## Dendrology Series



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## Rare Trees of Georgia

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Georgia has an abundance of trees -- a number are wetland trees, and a number grow in upland areas. The diversity of tree species in their highly varied habitats, is immence across Georgia. Among Georgian trees are a few species of great rarity. These rare native trees are hidden ecological treasures. Rare trees are difficult to find in the field and have small populations. The federal and state government lists a number of these rare trees as endangered, threatened, or rare.

Below is a table showing the distribution of rarity values among Georgia's selected rare trees. The species list which follows gives the rarest native trees in Georgia, listed by scientific name, common name, and relative rarity value of 1-6, with 1 being the rarest. Figure 1 provides a county distribution map for species (other than *Crataegus*) with rarity values 1, 2, and 3. Figure 2 shows the total number of the rarest tree species found in various Georgia regions. A roadtrip to find all these tree species would be a wonderful tree adventure!

Rarity Value	Number of Species		
6	7		
5 4	9 8		
3	8		
2	5 Figure 1		

#	scientific name	common name	relative rarity value
1	Acacia farnesiana	sweet acacia	5
2	Acer spicatum	mountain maple	6
3	Aesculus glabra	Ohio buckeye	6
4	Aesculus parviflora	bottlebrush buckeye	4
5	Alnus maritima var. georgiensis	Georgia alder	3
6	Carya laciniosa	shellbark hickory	6
7	Carya myristiciformis	nutmeg hickory	3*
8	Chamaecyparis thyoides	Atlantic white-cedar	3*
9	Cotinus obovatus	American smoketree	3
10	Crataegus pulcherrima	beautiful hawthorn	3
11	Crataegus triflora	three-flower hawthorn	2*
12	Elliottia racemosa	Georgia plume	2*
13	Franklinia alatamaha	Franklin tree	1X
14	Fraxinus quadrangulata	blue ash	4
15	<u>llex amelanchier</u>	serviceberry holly	5
16	Illicium floridanum	Florida anise-tree	3*
17	Illicium parviflorum	yellow anise-tree	5
18	Juglans cinerea	butternut	4
19	Leitneria floridana	corkwood	2*
20	Magnolia pyramidata	pyramid magnolia	5
21	Morella inodora	odorless bayberry	3*
22	Prunus mexicana	Mexican plum	5
23	Prunus pensylvanica	fire cherry	6
24	Quercus arkansana	Arkansas oak	5
25	Quercus austrina	bluff oak	4
26	Quercus chapmanii	Chapman oak	6
27	Quercus imbricaria	shingle oak	5

#	scientific name	common name	relative rarity value
28 29 30 31	Quercus oglethorpensis Quercus prinoides Quercus similis Quercus sinuata	Oglethorpe oak dwarf chinkapin oak swamp post oak bastard (Durand) oak	2* 6 4 4
32 33 34 35 36	Salix floridana Sambucus simpsonii Sapindus marginatus Sideroxylon alachuense Sideroxylon thornei	Florida willow Southern elderberry wingleaf soapberry silver bumelia swamp bumelia	1* 6 4* 2 3*
37	Sorbus americana	American mountain-ash	5
38 39	Torreya taxifolia Tsuga caroliniana	Florida torreya Carolina hemlock	1** 1*
40	<u>Ulmus serotina</u>	September elm	4
41	Zanthoxylum americanum	Northern prickly-ash	5

symbol key: \* = State of Georgia listed species; \*\* = federally listed species; X = extinct.

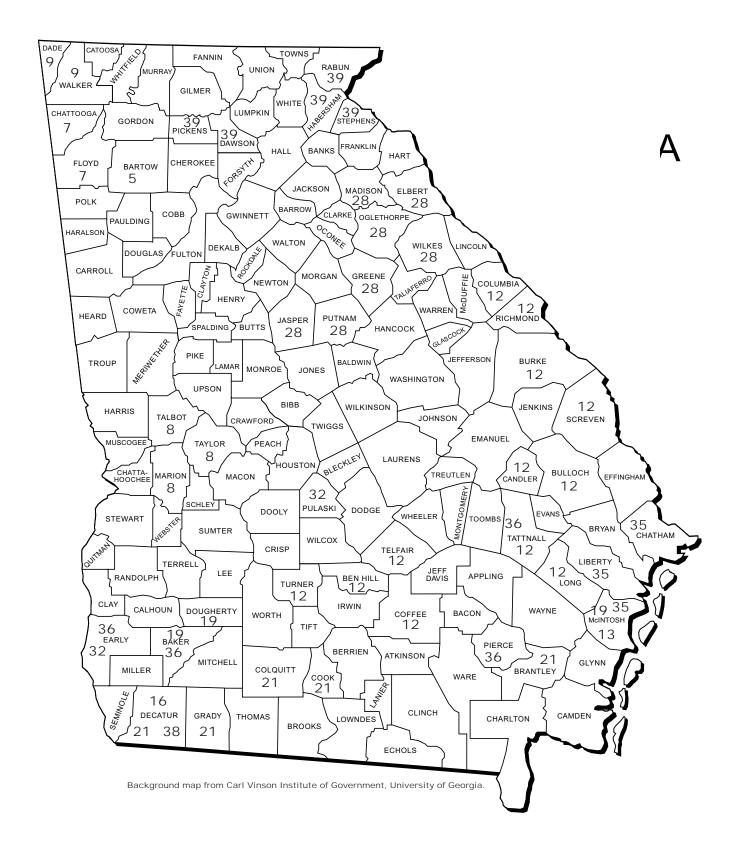


Figure 1: General county distribution of Georgia's rarest trees with rarity values of 1, 2, or 3. Numbers from rare species list.

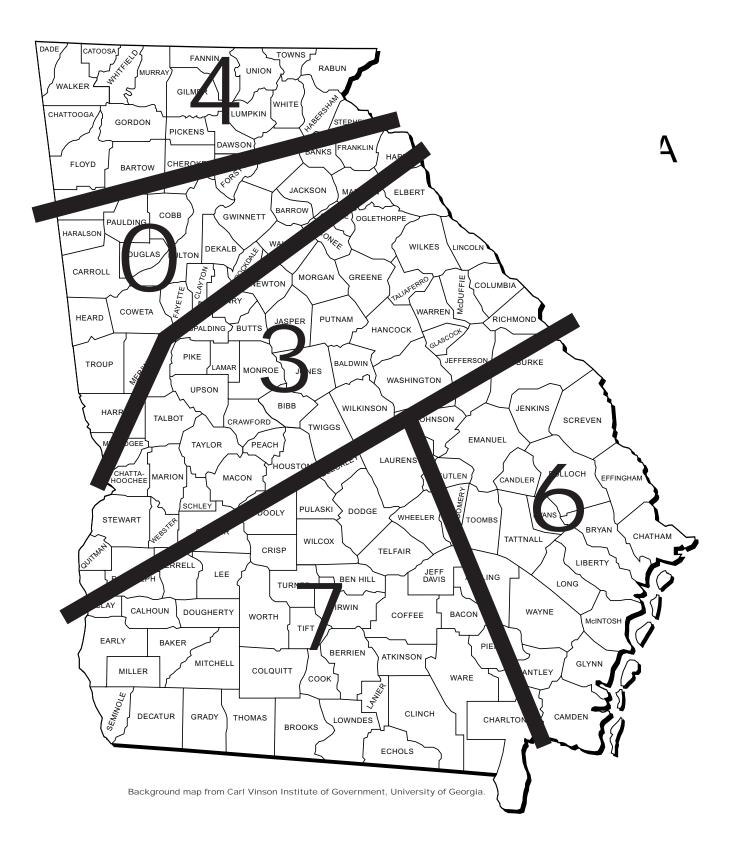


Figure 2: Number of rarest tree species (rarity value 1, 2, or 3) by areas in Georgia.