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# Most Common United States & Southeastern Community Trees

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Professional tree health care providers in different states and sub-state units, all with unique tree species and growing conditions, were asked to list the most common and important street and shade tree species for their geographic area. All species lists were consolidated to generate a composite list for the United States and a composite list for the Southeastern United States. These lists represent common community tree species which professional tree health care providers and urban foresters should be able to recognize and manage.

## The Nation

Figure 1 lists the top 55 (ranked into 17 places) most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the lower 48 United States. There were 39 geographical / dendrological unit species lists compiled for this U.S. composite list. Trees are listed by scientific and common name in descending order (starting with the most common and important). Tree species number, tree species rank order, and percentage of separate geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species are listed. Figure 2 is identical to Figure 1 except it is sorted alphabetically by species scientific name.

The most common tree species cited in communities of the United States was boxelder (Acer negundo). Rounding out the top five most common tree species in communities of the U.S. were: American elm (Ulmus americana), silver maple (Acer saccharinum), Eastern redbud (Cercis canadensis), green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), black walnut (Juglans nigra), red maple (Acer rubrum), and hackberry (Celtis occidentalis).

## The Southeast

Figure 3 lists the top 45 (ranked into 3 places) most commonly utilized and important street and shade tree species in the Southeastern United States. Trees are listed by scientific and common names in descending order (starting with the most common and important). Tree species number, tree species rank order, and percent of separate Southeastern states or geographical / dendrological areas where professionals cited the tree species are listed. There were 10 geographical / dendrological unit species lists compiled for this composite list. Figure 4 is identical to Figure 3 except it is sorted alphabetically by species scientific name.

The most common tree species cited in communities of the Southeastern United States was red maple (Acer rubrum). Many tree species tied to comprise the second and third spot on the Southerastern list.

Figure 1: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States. List includes species number, species rank order, percent of individual geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species, scientific name, and common name. A rank of one (1) signifies the most common and important tree species.

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 92 | Acer negundo | boxelder |
| 2 | 2 | 90 | Ulmus americana | American elm |
| 3 | 3 | 85 | Acer saccharinum | silver maple |
| 4 | 3 | 85 | Cercis canadensis | Eastem redbud |
| 5 | 3 | 85 | Fraxinus pennsylvanica | green ash |
| 6 | 3 | 85 | Juglans nigra | black walnut |
| 7 | 4 | 82 | Acer rubrum | red maple |
| 8 | 5 | 77 | Celtis occidentalis | hackberry |
| 9 | 6 | 74 | Quercus rubra | Northern red oak |
| 10 | 6 | 74 | Robinia pseudoacacia | black locust |
| 11 | 7 | 69 | Acer sacccharum | sugar maple |
| 12 | 7 | 69 | Liquidambar styraciflua | sweetgum |
| 13 | 7 | 69 | Liriodendron tulipfera | yellow poplar |
| 14 | 8 | 67 | Gleditsia triacanthos | honeylocust |
| 15 | 8 | 67 | Platanus occidentalis | sycamore |
| 16 | 8 | 67 | Quercus palustris | pin oak |
| 17 | 8 | 67 | Tilia americana | American basswood |
| 18 | 8 | 67 | Ulmus pumila | Siberian elm |

# Figure 1: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States. (continued)

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | 9 | 64 | Betula nigra | river birch |
| 20 | 9 | 64 | Pinus sylvestris | Scott's Pine |
| 21 | 10 | 62 | Fraxinus americana | white ash |
| 22 | 10 | 62 | Quercus macrocarpa | bur oak |
| 23 | 11 | 59 | Ailanthus alhssima | tree-of-heaven |
| 24 | 11 | 59 | Gingko biloba | gingko |
| 25 | 12 | 56 | Aesculus hippacastanum | horsechestnut |
| 26 | 12 | 56 | Catalpa speciosa | Northern catalpa |
| 27 | 12 | 56 | Cornus florida | dogwood |
| 28 | 12 | 56 | Gymnocladus dioica | Kentucky coffeetree |
| 29 | 12 | 56 | Malus spp. | crabapple species |
| 30 | 12 | 56 | Pinus nigra | Austrian pine |
| 31 | 13 | 54 | Pinus strobus | Eastern white pine |
| 32 | 13 | 54 | Ulmus parvifolia | Chinese elm |
| 33 | 14 | 51 | Abies concolor | white fir |
| 34 | 14 | 51 | Acer platanoides | Norway maple |
| 35 | 14 | 51 | Platanus acerifolia | London plane tree |
| 36 | 14 | 51 | Tilia cordata | littleleaf linden |
| 37 | 15 | 49 | Juniperus virginiana | Eastern redcedar |
| 38 | 15 | 49 | Populus deltoides | Eastern cottonwood |
| 39 | 15 | 49 | Populus nigra | Lombardy poplar |
| 40 | 15 | 49 | Prunus serotina | black cherry |
| 41 | 15 | 49 | Pseudotsuga menziesii | Douglas-fir |
| 42 | 15 | 49 | Quercus alba | white oak |
| 43 | 15 | 49 | Salix babylonica | weeping willow |
| 44 | 15 | 49 | Taxodium distichum | baldcypress |

# Figure 1: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States. (continued)

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45 | 16 | 46 | Betula pendula | European white birch |
| 46 | 16 | 46 | Carya ovata | shagbark hickory |
| 47 | 16 | 46 | Elaeagnus angustifolia | Russian olive |
| 48 | 16 | 46 | Fagus grandifolia | American beech |
| 49 | 16 | 46 | Koelreuteria paniculata | Golden raintree |
| 50 | 16 | 46 | Picea abies | Norway spruce |
| 51 | 16 | 46 | Populus tremuloides | quaking aspen |
| 52 | 17 | 44 | Cedrus deodara | deodar cedar |
| 53 | 17 | 44 | Crataegus spp. | hawthorn species |
| 54 | 17 | 44 | Prunus cerasifera | purple-leaf plum |
| 55 | 17 | 44 | Sorbus aucupana | European mt.-ash |

Figure 2: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. List includes species number, species rank order, percent of individual geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species, scientific name, and common name. A rank of one (1) signifies the most common and important tree species.

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | 14 | 51 | Abies concolor | white fir |
| 1 | 1 | 92 | Acer negundo | boxelder |
| 34 | 14 | 51 | Acer platanoides | Norway maple |
| 7 | 4 | 82 | Acer rubrum | red maple |
| 11 | 7 | 69 | Acer sacccharum | sugar maple |
| 3 | 3 | 85 | Acer saccharinum | silver maple |
| 25 | 12 | 56 | Aesculus hippacastanum | horsechestnut |
| 23 | 11 | 59 | Ailanthus alhssima | tree-of-heaven |
| 19 | 9 | 64 | Betula nigra | river birch |
| 45 | 16 | 46 | Betula pendula | European white birch |
| 46 | 16 | 46 | Carya ovata | shagbark hickory |
| 26 | 12 | 56 | Catalpa speciosa | Northern catalpa |
| 52 | 17 | 44 | Cedrus deodara | deodar cedar |
| 8 | 5 | 77 | Celtis occidentalis | hackberry |
| 4 | 3 | 85 | Cercis canadensis | Eastem redbud |
| 27 | 12 | 56 | Cornus florida | dogwood |
| 53 | 17 | 44 | Crataegus spp. | hawthorn species |
| 47 | 16 | 46 | Elaeagnus angustifolia | Russian olive |
| 48 | 16 | 46 | Fagus grandifolia | American beech |
| 21 | 10 | 62 | Fraxinus americana | white ash |

# Figure 2: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 85 | Fraxinus pennsylvanica | green ash |
| 24 | 11 | 59 | Gingko biloba | gingko |
| 14 | 8 | 67 | Gleditsia triacanthos | honeylocust |
| 28 | 12 | 56 | Gymnocladus dioica | Kentucky coffeetree |
| 6 | 3 | 85 | Juglans nigra | black walnut |
| 37 | 15 | 49 | Juniperus virginiana | Eastern redcedar |
| 49 | 16 | 46 | Koelreuteria paniculata | Goldenraintree |
| 12 | 7 | 69 | Liquidambar styraciflua | sweetgum |
| 13 | 7 | 69 | Liriodendron tulipfera | yellow poplar |
| 29 | 12 | 56 | Malus spp. | crabapple species |
| 50 | 16 | 46 | Picea abies | Norway spruce |
| 30 | 12 | 56 | Pinus nigra | Austrian pine |
| 31 | 13 | 54 | Pinus strobus | Eastern white pine |
| 20 | 9 | 64 | Pinus sylvestris | Scott's Pine |
| 35 | 14 | 51 | Platanus acerifolia | London plane tree |
| 15 | 8 | 67 | Platanus occidentalis | sycamore |
| 38 | 15 | 49 | Populus deltoides | Eastern cottonwood |
| 39 | 15 | 49 | Populus nigra | Lombardy poplar |
| 51 | 16 | 46 | Populus tremuloides | quaking aspen |
| 54 | 17 | 44 | Prunus cerasifera | purple-leaf plum |
| 40 | 15 | 49 | Prunus serotina | black cherry |
| 41 | 15 | 49 | Pseudotsuga menziesii | Douglas-fir |
| 42 | 15 | 49 | Quercus alba | white oak |
| 22 | 10 | 62 | Quercus macrocarpa | bur oak |

# Figure 2: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 8 | 67 | Quercus palustris | pin oak |
| 9 | 6 | 74 | Quercus rubra | Northern red oak |
| 10 | 6 | 74 | Robinia pseudoacacia | black locust |
| 43 | 15 | 49 | Salix babylonica | weeping willow |
| 55 | 17 | 44 | Sorbus aucupana | European mt.-ash |
| 44 | 15 | 49 | Taxodium distichum | baldcypress |
| 17 | 8 | 67 | Tilia americana | American basswood |
| 36 | 14 | 51 | Tilia cordata | littleleaf linden |
| 2 | 2 | 90 | Ulmus americana | American elm |
| 32 | 13 | 54 | Ulmus parvifolia | Chinese elm |
| 18 | 8 | 67 | Ulmus pumila | Siberian elm |

Figure 3: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States. List includes species number, species rank order, percent of individual geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species, scientific name, and common name. A rank of one (1) signifies the most common and important tree species.

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 90 | Acer rubrum | red maple |
| 2 | 2 | 80 | Acer negundo | boxelder |
| 3 | 2 | 80 | Betula nigra | river birch |
| 4 | 2 | 80 | Carya glabra | pignut hickory |
| 5 | 2 | 80 | Carya tomentosa | mockernut hickory |
| 6 | 2 | 80 | Cedrus deodara | deodar cedar |
| 7 | 2 | 80 | Celtis laevigata | sugarberry |
| 8 | 2 | 80 | Cercis canadensis | Eastern redbud |
| 9 | 2 | 80 | Cornus florida | flowering dogwood |
| 10 | 2 | 80 | Diospyros virginiana | persimmon |
| 11 | 2 | 80 | Fraxinus pennsylvanica | green ash |
| 12 | 2 | 80 | Ilex opaca | American holly |
| 13 | 2 | 80 | Liquidambar styraciflua | sweetgum |
| 14 | 2 | 80 | Liriodendron tulipfera | yellow poplar |
| 15 | 2 | 80 | Morus rubra | red mulberry |
| 16 | 2 | 80 | Pinus echinata | shortleaf pine |
| 17 | 2 | 80 | Pinus taeda | loblolly pine |
| 18 | 2 | 80 | Platanus occidentalis | sycamore |
| 19 | 2 | 80 | Populus deltoides | Eastern cottonwood |
| 20 | 2 | 80 | Prunus serotina | black cherry |
| 21 | 2 | 80 | Quercus falcata | Southern red oak |
| 22 | 2 | 80 | Quercus marilandica | blackjack oak |
| 23 | 2 | 80 | Quercus michauxii | swamp chestnut oak |
| 24 | 2 | 80 | Quercus phellos | willow oak |

# Figure 3: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States. (continued)

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25 | 2 | 80 | Quercus nigra | water oak |
| 26 | 2 | 80 | Quercus virginiana | live oak |
| 27 | 2 | 80 | Salix nigra | black willow |
| 28 | 2 | 80 | Taxodium distichum | baldcypress |
| 29 | 2 | 80 | Ulmus alata | winged elm |
| 30 | 2 | 80 | Ulmus americana | American elm |
| 31 | 3 | 70 | Acer saccharinum | silver maple |
| 32 | 3 | 70 | Carya ovata | shagbark hickory |
| 33 | 3 | 70 | Fagus grandifolia | American beech |
| 34 | 3 | 70 | Fraxinus americana | white ash |
| 35 | 3 | 70 | Gleditsia triacanthos | honeylocust |
| 36 | 3 | 70 | Juglans nigra | black walnut |
| 37 | 3 | 70 | Juniperus virginiana | Eastern redcedar |
| 38 | 3 | 70 | Magnolia virginiana | sweetbay |
| 39 | 3 | 70 | Nyssa aquatica | water tupelo |
| 40 | 3 | 70 | Pinus elliottii | slash pine |
| 41 | 3 | 70 | Pinus palustris | longleaf pine |
| 42 | 3 | 70 | Quercus alba | white oak |
| 43 | 3 | 70 | Quercus falcata pagodaefolia | cherrybark oak |
| 44 | 3 | 70 | Quercus stellata | post oak |
| 45 | 3 | 70 | Sassafras albidum | sassafras |

Figure 4: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. List includes species number, species rank order, percent of individual geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species, scientific name, and common name. A rank of one (1) signifies the most common and important tree species.

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 2 | 80 | Acer negundo | boxelder |
| 1 | 1 | 90 | Acer rubrum | red maple |
| 31 | 3 | 70 | Acer saccharinum | silver maple |
| 3 | 2 | 80 | Betula nigra | river birch |
| 4 | 2 | 80 | Carya glabra | pignut hickory |
| 32 | 3 | 70 | Carya ovata | shagbark hickory |
| 5 | 2 | 80 | Carya tomentosa | mockernut hickory |
| 6 | 2 | 80 | Cedrus deodara | deodar cedar |
| 7 | 2 | 80 | Celtis laevigata | sugarberry |
| 8 | 2 | 80 | Cercis canadensis | Eastern redbud |
| 9 | 2 | 80 | Cornus florida | flowering dogwood |
| 10 | 2 | 80 | Diospyros virginiana | persimmon |
| 33 | 3 | 70 | Fagus grandifolia | American beech |
| 34 | 3 | 70 | Fraxinus americana | white ash |
| 11 | 2 | 80 | Fraxinus pennsylvanica | green ash |
| 35 | 3 | 70 | Gleditsia triacanthos | honeylocust |
| 12 | 2 | 80 | Ilex opaca | American holly |

# Figure 4: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36 | 3 | 70 | Juglans nigra | black walnut |
| 37 | 3 | 70 | Juniperus virginiana | Eastern redcedar |
| 13 | 2 | 80 | Liquidambar styraciflua | sweetgum |
| 14 | 2 | 80 | Liriodendron tulipfera | yellow poplar |
| 38 | 3 | 70 | Magnolia virginiana | sweetbay |
| 15 | 2 | 80 | Morus rubra | red mulberry |
| 39 | 3 | 70 | Nyssa aquatica | water tupelo |
| 16 | 2 | 80 | Pinus echinata | shortleaf pine |
| 40 | 3 | 70 | Pinus elliottii | slash pine |
| 41 | 3 | 70 | Pinus palustris | longleaf pine |
| 17 | 2 | 80 | Pinus taeda | loblolly pine |
| 18 | 2 | 80 | Platanus occidentalis | sycamore |
| 19 | 2 | 80 | Populus deltoides | Eastern cottonwood |
| 20 | 2 | 80 | Prunus serotina | black cherry |
| 42 | 3 | 70 | Quercus alba | white oak |
| 43 | 3 | 70 | Quercus falcata pagodaefolia | cherrybark oak |
| 21 | 2 | 80 | Quercus falcata | Southern red oak |
| 22 | 2 | 80 | Quercus marilandica | blackjack oak |
| 23 | 2 | 80 | Quercus michauxii | swamp chestnut oak |
| 25 | 2 | 80 | Quercus nigra | water oak |
| 24 | 2 | 80 | Quercus phellos | willow oak |
| 44 | 3 | 70 | Quercus stellata | post oak |
| 26 | 2 | 80 | Quercus virginiana | live oak |

# Figure 4: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

| species number | rank order | percent of surveys | scientific name | common name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | 2 | 80 | Salix nigra | black willow |
| 45 | 3 | 70 | Sassafras albidum | sassafras |
| 28 | 2 | 80 | Taxodium distichum | baldcypress |
| 29 | 2 | 80 | Ulmus alata | winged elm |
| 30 | 2 | 80 | Ulmus americana | American elm |

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