



Trees in Amherst

The Garden Club
of Amherst



This guide is a companion piece to *Trees in Amherst: Three Walking Tours*, and provides some basic information about the various tree species. The Garden Club of Amherst has a long involvement in cultivating interest in and preserving knowledge of the town's trees. A newly updated version of the club's 1975 *Trees in Amherst* contains more detailed descriptions.



(AC*) Amur Corktree (*Pbellodendron amurense*)
Boldly branched, broad-spreading tree with short trunk, corky, grayish-brown bark. Dark green leaves composed of five to 11 leaflets turn yellow in fall. Grows to 45 feet.



(AR) Arborvitae, American (*Thuja occidentalis*) (N)
Stiff pyramidal habit, useful for hedging or as specimen. Common in northern landscapes. Rich green foliage fades to yellowish green in winter. Grows to 60 feet.

(AS) Ash, Green (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) (N)
Ash trees are distinguished by having opposed or opposite branching and compound leaves with five to nine leaflets. Green Ash has seven lance-shaped, medium- to dark-green leaflets, and is fast growing, hardy, and drought resistant. A handsome, popular shade tree growing to 60 feet.



(AW) Ash, White (*Fraxinus americana*) (N)
Large round shade tree with ridged and grayish brown bark. Compound pinnate leaves turn rich shades of yellow or reddish purple in fall with interesting gradations. Grows to 80 feet.

(BA) Beech, American (*Fagus grandifolia*) (N)
Very large, imposing tree with short trunk and wide-spreading crown. Silver-gray bark. Lustrous bluish-green leaves turn golden brown in the fall and persist into winter. Burred seed case, edible seeds and nuts. Grows to 70 feet.

(BC) Beech, European, Copper, Purple (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Cuprea')
Like *Fagus grandifolia* but with lovely, purplish leaves, silver-gray, smooth bark, like elephant skin. A tree of great size and beauty. Grows to 60 feet.



(BF) Beech, Cutleaf, Fernleaf

(*Fagus sylvatica*, var. 'Laciniata')
A variety of European Beech, smaller than American Beech. Deeply-cut, fernlike green leaves, become gold in the fall. Appears soft, billowy in the landscape. Grows to 60 feet.

(BB) Birch, Black (*Betula lenta*) (N)
Dark green foliage turns rich golden yellow in fall. Stems emit a wintergreen odor when bruised. Reddish brown bark. Grows to 55 feet.

(BG) Birch, Paper (*Betula papyrifera*) (N)
Oval to rounded crown. Dark green leaves turn golden yellow in fall. Chalky white bark. Superb in winter landscape. Grows to 70 feet.



(BN) Birch, River (*Betula nigra*) (N)
Beautiful cinnamon-brown exfoliating bark. Medium-green leaves seldom change color in the fall. Grows to 70 feet.

(BY) Birch, Yellow (*Betula alleghaniensis*, *B. lutea*) (N)
Translucent yellow-gold bark glistens in the sun, peeling in

paper-thin curls. Twigs and buds have mild wintergreen flavor; leaves can be brewed as tea. Trunks in the open divide into two or three main limbs, in the forest remain undivided. Most wood sold as birch is from this tree. Grows to 75 feet.

(BZ*) Burning Bush (*Euonymus alata*)
Unfortunately, this common large shrub, with its brilliant red fall color, has become a problem due to its invasive qualities. There are many fine alternate plants to replace it.

(CA) Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*) (N)
Low branched profile, often with several trunks and rounded crown. Grayish brown bark with scaly ridges. Little fall color. Clusters of bell-shaped white flowers appear before leaves in spring; small, ovoid fruit ripen in fall. Grows to 40 feet.

(CC) Catalpa, Northern (*Catalpa speciosa*) (N)
Large tree; big, heart-shaped leaves; showy panicles of cream-colored flowers spotted with purple. Six to 15 inch seed pods resemble super-sized string beans. Grows to 100 feet with five foot diameter.

(CE) Cedar, Eastern Red (*Juniperus virginiana*) (N)

Narrowly columnar tree with short trunk and slightly spreading, erect branches. Reddish-brown bark peels in thin, fibrous strips. Berries gray-green, aromatic; used to flavor gin. Grows to 50 feet.



(CH) Cherry, Black (*Prunus serotina*) (N)
Largest native cherry. Small white flowers surround a pendulous stalk; small, astringent black fruit prized by wildlife. Famous for its beautiful wood. Grows to 60 feet.



(CK) Cherry, Japanese Flowering 'Kwanzan' (*Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan')
Vase-like to rounded shape, with beautiful, deep pink, double flowers in spring. Lustrous dark green, two to five inch leaves turn bronze in fall. May be short-lived. Grows to 25 feet.



(CS) Cherry, Sargent (*Prunus sargentii*)
Native to Japan, grows well in New England. White to pink blossoms appear before leaves in the spring. Deep red leaves turn orange to bronze in the fall. Red/brown bark in a young tree becomes dull gray/brown with ridges and peeling, curling, horizontal bands. Grows to 30 feet.



(CU) Cherry, Weeping Japanese or Higan (*Prunus subhirtella*, var. 'Pendula')
Free-flowering pendulous tree of great ornamental value. Long slender branches are covered with single or double pink or whitish flowers in spring. Grows to 40 feet.

(CW) Cottonwood, Eastern (*Populus deltoides*) (N)
Upright, spreading, vase-shape habit with irregular branch structure. Ash-gray bark in flattened ridges separated by deep fissures. Dark-green deltoid leaves turn yellow in fall. Grows to 100 feet.

(CX) Crabapple, Flowering (*Malus*)
Small to medium cold-hardy tree: dominant flowering tree in northern states. Many cultivars represent a range of habits, sizes, fruit, and flower colors.



(CY) Crabapple, Hopa (*Malus* 'Hopa')
Very hardy tree with upright growth habit. Buds purplish red; flowers purplish with central white star, bright red to crimson fruit. Widely planted in northern U.S. Grows to 30 feet.



(DF) Dogwood, Flowering (*Cornus florida*) (N)
Native tree, produces tiny flowers surrounded by beautiful white or pink notched bracts often mistaken for large petals. Bright red fruits; handsome fall foliage. Grows to 30 feet.



(DJ) Dogwood, Kousa, Chinese, or Japanese Flowering (*Cornus kousa*)
Blooms several weeks later than *Cornus florida*, producing flowers after it is in leaf. Bracts creamy white, large and pointed. Red, raspberry-shaped, edible fruit. Deep red fall color. Grows to 30 feet.

(EA) Elm, American (*Ulmus americana*) (N)
A most famous American tree. Once formed tall, vase-shaped, majestic archways over city streets. Long, leathery, dark green leaves turn rich yellow in fall. Greatly depopulated by Dutch elm disease. Now being replaced with disease-resistant cultivars. Grows to 80 feet.

(FB) Filbert, European (*Corylus avellana*)
An exceptionally large shrub or small tree often cultivated for its edible nuts. Attractive bright-yellow male catkins in March; the tiny female flowers are enclosed in a small scaly bud with protruding red styles. Grows to 20 feet.

(GK) Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)

A living fossil, unchanged since time of the dinosaurs. Bright green fan-shaped leaves turn brilliant yellow in fall. Fruit from female tree has disagreeable odor. Grows to 80 feet.



(HA) Hawthorn, English

(*Crataegus laevigata*)
Hawthorns were long cultivated in Europe as a hedge tree; "haw" is Anglo Saxon for fence. The May Tree of English literature. Many varieties; numerous single or double small flowers, white or pink. Grows to 20 feet.



(HB) Hawthorn, Washington

(*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) (N)
The most popular landscape hawthorn, not affected by disfiguring rust. Broadly oval habit, many sharp thorns. Lobed, shiny, dark green leaves turn orange to scarlet in fall. Creamy white flowers appear in spring followed by small, glossy red fruit. Grows to 30 feet.

(HE) Hemlock, Eastern (*Tsuga canadensis*) (N)
Very attractive fine-needled evergreen, grows naturally in dense woods. Widely used as a hedge tree; dense and receptive to pruning; Very large at maturity. Grows to 70 feet.



(HP) Hickory, Pignut (*Carya glabra*) (N)
One of four hickories found in eastern North America. Lustrous dark green leaves with five long leaflets turn brilliant yellow in fall. Seeds bitter and astringent, but relished by the early settlers' pigs; hence the name. Grows to 40 feet.

(HS) Hickory, Shagbark (*Carya ovata*) (N)
Easily recognized by its large shaggy strips of exfoliating gray bark. Straight, cylindrical trunk; leaves consist of five light green leaflets that become yellow and golden brown in fall; sweet, edible seed. Grows to 120 feet.

(HT) Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) (N)
Ornamental tree with spreading branches and stout spines on trunk and branches. Leaves often twice compound, with numerous half-inch leaflets that turn rich golden yellow in fall. Fruits are long flat pods which rattle together and possibly sound like locusts. Grows to 70 feet.

(HV) Horsechestnut, Common (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
Rarely planted in U.S. today because of an unsightly leaf blotch, but very popular in Europe. Large showy tree; flowers irregularly bell-shaped, standing erect in cone-shaped panicles eight to 12 inches high. Dark-green leaves turn yellow in fall; seeds (or nuts) encased in spiny capsules. Grows to 75 feet.



(HY) Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*)
Some examples of this shrub in West Cemetery have the size of a small tree. The popular *H. 'Grandiflora'* has striking 12 to 18 inch flower panicles in July to August. They open white and age to a purplish pink. A handsome but dominating shrub. Grows to 25 feet.

(KT) Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)

Originating in Japan, where it is one of the largest trees, here it is among the most elegant. Heart-shaped leaves purplish when unfolding but fade to shades of green and turn yellow to apricot in fall--with a spicy fragrance. Grows to 60 feet.



(LA) Larch, European (*Larix decidua*)
A conifer that is not an evergreen. In autumn its bright green needles turn amber yellow and fall, leaving branches bare. Grows to 75 feet.

* Invasive species, banned from trade in Massachusetts (N) U.S. native species

(LC) Lilac, Japanese Tree (*Syringa reticulata*)
Smooth, polished red-brown bark; leaves similar to other lilacs; fragrant flowers bloom in panicles six to 12 inches long and wide. Grows to 30 feet.



(LD) Linden, American (*Tilia americana*) (N)
Also known as American basswood; tall, stately; fragrant flowers; smooth heart-shaped leaves. Soft wood useful for model-building. Grows to 98 feet.

(LE) Linden, European or Common (*Tilia x europaea*)
Large tree with erect habit, slightly weeping branches. Leaves broadly ovate, dark green above, bright green below. Tends to drop leaves early in dry weather, so less commonly planted. Grows to 120 feet.

(LL) Linden, Little Leaf (*Tilia cordata*)
Used as a shade tree since ancient times. Neat appearance, easily recognized by small (one to two and a half inches), almost round leaves. Yellowish flowers, yellow leaves in fall. Grows to 70 feet.



(LS*) Locust, Black (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) (N)
Medium-sized tree with dark, deeply-furrowed bark; covered with drooping clusters of white, pea-like flowers in spring. Bluish-green leaves not colorful in the fall. Grows to 50 feet.



(MA) Magnolia, Saucer (*Magnolia soulangiana*)
Widely planted for its large, cup-shaped flowers that emerge before its large glossy leaves. Flowers usually pink outside, white within, but in some varieties white or rosy-purple.

(MB) Magnolia, Star (*Magnolia stellata*)
Often a dense twiggy shrub, but appropriate pruning can shape a handsome small tree. One of the first magnolias to bloom, with a profusion of three- to four-inch star-shaped, fragrant flowers with many white, strap-like petals. Grows to 20 feet.



(MC) Magnolia, Umbrella (*Magnolia tripetala*) (N)
A small tree with very large leaves (sometimes as long as two feet) and white, cup-shaped, musky-scented flowers. Bright, rose-colored, decorative fruit. Grows to 35 feet.

(MH) Maple, Amur (*Acer ginnala*)
A small, attractive tree native to China and Japan. Small, green three-lobed leaves change to bright scarlet in the fall. Wings of fruit clusters sometimes red and very conspicuous. Grows to 18 feet.

(MI) Maple, Freeman (*Acer x freemanii*)
A hybrid of red and silver maple. Upright, fast-growing, with ascending branching and a dense, broad-oval crown. Medium green deeply cut leaves with five pointed lobes. Red fall color. Grows to 45 feet.



(MJ) Maple, Japanese (*Acer palmatum*)
Has five- to nine-lobed, serrated leaves, can be green or, in some cultivars, reddish purple. Graceful form as accent tree. Grows to 25 feet.

(MN*) Maple, Norway (*Acer platanoides*)
Five- to seven-lobed bright green leaves. If leaf is broken a milky juice oozes out. Invasive species. Grows to 50 feet.

(MO) Maple, Norway 'Crimson King' (*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King')
Large shade tree, cultivar of Norway maple. Deep red leaves throughout the growing season; bronzy-yellow flower clusters in spring.

(MP) Maple, Norway 'Schwedler' (*Acer platanoides* 'schwedleri')
A variety of Norway Maple. Leaves red to bronze in spring then dark green, in fall often become red again. Very attractive bronzy-yellow flower clusters in spring.

(MR) Maple, Red or Swamp (*Acer rubrum*) (N)
Leaves dark green on top and bluish gray underneath; lower bark is darker gray, upper lighter. Red buds and three to four inch fruit with droopy stems. Grows to 60 feet.

(MS) Maple, Silver (*Acer saccharinum*) (N)
Undersides of leaves are silvery. Five-lobed leaves are four to seven inches long and almost as wide, pale shiny green that turn yellow in the fall. Grows to 70 feet.



(MT) Maple, Silver Cut Leaf 'Laciniatum' (*Acer saccharinum laciniatum*) (N)
Leaves more deeply and narrowly dissected than those of silver maple; branches droop more. Grows to 70 feet.

(MU) Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*) (N)
Quintessential New England foliage tree. Five-lobed leaves are three to five inches across; drooping stems hold yellow-green flowers. Gray, furrowed bark. Wood used in woodwork, flooring, and furniture; sap boiled down for maple syrup in early spring. Grows to 75 feet.



(OB) Oak, Black (*Quercus velutina*) (N)
Common in U.S. Large, thick leaves, tops dark green, undersides yellow green with dark hairs. Acorns are small, almost round, and half covered by a yellow cap. Grows to 80 feet.



(OP) Oak, Pin (*Quercus palustris*) (N)
Very common shade and street tree with a straight trunk. Thin, three to six pointed leaves, small acorns. Lower branches hang down, the middle are horizontal and the upper are upright. Transplants easily, thrives in almost any soil. Grows to 70 feet.

(OR) Oak, Red (*Quercus borealis*)
Fast growing. Five to nine inch long leaves may have five to 11 bristle type lobes. One inch fat acorns with shallow caps. Bark of mature tree is 3/4 " thick. Wood used in flooring and clapboards. Grows to 75 feet.

(OW) Oak, White (*Quercus alba*) (N)
One of the largest and most valuable trees. Bright green to almost blue green leaves turn russet red in the fall. Leaves are five to nine inches long, half as wide. One inch brown acorns with shallow bumpy cap. Wood used in flooring and furniture. Grows to 80 feet.

(PA) Panicked Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)
Smallish tree with dense rounded outline, brownish gray bark, orange-brown twigs, rich green leaves divided into many leaflets, and long terminal panicles of small bright yellow flowers. Fruit a showy panicle of bladder-like husks. Grows to 40 feet.

(PC) Pear, Callery (*Pyrus calleryana*)
Ornamental pear is covered with white flowers in spring, brilliant red foliage in fall. Inedible small, hard, brownish fruits. A handsome but short lived tree, susceptible to storm damage. Grows to 50 feet.

(PE) Pear, Seckel (*Pyrus communis*)
Cultivar of the European pear, originated near Philadelphia in the early 19th century, still actively cultivated in U.S. Fruit a delicious desert pear, half the size of Barlett but colored more like a Bosc. Small, white, spring flowers have unpleasant smell. Lustrous dark green leaves turn rich red in fall. Grows to 30 feet.



(PI) Pine, Austrian (*Pinus nigra*)
A popular landscape pine. Three to six inch dark green to almost black needles appear in very stiff and pointed bundles of two, remain for four to eight years. White, gray, and brown furrowed bark. Grows to 60 feet.

(PM) Pine, Mugo (*Pinus mugo rostrata*)
Though it can grow to 75', most are trimmed as shrubs. One to three inch needles are bundled two together. Asymmetrical, downward pointing cones.



(PR) Pine, Red (*Pinus resinosa*) (N)
A tall, straight tree also known as Norway Pine, though a U.S. native. Thick gray-brown bark at its base but thin, flaky orange-red bark in its upper crown (hence the name). Valuable for timber and paper pulp, widely used in landscaping. Can grow to 100 feet.

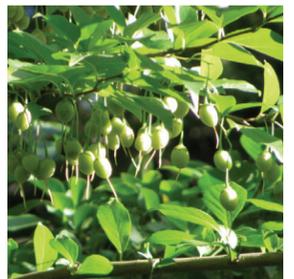
(PW) Pine, White (*Pinus strobus*) (N)
Easy to grow and transplant. Needles light to medium green, in clusters of five, lasting for 18 months. Cones narrow, cylindrical. Seed cones every three to five years are good food source for birds and squirrels. Can grow to 80 feet.



(SB) Serviceberry, Shadblow (*Amelanchier canadensis*) (N)
Often considered to be one of the most beautiful small trees in the U.S. Thick with small showy-white flowers in the spring, it soon produces edible juicy berries that are green at first, then change to red, and finally become purple-black. Its leaves are elliptical bluish-green in the spring and a mixture of yellows, oranges, and reds in the fall. Grows to 20 feet.



(SC) Snowbell, Japanese (*Styrax japonicus*)
Small, graceful, flowering tree native to China and Japan. Three to six fragrant, white, bell-shaped flowers cluster on short lateral shoots in May and June. Leaves one to three inches long, bark is gray and smooth. Grows to 30 feet.



(SD) Sourwood, Sorrel Tree (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)
Prized ornamental tree with lovely, fragrant, compound flower clusters like hundreds of small lilies-of-the-valley in summer. Leaves glossy yellow-green in spring and summer, scarlet or crimson in fall. Grows to 30 feet.

(SL) Spruce, Colorado Blue (*Picea pungens* 'Glauca') (N)
Cone shaped tree. Four-sided, sharp, one inch needles, blue green to silvery blue. Cones two to four inches long with wavy scale tips. Grows up to 80 feet.

(SN) Spruce, Norway (*Picea abies*)
Huge tree with pendulous hanging branches. Needles dark green, about one inch long. Large, four to seven inch cones, green or purple when young, then light brown. Grows to 150 feet.



(SP) Spruce, White (*Picea glauca*) (N)
Pyramidal, symmetrical tree. New needles have bluish, hoary tinge, hence its name. Bruised needles emit strong, unpleasant odor. Wood valued for making paper pulp. Grows to 70 feet.

(ST) Stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamellia*)
Handsome tree for gardens and parks. Large white flowers resembling camellias in July. Leaves turn dark purple in fall; beautiful, reddish bark peels in large flakes. Grows to 50 feet.



(SW) Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) (N)
Star shaped alternate leaves persist in beautiful orange, yellow, red, and purple fall colors. Fruits knobby one inch balls. Cut bark gives off a liquid used for perfumes, incense, and medicines. Wood used for furniture. Grows to 75 feet.

(SY) Sycamore, London Plane Tree (*Platanus X acerifolia*)
A massive tree whose most notable feature is its handsome bark, which scales and drops in broad thin plates revealing an inner bark of a lighter color, a striking mottling of yellow and olive-brown. Often called Buttonball trees because of their fruit. Grows to 100 feet.



(TT) Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
A huge tree. Leaves are four to six inches, like a squared off maple leaf. Three inch tulip-like flowers, greenish yellow to orange, held high on the tree. Older bark is brown and furrowed, younger is gray. Grows to 100 feet.



(WB) Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*) (N)
A large, upright tree. Aromatic yellow/green leaves two to five inches long; fruits two inches round with warty husks. Bark dark brown to almost black. The nuts useful as food and for oil. Wood used for furniture and flooring. Grows to 75 feet.

(WH) Witch Hazel, Common (*Hamamelis virginiana*) (N)
Blooms in late fall when its golden yellow leaves are already falling. Very fragrant flowers with twisted spider-like petals. Extract distilled from the bark and leaves has astringent and anti-inflammatory properties. Grows to 20 feet.

(YD) Yellowwood, American (*Cladrastis lutea*) (N)
A rare, ornamental. Creamy white, pea-like, fragrant flowers appear in eight to 14 inch panicles in early June. Flat podded fruit, two to four inches long. Gray, beechlike bark. Grows to 50 feet.

(YE) Yew, English (*Taxus baccata*)
An immense plant that can be kept in check with pruning. Beautiful, furrowed, flaky bark, dark green one inch needles. Small seeds have fleshy, red covering called an aril. Grows to 60 feet.



(YJ) Yew, Japanese (*Taxus cuspidata*)
An ornamental evergreen hardy in New England. Similar to *Taxus baccata*.

(ZK) Zelkova, Japanese (*Zelkova serrata*)
A good shade tree if pruned. Young trees have brown bark which becomes gray with age. Dark green, serrated, two to five inch long leaves turn yellow bronze and reddish purple in fall. Grows to 80 feet.

