



Engaging Our Community in Caring for Our Environment.



Arlington Tree Planting Program Species - Spring 2027

Overview:

- Unless specifically stated, all species below do well in our local clay soil.
- Trees are varied sizes, with Large shade trees up to 2 inch caliper and 8-10 ft tall and Small trees up to 6 ft tall
- The tree growth rate is given for height: Slow = 12"/year; Medium = 18"/year; Fast = 24"/year
- Shrubs are about 2-feet high at planting and will grow to form thickets. Prune as needed to maintain.

Large Trees

Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	50-70	50-70	Full sun to partial shade	Wide-spreading branches. Less tolerant of dry soil; has shallow roots. Nuts attract wildlife. Doesn't tolerate compacted, wet or poorly drained soils. Slow to medium growth rate.
Loblolly pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	60-90	25-35	Full sun to partial shade	This species is adaptable and can grow in a wide range of soil types, from poorly drained clay to dry, sandy soils. Optimal growth occurs in moderately acidic soils with imperfect to poor surface drainage.
Scarlet oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	70-75	40-50	Full sun	Striking fall color, high wildlife value, medium-fast growth rate. Glossy dark green leaves. Less tolerant of adverse soil conditions.
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	70-90	50-70	Full sun to partial shade	Known for its distinctive peeling bark and sweet, edible nuts. Its durable wood, wildlife value, and ornamental appearance make it a significant and useful species. The leaves turn golden yellow in the fall.
Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	60-80	50-75	Full sun to partial shade	Leaves dark, shiny green above and silvery white beneath; good fall color. High wildlife value. Tolerates flooding, drought, and a range of soils. Slow-medium growth rate.

Large Trees					
Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	60-75	40-50	Full sun to partial shade	Tree with star-shaped leaves turning brilliant fall colors, corky bark, and spiky fruit. Prefers well-drained soils. Medium to fast growth rate.
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	50-80	50-80	Full sun	High wildlife value, slow to medium growth rate. Leaves blueish-green in summer. Does NOT tolerate soil compaction or disturbance of its root zone, nor very wet soil.
Willow oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	40-60	40-60	Full sun	Moderate wildlife value, medium to fast growth rate. More tolerant of adverse soil conditions, including very wet.
Medium Trees					
Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	50-100	20-35	Full sun to partial shade	Tolerant wet soils, Stately with pale green foliage turning golden and purple in fall, small 1" cones.
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	30-50	20-30	Full sun to partial shade	Tree with glossy green leaves turning brilliant red in fall, small dark blue fruit. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Medium growth rate.
Eastern hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	25-40	20-30	Sun to light shade	Hop-shaped flowers, slow growth, attractive exfoliating bark, moderate wildlife value, tolerates occasional dry soil.

Small Trees (available in 13 equity neighborhoods or with approved exception*)

13 equity neighborhoods: Arlington Mill; Arlington View; Aurora Highlands; Barcroft; Buckingham; Columbia Heights; GlebeWood; Green Valley; Glencarlyn; John M Langston; Long Branch Creek; Penrose; Radnor/ Ft. Myer Heights

*We may approve a small tree in a non-equity neighborhood (1) when a larger tree would not fit on a small property (e.g., duplex) or (2) for other ecologically sound reasons (e.g., understory tree for erosion control near a stream bank).

Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	15-25	15-25	Full sun to partial shade	Single or multi-stem ornamental tree. Adaptable to range of sun and soil conditions, but prefer well-drained soil. Early spring flowers and vibrant fall foliage. Moderate to fast growth. Similar in appearance to crape myrtle. Fruits are edible. ☉
Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	15-30	15-20	Full sun to partial shade	Tree with fragrant, fringe-like white flowers, attractive foliage, and blue fruit. Prefers well-drained soils. Medium growth rate.
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	15-25	15-25	Full sun to partial shade	Tree with large, tropical-looking leaves and custard-like fruit, prefers rich, well-drained soils. Tolerant of acidic to neutral soil. Slow to medium growth rate. Two pawpaw trees are needed to cross pollinate and produce edible fruit. ☉
Sweetbay Magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	20-35	20-35	Partial shade to full sun	Tree with fragrant white flowers and glossy green leaves, semi-evergreen. Prefers moist, acidic soils. Medium growth rate.

The ☉ symbol indicates trees that produce edible fruit.

Shrubs (only available in 13 equity neighborhoods)

Common Name	Genus & Species	Mature Height (ft.)	Mature Width (ft.)	Sunlight Requirements	Species Description
American Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	6-8	6-8	Full sun to partial shade	Shrub with clusters of vibrant purple berries in fall, attractive foliage, prefers well-drained soils. The berries make great jam. Neutral to slightly acidic soil tolerance. Medium growth rate.
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	6-12	Variable	Full sun to shade	Tolerates dry to moist soils, white flowers spring, black berries, Reddish fall color, multi-stemmed. Prefers 2 for better fruiting. Deer can be issue.
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	6-12	Variable	Full sun to shade	Slender deciduous shrub with spherical white blooms, drought-tolerant, thrives in loamy or wet soils. Acidic to neutral soil tolerance. Slow to medium growth rate.
Common elderberry	<i>Sambucus Canadensis</i>	2-8	Variable	Full sun to shade	Tolerates dry to wet soils, white flowers in summer, purple berries in fall can be made into preserves or wine, prefers two for better fruiting.
Flame Azalea	<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>	4-8	8-10	Full sun to partial shade	Shrub with vibrant yellow to orange clusters of flowers that bloom in spring, requires moist, well-drained, acidic, loamy, or sandy soil, but does not tolerate dense clay—organic amendments are recommended. Protect it from afternoon sun to prevent leaf scorch, and it is resilient to rabbit browsing.
Oakleaf hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	3-6	Variable	Full sun to partial shade	Shrub with large, oak-like leaves that turn purple in fall, white blooms in late spring, prefers moist, rich soil. Acidic to neutral soil tolerance. Medium growth rate.
Red osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	6-9	Variable	Partial shade	Shrub with striking red stems in winter, white blooms in early spring, prefers moist, well-drained soils. Acidic to neutral soil tolerance. Medium growth rate.
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	6-12	Variable	Full sun to shade	Deciduous shrub with bright red berries remaining after leaves fall, greenish-white flowers in spring, thrives in moist, acidic soils. Acidic soil preference. Medium growth rate.