

Native Trees tour



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Most trees can be easily seen from the accessible paths, but to best enjoy them we invite you to take a closer look.

Trees form an important biological and structural component of many ecosystems on Earth. Evidence suggests that native tree species support the rich diversity of fauna within forest ecosystems. Native trees also support increased biodiversity when planted in a variety of non-forest settings.

Note—Native Trees are defined as trees that were growing in the United States before the arrival of the Europeans

Explore more Native plants at www.paflora.org

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Most books are available in *The Shop at the Morris Arboretum.*

Photography Credits

Quercus montana, Fraxinus americana, Pinus rigida: Courtesy of Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA NRCS. 1995. *Northeast wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species.* Northeast National Technical Center, Chester.

Fraxinus americana: Edward Sibley Barnard

All other photographs of the trees presented in this brochure are courtesy of Paul W. Meyer, *The F. Otto Haas Director of the Morris Arboretum*

notes...

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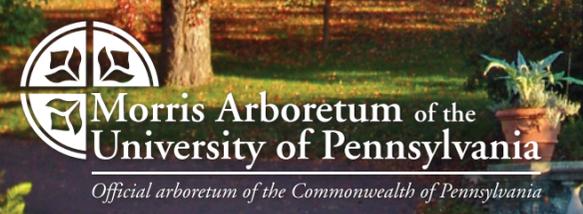
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Native Trees at the Morris Arboretum



The Morris Arboretum's Native Trees Tour presents a selection of trees, all native to Pennsylvania.

1 Bender oak *Quercus × benderi*

- Long-lived and slow growing, this 250-year old oak is a naturally occurring hybrid between red and scarlet oak.
- Look for its wonderful branch structure in winter, lustrous green leaves in summer, and russet red fall color.
- Provides food for many different animal species including butterflies and moths.



2 Chestnut oak *Quercus montana*

- This specimen, germinated from an acorn around 1755, is the star of the *Out on a Limb* exhibit.
- Sweet chestnut oak acorns, among the largest of native oaks, attract a large variety of woodland animals.
- Grows well in dry rocky soil; green leaves turn yellow in fall.



3 Flowering dogwood *Cornus florida*

- Considered by many to be “the king of spring,” this small understory edge-of-woods tree can grow to 40 feet.
- In May, showy white bracts surround small green flowers.
- In autumn, the leaves turn red-purple and the attractive red fruits are a high-energy food source for many species of birds and mammals.



10 White ash *Fraxinus americana*

- Large stately shade tree that can grow up to 80 feet, with compound 8 to 15-inch leaves that become yellow to deep purple in fall.
- Threatened by the disease known as ash yellows, and by the emerald ash borer beetle.
- Winged fruits assist in seed dispersal; foliage hosts a variety of butterfly and moth species.



11 Paw paw *Asimina triloba*

- Multi-stemmed suckering small tree with 6 to 12-inch leaves that turn yellow in fall.
- Produces edible, creamy, banana-flavored fruit consumed by many forest animals that disperse the seeds to new locations.
- Host to rare zebra swallowtail butterfly and pawpaw sphinx moth.



12 HERITAGE River birch *Betula nigra* 'Cully'

- Handsome specimen tree eventually reaching 70 to 90 feet.
- Exfoliating bark provides hiding places for insects, which are eaten by woodpeckers.
- Food source for hundreds of moths and butterflies.
- PHS Gold Medal plant.



13 Red maple *Acer rubrum*

- One of the most abundant and widespread trees of eastern North America.
- Fast growing large landscape tree.
- In spring, the buds flower, and newly emerging leaves are red. The fall color is scarlet, red-orange, or yellow in fall.
- Supports many species of butterflies and moths.



4 Black tupelo *Nyssa sylvatica*

- Medium tree, to 90 feet, with a straight trunk and bark that becomes fissured with age.
- Glossy green leaves change to a lustrous crimson in fall.
- Dark blue, navy bean-sized fruit on female plants are a favorite food source to a variety of bird species; tree cavities provide shelter for many animals.



5 Shagbark hickory *Carya ovata*

- Known for strength and longevity, mature trees have distinctive shaggy bark, while young specimens usually have a smooth appearance.
- Compound leaves change to a bright gold in fall.
- Host to different varieties of insects and animals with sweet nuts providing an important food source.



6 American holly *Ilex opaca*

- Native to moist open woodlands on the Atlantic Coastal Plain, this long-lived, slow-growing evergreen can peak at 40 feet.
- The red berries on the female tree provide food for songbirds.
- A PHS Gold Medal plant, with many varieties to choose from.



7 Cucumber-tree magnolia *Magnolia acuminata*

- Fast growing tree, spreading with age, reaching heights of 50 to 80 feet.
- Yellow-green 6 to 12-inch leaves, turn yellow-bronze in fall.
- Fragrant yellow-green flowers appear in spring.
- In fall, fruit resembling small cucumbers turn red and split open, revealing bright orange-red seeds that attract birds and mammals.



8 Pitch pine *Pinus rigida*

- Irregularly shaped evergreen reaching heights up to 60 feet.
- Commonly found in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, this tree will produce new growth when injured by fire.
- Seeds within cones nourish animals; resin dissuades insects from feeding on the leaves.



9 Sweetbay magnolia *Magnolia virginiana*

- Small often multi-stemmed tree with open spreading habit and dark green leaves with silver undersides that sometimes remain on the tree all winter.
- White, vanilla-scented flowers bloom in May and June with 3-inch long scarlet seed pods in fall.
- Seeds provide food for many birds and small mammals; leaves are used in nest construction by several bird species; attracts the tiger swallowtail butterfly.
- Cultivar 'Jim Wilson' awarded PHS Gold Medal.



14 Tuliptree *Liriodendron tulipifera*

- Fast growing long-lived tree that can reach heights of 150 feet or more.
- Seeds are eaten by a number of birds and mammals.
- Two-toned orange and yellow May flowers attract bees and other insects.
- Leaves change to bright yellow in fall.



15 Sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua*

- Medium to large fast-growing tree that can reach heights of 75 feet or more.
- Supports several moth species including luna, promethean and hickory horned devil larva.
- Leaf shape similar to maples with outstanding fall color ranging from gold to purple.
- Tough prickly fruit may cause a litter problem for homeowner.



16 Black walnut *Juglans nigra*

- A valuable native tree, highly prized for lumber and edible nuts that can be consumed by humans and wildlife.
- Large tree that can grow 130 feet tall or more.
- Tree produces juglone, which can slow the growth of some nearby plants and trees; however, most natives have adapted to the chemical.
- Foliage hosts many species of butterflies and moths.



17 Canada hemlock *Tsuga canadensis*

- The state tree of Pennsylvania.
- Slow growing long-lived evergreen conifer that grows up to 70 feet tall or more.
- Threatened by the sap-feeding true bug, hemlock woolly adelgid, for which biological controls are being tested.
- Edible needles, twigs, bark, sap and seeds provide food for a variety of wildlife species.



18 Sourwood *Oxydendrum arboreum*

- Medium-sized, slow growing, pyramidal tree, reaching heights up to 40 feet.
- Fragrant white flowers, similar to upside down lily-of-the-valley, attract honey bees.
- Leaves change color to an outstanding crimson or purple in fall.
- Small cavities in trunk provide shelter for animals.



19 Eastern redbud *Cercis canadensis*

- Effective as an understory tree in the woodland.
- Small multi-stemmed tree with rosy pink-purple flowers appearing in clusters along stems in early spring.
- Host to Henry's elfin butterfly; utilized by hummingbirds for nectar; seeds are eaten by songbirds and bobwhite quail.



20 Cockspur hawthorn *Crataegus crus-galli*

- Small tree that grows up to 30 feet.
- White flowers bloom in spring, and red fruit is produced in fall and winter.
- Supports many different species of birds, butterflies and moths.

