

# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023 Tree Information Sheet

## **Sweet Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)**

Native Range: Eastern United States

Zone: 5-10

Height: 10 – 25 `

Spread: 10 – 25 `

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Color: Creamy white

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Flowering tree, rain garden

Flower: Showy, fragrant

Tolerate: Clay soil, wet soil, pollution



## **Culture**

Easily grown in acidic, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, rich, organic soils, but, unlike most other magnolias, tolerates wet, boggy soils. Also does quite well in heavy clay soils.

## **Noteworthy Characteristics**

*Magnolia virginiana*, commonly called sweet bay magnolia, is native to the southeastern United States north along the Atlantic coast to New York. In the northern part of its cultivated growing range, it typically grows as either a 15-20' tall tree with a spreading, rounded crown or as a shorter, suckering, open, multi-stemmed shrub. Features cup-shaped, sweetly fragrant, 9-12 petaled, creamy white, waxy flowers (2-3" diameter) which appear in mid-spring and sometimes continue sporadically throughout the summer. Shiny green foliage is silvery beneath. Foliage is semi-evergreen to fully deciduous in our region. Cone-like fruits with bright red seeds mature in fall and can be showy. No serious insect or disease problems

## **Uses**

Excellent specimen tree for lawns or tall multi-stemmed shrub for shrub borders. Use in foundation plantings, near patios or on the periphery of woodland areas. Often planted in parks. Will grow in wet soils such as those found in low spots or near ponds/streams.

# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023

## Tree Information Sheet

### **Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)**

Native Range: Eastern United States

Zone: 3-9

Height: 12 – 20 `

Spread: 12 – 20 `

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Color: Creamy white

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Flowering tree

Flower: Showy, fragrant

Leaf: Good fall

Fruit: Showy

Attracts: Birds

Tolerate: Clay soil, air pollution, black walnut



### **Culture**

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, fertile soils. Seldom needs pruning. Tolerant of air pollution and adapts well to urban settings. Intolerant of prolonged dry conditions.

### **Noteworthy Characteristics**

*Chionanthus virginicus*, commonly called fringetree, is a deciduous, native shrub or small tree with a spreading, rounded habit that typically grows 12-20' tall and most often occurs in rich, moist woods and hillsides, moist stream banks, limestone glade margins and rocky bluffs and ledges. Common name refers to the slightly fragrant, spring-blooming flowers which feature airy, terminal, drooping clusters (4-6" long) of fringe-like, creamy white petals. Male and female plants flower. Male flowers are showier. Female flowers give way to clusters of olive-like fruits which ripen to a dark, bluish black in late summer and are a food source for birds and wildlife. Wide, spear-shaped leaves (to 8" long) turn yellow in autumn.

### **Uses**

Grow in groups or as specimens in lawns or in shrub or woodland borders. Also may be used in native plant gardens or near streams or ponds. Can be spectacular in full bloom.

# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023

## Tree Information Sheet

### **Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance')**

Hybrid between two species of North American Serviceberries

Native Range: Eastern North America

Zone: 4-9

Height: 15 – 25 `

Spread: 15 – 25 `

Bloom Time: April

Bloom Color: Creamy white

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Flowering tree

Flower: Showy

Leaf: Good fall

Fruit: Showy

Attracts: Birds

Tolerate: Wide range of soils



### **Culture**

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerant of a somewhat wide range of soils, but prefers moist, well-drained loams. Root suckers are common, and if not removed, will result in a shrubby growth habit for the plant.

### **Noteworthy Characteristics**

*Amelanchier x grandiflora* is a hybrid cross between two species of North American serviceberry, namely, *A. arborea* (downy serviceberry) and *A. laevis* (Allegheny serviceberry). This is a small, deciduous, usually multi-trunked understory tree or tall shrub which typically matures to 15-20' tall. Flowers bloom in April followed by edible fruits (3/8" diameter) in June (hence the sometimes used common name of Juneberry). Berries resemble blueberries in taste and may be used in jams, jellies and pies. Finely-toothed leaves emerge with bronze tints in spring, mature to dark green from late spring throughout summer before finally turning brilliant red to orange-red in fall. 'Autumn Brilliance' has brilliant orange-red fall color (hence the cultivar name). This cultivar reportedly has excellent disease resistance.

### **Uses**

Attractive understory tree/shrub for lawns, shrub borders, woodland margins or native plant areas. Shrub forms can be grown as tall informal hedges or screens. Good plant for bird gardens (birds love the berries).



# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023

## Tree Information Sheet

### Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Native Range: Eastern North America

Zone: 4-8

Height: 20 – 30 `

Spread: 20 – 35 `

Bloom Time: April

Bloom Color: Pink

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Flowering tree, street tree, naturalize

Flower: Showy

Leaf: Good fall

Attracts: Butterflies

Tolerate: Clay soil, deer, black walnut



### Culture

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Part shade is best in hot summer climates. Performs best in moderately fertile soils with regular and consistent moisture. Avoid wet or poorly drained soils. Since this tree does not transplant well, it should be planted when young and left undisturbed.

### Noteworthy Characteristics

*Cercis canadensis*, commonly called eastern redbud, is a deciduous, often multi-trunked understory tree with a rounded crown that typically matures to 20-30' tall with a slightly larger spread. It is particularly noted for its stunning pea-like rose-purple flowers which bloom profusely on bare branches in early spring (March-April) before the foliage emerges. This tree is native to eastern and central North America. Flowers (to ½" wide) bloom in clusters of 4-10. Flowers are followed by flattened leguminous bean-like dry seedpods (2-4" long) that mature to brown in summer. Each pod has 6-12 seeds. Pods may remain on the tree into winter. Leaves turn pale yellow to greenish-yellow in fall.

Keep the tree vigorous by regular watering, fertilization and pruning out dead branches as needed. Deer tend to avoid this plant.

### Uses

Specimen or small groups. Lawns, shrub borders, woodland margins, or along patios. Street tree or lawn tree. Attractive in naturalized settings.

# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023

## Tree Information Sheet

### **Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)**

Native Range: Eastern North America

Zone: 3-8

Height: 15 – 20 `

Spread: 15 – 20 `

Bloom Time: October to  
December

Bloom Color: Yellow sometimes  
tinged w/orange  
or red

Sun: Full sun to part shade

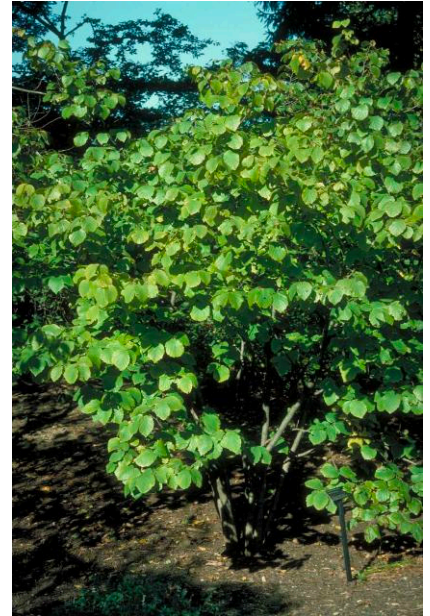
Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Hedge, Naturalize, Rain Garden

Flower: Showy, fragrant

Tolerate: Deer, erosion, clay soil



### **Culture**

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best flowering in full sun. Prefers moist, acidic, organically rich soils. Tolerates heavy clay soils. Promptly remove suckers to prevent colonial spread. Little pruning is required. Prune in early spring if necessary.

### **Noteworthy Characteristics**

*Hamamelis virginiana*, known as common witch hazel, is a fall-blooming, deciduous shrub or small tree that is native to woodlands, forest margins and stream banks in eastern North America. It typically grows 15-20' tall with a similar spread in cultivation, but can reach 30' tall in its native habitat. Stem-hugging clusters of fragrant bright yellow flowers, each with four crinkly, ribbon-shaped petals, appear along the branches from October to December, usually after leaf drop but sometimes at the time of fall color. Fertilized flowers will form fruit over a long period extending through winter and into the following growing season. Fruits are greenish seed capsules that become woody with age and mature to light brown. Each seed capsule splits open in fall of the following year, exploding the 1-2 black seeds within for up to 30 feet. Oval to obovate, medium to dark green leaves (to 6" long) with dentate to wavy margins turn quality shades of yellow in fall. Plants of this species are usually the last native flowering plants to bloom in Pennsylvania each year.

### **Uses**

Shrub borders, woodland gardens. Screen or tall hedge.

# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023

## Tree Information Sheet

### **Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)**

Native Range: Eastern North America

Zone: 3-7

Height: 15 – 25 `

Spread: 20 – 32 `

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Color: Yellowish-white

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Flowering tree

Flower: Showy, fragrant

Tolerate: Deer, black walnut



### **Culture**

Best grown in acidic, organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Some afternoon shade is appreciated in hot summer climates such as the St. Louis area. Best performance occurs in cool summer climates. Provide consistent moisture and mulch root zone.

### **Noteworthy Characteristics**

*Cornus alternifolia* is a small deciduous tree or large multi-stemmed shrub that typically grows 15-25' tall with distinctive tiered/layered horizontal branching which is upward-turned at the tips. It is native to both moist and dry forests, forest margins, stream banks and fields from Newfoundland to Minnesota south to northern Arkansas and through the Appalachians to Georgia and Alabama. Small, fragrant, yellowish-white flowers bloom in flattened cymes (each to 2 1/2" across) in late spring (May-June). Flowers give way to bluish-black fruits (drupes) on red stalks. Fruits mature in late summer. Elliptic-ovate, medium green leaves (to 3-5" long) turn reddish-purple often tinted yellow or green in fall. Although the leaves of most species of dogwood are opposite, those of pagoda dogwood are alternate, hence the specific epithet and often used common name of alternate-leaf dogwood.

### **Uses**

Plant as a specimen or in small groupings on residential property around homes, near patios or in lawns. Also effective in shrub borders, woodland gardens, bird gardens or naturalized areas.



# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023

## Tree Information Sheet

### **Black Gum or Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)**

Native Range: Eastern North America

Zone: 3-9

Height: 30 – 50 `

Spread: 20 – 30 `

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Color: Greenish white

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Shade tree, street tree, rain garden

Flower: Insignificant

Leaf: Good fall

Attracts: Birds

Tolerate: Clay soil, wet soil, black walnut



### **Culture**

Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, acidic soils. Tolerates poorly-drained soils and can grow in standing water. On the other end of the spectrum, tolerates some drought and adapts to some dryish soils. Long taproot precludes moving established trees.

### **Noteworthy Characteristics**

*Nyssa sylvatica*, known as Black Gum or Tupelo tree, is a slow-growing, deciduous, native tree which occurs in a wide range of soils. It is primarily a lowland tree found in low wet woods, bottomlands and pond peripheries, but also can be found on dry rocky wooded slopes and ravines. A stately tree with a straight trunk and rounded crown (more pyramidal when young) that typically grows 30-50' tall. Small, greenish-white flowers appear in spring on long stalks (female flowers in sparse clusters and male flowers in dense heads). Although flowers are not showy, they are an excellent nectar source for bees. Fruits mature to a dark blue and are attractive to birds and wildlife. Spectacular scarlet fall color.

### **Uses**

Excellent ornamental shade tree for lawns or street tree. Also grows well in moist woodland gardens or naturalized areas or in low spots subject to periodic flooding or in boggy areas. Although slow-growing, it still needs to be sited in an area which affords plenty of room for future growth, particularly since it is so difficult to transplant.

# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023

## Tree Information Sheet

### Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Native Range: Eastern and Central North America

Zone: 3-9

Height: 40 – 70 `

Spread: 30 – 50 `

Bloom Time: March to April

Bloom Color: Red (sometimes yellow)

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low

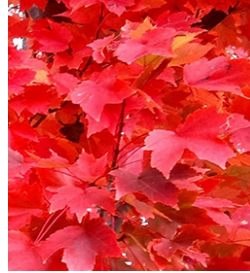
Suggested Use: Shade tree, street tree, rain garden

Flower: Showy

Leaf: Good fall

Attracts: Bees, birds, squirrels and other wildlife by providing food, shade and nesting habitat

Tolerate: Wet soils, black walnut, air pollution



### Culture

Easily grown in average, medium to wet, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerant of a wide range of soils, but prefers moist, slightly acid conditions. Very cold hardy.

### Noteworthy Characteristics

*Acer rubrum*, commonly called red maple, is a medium-sized, deciduous tree that is native to Eastern North America from Quebec to Minnesota south to Florida and eastern Texas. It typically grows 40-60' tall with a rounded to oval crown. Emerging new growth leaves, leafstalks, twigs, flowers, fruit and fall color are red or tinged with red. Quality of red fall color on species plants is variable. Flowers on a given tree are primarily male or female and appear in late winter to early spring (March) before the leaves. Fruit is a two-winged samara.

### Uses

Plant as a specimen tree for the lawn, street or park.



# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023

## Tree Information Sheet

### **Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)**

Native Range: Eastern United States

Zone: 5-9

Height: 40 – 75 `

Spread: 25 – 50 `

Bloom Time: April

Bloom Color: Yellowish green

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Shade tree, street tree, rain garden

Flower: Insignificant

Attracts: Bees, birds, squirrels and other wildlife by providing food, shade and nesting habitat

Tolerate: Clay soil, wet soil, air pollution



### **Culture**

Easily grown in average, medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates light shade. Prefers moist well-drained loams, but adapts to a wide range of soil conditions including clays with somewhat poor drainage. Generally tolerant of urban pollution.

### **Noteworthy Characteristics**

*Quercus phellos*, commonly called willow oak, is a medium to large, deciduous oak tree of the red oak group that is noted for its oak shape, willow-like leaves and relatively fast growth rate. Willow oak typically grows 40-75' tall with an oval to rounded crown, but may reach 100' in ideal conditions. Smooth-edged, bristle-tipped, narrow, green leaves (to 5" long and 1" wide) are willow-like. Leaves turn yellow-brown or dull gold in fall. Fruits are rounded acorn cups (to 1/2" long). Acorns can be an important source of food for wildlife. Insignificant yellowish-green flowers in separate male and female catkins appear in spring (April) as the leaves emerge. Dark, irregularly-furrowed trunks (gray to dark gray-brown) develop on mature trees.

### **Uses**

A medium to large shade tree for large lawns, along streets or in parks. Also effective along ponds or water gardens

# Lower Gwynedd Township, Fall 2023

## Tree Information Sheet

### White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

Native Range: Eastern United States

Zone: 3-9

Height: 50 – 80 `

Spread: 50 – 80 `

Bloom Time: May

Bloom Color: Yellowish green

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Shade tree, street tree

Flower: Insignificant

Fruit: Showy

Attracts: Bees, birds, squirrels and other wildlife by providing food, shade and nesting habitat

Tolerate: Drought, clay soil, dry soil, shallow rocky soil, black walnut



### Culture

Best grown in rich, moist, acidic, well-drained loams in full sun. Adapts to a wide variety of soil conditions with good drought tolerance. Slow growing but majestic. Plant this tree for your children and grandchildren.

### Noteworthy Characteristics

*Quercus alba*, commonly called white oak, is a large deciduous native tree of the white oak group. Grows to 50-80' tall in cultivation and taller (to 100') in the wild. Pyramidal when young, but matures into a substantial tree with a wide-spreading, rounded crown. Insignificant yellowish-green flowers in separate male and female catkins appear in spring shortly after the leaves emerge. Fruits are oval acorns (to 3/4" long) with warty-scaled cups. Leaves (4-9" long) have 7 to 9 deep rounded lobes. Leaves emerge pinkish in spring, but mature to dark green. Variable fall color ranges from browns to quality shades of dark red. White oak grows over much of eastern North America and is an important hardwood timber tree. Widely used in landscapes.

### Uses

Large shade tree, street tree or lawn tree. Needs a large space in which to grow