

Blue Water Baltimore



2025

Free Tree Lookbook



Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum



Tree facts

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Fun Facts:

Sugar maples turn brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red in the fall. Its straight, central trunk; wide-spreading branches; and pointed crown are all attractive landscape characteristics. Sugar maple is Canada's national tree, as represented by the "maple leaf" on its flag. This is the species that produces maple syrup!

Height: 60-75'

Spread: 40-50'

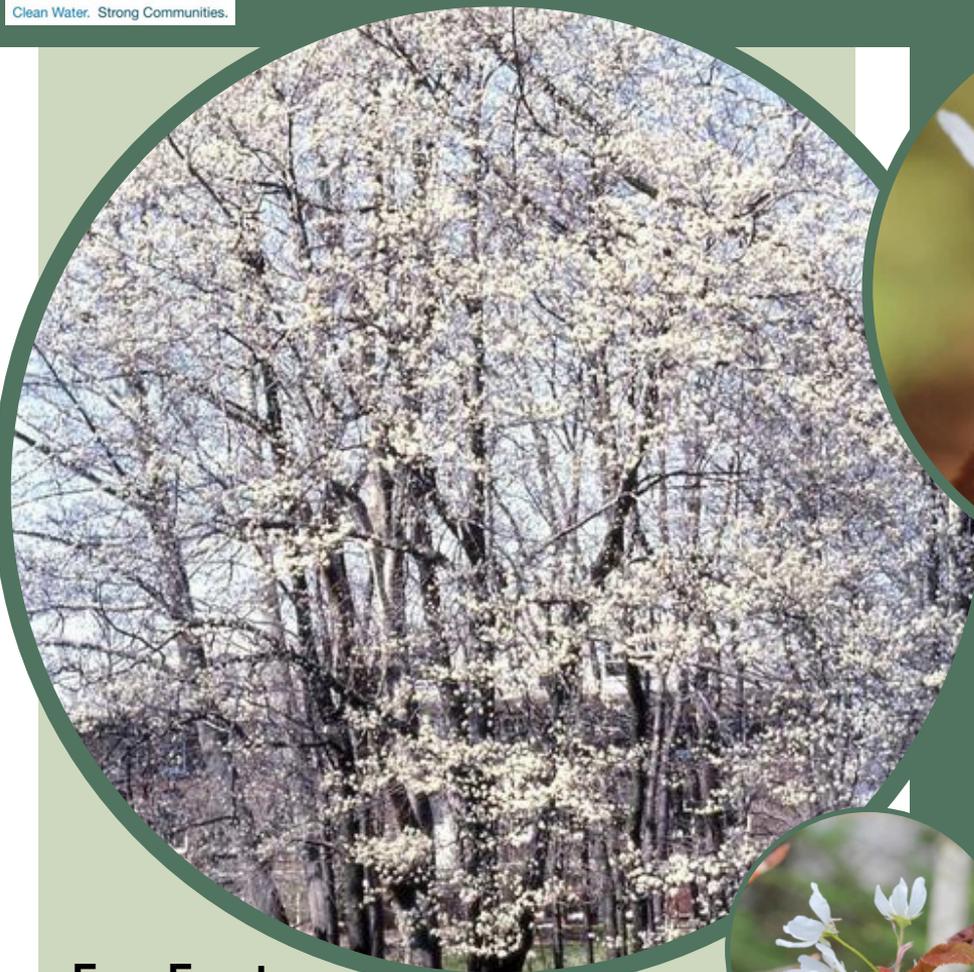
Light: Full Sun/Part Shade

Moisture: Moderate



Allegheny Serviceberry

Amelanchier laevis



Tree facts

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Height: 15-30'

Spread: 10-20'

Light: Part Sun/Shade

Moisture: Moist, Slightly Dry



Fun Facts:

Allegheny serviceberry, also called Juneberry, Shadbush, and Saskatoon, is a small, often multi-trunked understory tree or tall shrub. It features showy white flowers in clusters in early spring before the leaves emerge. These blooms give way to delicious purple-red edible berries in June that resemble blueberries in size, color and taste. Berries can be eaten raw or used in jams and pies! If you don't eat them, the birds certainly will. Serviceberries prefer moist, acidic, well-drained loams and will tolerate a range of soil types but not drought. It flowers best in part sun to part shade but tolerates shade. It is medium to fast-growing but a fairly short-lived tree. Serviceberries finish off the year with attractive yellow-orange leaf color. Note: serviceberries are susceptible to cedar apple rust, which does not generally harm the tree but renders the berries inedible.

Paw Paw

Asimina triloba



Tree facts



Height: 15-30'

Spread: 15-25'

Light: Full Sun/Part Shade

Moisture: Medium Wet

Fruit: Edible



Fun Facts:

Known as the 'forgotten fruit,' pawpaw it is the largest edible native fruit found in the US, and the only temperate member of a tropical family. Harvest paw paws in early fall when fruit is just-soft and they are falling to the ground. The yellowish-green fruits are reminiscent of a mango, with a creamy inside that can be eaten raw or cooked, and include several large, dark-brown seeds. Not particularly showy, but interesting, purple, six-petaled flowers appear before leaf emergence. This is a good understory tree. No serious disease or insect problems. The fruit can create a mess on sidewalks and patios, but this can be minimized by planting only one tree; paw paws seldom set much fruit without cross pollination.

American Hornbeam

Carpinus caroliniana



Tree facts



Height: 20-35'

Spread: 20-35'

Light: Part Sun/Shade

Moisture: Well-Drained



Fun Facts:

American hornbeam is a slow-growing, medium-sized tree with distinctive muscle-like bark and attractive red-orange fall foliage. It is naturally found as an understory species growing near the forest floor and therefore prefers some shade. It grows well along stream banks and bottomlands and tolerates periodic flooding, though it shows remarkable adaptability to drier, sunnier sites. Other common names include blue beech, water beech, musclewood and ironwood. As the common name suggests, the extremely hard wood of this tree was once used by early Americans to make bowls, tool handles and ox yokes. American hornbeam is the larval host for several native butterflies including the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.



Common Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis



Tree facts



Height: 45-60'

Spread: 40-60'

Light: Full Sun/Part Shade

Moisture: Dry - Wet

Fun Facts:

The common hackberry is an extremely hardy tree that can tolerate poor conditions. It is generally a medium sized tree but can grow to be over 100' tall in open spaces with rich, moist, forested, alluvial clay soils. The tiny fruit is prized by numerous birds (and technically edible for humans). It was pulverized and made into cakes by Native Americans.



Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis



Tree facts



Height: 30-40'

Spread: 25-30'

Light: Full Sun/Part Shade

Moisture: Moderate-Wet

Fun Facts:

Eastern redbud is a deciduous, often multi-trunked understory tree with a rounded crown. It is particularly noted for its pea-like pink-purple edible flowers which bloom profusely on bare branches in early spring (March-April) before the foliage emerges. Add flowers and flower buds to salads, breads and pancakes. They have a slightly sour taste, but are high in vitamin C. Young pods may be eaten raw, boiled or sauteed. Eastern redbud is overplanted in this region. It is also prone to splitting due to weak branch connections, so pruning of heavy or dead branches is necessary to help keep the tree healthy.



Atlantic White Cedar

Chamaecyparis thyoides



Tree facts

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Height: 30-50'

Spread: 30-40'

Light: Full Sun - Part Shade

Moisture: Medium - Wet

Fun Facts:

Chamaecyparis thyoides, known by a number of common names including white cypress, Atlantic cedar or swamp cedar, is a columnar evergreen conifer with a steeple-like crown that typically grows with a straight trunk to 30-50' (less frequently to 90') tall. It is native to freshwater swamps, bogs and wet woods along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida and along the Gulf coast from Florida to Mississippi. It is the State Tree of New Jersey where it may be seen growing in large pure colonies. Scale-like adult leaves and needle-like juvenile leaves are a soft blue green. Yellow pollen-bearing cones are found at the stem ends. Seed bearing cones in clusters emerge purple but mature to brown. Mature bark is reddish brown. Wood has excellent resistance to decay and has been used for a number of purposes including boat construction, shingles and posts.



White Fringetree

Chionanthus virginicus



Tree facts



Height: 10-20'

Spread: 10-15'

Light: Full Sun/Part Shade

Moisture: Well-Drained



Fun Facts:

Fun facts: Fringe tree gets its name from its clouds of fleecy white, softly fragrant flowers that hang from the branches in late spring and early summer. This tree can be either male or female. One of the last trees to bear new leaves in spring, it appears dead until the leaves and flowers appear. The genus name *Chionanthus*, meaning snow and flower, describes the blossoms.



Alternate leaf dogwood

Cornus alternifolia



Tree facts

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Height: 15-25'

Spread: 20-32'

Light: Full Sun - Part Shade

Moisture: Medium

Fun Facts:

Cornus alternifolia is a small deciduous tree or large multi-stemmed shrub that typically grows 15-25' tall with distinctive tiered/layered horizontal branching which is upward-turned at the tips. It is native to both moist and dry forests, forest margins, stream banks and fields from Newfoundland to Minnesota south to northern Arkansas and through the Appalachians to Georgia and Alabama. Small, fragrant, yellowish-white flowers bloom in flattened cymes (each to 2 1/2" across) in late spring (May-June). Flowers give way to bluish-black fruits (drupes) on red stalks. Fruits mature in late summer. Elliptic-ovate, medium green leaves (to 3-5" long) turn reddish-purple often tinted yellow or green in fall. Although the leaves of most species of dogwood are opposite, those of pagoda dogwood are alternate, hence the specific epithet and often used common name of alternate-leaf dogwood.



Common Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana



Tree facts



Height: 40-60'

Spread: 25-35'

Light: Full Sun/Part Shade

Moisture: Dry - Medium
(well-draining)



Fun Facts:

The American, or common, persimmon produces a sweet, edible fruit best enjoyed after it softens after the first frost in late autumn. When ripe, the sweet fruit somewhat recalls the flavor of dates. Immature fruit contains tannin and are strongly astringent. Persimmons are consumed fresh and are used to make puddings, cakes, and beverages. Because the persimmon is normally dioecious (male and female flowers appear on separate trees), the best way to ensure fruit production is to plant multiple trees. Mature trees are easily identifiable by thick, dark-gray bark that is deeply furrowed and broken into scaly, squarish blocks.



Kentucky Coffeetree

Gymnocladus Dioicus



Tree facts



Height: 60-80'

Spread: 40-55'

Light: Full Sun

Moisture: Medium



Fun Facts:

Gymnocladus dioicus, commonly called Kentucky coffeetree or coffeetree, is a tall deciduous tree with rough, scaly gray-brown bark and large bipinnate compound leaves. It is native to the Midwest, primarily southern Michigan and Ohio southwest to Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. It grows 60-80' (less frequently to 100') tall with an irregular open oval to obovate crown. In Missouri, it typically occurs in low or rich woods, bluff bases and along streams (Steyermark). Large leaves to 3' long, divided into 3-7 pairs of pinnae, with individual leaflets (1-3" long). Leaflets are blue-green in summer, turning an undistinguished yellow in fall. Larger trees typically cast light shade. As the specific epithet suggests, the species is dioecious (separate male and female trees). Greenish white flowers appear in late spring (May-June). Male flowers in clusters to 4" long. Female flowers in panicles to 12" long. Female flowers are fragrant. Fertilized female flowers give way to flattened reddish brown pods (to 10" long) which ripen in October and persist well into winter. Native Americans and early American settlers, especially those in the Kentucky territory, roasted and ground the seeds to brew a coffee-like beverage (albeit no caffeine), hence the common name. Native Americans roasted the seeds for food. Seeds are very toxic prior to roasting, and should never be eaten fresh off the tree. Trees are late to leaf out in spring and are one of the first to drop leaves in the fall.

Black Walnut

Juglans Nigra



Tree facts



Height: 75-100'

Spread: 75-100'

Light: Full Sun

Moisture: Medium

Fun Facts:

Juglans nigra, commonly called black walnut, is a large deciduous tree typically growing 75-100' (less frequently to 125') tall with an oval to rounded crown. Mature trees characteristically have long trunks, often with an absence of lower branching. Fissured, sharply ridged, dark gray-black bark forms diamond patterns. Black walnut is native from Massachusetts through southern Ontario to South Dakota south to Florida and Texas. In Missouri, it typically occurs in rich woods, in valleys along streams and in open upland woods throughout the state (Steiermark). Features odd-pinnate compound leaves (to 24" long), each with 13-23 oblong to lanceolate leaflets. The terminal leaflet is often missing. Leaves are late to emerge in spring and early to drop in fall. Leaves are strongly aromatic when crushed. Fall color is an undistinguished yellow. Yellow green monoecious flowers appear in late spring (May-June), the male flowers in drooping hairy catkins and the female flowers in short terminal spikes. Female flowers give way to edible nuts, each being encased in a yellow-green husk. Nuts mature in autumn, falling to the ground where the husks blacken as they rot away. Kernels are edible but hard to extract. Black walnuts are harvested for commercial sale. The wood from this tree is highly valued for a number of commercial uses including cabinets, furniture, gunstocks and fine veneers. It is perhaps the best furniture wood available from any native American tree. Overharvesting of trees for the wood has greatly reduced the native populations in the wild. Native Americans used the nuts for food and boiled the tree sap for syrup. They also reportedly threw the husks into ponds to poison fish, making them easier to catch.

Sweetbay Magnolia

Magnolia virginiana



Tree facts



Height: 15-30'

Spread: 15-25'

Light: Full Sun/Part Shade

Moisture: Moist-Wet

Fun Facts:

Sweetbay magnolia makes an excellent tree for planting next to buildings, in narrow alleys or corridors, or in other urban areas with limited space for horizontal crown expansion. It usually maintains a good, straight central leader, although occasionally the trunk branches low to the ground forming a round multi-stemmed, spreading tree. This tree has extremely high aesthetic and wildlife values. In May, its large, white showy blossoms produce a sweet aroma. Flowers are followed by dark red aggregate fruits exposing bright red seeds that are popular with songbirds. Sweetbays flourish in moist, acid soil such as the swamps in the eastern U.S. and along stream banks.



Black Tupelo

Nyssa sylvatica



Tree facts

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Height: 30-50'

Spread: 20-40'

Light: Full Sun/Part Shade

Moisture: Dry - Wet

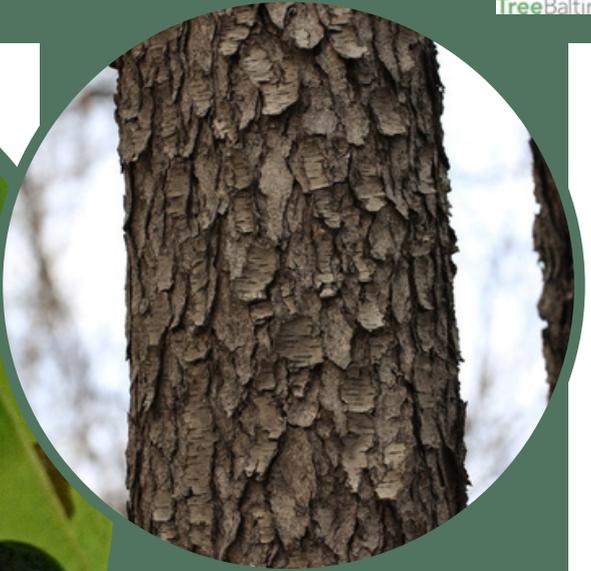


Fun Facts:

The black tupelo (or black gum) is a medium to large tree with a generally narrow canopy with a rich red fall color. While black gums are known to grow in swamps, they are highly adaptable. The fruit is highly sought after by birds and the flowers are popular with honey producers. The name tupelo comes from the Muscogee words for swamp tree.

Black Cherry

Prunus serotina



Tree facts



Height: 50-80'

Spread: 30-60'

Light: Full Sun/Part Shade

Moisture: Medium



Fun Facts:

Prunus serotina, commonly called black cherry, wild cherry or wild rum cherry, is native to eastern North America, Mexico and Central America. In Missouri, it typically occurs in both lowland and upland woods and along streams throughout the state (Steyermark). It is one of the largest of the cherries, typically growing to 50-80' (less frequently to 100') tall with a narrow-columnar to rounded crown. It is perhaps most noted for its profuse spring bloom, attractive summer foliage and fall color. Fragrant white flowers in slender pendulous clusters (racemes to 6" long) appear with the foliage in spring (late April-May). Flowers are followed by drooping clusters of small red cherries (to 3/8" diameter) that ripen in late summer to dark purple-black. Fruits are bitter and inedible fresh off the tree, but can be used to make jams and jellies. Fruits have also been used to flavor certain liquors such as brandy and whiskey. Fruits are attractive to wildlife. Narrow oblong-ovate to lanceolate, glossy green leaves (to 5" long) have acuminate tips and serrate margins. Foliage turns attractive shades of yellow and rose in fall. Mature trees develop dark scaly bark. Bark, roots and leaves contain concentrations of toxic cyanogenic compounds, hence the noticeable bitter almond aroma of the inner bark. Native Americans prepared decoctions of the inner bark for cough medicines and tea-like cold remedies. Hard, reddish-brown wood takes a fine polish and is commercially valued for use in a large number of products such as furniture, veneers, cabinets, interior paneling, gun stocks, instrument/tool handles and musical instruments.

American Plum

Prunus Americana



Tree facts



Height: 15-25'

Spread: 15-25'

Light: Part Sun/Shade

Moisture: Dry to Medium,
Well Drained

Fun Facts:

American plum is a popular residential landscape tree with fragrant, white flowers in early spring. Late-summer fruits are sweet and juicy, making excellent jams, jellies, preserves and pies. The plums can also be halved, then pitted and dried like prunes, spread in a thin sheet and dried as fruit leather. Fall leaf color ranges from electric red to pale yellow. Regular removal of suckers, or branches growing from the base of the tree, is sometimes necessary to prevent unwanted spread. Trees provide valuable nesting cover and are a host to many butterflies. They tolerate drought, dry soil, and black walnut trees (produces allelopathic chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants).



Bur Oak

Quercus Macrocarpa



Tree facts



Height: 70-90'

Spread: 60-80'

Light: Part Shade

Moisture: Moderate.

Well-Drained

Fun Facts:

Bur oak is named for its furry, "bur like" acorn caps that cover large, gold-ball sized acorns. It may take up to 35 years this tree to bear a first crop of acorns. It is of the white oak group. The leaves of bur oak also are large, so they are easy to rake. This species is resistant to oak wilt and a number of other problems and is capable of withstanding a wide range of harsh conditions (one of the most drought resistant oaks). Twigs are sometimes ridged with corky wings. The bur oak is the "most western of the eastern oaks", extending all the way to the foothills of the Rockies! In general, oaks are a keystone species, meaning that entire ecosystems depend on them for survival. They can live for centuries, providing food and habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife, and cleaning the air for future generations. If you have the space, choose this tree! Leave a legacy of clean air and water!



Chinkapin Oak

Quercus Muehlenbergii



Tree facts

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Height: 40-60'

Spread: 50-70'

Light: Full Sun

Moisture: Dry - Medium



Fun Facts:

Quercus Muehlenbergii, commonly called Chinkapin (or Chinquapin) oak, is a medium sized deciduous oak of the white oak group that typically grows 40-60' (less frequently to 80') tall with an open globular crown. It is native to central and eastern North America where it is typically found on dry upland sites often in rocky, alkaline soils. Insignificant monoecious yellowish-green flowers in separate male and female catkins appear in spring as the leaves emerge. Fruits are small oval acorns (to 3/4" long), with scaly cups that extend to approximately 1/2 the acorn length. Acorns are valued food for a variety of wildlife. Narrow, oblong-lanceolate, shiny green leaves (4-7" long) have coarse marginal teeth. Leaves somewhat resemble the leaves of chestnut (*Castanea*) whose nut is sometimes called a chinquapin, hence the common name of this oak whose acorn is sweet and edible. Also sometimes commonly called yellow chestnut oak. Fall color is variable, but usually undistinguished shades of yellow and brown.