



Native Trees of Georgia

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The native trees of Georgia represent a great ecological bounty and a rich cultural history. Native trees grow 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. They have provided medicine, food, fiber, shelter, recreation and aesthetic values. Native trees witnessed the arrival of many groups of explorers and settlers, many Native Americans, and many ice ages. Native trees are wonderfully adapted to a local area's climate, soils, pests and other plants. There is a native tree well-suited for every planting site or landscape position.

Definitions

A tree is defined here as normally reaching at least 12 feet in height, with a single, self-supporting stem and a distinct crown. A tree is considered native in Georgia if it grows and reproduces naturally in the landscape, if it was not originally planted here by people and escaped into the wild, and if its gene sets developed and succeeded under Georgia environmental conditions for centuries. Trees listed as native here are part of the natural landscapes of Georgia.

A few trees listed might be considered naturalized. Naturalized trees grow and successfully reproduce in a landscape after having escaped from human plantings and cultivation. Aggressive exotic species would not be included as naturalized, and are considered invasive. Tree inclusion on this list is based upon the references provided, the University of Georgia herbarium holdings, and personal knowledge of the author.

The List

Figure 1 lists the 11 largest native tree genera in Georgia. The top five genera represent roughly 37% of all species, and all eleven genera in the figure represent roughly 52% of all native tree species. Hawthorns and oaks have by far the largest number of native tree species in Georgia with 71 species combined, which represent 25% of all native tree species in Georgia. In this case, the oaks are easy to find in our lives, and the hawthorns are hidden away in understories and wild places.

Figure 2 lists native trees of Georgia alphabetically by scientific name. Included is a common name. Several tree species can share a common name, but each will have its own unique scientific name. Georgia has about 284 native trees. It should be noted genera Tilia (basswood) and Crataegus (hawthorn) have major taxonomic problems. For example, there are 37 hawthorn species listed here, but there could be more than 52, or as few as 18, native hawthorn tree species in Georgia depending upon the source.

How many native trees are in your yard, at school, or in a local park? How many can you find?

Primary Sources -- Selected Literature

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genus	name	number of species	species running total
<u>Crataegus</u>	hawthorn	37	37
<u>Quercus</u>	oak	34	71
<u>Ilex</u>	holly	12	83
<u>Carya</u>	hickory	12	95
<u>Pinus</u>	pine	11	106
<u>Acer</u>	maple	9	115
<u>Prunus</u>	cherry	8	123
<u>Magnolia</u>	magnolia	8	131
<u>Viburnum</u>	viburnum	6	137
<u>Aesculus</u>	buckeye	5	142
<u>Fraxinus</u>	ash	5	147

Figure 1: List of the 11 tree genera with the most species native to Georgia.

(total of 284 native tree species in Georgia)

Figure 2: Trees native to Georgia listed alphabetically by scientific name.

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Abies fraseri</u>	Fraser fir	<u>Carya australis</u>	Southern shagbark
<u>Acer floridanum</u>	Southern sugar maple		hickory
<u>Acer leucoderme</u>	chalk maple	<u>Carya cordiformis</u>	bitternut hickory
<u>Acer negundo</u>	boxelder	<u>Carya glabra</u>	pignut hickory
<u>Acer nigrum</u>	black maple	<u>Carya illinoensis</u>	pecan **
<u>Acer pensylvanicum</u>	striped maple	<u>Carya laciniata</u>	shellbark hickory
<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple	<u>Carya myristiciformis</u>	nutmeg hickory
<u>Acer saccharinum</u>	silver maple	<u>Carya ovalis</u>	red hickory
<u>Acer saccharum</u>	sugar maple	<u>Carya ovata</u>	shagbark hickory
<u>Acer spicatum</u>	mountain maple	<u>Carya pallida</u>	sand hickory
<u>Aesculus flava</u>	yellow buckeye	<u>Carya texana</u>	black hickory
<u>Aesculus glabra</u>	Ohio buckeye	<u>Carya tomentosa</u>	mockernut hickory
<u>Aesculus parviflora</u>	bottlebrush buckeye	<u>Castanea dentata</u>	American chestnut
		<u>Castanea pumila</u>	chinquapin
<u>Aesculus pavia</u>	red buckeye	<u>Catalpa bignonioides</u>	Southern catalpa
<u>Aesculus sylvatica</u>	Georgia buckeye	<u>Catalpa speciosa</u>	Northern catalpa
<u>Alnus maritima</u>	seaside alder	<u>Celtis laevigata</u>	sugarberry
<u>Alnus serrulata</u>	hazel alder	<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>	hackberry
<u>Amelanchier arborea</u>	serviceberry	<u>Celtis pumila</u>	dwarf hackberry
<u>Amelanchier canadensis</u>	Canadian serviceberry	<u>Celtis tenuifolia</u>	Georgia hackberry
		<u>Cephalanthus occidentalis</u>	buttonbush
<u>Amelanchier laevis</u>	Allegheny serviceberry	<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	redbud
		<u>Chamaecyparis thyoides</u>	Atlantic whitecedar
<u>Amelanchier sanguinea</u>	roundleaf serviceberry	<u>Chionanthus virginicus</u>	fringetree
		<u>Cladrastis kentuckea</u>	yellowwood
<u>Aralia spinosa</u>	devil's walkingstick	<u>Clethra acuminata</u>	sweet pepperbush
<u>Asimina parviflora</u>	dwarf pawpaw	<u>Cliftonia monophylla</u>	buckwheat tree
<u>Asimina triloba</u>	pawpaw	<u>Cornus alternifolia</u>	alternate-leaf dogwood
<u>Baccharis halimifolia</u>	Eastern baccharis	<u>Cornus drummondii</u>	roughleaf dogwood
<u>Betula alleghaniensis</u>	yellow birch	<u>Cornus florida</u>	flowering dogwood
<u>Betula lenta</u>	sweet birch	<u>Cornus foemina</u>	stiff dogwood
<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch	<u>Cotinus obovatus</u>	smoketree
		<u>Crataegus aemula</u>	Rome hawthorn
<u>Carpinus caroliniana</u>	American hornbeam	<u>Crataegus aestivalis</u>	mayhaw
		<u>Crataegus agrestina</u>	swamp allegheny hawthorn
<u>Carya aquatica</u>	water hickory	<u>Crataegus alabamensis</u>	Alabama hawthorn

Figure 2: Trees native to Georgia listed
alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Crataegus allegheniensis</u>	Allegheny haw	<u>Elliottia racemosa</u>	Georgia plume
<u>Crataegus aprica</u>	sunny hawthorn	<u>Erythrina herbacea</u>	coral bean
<u>Crataegus berberifolia</u>	barberry hawthorn	<u>Euonymus atropurpureus</u>	burningbush
<u>Crataegus brachyacantha</u>	blueberry haw		
<u>Crataegus buckleyi</u>	Buckley hawthorn	<u>Fagus grandifolia</u>	American beech
<u>Crataegus calpodendron</u>	pear hawthorn	<u>Forestiera segregata</u>	Florida swamp-privet
<u>Crataegus collina</u>	hillside hawthorn	<u>Frangula caroliniana</u>	Carolina buckthorn
<u>Crataegus condigna</u>	river junction haw	<u>Franklinia alatamaha</u>	Franklin tree
<u>Crataegus crus-galli</u>	cockspur haw	<u>Fraxinus americana</u>	white ash
<u>Crataegus dispar</u>	Aiken hawthorn	<u>Fraxinus caroliniana</u>	Carolina ash
<u>Crataegus egregia</u>	Bristol hawthorn	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash
<u>Crataegus flava</u>	yellow hawthorn	<u>Fraxinus profunda</u>	pumpkin ash
<u>Crataegus fragilis</u>	fragile hawthorn	<u>Fraxinus quadrangulata</u>	blue ash
<u>Crataegus iracunda</u>	forest hawthorn		
<u>Crataegus lacrimata</u>	weeping hawthorn	<u>Gleditsia aquatica</u>	water locust
<u>Crataegus lancei</u>	Lance hawthorn	<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	honeylocust
<u>Crataegus lassa</u>	Selma hawthorn	<u>Gordonia lasianthus</u>	loblolly bay
<u>Crataegus macrosperma</u>	bigfruit hawthorn	<u>Gymnocladus dioica</u>	Kentucky coffee-tree
<u>Crataegus marshallii</u>	parsley hawthorn		
<u>Crataegus mendosa</u>	Albertville haw	<u>Halesia carolina</u>	little silverbell
<u>Crataegus mohrii</u>	Mohr hawthorn	<u>Halesia diptera</u>	two-wing silverbell
<u>Crataegus mollis</u>	downy hawthorn	<u>Halesia tetraptera</u>	mountain silverbell
<u>Crataegus phaenopyrum</u>	Washington haw	<u>Hamamelis virginiana</u>	American witch-hazel
<u>Crataegus pruinosa</u>	waxy-fruit haw		
<u>Crataegus pulcherrima</u>	beautiful hawthorn	<u>Ilex ambigua</u>	Carolina holly
<u>Crataegus quaesita</u>	Florida hawthorn	<u>Ilex amelanchier</u>	sarvis holly
<u>Crataegus rigens</u>	Gadsden haw	<u>Ilex cassine</u>	dahoon
<u>Crataegus rufula</u>	rusty hawthorn	<u>Ilex coriacea</u>	large gallberry
<u>Crataegus senta</u>	rough hawthorn	<u>Ilex cuthbertii</u>	Cuthbert holly
<u>Crataegus sororia</u>	sister hawthorn	<u>Ilex decidua</u>	possumhaw
<u>Crataegus spathulata</u>	littlehip hawthorn	<u>Ilex longipes</u>	Georgia holly
<u>Crataegus vailiae</u>	Vail hawthorn	<u>Ilex montana</u>	mountain holly
<u>Crataegus viridis</u>	green hawthorn	<u>Ilex myrtifolia</u>	myrtle dahoon
<u>Cyrilla parvifolia</u>	littleleaf titi	<u>Ilex opaca</u>	American holly
<u>Cyrilla racemiflora</u>	swamp titi	<u>Ilex verticillata</u>	winterberry
<u>Diospyros virginiana</u>	persimmon		

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<u>Ilex vomitoria</u>	yaupon	<u>Nyssa ogeche</u>	Ogeeche-lime
<u>Illicium floridanum</u>	Florida anisetree	<u>Nyssa sylvatica</u>	blackgum
<u>Juglans cinerea</u>	butternut	<u>Osmanthus americanus</u>	devilwood
<u>Juglans nigra</u>	black walnut	<u>Ostrya virginiana</u>	Eastern hophornbeam
<u>Juniperus communis</u>	juniper	<u>Oxydendrum arboreum</u>	sourwood
<u>Juniperus silicicola</u>	Southern redcedar		
<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar		
<u>Kalmia latifolia</u>	mountain-laurel	<u>Persea borbonia</u>	red-bay
<u>Leitneria floridana</u>	corkwood	<u>Persea palustris</u>	swamp-bay
<u>Lindera benzoin</u>	spicebush	<u>Pinckneya bracteata</u>	fevertree
<u>Lindera subcoriacea</u>	bog spicebush	<u>Pinus clausa</u>	sand pine **
<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum	<u>Pinus echinata</u>	shortleaf pine
<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow-poplar	<u>Pinus elliotii</u>	slash pine
<u>Lyonia ferruginea</u>	staggerbush	<u>Pinus glabra</u>	spruce pine
		<u>Pinus palustris</u>	longleaf pine
<u>Magnolia acuminata</u>	mountain cucumber-tree	<u>Pinus pungens</u>	Table Mountain pine
<u>Magnolia cordata</u>	Piedmont cucumber-tree	<u>Pinus rigida</u>	pitch pine
<u>Magnolia fraseri</u>	mountain magnolia	<u>Pinus serotina</u>	pond pine
<u>Magnolia grandiflora</u>	Southern magnolia	<u>Pinus strobus</u>	Eastern white pine
<u>Magnolia macrophylla</u>	bigleaf magnolia	<u>Pinus taeda</u>	loblolly pine
<u>Magnolia pyramidata</u>	pyramid magnolia	<u>Pinus virginiana</u>	Virginia pine
<u>Magnolia tripetala</u>	umbrella-tree	<u>Planera aquatica</u>	planertree
<u>Magnolia virginiana</u>	sweetbay	<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	American sy-
<u>Malus angustifolia</u>	Southern crabapple	camore	
<u>Malus coronaria</u>	sweet crabapple	<u>Populus deltoides</u>	Eastern cottonwood
<u>Morella caroliniensis</u>	Southern bayberry	<u>Populus heterophylla</u>	swamp cottonwood
<u>Morella cerifera</u>	wax-myrtle	<u>Prunus alabamensis</u>	Alabama cherry
<u>Morella heterophylla</u>	evergreen bayberry	<u>Prunus americana</u>	American plum
<u>Morella inodora</u>	odorless bayberry	<u>Prunus angustifolia</u>	Chickasaw plum
<u>Morus rubra</u>	red mulberry	<u>Prunus caroliniana</u>	laurelcherry
		<u>Prunus munsoniana</u>	wild goose plum
<u>Nyssa aquatica</u>	water tupelo	<u>Prunus pensylvanica</u>	fire cherry
<u>Nyssa biflora</u>	swamp tupelo	<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry
		<u>Prunus umbellata</u>	flatwoods plum
		<u>Ptelea trifoliata</u>	hoptree

Figure 2: Trees native to Georgia listed alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Quercus alba</u>	white oak	<u>Rhododendron catawbiense</u>	
<u>Quercus arkansana</u>	Arkansas oak		purple-laurel
<u>Quercus austrina</u>	bluff oak	<u>Rhododendron maximum</u>	
<u>Quercus chapmanii</u>	Chapman oak		rosebay-laurel
<u>Quercus coccinea</u>	scarlet oak	<u>Rhus copallinum</u>	winged sumac
<u>Quercus falcata</u>	Southern red oak	<u>Rhus glabra</u>	smooth sumac
<u>Quercus geminata</u>	sand live oak	<u>Rhus typhina</u>	staghorn sumac
<u>Quercus georgiana</u>	Georgia oak	<u>Robinia hispida</u>	pink locust
<u>Quercus hemisphaerica</u>	laurel oak	<u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u>	black locust
<u>Quercus imbricaria</u>	shingle oak	<u>Robinia viscosa</u>	clammy locust
<u>Quercus incana</u>	bluejack oak		
<u>Quercus laevis</u>	turkey oak	<u>Sabal palmetto</u>	cabbage palmetto
<u>Quercus laurifolia</u>	swamp laurel oak	<u>Salix caroliniana</u>	Coastal Plain willow
<u>Quercus lyrata</u>	overcup oak		
<u>Quercus margaretta</u>	sand post oak	<u>Salix floridana</u>	Florida willow
<u>Quercus marilandica</u>	blackjack oak	<u>Salix nigra</u>	black willow
<u>Quercus michauxii</u>	swamp chestnut oak	<u>Salix sericea</u>	silky willow
		<u>Sambucus nigra</u>	black elderberry
<u>Quercus minima</u>	dwarf live oak	<u>Sambucus racemosa</u>	red elderberry
<u>Quercus montana</u>	chestnut oak	<u>Sambucus simpsonii</u>	Southern elderberry
<u>Quercus muehlenbergii</u>	chinquapin oak		
<u>Quercus myrtifolia</u>	myrtle oak	<u>Sapindus saponaria</u>	wingleaf soapberry
<u>Quercus nigra</u>	water oak	<u>Sassafras albidum</u>	sassafras
<u>Quercus oglethorpensis</u>	Oglethorpe oak	<u>Serenoa repens</u>	saw palmetto
<u>Quercus pagoda</u>	cherrybark oak	<u>Sideroxylon alachuense</u>	Alachua bully
<u>Quercus palustris</u>	pin oak	<u>Sideroxylon lanuginosa</u>	gum bumelia
<u>Quercus phellos</u>	willow oak	<u>Sideroxylon lycioides</u>	buckthorn bumelia
<u>Quercus prinoides</u>	dwarf chinquapin oak	<u>Sideroxylon tenax</u>	tough bumelia
		<u>Sorbus americana</u>	American mountain-ash
<u>Quercus rubra</u>	Northern red oak		
<u>Quercus shumardii</u>	Shumard's oak	<u>Staphylea trifolia</u>	bladdernut
<u>Quercus similis</u>	swamp post oak	<u>Stewartia malacodendron</u>	silky camellia
<u>Quercus sinuata</u>	bastard (Durand) oak	<u>Stewartia ovata</u>	mountain camellia
		<u>Styrax americanus</u>	American snowbell
<u>Quercus stellata</u>	post oak	<u>Styrax grandifolius</u>	bigleaf snowbell
<u>Quercus velutina</u>	black oak	<u>Symplocos tinctoria</u>	sweetleaf
<u>Quercus virginiana</u>	live oak		

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scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Taxodium ascendens</u>	pond-cypress	<u>Vaccinium arboreum</u>	farkleberry
<u>Taxodium distichum</u>	bald-cypress	<u>Vachellia farnesiana</u>	sweet acacia**
<u>Tilia americana</u>	American basswood	<u>Viburnum dentatum</u>	Southern arrowwood
<u>Tilia caroliniana</u>	Carolina basswood	<u>Viburnum lentago</u>	nannyberry
<u>Tilia heterophylla</u>	white basswood	<u>Viburnum obovatum</u>	small-leaf arrowwood
<u>Torreya taxifolia</u>	torreya	<u>Viburnum prunifolium</u>	blackhaw
<u>Toxicodendron vernix</u>	poison sumac	<u>Viburnum recognitum</u>	arrowwood
<u>Tsuga canadensis</u>	Eastern hemlock	<u>Viburnum rufidulum</u>	rusty blackhaw
<u>Tsuga caroliniana</u>	Carolina hemlock		
<u>Ulmus alata</u>	winged elm	<u>Yucca aloifolia</u>	Spanish-bayonet
<u>Ulmus americana</u>	American elm	<u>Yucca gloriosa</u>	moundlilly yucca
<u>Ulmus rubra</u>	slippery elm	<u>Zanthoxylum americanum</u>	prickly-ash
<u>Ulmus serotina</u>	September elm	<u>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</u>	Hercules' club

** = naturalized species

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