



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 hickory
<u>Acer floridanum</u>	Southern sugar maple	<u>Carya cordiformis</u>	bitternut hickory
<u>Acer leucoderme</u>	chalk maple	<u>Carya glabra</u>	pignut hickory
<u>Acer negundo</u>	boxelder	<u>Carya illinoensis</u>	pecan **
<u>Acer nigrum</u>	black maple	<u>Carya laciniosa</u>	shellbark hickory
<u>Acer pensylvanicum</u>	striped maple	<u>Carya myristiciformis</u>	nutmeg hickory
<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple	<u>Carya ovalis</u>	red hickory
<u>Acer saccharinum</u>	silver maple	<u>Carya ovata</u>	shagbark hickory
<u>Acer saccharum</u>	sugar maple	<u>Carya pallida</u>	sand hickory
<u>Acer spicatum</u>	mountain maple	<u>Carya texana</u>	black hickory
<u>Aesculus flava</u>	yellow buckeye	<u>Carya tomentosa</u>	mockernut hickory
<u>Aesculus glabra</u>	Ohio buckeye	<u>Castanea dentata</u>	American chestnut
<u>Aesculus parviflora</u>	bottlebrush buckeye	<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>Amelanchier laevis</u>	Allegheny serviceberry	<u>Cephalanthus occidentalis</u>	buttonbush
<u>Amelanchier sanguinea</u>	roundleaf serviceberry	<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	redbud
<u>Aralia spinosa</u>	devil's walkingstick	<u>Chamaecyparis thyoides</u>	Atlantic whitecedar
<u>Asimina parviflora</u>	dwarf pawpaw	<u>Chionanthus virginicus</u>	fringetree
<u>Asimina triloba</u>	pawpaw	<u>Cladrastis kentukea</u>	yellowwood
<u>Baccharis halimifolia</u>	Eastern baccharis	<u>Clethra acuminata</u>	sweet pepperbush
<u>Betula alleghaniensis</u>	yellow birch	<u>Cliftonia monophylla</u>	buckwheat tree
<u>Betula lenta</u>	sweet birch	<u>Cornus alternifolia</u>	alternate-leaf dogwood
<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch	<u>Cornus drummondii</u>	roughleaf dogwood
<u>Carpinus caroliniana</u>	American hornbeam	<u>Cornus florida</u>	flowering dogwood
<u>Carya aquatica</u>	water hickory	<u>Cornus foemina</u>	stiff dogwood
		<u>Cotinus obovatus</u>	smoketree
		<u>Crataegus aemula</u>	Rome hawthorn
		<u>Crataegus aestivalis</u>	mayhaw
		<u>Crataegus agrestina</u>	swamp allegheny hawthorn
		<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 dioicus</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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scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<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>Persea borbonia</u>	red-bay
<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar	<u>Persea palustris</u>	swamp-bay
<u>Kalmia latifolia</u>	mountain-laurel	<u>Pinckneya bracteata</u>	fevertree
<u>Leitneria floridana</u>	corkwood	<u>Pinus clausa</u>	sand pine **
<u>Lindera benzoin</u>	spicebush	<u>Pinus echinata</u>	shortleaf pine
<u>Lindera subcoriacea</u>	bog spicebush	<u>Pinus elliotii</u>	slash pine
<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum	<u>Pinus glabra</u>	spruce pine
<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow-poplar	<u>Pinus palustris</u>	longleaf pine
<u>Lyonia ferruginea</u>	staggerbush	<u>Pinus pungens</u>	Table Mountain pine
<u>Magnolia acuminata</u>	mountain cucumber-tree	<u>Pinus rigida</u>	pitch pine
<u>Magnolia cordata</u>	Piedmont cucumber-tree	<u>Pinus serotina</u>	pond pine
<u>Magnolia fraseri</u>	mountain magnolia	<u>Pinus strobus</u>	Eastern white pine
<u>Magnolia grandiflora</u>	Southern magnolia	<u>Pinus taeda</u>	loblolly pine
<u>Magnolia macrophylla</u>	bigleaf magnolia	<u>Pinus virginiana</u>	Virginia pine
<u>Magnolia pyramidata</u>	pyramid magnolia	<u>Planera aquatica</u>	planertree
<u>Magnolia tripetala</u>	umbrella-tree	<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	American sy- camore
<u>Magnolia virginiana</u>	sweetbay	<u>Populus deltoides</u>	Eastern cottonwood
<u>Malus angustifolia</u>	Southern crabapple	<u>Populus heterophylla</u>	swamp cottonwood
<u>Malus coronaria</u>	sweet crabapple	<u>Prunus alabamensis</u>	Alabama cherry
<u>Morella caroliniensis</u>	Southern bayberry	<u>Prunus americana</u>	American plum
<u>Morella cerifera</u>	wax-myrtle	<u>Prunus angustifolia</u>	Chickasaw plum
<u>Morella heterophylla</u>	evergreen bayberry	<u>Prunus caroliniana</u>	laurelcherry
<u>Morella inodora</u>	odorless bayberry	<u>Prunus munsoniana</u>	wild goose plum
<u>Morus rubra</u>	red mulberry	<u>Prunus pennsylvanica</u>	fire cherry
<u>Nyssa aquatica</u>	water tupelo	<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry
<u>Nyssa biflora</u>	swamp tupelo	<u>Prunus umbellata</u>	flatwoods plum
		<u>Ptelea trifoliata</u>	hoptree

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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>Sabal palmetto</u>	cabbage palmetto
<u>Quercus laevis</u>	turkey oak	<u>Salix caroliniana</u>	Coastal Plain willow
<u>Quercus laurifolia</u>	swamp laurel oak		Florida willow
<u>Quercus lyrata</u>	overcup oak	<u>Salix floridana</u>	black willow
<u>Quercus margaretta</u>	sand post oak	<u>Salix nigra</u>	silky willow
<u>Quercus marilandica</u>	blackjack oak	<u>Salix sericea</u>	black elderberry
<u>Quercus michauxii</u>	swamp chestnut oak	<u>Sambucus nigra</u>	red elderberry
<u>Quercus minima</u>	dwarf live oak	<u>Sambucus racemosa</u>	Southern elderberry
<u>Quercus montana</u>	chestnut oak	<u>Sambucus simpsonii</u>	wingleaf soapberry
<u>Quercus muehlenbergii</u>	chinquapin oak	<u>Sapindus saponaria</u>	sassafras
<u>Quercus myrtifolia</u>	myrtle oak	<u>Sassafras albidum</u>	saw palmetto
<u>Quercus nigra</u>	water oak	<u>Serenoa repens</u>	Alachua bully
<u>Quercus oglethorpensis</u>	Oglethorpe oak	<u>Sideroxylon alachuense</u>	gum bumelia
<u>Quercus pagoda</u>	cherrybark oak	<u>Sideroxylon lanuginosa</u>	buckthorn bumelia
<u>Quercus palustris</u>	pin oak	<u>Sideroxylon lycioides</u>	tough bumelia
<u>Quercus phellos</u>	willow oak	<u>Sideroxylon tenax</u>	American mountain-ash
<u>Quercus prinoides</u>	dwarf chinquapin oak	<u>Sorbus americana</u>	bladdernut
<u>Quercus rubra</u>	Northern red oak	<u>Staphylea trifolia</u>	silky camellia
<u>Quercus shumardii</u>	Shumard's oak	<u>Stewartia malacodendron</u>	mountain camellia
<u>Quercus similis</u>	swamp post oak	<u>Stewartia ovata</u>	American snowbell
<u>Quercus sinuata</u>	bastard (Durand) oak	<u>Styrax americanus</u>	bigleaf snowbell
<u>Quercus stellata</u>	post oak	<u>Styrax grandifolius</u>	sweetleaf
<u>Quercus velutina</u>	black oak	<u>Symplocos tinctoria</u>	
<u>Quercus virginiana</u>	live oak		

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

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>Yucca aloifolia</u>	Spanish-bayonet
<u>Ulmus alata</u>	winged elm	<u>Yucca gloriosa</u>	moundlilly yucca
<u>Ulmus americana</u>	American elm	<u>Zanthoxylum americanum</u>	prickly-ash
<u>Ulmus rubra</u>	slippery elm	<u>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</u>	Hercules' club
<u>Ulmus serotina</u>	September elm		

** = naturalized species

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