

# 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 immense 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!

<u>Rarity Value</u>	<u>Number of Species</u>
6	7
5	9
4	8
3	8
2	5
1	4

Figure 1

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

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

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



