



Western Reserve
Land Conservancy

land • people • community

Trees4CLE Species Selection Guide

Start by asking yourself these questions:

1. *What do I want from my tree?*
 - *Shade? Longevity? Wildlife habitat? Showy flowers? Garden accent? Food? Etc.*
2. *How big is my yard?*
 - *Is it big enough to house a legacy tree that will provide benefits to my family and community for centuries to come (15-20 ft from house or sidewalk)?*
3. *What are the conditions?*
 - *Sun, soil, and water (these trees have been selected due to their hardiness in urban areas)*



Trees4CLE Species Master List - Spring 2026

Decorative, Small Trees



EASTERN
REDBUD



ALLEGHENY
SERVICEBERRY



PAGODA
DOGWOOD

Fruit Tree



PAWPAW*

Bringing Beauty and Shade Trees



BLACKGUM/
TUPELO



OHIO BUCKEYE



RIVER BIRCH

Evergreen Tree



EASTERN
RED CEDAR

Fruit Tree



AMERICAN
PERSIMMON*

Generational Legacy Trees



NORTHERN
PECAN*



TULIP
POPLAR



SWAMP
WHITE
OAK

*food producing tree



Eastern Redbud

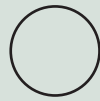
Cercis canadensis

Tree Size and Characteristics



SMALL

20-30 ft tall
25-35 ft spread



ROUND

Broad and rounded crown shape.

Environmental Impact

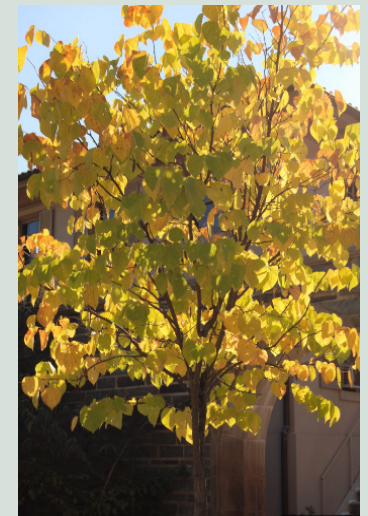
CLIMATE IMPACT = Low
ENERGY SAVINGS = Low
H2O IMPACT = Mid
POLLUTION REDUCTION = Low
WILDLIFE IMPACT = Mid



Known for its beautiful pink flowers that attract a variety of pollinators and leaves that host butterflies and moth caterpillars.



Spring



Fall

Environmental Preferences



Full Sun, Partial Shade (3+ hours of sunlight)



Acidic, moist, and well-draining.

Environmental Tolerances

Alkaline, clay soils

Ornamental Qualities



SPRING

Purplish-pink flowers line the branches before the leaves open



SPRING

Short, flat legume seed pods, edible when green



Heart-shaped leaves that go from dark green to yellow in fall



Brown, curling bark that reveals orange-red inner bark



Leaf



Fruit

Issues to be Aware of

No substantial issues to be aware of.



Allegheny Serviceberry

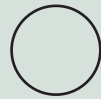
Amelanchier laevis

Tree Size and Characteristics



SMALL

15-25 ft tall
15-20 ft spread



ROUND

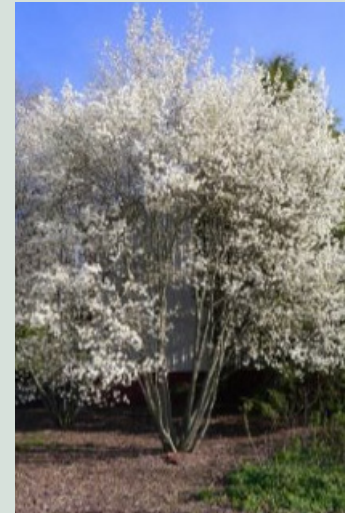
Round, thin form that can be single or multi-stemmed

Environmental Impact

CLIMATE IMPACT = Low
ENERGY SAVINGS = Low
H2O IMPACT = Mid
POLLUTION REDUCTION = Low
WILDLIFE IMPACT = High



Early source of nectar for pollinators. Habitat for butterflies to lay larvae and the leaves are food for caterpillars. Summer berries attract birds and mammals.



Spring



Fall

Environmental Preferences



Partial Shade
(3-6 hours of sunlight a day)



Loamy, moderately well-draining, moist soil

Environmental Tolerances

Tolerates clay soil

Ornamental Qualities



EARLY SPRING

2-4-inch fragrant white flowers



SUMMER

Edible, blue-purple berries (Juneberries)



Orange-Red Fall Color



Smooth and gray bark



Flower



Fruit

Issues to be Aware of

Does not tolerate full sun well or dry soil conditions.



Pagoda Dogwood

Cornus alternifolia

Tree Size and Characteristics



SMALL

15-25 ft tall
20-30 ft spread



OVAL

Spread, tiered branches; can be single or multi-stemmed.

Environmental Impact

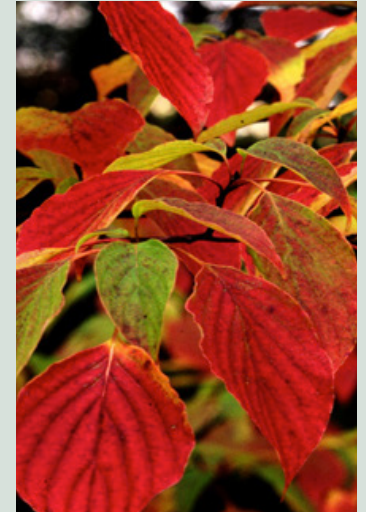
CLIMATE IMPACT = Low
ENERGY SAVINGS = Low
H2O IMPACT = Mid
POLLUTION REDUCTION = Low
WILDLIFE IMPACT = Low



In spring, they bloom fragrant yellow/white flower clumps that provide nectar for pollinators. Fruit produced is good for birds and mammals.



Spring



Fall

Environmental Preferences



Partial Shade
(3-6 hours of sunlight a day)



Acidic, moist, and well-draining.

Environmental Tolerances

Clay soil, dry sites, and full sun

Ornamental Qualities



SPRING

White flowers appear in clusters.



SUMMER

Edible blue-black berries



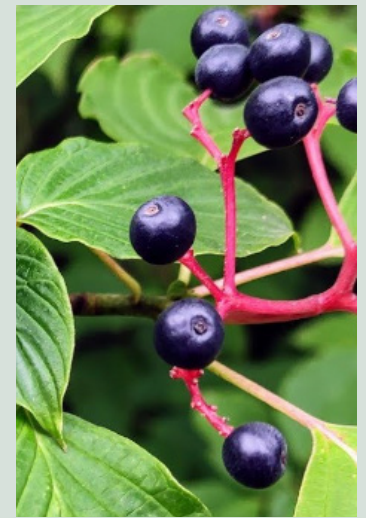
Green leaves with pale underside; burgundy in Fall



Wine colored with vertical tan lenticels



Leaf



Fruit

Issues to be Aware of

Does not tolerate standing water.



Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

Tree Size and Characteristics



SMALL

15-20 ft tall
8-15 ft spread



PYRAMIDAL

Attractive
pyramidal growth

Environmental Impact

CLIMATE IMPACT = Low

ENERGY SAVINGS = Mid

H2O IMPACT = Mid

POLLUTION REDUCTION = Mid

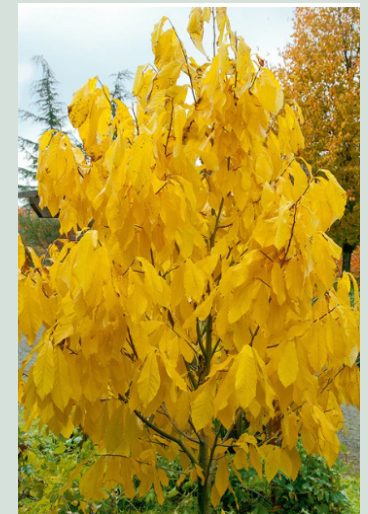
WILDLIFE IMPACT = Mid



Pollinator friendly. A host plant to butterfly and moth larvae. It produces the largest fruit native to North America and is the state fruit of Ohio.



Spring



Fall

Environmental Preferences



Partial Shade
(3-6 hours of
sunlight)



Acidic, moist, and
well-draining.

Environmental Tolerances

Alkaline, clay soils

Ornamental Qualities



SPRING

Cup-shaped,
purple flowers
smell like wine



EARLY FALL

Edible, tastes
like banana with
a hint of mango
and citrus



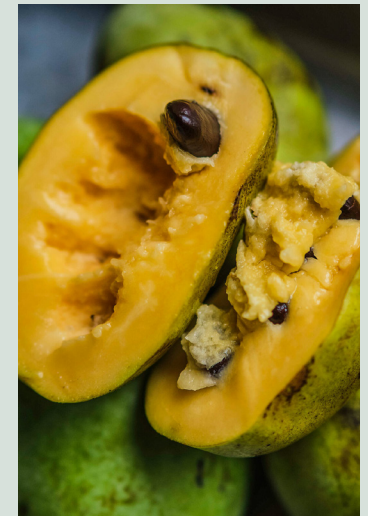
Long, magnolia
tropical leaves
turn yellowish in
Fall



Smooth, gray
bark



Leaf



Fruit

Issues to be Aware of

Large, fleshy fruit that will rot if not harvested, separate male and female trees are required to bear fruit.



Blackgum/Tupelo

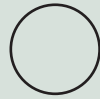
Nyssa sylvatica

Tree Size and Characteristics



MEDIUM

30-50 ft tall
20-30 ft spread



ROUND

Rounded crown
with dense foliage

Environmental Impact

CLIMATE IMPACT = Mid
ENERGY SAVINGS = High
H2O IMPACT = Mid
POLLUTION REDUCTION = Mid
WILDLIFE IMPACT = High



Assists in erosion control and grows fruit that attracts wildlife. The dense foliage reduces noise pollution and provides shade as well.

Environmental Preferences



Full Sun, partial
shade (3+ hours
of sunlight)



Moist, well
drained, rich,
deep, acidic soil

Environmental Tolerances

Drought, heat, dry/wet soils

Ornamental Qualities



LATE SPRING

Small, greenish-
white flowers



EARLY FALL

Small, dark
purple berries
that are edible
but sour.



Glossy, dark green
elliptic leaves,
scarlet in the fall



Horizontal
branching with
blocky ridges



Form



Fall



Leaf



Fruit

Issues to be Aware of

No substantial issues to be aware of.



Ohio Buckeye

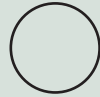
Aesculus glabra

Tree Size and Characteristics



MEDIUM

25-40 ft tall
25-40 ft spread



ROUND

Rounded crown
with dense foliage

Environmental Impact

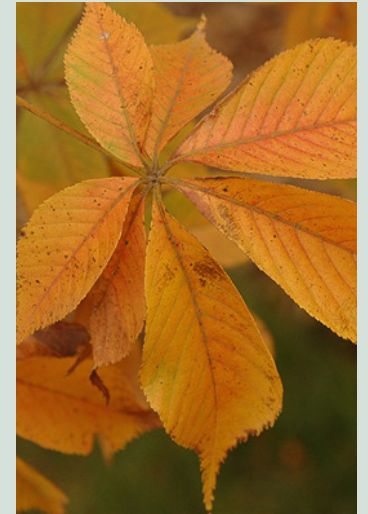
CLIMATE IMPACT = Mid
ENERGY SAVINGS = Mid
H2O IMPACT = Mid
POLLUTION REDUCTION = Mid
WILDLIFE IMPACT = High



Great for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and will even attract hummingbirds!



Spring



Fall Leaf

Environmental Preferences



Full Sun, partial shade (3+ hours of sunlight)



Moist, well-draining, acidic soils

Environmental Tolerances

Full shade, mild drought

Ornamental Qualities



Large, yellow-green flowers appear in clusters



Shiny brown nut with a pale spot covered in a prickly husk



Palmately arranged green leaves turn yellow in fall



Light tan scaly bark



Flower



Fruit

Issues to be Aware of

No substantial issues to be aware of.



River Birch

Betula nigra

Tree Size and Characteristics



LARGE

40-70 ft tall
30-40 ft spread

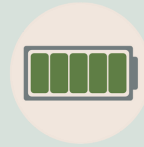


OVAL

Narrow to oval crown shape with branches spreading wider with age

Environmental Impact

CLIMATE IMPACT = Mid
ENERGY SAVINGS = High
H2O IMPACT = High
POLLUTION REDUCTION = Mid
WILDLIFE IMPACT = High



Provide habitat for butterfly and moth species. Found in floodplains and along waterways. As a result, their roots thrive on slopes and are great for erosion prevention.



Spring



Fall

Environmental Preferences



Full Sun (6+ hours of sunlight a day)



Acidic, wet, well-draining soil

Environmental Tolerances

Poor drainage, clay soil, occasional flooding, mild drought, salt tolerance

Ornamental Qualities



Yellowish-brown catkins



Small inconspicuous nutlet

MID SPRING



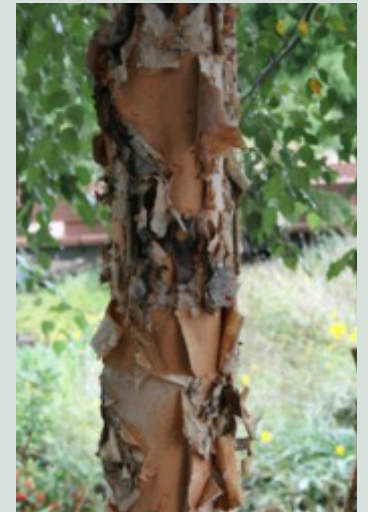
Dark green turning buttery yellow in fall



Peeling reddish-brown outer bark reveals light inner bark



Flower



Bark

Issues to be Aware of

No substantial issues to be aware of.



Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

Tree Size and Characteristics



MEDIUM

40-50 ft tall
8-25 ft spread

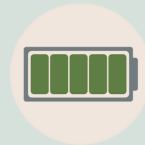


CONICAL

Narrowly,
pyramidal

Environmental Impact

CLIMATE IMPACT = High
ENERGY SAVINGS = Mid
H2O IMPACT = Low
POLLUTION REDUCTION = High
WILDLIFE IMPACT = High



These trees can live for hundreds of years. Their long lifespan ensures environmental benefits for generations.

Environmental Preferences



Full Sun (6+ hrs
of sunlight)



Alkaline, dry,
well-drained

Environmental Tolerances

Clay soil, dry sites, salt

Ornamental Qualities



Inconspicuous
flowers



Small blueish
berry-like cones

LATE SUMMER/FALL



Evergreen, scale-
like needles



red-brown,
peels off in long,
narrow, fibrous
strips

Issues to be Aware of

No substantial issues to be aware of.



Form



Flower



Fruit



Bark



Tulip Poplar

Liriodendron tulipifera

Tree Size and Characteristics



LARGE

70-90 ft tall
35-60 ft spread

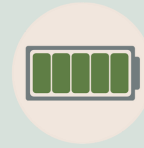


OVAL

Straight showy trunk with a strong leader

Environmental Impact

CLIMATE IMPACT = High
ENERGY SAVINGS = High
H2O IMPACT = High
POLLUTION REDUCTION = High
WILDLIFE IMPACT = High



They have a lot of leaf mass allowing them to absorb and store significant amounts of CO2. The nectar produced by the flowers attract various pollinators as well.



Trunk



Form

Environmental Preferences



Full Sun, partial shade (3+ hours of sunlight)



Moist, well-drained, acidic

Environmental Tolerances

Alkaline soil

Ornamental Qualities



SPRING

Yellow, green, and orange flower that resembles a tulip



FALL

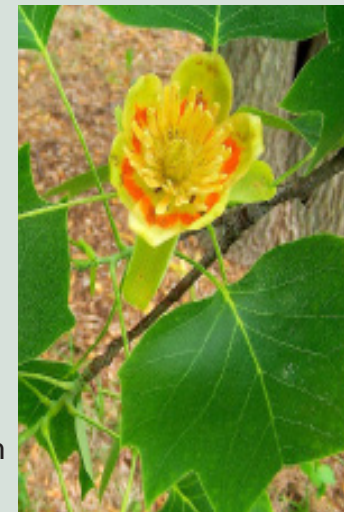
Long, cone-shaped, turns brown and persists through winter



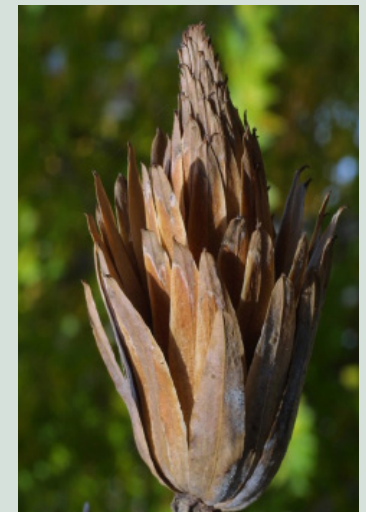
Tulip-shaped lobed leaves that turn yellow in fall



Gray-brown with deep fissures



Flower



Fruit

Issues to be Aware of

No substantial issues to be aware of.



Swamp White Oak

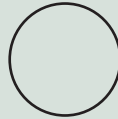
Quercus bicolor

Tree Size and Characteristics



LARGE

60-70 ft tall
60-70 ft spread



SPREADING

Broad, rounded crown with low spreading branches

Environmental Impact

CLIMATE IMPACT = High
ENERGY SAVINGS = High
H2O IMPACT = High
POLLUTION REDUCTION = High
WILDLIFE IMPACT = High



Great at filtering air pollutants and are resistant to ozone and high winds. Their acorns provide a tremendous food source to local wildlife.

Environmental Preferences



Full Sun, partial shade (3+ hours of sunlight)



Acidic, moist, well-draining

Environmental Tolerances

Compact clay soils, drought, salt, air pollution

Ornamental Qualities



SPRING

2-4" drooping yellowish catkins



Ample acorns every 2 years



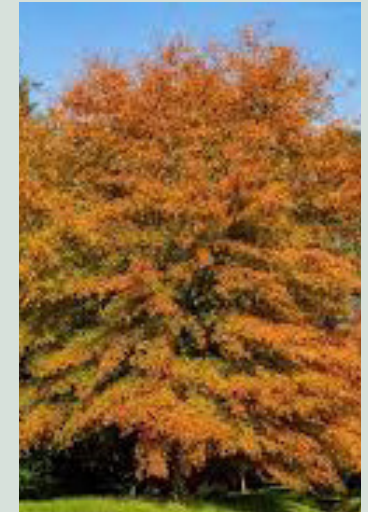
Rounded, lobbed leaves that turn orange in fall



Dark gray-brown flakey bark on old growth



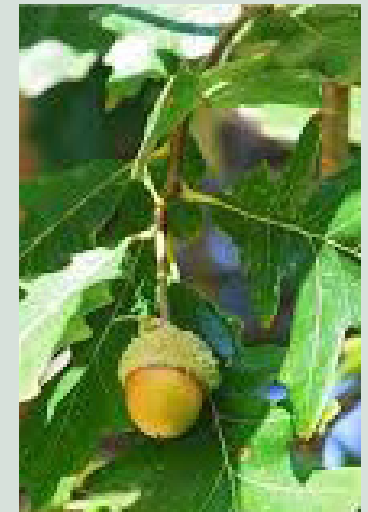
Spring



Fall



Flower



Acorns

Issues to be Aware of

No substantial issues to be aware of.



American Persimmon

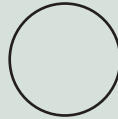
Diospyros virginiana

Tree Size and Characteristics



MEDIUM

35-60 ft tall
20-35 ft spread



SPREADING

Form can be round or oval

Environmental Impact

CLIMATE IMPACT = Mid
ENERGY SAVINGS = Mid
H2O IMPACT = Mid
POLLUTION REDUCTION = Mid
WILDLIFE IMPACT = High



Produces sweet orange fruit when mature. Leaves and fruit enjoyed by browsers, birds, small mammals, and insects.



Spring



Bark

Environmental Preferences



Full Sun, partial shade (3+ hours of sunlight)



Moist, well-drained soil

Environmental Tolerances

Drought tolerant, alkaline soil, clay soil

Ornamental Qualities



Fragrant white flowers



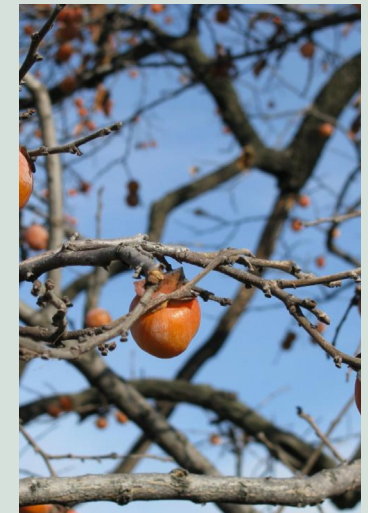
Bark is rugged and deeply divided at maturity



Produces small orange berries that are enjoyed by humans and wildlife after frost



Flower



Fruit

Issues to be Aware of

Fruit can be messy, needs extra care when transplanted due to deep taproot, sprouts from roots are common, and separate male and female trees are required to bear fruit.



Northern Pecan

Carya illinoensis

Tree Size and Characteristics



LARGE

70-100 ft tall
40-75 ft spread



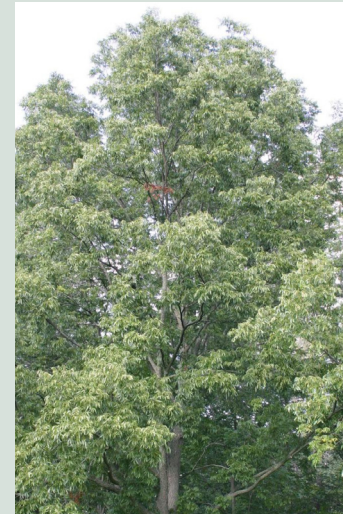
Oval

Environmental Impact

CLIMATE IMPACT = High
ENERGY SAVINGS = High
H2O IMPACT = High
POLLUTION REDUCTION = High
WILDLIFE IMPACT = High



Produces sweet edible nuts when mature. Birds and small mammals benefit from the tree structure on fruit.



Spring



Bark

Environmental Preferences



Full Sun (6+ hours of sunlight a day)



Moist, well-drained soil, wet soil

Environmental Tolerances

Alkaline soil, wet sites

Ornamental Qualities



Inconspicuous catkin flowers



Cylindrical, thin-winged husks reveal 1-2 in. edible nuts



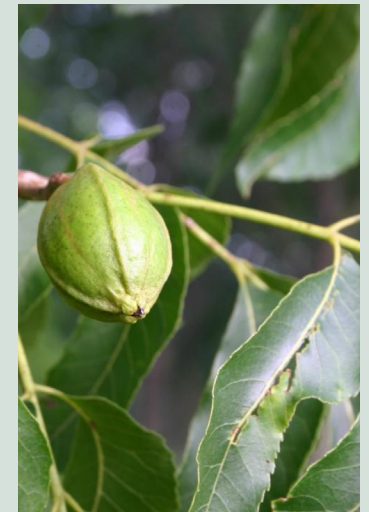
Wide, almost weeping canopy



Bark is brownish-black and scaly when mature



Flower



Fruit

Issues to be Aware of

Fruit can be messy.