



Native Trees Found In Every County of Georgia

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Native trees represent great ecological bounty and rich cultural history in Georgia. Native trees live from the mountains to the sea in many diverse habitats and under many environmental constraints. Native trees add value, comfort, and beauty to life in Georgia. Native trees are wonderfully adapted to an area's climate, soils, pests and other plants. There are native trees common to every Georgia county well-suited for most planting sites or landscape position.

A "tree" is defined as a perennial, woody, single-stemmed plant capable of attaining a size greater than 15 feet in total height and greater than 4 inches in stem diameter. A "native" tree is generally defined as being found within the last three centuries growing wild and reproducing naturally, and not introduced into an area by human activities.

A tree is considered "native in Georgia" if it was not originally brought to Georgia by people, it is now found growing and reproducing naturally in Georgia landscapes, and its gene sets have developed and succeeded under Georgia's environmental conditions for centuries. Some native trees grow successfully in every Georgia county and in any part of the State. Key to proper selection of a Georgia native tree for planting is assuring it can handle various climatic and micro-site characteristics.

Critical measures of native trees surviving and thriving statewide are shown in one of three environmental resource constraint rating systems: cold hardiness zone (Figure 1), heat tolerance zone (Figure 2), and Coder tree planting zone (Figure 3). All three rating systems examine tree growth success from a different point of view.

Many tree species can survive for years when planted outside of their native range, especially in high quality or protected areas. Young trees can be more tolerant of environmental constraints than older trees. Planting a tree species within its native range, along with selecting a tree species falling within the statewide boundaries of one, two, or all three of these environmental resource constraint rating systems will help provide trees capable of surviving and thriving under many conditions.

Figure 4 lists, in alphabetical order by scientific name, 43 tree species growing and having the greatest potential for surviving and thriving, anywhere within the State. The zone codes listed help identify which rating system led to species inclusion on this statewide list. Figure 5 provides the same list as Figure 4, but sorted not by species but by zone codes. Note how 27 tree species are listed as having potential for statewide planting success as shown in all three rating systems (zone code = chp).

Citation: Coder, Kim D. 2024. Native Trees Found In Every County of Georgia. University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources Outreach Publication WSFNR-24-19C. Pp.8.

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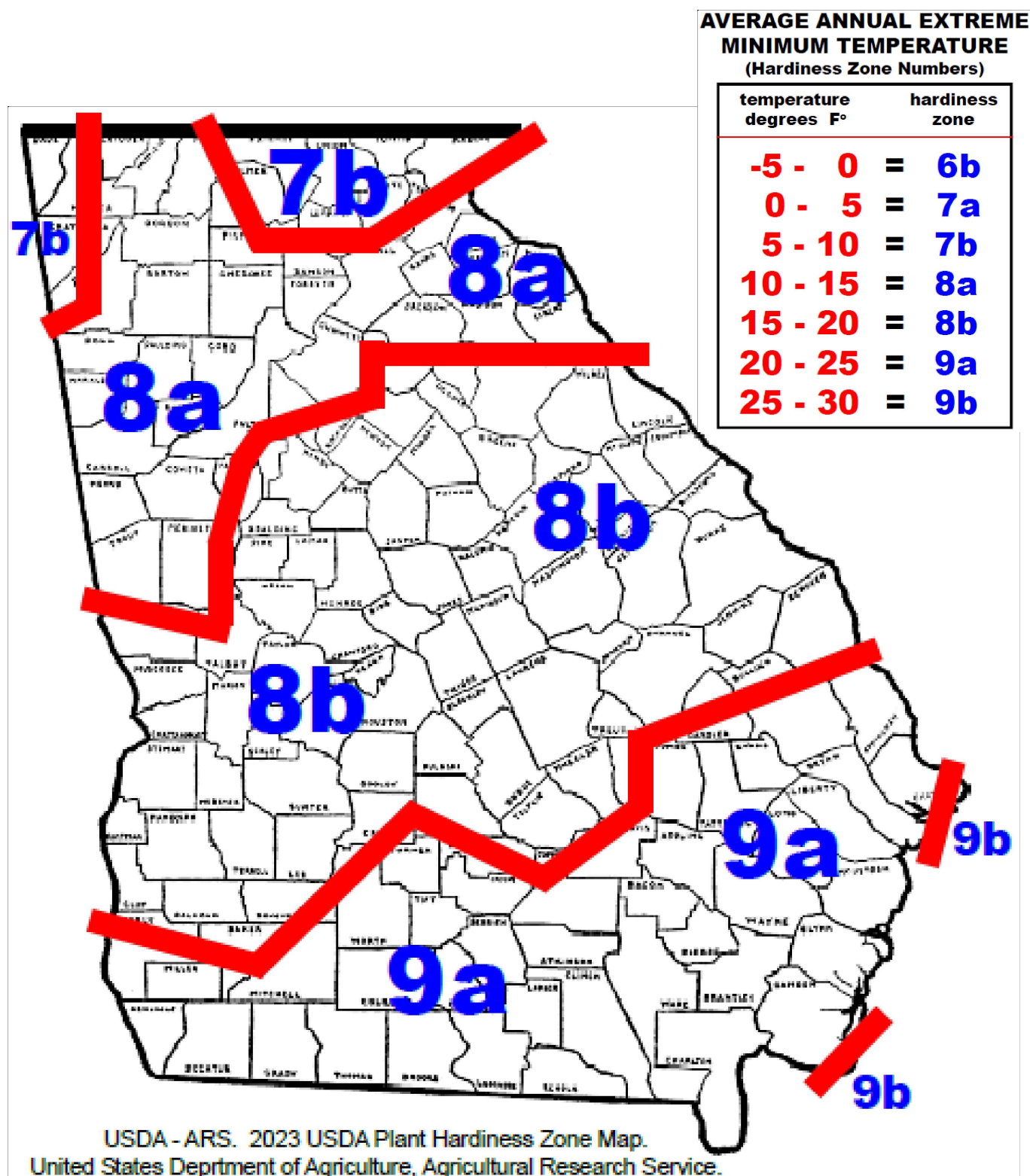


Figure 1: Generalized tree hardiness zones for Georgia 2023.

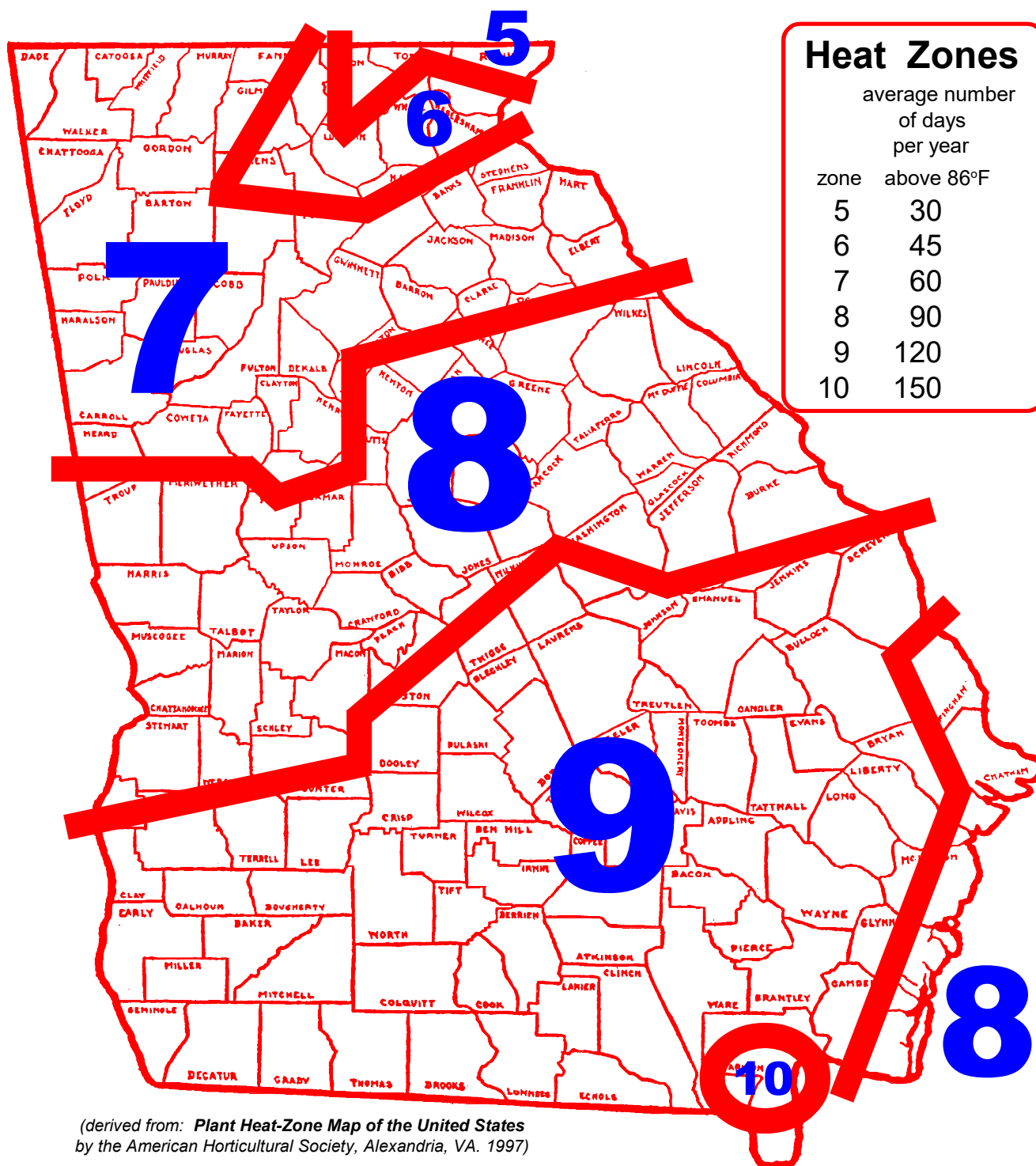


Figure 2: Tree Heat Tolerance Zones. Map based upon average annual number of days above 86°F.

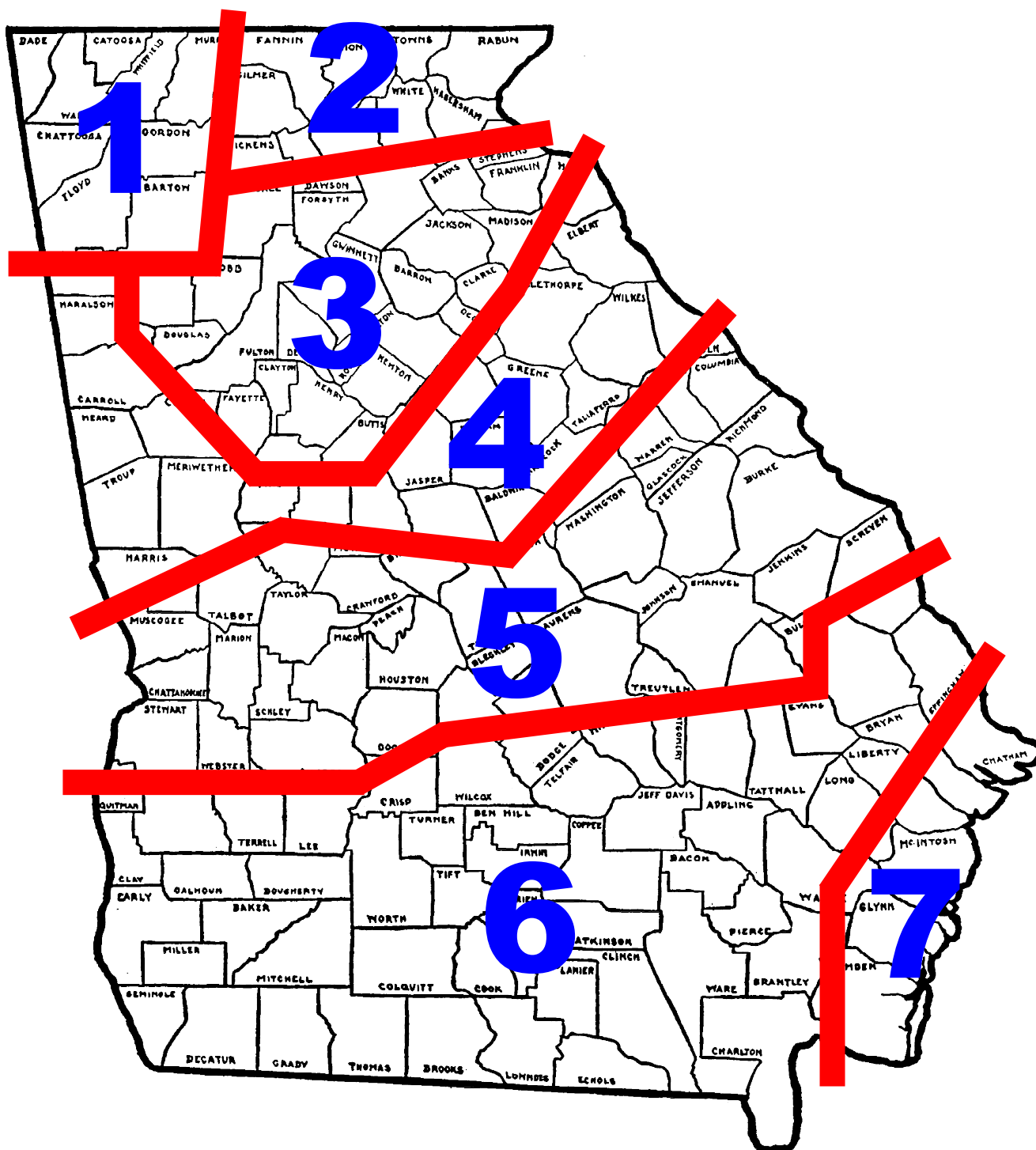


Figure 3: Coder Tree Planting Zones of Georgia.
Map based upon average temperature &
precipitation cluster analysis.

Figure 4: List of native Georgia trees growing statewide based upon any of three growth constraint rating systems: cold hardiness (c); heat tolerance (h); and/or Coder tree planting (p) zone.

zone codes	scientific name	common name
chp	<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple
chp	<u>Alnus serrulata</u>	hazel alder
chp	<u>Aralia spinosa</u>	devil's walkingstick
cp	<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch
chp	<u>Carpinus caroliniana</u>	American hornbeam
chp	<u>Carya glabra</u>	pignut hickory
c	<u>Carya ovalis</u>	red hickory
chp	<u>Carya tomentosa</u>	mockernut hickory
chp	<u>Castanea pumila</u>	chinquapin
chp	<u>Cephalanthus occidentalis</u>	buttonbush
chp	<u>Chionanthus virginicus</u>	fringetree
chp	<u>Cornus florida</u>	flowering dogwood
chp	<u>Diospyros virginiana</u>	persimmon
cp	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash
c	<u>Halesia carolina</u>	little silverbell
chp	<u>Hamamelis virginiana</u>	American witch-hazel
chp	<u>Ilex opaca</u>	American holly
chp	<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar
p	<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum
chp	<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow-poplar
chp	<u>Morus rubra</u>	red mulberry

Figure 4: List of native Georgia trees growing statewide based upon any of three growth constraint rating systems: cold hardiness (c); heat tolerance (h); and/or Coder tree planting (p) zone. (continued)

zone codes	scientific name	common name
chp	<u>Nyssa sylvatica</u>	blackgum
c	<u>Pinus echinata</u>	shortleaf pine
chp	<u>Pinus taeda</u>	loblolly pine
cp	<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	American sycamore
c	<u>Prunus angustifolia</u>	Chickasaw plum
chp	<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry
cp	<u>Quercus alba</u>	white oak
chp	<u>Quercus falcata</u>	Southern red oak
cp	<u>Quercus marilandica</u>	blackjack oak
p	<u>Quercus michauxii</u>	swamp chestnut oak
chp	<u>Quercus nigra</u>	water oak
chp	<u>Quercus stellata</u>	post oak
chp	<u>Rhus copallinum</u>	winged sumac
c	<u>Salix nigra</u>	black willow
chp	<u>Sambucus canadensis</u>	American elder
chp	<u>Sassafras albidum</u>	sassafras
ch	<u>Symplocos tinctoria</u>	sweetleaf
cp	<u>Tilia heterophylla</u>	white basswood
c	<u>Toxicodendron vernix</u>	poison sumac
chp	<u>Ulmus americana</u>	American elm
chp	<u>Vaccinium arboreum</u>	farkleberry
c	<u>Viburnum rufidulum</u>	rusty blackhaw

Figure 5: List of native Georgia trees growing statewide sorted by one of three individual growth constraint rating systems: cold hardiness (c) -- 41 species; heat tolerance (h) -- 28 species; or Coder tree planting zones (p) -- 35 species.

zone codes	scientific name	common name
c	<u>Carya ovalis</u>	red hickory
c	<u>Halesia carolina</u>	little silverbell
c	<u>Pinus echinata</u>	shortleaf pine
c	<u>Prunus angustifolia</u>	Chickasaw plum
c	<u>Salix nigra</u>	black willow
c	<u>Toxicodendron vernix</u>	poison sumac
c	<u>Viburnum rufidulum</u>	rusty blackhaw
ch	<u>Symplocos tinctoria</u>	sweetleaf
cp	<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch
cp	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash
cp	<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	American sycamore
cp	<u>Quercus alba</u>	white oak
cp	<u>Quercus marilandica</u>	blackjack oak
cp	<u>Tilia heterophylla</u>	white basswood
p	<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum
p	<u>Quercus michauxii</u>	swamp chestnut oak
chp	<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple
chp	<u>Alnus serrulata</u>	hazel alder
chp	<u>Aralia spinosa</u>	devil's walkingstick
chp	<u>Carpinus caroliniana</u>	American hornbeam
chp	<u>Carya glabra</u>	pignut hickory
chp	<u>Carya tomentosa</u>	mockernut hickory
chp	<u>Castanea pumila</u>	chinquapin
chp	<u>Cephalanthus occidentalis</u>	buttonbush
chp	<u>Chionanthus virginicus</u>	fringetree

Figure 5: List of native Georgia trees growing statewide sorted by one of three individual growth constraint rating systems: cold hardiness (c) -- 41 species; heat tolerance (h) -- 28 species; or, Coder tree planting zones (p) -- 35 species.
(continued)

zone codes	scientific name	common name
chp	<u>Cornus florida</u>	dogwood
chp	<u>Diospyros virginiana</u>	persimmon
chp	<u>Hamamelis virginiana</u>	American witch-hazel
chp	<u>Ilex opaca</u>	American holly
chp	<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar
chp	<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow-poplar
chp	<u>Morus rubra</u>	red mulberry
chp	<u>Nyssa sylvatica</u>	blackgum
chp	<u>Pinus taeda</u>	loblolly pine
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