Albemarle County Plant List & Canopy Calculations

5/15/2026: This update adds several native tree species to the list, removes Mahonia, and adds a note pertaining to selection of cultivars for material on the list.

The following list includes woody plants recommended for general purposes. Selection of species and cultivars should involve further professional review of the site conditions and available space, as well as the growth habit, form, root patterns, and space requirements of the selected plants, in order to ensure appropriate placement and avoid damage to infrastructure. Review of individual plant characteristics, such as fruiting habits, presence of thorns, and toxicity is also recommended.

Utilization of native plants can provide numerous benefits for wildlife, pollinators, and natural communities on the landscape, and is encouraged. Species that are locally native are particularly beneficial and well suited to the local climate and soils, therefore reducing the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and watering. The term 'locally native' in this context is defined as species that are native to the northern Piedmont of Virginia, including the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, and Orange, according to the Digital Atlas of the Flora of Virginia. Please note that plant species found to be non-native invasives will be removed in future updates of this list.

"Area of Canopy 10 yrs" is calculated for the listed planting sizes (see each category) and is based on information from Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc., Virginia Tech Urban Forestry "Tree Canopy Spread and Coverage in Urban Landscapes" database dated 11/3/2010, the Albemarle County Plant Canopy Calculations list, the Albemarle County Guide to Context Sensitive Site Design, and other sources as necessary.

Except where otherwise noted in the list below, both the straight species and cultivars of plant material contained on this list may be used. Cultivars known to be particularly susceptible to diseases and pests should be avoided.

Large Deciduous Trees (50'- 70')

Botanical Name	Common Name	Locally Native	Urban Tolerant	Screening	Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment*	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 1.5 - 1.75"	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 2-2.5"	Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 3.5"
Acer floridanum	Southern Sugar Maple					106	-	-
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	X				397	452	510
Acer rubrum 'Armstrong'	Red Maple - 'Armstrong'	X	X			44	53	57
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple	X				397	452	510
Acer x freemanii "Jeffersred"	Freeman Maple - 'Jeffersred'				X*	397	452	510
Betula lenta	Sweet Birch	X						
Betula nigra	River Birch	X	X			397	464	535
Carpinus caroliniana	American Hornbeam	X	X		X	-	113	-
Carya cordiformis	Bitternut Hickory	X				452	-	-
Carya glabra	Pignut Hickory	X				61	77	95
Carya illinoiensis	Pecan					-	227	-
Carya ovata	Shagbark Hickory	X				72	92	113
Celtis laevigata	Sugarberry	X	X			-	154	-
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry	X	X			572	651	735
Diospyros virginiana	Persimmon	X				151	186	224
Fagus grandifolia	American Beech	X		X		227	275	327

Fagus sylvatica	European Beech			X		177	214	254
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Red Ash	X	X			225	275	325
Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold'	Autumn Gold' Ginkgo		X			-	95	-
Ginkgo biloba 'Magyar'	Magyar' Ginkgo		X			87	104	123
Ginkgo biloba 'Princeton Sentry'	Princeton Sentry' Ginkgo		X			14	17	20
Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis	Thornless Honeylocust		X		X	424	481	541
Gymnocladus dioica	Kentucky Coffeetree		X		X	570	637	708
Juglans nigra	Black Walnut	X				-	177	-
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	X				249	288	329
Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba'	Rotundiloba' Sweetgum	X			X	206	238	272
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tuliptree or Tulip Poplar	X		X		387	430	475
Magnolia acuminata	Cucumbertree Magnolia	X				254	289	327
Metasequoia glyptostroboides	Dawn Redwood		X	X		60	67	75
Morus rubra	Red Mulberry	X				-	177	-
Nyssa sylvatica	Blackgum	X	X		X*	123	151	181
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore or American Planetree	X				1253	1362	1475
Platanus x acerifolia	London Planetree					368	422	479
Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	X				-	113	-
Quercus alba	White Oak	X				243	289	340
Quercus bicolor	Swamp White Oak	X			X*	299	339	382
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak	X				370	419	471
Quercus falcata	Southern Red Oak	X				424	481	604
Quercus hemisphaerica	Sand Laurel Oak		X		X	335	-	-
Quercus imbricaria	Shingle Oak	X				137	166	197
Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak					-	113	-
Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinquapin Oak	X	X		X	-	291	-
Quercus palustris	Pin or Water Oak	X	X			370	419	471
Quercus phellos	Willow Oak	X			X	370	419	471
Quercus prinus	Chestnut Oak	X	X			154	260	452
Quercus robur	English Oak					329	372	419
Quercus rubra	Northern Red Oak	X	X			424	481	541
Quercus shumardii	Shumard Oak					329	372	419
Taxodium distichum	Bald Cypress		X	X		79	92	106
Tilia americana	Basswood	X				191	222	254
Tilia cordata	Littleleaf Linden		X	X	X	249	288	329
Tilia tomentosa	Silver Linden		X	X		276	322	371
Ulmus americana	American Elm	X	X			397	464	535

Medium Deciduous Trees (40'- 50')							
Botanical Name	**Common Name**	**Locally Native**	**Urban Tolerant**	**Screening**	**Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment***	**Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 1.5 - 1.75"**	**Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Caliper Size 2 - 2.5"**
Carpinus betulus	European Hornbeam		X	X	X*	177	234
Cercidiphyllum japonicum	Katsuratree		X		X*	222	289
Ostrya virginiana	American Hophornbeam	X	X		X*	-	66
Salix nigra	Black Willow	X				707	-
Sassafras albidum	Common Sassafras	X	X	X		197	249

Small Deciduous Trees (20'- 40')						
Botanical Name	**Common Name**	**Locally Native**	**Urban Tolerant**	**Screening**	**Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment***	**Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 6-8'**
Asimina triloba	Paw Paw	X				283
Carpinus betulus	Pyramidal European Hornbeam		X	X		69
Cladrastis kentukea	Yellowwood		X			289
Crataegus crus-galli var. crus-galli	Cockspur Hawthorn	X	X	X		184
Crataegus laevigata	English Hawthorn		X	X		125
Crataegus phaenopyrum	Washington Hawthorn		X	X		145
Crataegus viridis	Green Hawthorn		X	X		184
Halesia diptera	Two-winged Silverbell					123
Halesia monticola	Silverbell Tree					214
Maackia amurensis	Amur Maackia		X			92
Oxydendrum arboreum	Sourwood	X	X			138
Prunus campanulata	Flowering Cherry		X			99

Prunus cerasifera	Flowering Plum		X	X		143
Prunus sargentii	Sargent Cherry		X			128
Prunus serrulata	Japanese Flowering Cherry		X		X	87
Prunus x yeodensis	Yoshino Flowering Cherry		X			99

Ornamental Trees (10'- 40')						
Botanical Name	**Common Name**	**Locally Native**	**Urban Tolerant**	**Screening**	**Acceptable adjacent to paved surfaces, possibly with special treatment***	**Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 6-8'**
Acer buergarianum	Trident Maple				X	79
Acer griseum	Paperbark Maple				X	88
Amelanchier arborea	Downy Serviceberry	X	X	X	X[1]	113
Amelanchier canadensis	Shadblow Serviceberry	X	X	X		130
Amelanchier laevis	Allegheny Serviceberry	X	X	X		130
Amelanchier x grandiflora	Serviceberry		X	X	X[1]	130
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud	X	X			124
Cercis chinensis	Chinese Redbud		X			79
Chionanthus retusus	Chinese Fringetree		X			113
Chionanthus virginicus	White Fringetree	X	X	X	X[1]	79
Cornus alternifolia	Alternate-leaf Dogwood	X				100
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood (Anthracnose-resistant cultivars ONLY)	X				124
Cornus mas	Corneliancherry Dogwood		X	X		50
Cornus x rutgeriensis	Flowering Dogwood					124
Cotinus coggygria	Royal Purple Smoketree			X		79
Halesia tetraptera	Carolinia Silverbell		X			79
Hamamelis virginiana	Common Witchhazel	X		X		113
Laburnum x watereri	Goldenchain Tree					96
Lagerstroemia indica	Crapemyrtle		X			77
Magnolia liliiflora	Magnolia			X		28
Magnolia stellata	Star Magnolia					38
Magnolia virginiana	Sweet Bay Magnolia	X	X			79

Magnolia x loebneri	Loebner Magnolia					87
Magnolia x soulangiana	Saucer Magnolia					145
Malus & cvs.	Crabapple		X			113
Malus sargentii	Sargent Crabappple			X		41
Parrotia persica	Persian Parrotia		X			159
Stewartia malacodendron	Silky Camellia					113
Stewartia ovata	Mountain Stewartia					50
Stewartia pseudocamellia	Japanese Stewartia					77
Syringa reticulata	Japanese Tree Lilac		X			143
Ulmus x hollandica	Dutch Elm					177
Ulmus parvifolia	Lacebark Elm		X		X	113

Evergreen (Screening) and Ornamental Evergreen Trees (20'-70')						
Botanical Name	**Common Name**	**Locally Native**	**Urban Tolerant**	**Screening**		**Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 4-5'**
Abies concolor	White or Concolor Fir			X		44
Cedrus atlantica	Blue Atlas Cedar			X		41
Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar			X		143
Cedrus libani	Cedar of Lebanon					70
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Lawson's Cypress			X		143
Chamaecyparis thyoides	Atlantic White Cedar			X		38
Cryptomeria japonica	Cryptomeria			X		123
Cupressus arizonica	Arizona Cypress			X		44
Cupressocyparis x leylandii	Leyland Cypress			X		23
Ilex opaca	American Holly	X		X		44
Ilex x attenuata	Foster Holly			X		16
Ilex x Nellie R. Stevens'	Nellie R. Stevens Holly			X		44
Juniperus chinensis	Chinese Juniper		X	X		50
Juniperus virginiana	Eastern Red Cedar	X	X	X		79
Magnolia grandiflora	Southern Magnolia			X		54
Picea glauca	White Spruce			X		79
Picea omorika	Serbian Spruce		X	X		20
Picea orientalis	Oriental Spruce			X		28
Picea pungens var. glauca	Colorado Blue Spruce			X		10
Pinus bungeana	Lacebark Pine					50
Pinus cembra	Swiss Stone Pine					41
Pinus densiflora	Japanese Red Pine					128

Pinus echinata	Shortleaf Pine	X				113
Pinus flexilis	Limber Pine			X		41
Pinus nigra	Austrian Pine			X		79
Pinus parviflora	Japanese White Pine			X		106
Pinus pungens	Table Mountain Pine	X				79
Pinus strobus	White Pine	X				118
Pinus taeda	Loblolly Pine	X		X		207
Pinus thunbergiana	Japanese Black Pine			X		143
Pinus virginiana	Virginia pine	X				113
Platycladus orientalis	Oriental Arborvitae		X	X		20
Quercus virginiana	Live Oak					177
Thuja occidentalis	Eastern Arborvitae	X	X	X		10
Thuja orientalis	Oriental Arborvitae			X		15
Thuja plicata	Giant Arborvitae		X	X		7

Evergreen and Semi-Evergreen Shrubs (3'-15')						
Botanical Name	**Common Name**	**Locally Native**	**Urban Tolerant**	**Screening**		**Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 1.5-2.5'**
Abelia x grandiflora	Glossy Abelia		X	X		14
Aucuba japonica	Japanese Aucuba		X	X		20
Berberis canadensis	American Barberry					5
Berberis verruculosa	Warty Barberry			X		5
Berberis x gladwynensis	Barberry			X		3
Buxus sempervirens	Common Box or Boxwood		X	X		28
Cotoneaster salicifolius	Willowleaf Cotoneaster			X		22
Daphne cneorum	Rose Daphne					23
Daphne odora	Fragrant Daphne					10
Hypericum calycinum	Aaronsbeard St. Johnswort		X			10
Ilex glabra	Inkberry Holly	X		X		23
Ilex verticillata	Winterberry Holly	X		X		41
Ilex vomitoria	Yaupon, Cassin holly			X		64
Juniperus communis	Common Juniper	X		X		55
Kalmia latifolia	Mountain Laurel	X		X		28
Leucothoe axillaris	Coastal Doghobble					28
Leucothoe fontanesiana	Drooping Leucothoe, Fetterbush	X		X		11
Morella cerifera	Southern Wax Myrtle		X	X		44
Morella pensylvanica	Northern Bayberry		X	X		18

Osmanthus x fortunei	Fortune's Osmanthus			X		99
Photinia x fraseri	Fraser Photinia		X	X		20
Pieris floribunda	Mountain Pieris	X		X		14
Pieris japonica	Japanese Pieris			X		36
Pinus mugo	Mugo Dwarf Mountain Pine			X		92
Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry Laurel			X		10
Rhododendron atlanticum	Dwarf Azalea					13
Rhododendron catawbiense	Catawba Azalea	X		X		18
Rhododendron maximum	Great Rhododendron	X		X		28
Rhododendron periclymenoides	Wild Azalea	X		X		20
Rhododendron prinophyllum	Roseshell Azalea	X		X		20
Rhododendron viscosum	Swamp Azalea	X				13
Rhododendron x PJM	Broadleaf Azalea - 'PJM'			X		13
Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis	Dwarf Himalayan Sweet Box					10
Sarcococca ruscifolia	Sweet Box					6
Skimmia japonica	Japanese Skimmia					6
Vaccinium arboreum	Farkleberrry			X		64
Viburnum utile	Viburnum- 'Conoy'					18
Viburnum x burkwoodii	Burkwood Viburnum			X		22
Viburnum x pragense	Prague Viburnum			X		44
Viburnum x rhytidophylloides	Lantanphyllum Viburnum			X		64

Deciduous Shrubs (3'-30')

Botanical Name	Common Name	Locally Native	Urban Tolerant	Screening		Area of Canopy 10 yrs (sq ft) - Planting Height 1-1.5'
Alnus serrulata	Smooth Alder	X				113
Aralia spinosa	Devil's Walking-stick	X				44
Aronia arbutifolia	Red Chokeberry	X		X		7
Aronia melanocarpa	Black Chokeberry	X		X		13
Aronia prunifolia	Purple Chokeberry	X		X		28
Callicarpa americana	American Beautyberry					20
Calycanthus floridus	Common Sweetshrub or Carolina Allspice	X				26
Caryopteris x clandonensis	Blue Mist Shrub					10
Ceanothus americanus	New Jersey tea	X				20
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	X				9
Clethra alnifolia	Sweet Pepperbush					16
Cornus racemosa	Gray Dogwood	X		X		64

Cornus sericea & cvs.	Red-twig Dogwood			X		72
Corylus americana	American Hazelnut	X		X		22
Cotoneaster apiculatus	Cranberry Cotoneaster			X		7
Cotoneaster horizontalis	Rockspray Cotoneaster			X		10
Deutzia gracilis	Slender Deutzia		X			10
Enkianthus campanulatus	Redvein Enkianthus					56
Forsythia x intermedia	Forsythia		X	X		16
Fothergilla gardenii	Dwarf Fothergilla					3
Fothergilla major	Large Fothergilla					20
Franklinia altamaha	Franklinia					98
Gaylussacia baccata	Black Huckleberry	X				79
Hamamelis mollis	Chinese Witchhazel					64
Hamamelis vernalis	Vernal or Ozark Witchhazel					23
Hamamelis virginiana	Witchhazel	X				113
Hamamelis x 'intermedia'	Witchhazel					77
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oakleaf Hydrangea					16
Hypericum densiflorum	Bushy St. Johnswort	X	X			6
Hypericum kalmianum	St. Johnswort- 'Gemo'		X			6
Hypericum prolificum	Shrubby St. Johnswort	X	X			6
Ilex decidua	Possumhaw	X		X		41
Itea virginica	Virginia Sweetspire					64
Jasminum nudiflorum	Winter Jasmine		X			10
Kerria japonica	Japanese Kerria					72
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	X				23
Physocarpus opulifolius	Common Ninebark	X		X		20
Potentilla fruticosa	Cinquefoil		X			7
Prunus x cistena	Purpleleaf Sand Cherry			X		28
Rhododendron canescens	Mountain Azalea					35
Rhododendron cumberlandense	Cumberland Azalea					13
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac	X	X			33
Rhus copallinum	Winged Sumac	X	X			289
Rhus glabra	Smooth Sumac	X	X			64
Rhus typhina	Staghorn Sumac	X	X			254
Rosa carolina	Pasture or Carolina rose	X				27
Rosa palustris	Swamp Rose	X				27
Rosa virginiana	Virginia Rose					27
Rubus allegheniensis	Allegheny Blackberry	X		X		13
Rubus occidentalis	Black Raspberry	X				28
Rubus odoratus	Purple Flowered Raspberry	X				50
Sambucus canadensis	Black Elderberry	X	X	X		50

Sambucus racemosa	Red Elderberry	X		X		50
Spiraea alba var. alba	Narrowleaf Meadowsweet	X				13
Spiraea alba var. latifolia	Broadleaf Meadowsweet	X				13
Spiraea corymbosa & cvs.	Dwarf or Birch Leaved Spiraea	X				13
Spiraea nipponica & cvs.	Spirea- 'Snowmound'					7
Spiraea x bumalda	Bumalda Spiraea					7
Spiraea x vanhouttei	Vanhoutte Spiraea					41
Syringa meyeri	Compact Meyer Lilac			X		44
Syringa patula	Manchurian Lilac			X		20
Vaccinium corymbosum	Highbush Blueberry	X				18
Viburnum acerifolium	Mapleleaf Viburnum	X				9
Viburnum cassinoides	Northern Wild Raisin	X				28
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum	X	X	X		31
Viburnum lantanoides	Hobblebush	X				113
Viburnum lentago	Nannyberry Viburnum			X		64
Viburnum nudum	Southern Wild Raisin or Possum-haw	X	X	X		28
Viburnum opulus	European Cranberrybush			X		72
Viburnum prunifolium	Blackhaw Viburnum	X	X	X		64
Viburnum trilobum	American Cranberrybush			X		50
Viburnum x carlcephalum	Fragrant Viburnum			X		28
Viburnum x juddii	Judd Viburnum			X		38
Weigela florida	Weigela			X		50

X Trees marked with "X*" require special treatment when planted adjacent to paved surfaces. When proposed, the landscape plan must include a detail representative of tree installation and the following note: "A minimum of 750 cu ft soil volume will be excavated for each tree planted adjacent to pavement. Excavated material will be replaced with structural soil or similar performing alternative. Minimum depth of planter is 3' measured from the bottom of the rootball. Main trunk of tree will be a minimum of 4' from edge of pavement. Trees will be placed on the back side of the sidewalk."*

X1 Select single-trunk growth when used as a street tree.