



## Recommended Tree List for Chester County

This tree list was prepared by the Chester County Planning Commission and was reviewed and validated by experts in the field. The list is not intended to guide what landowners should plant on their properties (although it can be a helpful resource), but rather to guide large-scale tree plantings that occur as part of new developments. **Many municipalities' Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances contain recommended tree lists, and this list is offered as a resource to municipalities to reference in their Ordinances.** The list will be kept up to date as conditions change and more is known about the durability and availability of these species. For more information on these species, and information on species not selected for this tree list, visit <https://chescoplanning.org/environmental/woodlands/treelist.cfm>.

Choosing appropriate trees for new developments is a decision that will have long-term impacts for the development's quality of place and its ability to manage stormwater, protect soils from eroding, provide shade, and confer ecological benefits. The trees on this list meet the following criteria:

- Native to the eastern United States\*
- Limited susceptibility to serious disease and/or pests
- Expected to tolerate environmental changes resulting from a changing climate
- Generally commercially available at wholesale nurseries

\*Because so few evergreen species native to the eastern United States are expected to thrive in warming climatic conditions, several non-native, non-invasive species are included in this list. Evergreen trees often serve important buffering functions in land developments, and providing trees that will thrive in the long term is important to maintaining buffer conditions. Municipalities may want to consider requiring native tree species comprise a certain percentage of evergreen buffer plantings.





## Recommended Tree List for Chester County Continued

Common Name	Genus	Species	Class
White Fir	Abies	concolor	evergreen
Red maple	Acer	rubrum	shade tree
Silver maple	Acer	saccharinum	shade tree
Boxelder	Acer	negundo	shade tree
Smooth alder	Alnus	serrulata	shade tree
Pawpaw	Asimina	triloba	short to medium
Flowering dogwood	Benthamidia (Cornus)	floridum	flowering tree - short
River birch	Betula	nigra	short to medium
Pignut hickory	Carya	glabra	shade tree
Bitternut hickory	Carya	cordiformis	shade tree
Shagbark hickory	Carya	ovata	shade tree
Mockernut hickory	Carya	tomentosa	shade tree
Shellbark hickory	Carya	laciniosa	shade tree
Dwarf chestnut	Castanea	pumila	shade tree
American chestnut	Castanea	dentata	shade tree
Northern catalpa	Catalpa	speciosa	shade tree
Hackberry	Celtis	occidentalis	shade tree
Southern hackberry	Celtis	laevigata	shade tree
Redbud	Cercis	canadensis	flowering tree- short
Atlantic white cedar	Chamaecyparis	thyoides	Evergreen
Fringetree	Chionanthus	virginicus	flowering tree- short
Yellowwood	Cladrastis	kentukea	shade tree
Pagoda dogwood	Cornus	alternifolia	flowering tree- short
American smoketree	Cotinus	obovatus	flowering tree- short
Cockspur thorn	Crataegus	crus-galli	flowering tree- short
Washington hawthorn	Crataegus	phaenopyrum	flowering tree- short
Winter king hawthorn	Crataegus	viridis	flowering tree- short
Japanese Cedar	Cryptomeria	japonica	evergreen



## Recommended Tree List for Chester County Continued

Common Name	Genus	Species	Class
Leyland cypress	Cupressocyparis	leylandii	evergreen
Common persimmon	Diospyros	virginiana	shade tree
Kentucky coffee tree	Gymnocladus	dioicus	shade tree
Carolina silverbell	Halesia	carolina	medium tree
American holly	Ilex	opaca	evergreen
Black walnut	Juglans	nigra	shade tree
Butternut	Juglans	cinerea	shade tree
Eastern redcedar	Juniperus	virginiana	evergreen
Fruitless sweetgum	Liquidambar	styraciflua x Rotund	shade tree
Sweetgum	Liquidambar	styraciflua	shade tree
Tulip poplar	Liriodendron	tulipifera	shade tree
Cucumber magnolia	Magnolia	acuminata	shade tree
Southern magnolia	Magnolia	grandiflora	shade tree
Sweetbay magnolia	Magnolia	virginiana	short to medium
Umbrella magnolia	Magnolia	tripetala	shade tree



# Recommended Urban/Street Trees for Chester County

Trees planted within the built environment are subject to all kinds of stressors – road salt, compaction, drought, and scorching heat, to name a few. Some trees are better adapted to deal with these stressors than others. The tree species on this list were chosen based on their adaptability to urban conditions. Additionally, they all meet the following criteria:

- Native to the eastern United States
- Limited susceptibility to serious disease and/or pests
- Expected to tolerate environmental changes resulting from a changing climate
- Generally commercially available at wholesale nurseries
- Do not drop large/heavy/"messy" fruit or nuts
- Generally tolerant of urban conditions including road salt and compaction

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Common Name	Genus	Species	Class
Northern catalpa	Catalpa	speciosa	shade tree
Hackberry	Celtis	occidentalis	shade tree
Southern hackberry	Celtis	laevigata	shade tree
Redbud	Cercis	canadensis	flowering tree- short
Fringetree	Chionanthus	virginicus	flowering tree- short
Cockspur thorn	Crataegus	crus-galli	flowering tree- short
Washington hawthorn	Crataegus	phaenopyrum	flowering tree- short
Winter king hawthorn	Crataegus	viridis	flowering tree- short
Kentucky coffee tree	Gymnocladus	dioicus	shade tree
Carolina silverbell	Halesia	carolina	medium tree
Fruitless sweetgum	Liquidambar	styraciflua x Rotundiloba	shade tree
Black gum	Nyssa	sylvatica	shade tree
Eastern hophornbeam	Ostrya	virginiana	medium tree
American sycamore	Platanus	occidentalis	shade tree
Chokecherry	Prunus	virginiana	short to medium
Scarlet oak	Quercus	coccinea	shade tree
Post oak	Quercus	stellata	shade tree
Northern red oak	Quercus	rubra	shade tree
Willow oak	Quercus	phellos	shade tree
Chestnut oak	Quercus	montana	shade tree



## Recommended Urban/Street Trees for Chester County Continued

Common Name	Genus	Species	Class
Chinkapin oak	Quercus	muhlenbergii	shade tree
Shumard oak	Quercus	shumardii	shade tree
Southern red oak	Quercus	falcata	shade tree
Baldcypress	Taxodium	distichum	shade tree
Basswood	Tilia	americana	shade tree
White linden	Tilia	tomentosa	shade tree
American elm	Ulmus	americana hybrid	shade tree



# Recommended Evergreen Trees for Chester County

In addition to providing ecological services like absorbing stormwater, purifying the air, and providing shade, evergreen trees are often used as architectural features within new developments, serving as buffers to separate uses and to screen unsightly parts of development. Selecting trees that will thrive long-term is important to maintaining these architectural features. Because so few evergreen species native to our area are expected to thrive in warming climatic conditions (many are already in decline), several non-native, non-invasive species are included in this list. Municipalities may want to consider requiring native tree species comprise a certain percentage of evergreen buffer plantings.

## The trees on this list meet the following criteria:

- Limited susceptibility to serious disease and/or pests
- Expected to tolerate environmental changes resulting from a changing climate
- Generally commercially available at wholesale nurseries

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Common Name	Genus	Species	Class
Atlantic white cedar	Chamaecyparis	thyoides	evergreen
Japanese Cedar	Cryptomeria	japonica	evergreen
Leyland cypress	Cupressocyparis	leylandii	evergreen
American holly	Ilex	opaca	evergreen
Eastern redcedar	Juniperus	virginiana	evergreen
Colorado blue spruce	Picea	pungens	evergreen
White spruce	Picea	glauca	evergreen
Norway spruce	Picea	abies	evergreen
Loblolly pine	Pinus	taeda	evergreen
Shortleaf pine	Pinus	echinata	evergreen
American arborvitae	Thuja	occidentalis	evergreen



# Recommended Tree List for Replacement Tree Plantings and Riparian Buffer Plantings in Chester County

When a new development is proposed that disturbs existing woodland areas some municipal ordinances require compensatory tree plantings elsewhere on the site. While compensatory tree planting confers only a fraction of the ecological benefits that mature trees provide, it can present an opportunity to counteract some of the negative impacts of woodland disturbance. Similarly, some municipal ordinances encourage plantings within riparian areas when a property is being developed or redeveloped to help protect water quality.

The trees on this list are those that are appropriate for naturalized areas, such as areas to be reforested/afforested. Additionally, trees that are tolerant of wet conditions (like those in riparian areas) are noted. For guidance on ordinance provisions to limit disturbance of existing woodland and sample compensatory planting requirements, see CCPC's webpage: <https://chescoplanning.org/environmental/woodlands/introduction.cfm>

## The tree species on this list all meet the following criteria:

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Common Name	Genus	Species	Class
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Silver maple	Acer	saccharinum	shade tree
Boxelder	Acer	negundo	shade tree
Smooth alder	Alnus	serrulata	shade tree
Pawpaw	Asimina	triloba	short to medium
Flowering dogwood	Benthamia (Cornus)	floridum	flowering tree - short
River birch	Betula	nigra	short to medium
Pignut hickory	Carya	glabra	shade tree
Bitternut hickory	Carya	cordiformis	shade tree
Shagbark hickory	Carya	ovata	shade tree
Mockernut hickory	Carya	tomentosa	shade tree
Shellbark hickory	Carya	laciniosa	shade tree
Dwarf chestnut	Castanea	pumila	shade tree
American chestnut	Castanea	dentata	shade tree
Northern catalpa	Catalpa	speciosa	shade tree
Hackberry	Celtis	occidentalis	shade tree
Southern hackberry	Celtis	laevigata	shade tree
Redbud	Cercis	canadensis	flowering tree- short



## Recommended Tree List for Replacement Tree Plantings and Riparian Buffer Plantings in Chester County Continued

Common Name	Genus	Species	Class
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Fringetree	Chionanthus	virginicus	flowering tree- short
Yellowwood	Cladrastis	kentukea	shade tree
Pagoda dogwood	Cornus	alternifolia	flowering tree- short
American smoketree	Cotinus	obovatus	flowering tree- short
Common persimmon	Diospyros	virginiana	shade tree
Kentucky coffee tree	Gymnocladus	dioicus	shade tree
Carolina silverbell	Halesia	carolina	medium tree
American holly	Ilex	opaca	evergreen
Black walnut	Juglans	nigra	shade tree
Butternut	Juglans	cinerea	shade tree
Eastern redcedar	Juniperus	virginiana	evergreen
Sweetgum	Liquidambar	styraciflua	shade tree
Tulip poplar	Liriodendron	tulipifera	shade tree
Cucumber magnolia	Magnolia	acuminata	shade tree
Southern magnolia	Magnolia	grandiflora	shade tree
Sweetbay magnolia	Magnolia	virginiana	short to medium
Umbrella magnolia	Magnolia	tripetala	shade tree
Bigleaf magnolia	Magnolia	macrophylla	shade tree
Southern crabapple	Malus	angustifolia	short to medium
Red mulberry	Morus	rubra	shade tree
Black gum	Nyssa	sylvatica	shade tree
Eastern hophornbeam	Ostrya	virginiana	medium tree
Sourwood	Oxydendrum	arboreum	medium tree
Loblolly pine	Pinus	taeda	evergreen