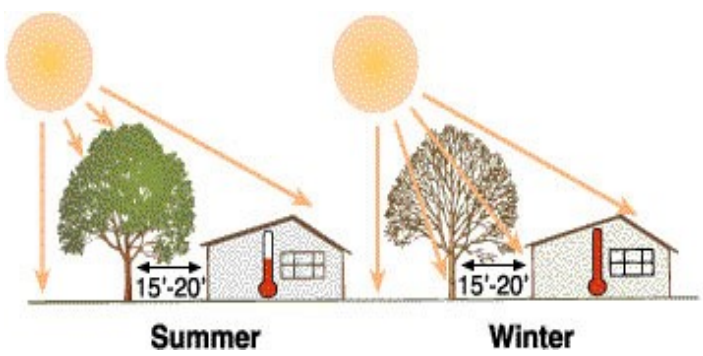
Avoid septic fields, underground utilities and city easements – call Miss Utility before you dig.

Avoid planting too close to driveways, roadways and walkways – to protect root zone from compaction and salt.

Avoid planting too close to drainage ditches or where another large tree has recently been removed.

Avoid planting trees with leaf / fruit litter near pools, decks, paving and cars.

Plant for energy savings but don't plant too close to buildings or structures to control constant pruning.



Test your soil as part of your plan to determine soil pH and nutrients. Test kits are available at the Extension Office located at Bldg. 14 2449 Princess Anne Road. There is a nominal cost.

Evaluate drainage, moisture and soil compaction prior to planting your tree to determine if any special site preparation is needed.

Planting guidelines differ for bare-root, ball-burlap, and container grown trees. Go to [arborday.org/trees/planting](http://arborday.org/trees/planting) where you can view videos for each of these. Plant when trees are in dormancy.

**Basic Planting Guidelines:**

- ~ Do not fertilize
- ~ Do not overwater
- ~ Do not plant too deep
- ~ Do not pile mulch against trunk

