

## ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

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Ornamental plants are the primary tool in developing functional and beautiful home grounds; the knowledge of plants, their demands, and their proper usage is seldom understood by the homeowner.

Every plant in the landscape should satisfy a definite landscape need; otherwise, it becomes an added expense, a space taker, or a liability rather than an asset to the homeowner. To achieve full use of a plant in the landscape, the user must know the plant he chooses - its growth requirements and its abilities to satisfy the need for which it is intended.

The following list of plants are broken down into basic or general usage areas with basic growth demands, plant characteristics and sizes, and values and drawbacks. Common names and scientific names are listed. The scientific name should be used when possible because many plants have various common names. Quite often two plants may have the same common name. This plant listing is by no means inclusive.

F. Large Trees--Large trees in the landscape are primarily selected for shade purposes. The ideal tree does not exist. A tall tree may have beautiful flowers which may be followed by objectionable fruit or seed pod. A fast growing tree may be brittle and short lived.

The first consideration in selecting a tree is to know the tree's characteristics, its growing habits, size, and requirements. Determine the characteristics which best fit the landscape need, and choose the tree accordingly.



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|----|--|---|-------------------|
| 5. | <u>Ginkgo (Ginkgo)</u>                                     | <u>Deciduous</u>  | <u>80 feet</u>    |
|    | <u>Values:</u>   | <u>Drawbacks:</u>   |                   |
|    | 1. Long lived  | 1. May be difficult to obtain   |                   |
|    | 2. Very clean  | 2. Slow rate of growth  |                   |
|    | 3. Yellow fall color                                       | 3. Must choose the male tree for planting as female has objectionable fruit |                   |
|    | 4. Good street tree  |   |                   |
|    | 5. Easy culture  |   |                   |
| 6. | <u>Pecan (Carya varieties)</u>                             | <u>Deciduous</u>  | <u>60-80 feet</u> |
|    | <u>Values:</u>   | <u>Drawbacks:</u>   |                   |
|    | 1. Early to lose leaves and late to make foliage in spring | 1. Common pecan insects and diseases  |                   |
|    | 2. Nuts  | 2. Root system may be damaging  |                   |
|    | 3. Good shade  |   |                   |
| 7. | <u>Sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua)</u>                  | <u>Deciduous</u>  | <u>60-80 feet</u> |
|    | <u>Values:</u>   | <u>Drawbacks:</u>   |                   |
|    | 1. Fall color  | 1. Difficult to transplant  |                   |
|    | 2. Easy culture  | 2. Seed balls   |                   |
|    | 3. Upright, neat form                                      |   |                   |
| 8. | <u>Southern Magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora)</u>            | <u>Evergreen</u>  | <u>60-80 feet</u> |
|    | <u>Values:</u>   | <u>Drawbacks:</u>   |                   |
|    | 1. Long lived  | 1. Relatively slow growth   |                   |
|    | 2. Glossy, evergreen coarse textured foliage               | 2. Susceptible to scale insects and leaf diseases                           |                   |
|    | 3. Large white, fragrant blooms beginning in early summer  | 3. Prefers acid, loose organic soil   |                   |
|    | 4. Attractive seed pod                                     |   |                   |

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|-----|---|---|--------------------|
| 9.  | <u>Sycamore (Plantanus occidentalis)</u>  | <u>Deciduous</u>  | <u>80-100 feet</u> |
|     | <u>Values:</u>  | <u>Drawbacks:</u>   |                    |
|     | 1. Fast growth<br>2. Attractive trunks and limbs<br>3. Easy culture   | 1. Messy leaf and seed-ball droppage<br>2. Susceptible to leaf diseases<br>3. Root system can be damaging |                    |
| 10. | <u>Loblolly Pine (Pinus taeda)</u>  | <u>Evergreen</u>  | <u>60-80 feet</u>  |
|     | <u>Values:</u>  | <u>Drawbacks:</u>   |                    |
|     | 1. Relative fast growth<br>2. Evergreen-- fine textured to allow filtered shade<br>3. Easy culture if within native growth area | 1. Susceptible to typical pine insects and diseases<br>2. Pollen at bloom may be objectionable            |                    |
| 11. | <u>Shortleaf Pine (Pinus echinata)</u>  | <u>Evergreen</u>  | <u>40-60 feet</u>  |
|     | <u>Values:</u>  | <u>Drawbacks:</u>   |                    |
|     | 1. Makes low branched, screening tree<br>2. Fast growth   | 1. Prefers sandy soils<br>2. Susceptible to common pine insects and diseases                              |                    |
| 12. | <u>Longleaf Pine</u>  | <u>Evergreen</u>  | <u>60-80 feet</u>  |
|     | <u>Values:</u>  | <u>Drawbacks:</u>   |                    |
|     | 1. Long graceful needles--open character<br>2. Ideal specimen tree<br>3. Relatively disease free                                | 1. Slow growth as young tree  |                    |

13. Oaks (Quercus varieties)

- a. Water Oak (O. nigra)      Deciduous      60-80 feet
1. Fast growth
  2. Relatively clean
  3. Gets heart rot
  4. Dead branches occur
  5. Slow to shed its foliage in winter
- b. Willow Oak (O. phellos) Deciduous      60-80 feet
1. Long lived
  2. Shiny, green foliage
- c. Live Oak (O. virginiana)      Evergreen      40 feet high--  
twice as wide
1. Easy culture
  2. Vigorous root system may be damaging
  3. Medium to slow rate of growth
  4. Long lived
- d. Post Oak (O. stellata)      Deciduous      60-80 feet
1. Large, stately tree
  2. Easy culture
  3. Long lived
- e. Shumard Red Oak      Deciduous      60-80 feet
1. Good red fall color
  2. Long lived
  3. Very clean in appearance
  4. Easy culture

14. Weeping Willow      Deciduous      50 feet high and wide  
(Salix babylonica)

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|----------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <u>Values:</u> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Fast growth</li><li>2. Fine textured--graceful form</li><li>3. Excellent accent tree</li><li>4. Yellow fall color</li></ol> | <u>Drawbacks:</u> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Best in moist conditions</li><li>2. Short lived</li><li>3. Weak wood</li><li>4. Fibrous root system may be damaging</li><li>5. Because of spread, must allow large growing area</li></ol> |
|----------------|--|-------------------|--|

15. American Elm Deciduous 60-80 feet  
(Ulmus americana)
- Values: 1. Vase form      Drawbacks: 1. Fibrous roots  
2. Yellow fall color      may be damaging  
3. Good street tree  
4. Easy culture
16. Tulip tree or Yellow Poplar Deciduous 60-80 feet high  
(Liriodendron tulipifera) 40 feet wide
- Values: 1. Upright form      Drawbacks: 1. Somewhat  
2. Clean and neat      temperamental in  
in appearance      culture  
3. Yellow fall color      2. Demands moisture  
4. Attractive flowers
17. Cypress or Bald Cypress Deciduous 60-80 feet high  
(Taxodium distichum) conifer
- Values: 1. Beautiful new  
foliage in spring  
2. Will grow in wet  
conditions  
3. Fine textured  
foliage  
4. Conical form  
(not a good shade  
tree form)  
5. Easy culture--  
prefers sun
18. Deodara Cedar (Cedrus deodara) Evergreen 60-80 feet
- Values: 1. Conical form      Drawbacks: 1. Terminal may die  
2. Fine textured--      which often mars  
graceful branching      the beauty of the  
3. Blue-green foliage      tree form  
4. Excellent specimen      2. Slow rate of  
tree      growth  
3. Low branched,  
thus not a good  
shade tree
19. Hackberry (Celtis lavigata) Deciduous 50-70 feet
- Values: 1. Easy culture      Drawbacks: 1. Weak wooded  
2. Relatively fast      2. Berries which  
growth      birds distribute

20. Blackgum or Black Tupelo  
(Nyssa sylvatica)

Deciduous

60-80 feet

Values: 1. Upright form--  
horizontal  
branching  
2. Vivid red fall  
color  
3. Neat in appearance

Drawbacks:

1. Difficult to  
transplant  
2. Likes moisture  
and may be  
temperamental in  
culture

21. Arizona Ash  
(Fraxinus berlandieriana)

Deciduous

40-60 feet

Values: 1. Rich green  
foliage  
2. Fast growth  
3. Easy culture  
4. Attractive seed  
pod

Drawbacks:

1. Remains in  
weak condition  
several years  
after planting,  
thus susceptible  
to borers