

**Recommended Plants for the NC Piedmont**

Botanical Name	Common Name	Recommended Cultivars	Notable Features	Growth Rate	Exposure Requirement	Native	USDA Hardiness Zones	Max. Mature Height	Max. Mature Width	Very Wet	Very Dry	Moist & Well Drained
<b>Tree Deciduous Large (Height: 40'+)</b>												
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple	'October Glory/' Red Sunset'	fall color	Rapid	Shade/sun	x	2-9	75'	45'	x		x
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch	'Heritage® 'Cully/' 'Dura Heat/' 'Summer Cascade'	fast growing, mult-stemmed, papery peeling bark, play props	Rapid	Shade/part sun	x	4-8	70'	60'	x		x
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry		tough, drought tolerant, graceful form	Moderate/rapid	Full sun	x	2-9	60'	60'	x		x
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American beech		smooth textured bark, play props	Slow	Shade/part sun	x	3-8	75'	60'			x
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash		fall color	Moderate	Full sun/part shade	x	3-9	80'	60'	x		x
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo, Maidenhair tree	'Autumn Gold/' 'The President'	yellow fall color	Slow/moderate	Full sun		3-9	70'	40'			x
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis</i>	Thornless honey locust	Shademaker®/ Skyline®	good dappled shade, fall color, quick growing, salt tolerant, tolerant of acid and alkaline soils, wind	Rapid	Full sun/part shade	x	3-8	75'	50'		x	x
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip poplar		fall color, quick growth rate, play props	Fast	Full sun	x	4-9	90'	50'			x
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum	'Wildfire/' Red Rage® 'Hayman's Red'	good fall color, yellow to orange to red	Slow/moderate		x	4-9	60'	30'			
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	Sycamore, Planetree	'Bloodgood'	play props, peeling bark	Rapid	Full sun	x	4-9	90'	70'	x		x
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Laurel or Shingle oak		play props	Slow	Full sun	x	4-8	60'	60'	x	x	x
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	Overcup oak	'Highbeam'	play props		Full sun	x	5-9	60'	50'	x		x
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak		play props, good fall color, wet tolerant	Moderate/fast	Full sun	x	4-8	80'	50'	x		x
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow oak	'Hightower'	play props, wet tolerant	Fast	Full sun	x	5-9	80'	40'	x	x	x
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Little leaf linden, Basswood	'Greenspire'		Moderate	Full sun/part shade		3-7	60'	40'			x
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Baldcypress	'Shawnee Brave'	fall color, play props	Moderate	Full sun	x	4-9	70'	30'	x		x
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese elm	'Allee/' 'Bosque'	peeling bark, graceful form	Moderate-Rapid	Full sun/part shade		4-9	70'	50'			x
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese zelkova	Village Green™	vase-shaped form	Moderate	Full sun		5-8	80'	75'		x	x
<b>Tree Deciduous Medium (Height: 30-40')</b>												
<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark maple		peeling papery bark, fall color	Slow	Full sun		4-8	30'	30'			x
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American hornbeam/ Musclewood		sinewy bark	Slow	Shade/part sun	x	3-9	30'	40'	x		x
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud	'Forest Pansy' (purple foliage)	quick growing, play props, pink flowers in spring	Rapid	Full sun/part shade	x	6-8	30'	25'		x	x
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood	'Cloud 9' (white flowers)' 'Rubra' (pink flowers)	white flowers in spring	Moderate	Full sun/part shade	x	5-9	30'	30'			x
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	American smoketree		scented feathery flowers, good fall color, drought tolerant	Slow	Full sun/part shade	x	5-8	30'	25'		x	x
<i>Halesia carolina</i>	Carolina silverbell		play props, white spring flowers, yellow fall color	Medium	Full sun/part shade	x	4-8	40'	35'			x
<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>	Saucer magnolia	'Dark Alexandria'	play props, showy pink flowers in late winter to spring	Moderate	Full sun/part shade		5-9	30'	30'			x
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese pistache		good fall color, drought tolerant	Moderate	Full sun/part shade		6-9	35'	35'		x	x
<i>Salix x sepulcralis</i>	Weeping willow		good hiding place, graceful form	Fast	Full sun/part shade		5-9	40'	50'	x		x
<b>Tree Deciduous Small (Height: 12-25')</b>												
<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i>	Apple serviceberry	'Autumn Brilliance'	white flowers in spring, good fall color		Full sun/part shade		3-7	25'	25'			x
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe tree	'Spring Fleecing'	fringey white flowers in spring	Slow	Full sun/part shade	x	3-9	20'	15'			x
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian cherry	'Spring Glow'	white flowers in spring, fruit is edible	Slow	Full sun/part shade		5-8	25'	18'			x
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common witchhazel		play props, yellow flowers in early winter, fall color	Slow	Full sun/part shade	x	4-8	25'	25'			x
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crape myrtle	'Natchez/' 'Tuscarora'	child-scale, good low level climbing potential, good fall color	Moderate	Full sun		7-9	25'	25'		x	x
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	Star magnolia	'Royal Star'	play props, showy white flowers in late winter to early spring	Slow	Full sun/part shade		5-8	20'	15'			x
<i>Morus alba</i> 'Pendula'	Weeping mulberry		good for hideouts, tolerates coastal conditions		Full sun		4-8	10'	12'			x



<b>Shrub Deciduous Small (Height: 1-5')</b>											
<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i> 'Edward Goucher'	Edward Goucher glossy abelia		semi-evergreen, lilac-pink flowers, attracts bees & other pollinators	Moderate	Full sun/part shade		6-9	5'	6'		x
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American beautyberry	'Lactea'	play props, purple berries in fall	Moderate	Full sun/part shade	x	6-10	4'	5'		x x
<i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i>	Purple beautyberry	'Early Amethyst/ 'Issai'	play props, purple berries in fall	Moderate	Full sun/part shade		5-8	4'	5'		x
<i>Fothergilla major</i>	Witchalder	'Mount Airy'	white, fragrant flowers in early spring, good fall color, play props		partial shade	x	4-8	5'	5'		
<i>Hypericum frondosum</i> 'Sunburst'	Shrubby St. John's wort	'Sunburst'	drought tolerant, attracts butterflies and bees	Moderate	Full sun		4-8	3'	4'		x x
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweet spire	'Henry's Garnet'	good fall color, white flowers in spring, wet tolerant	Medium	Full sun/part shade	x	5-9	5'	6'	x	x x
<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>	Winter jasmine		yellow flowers in late winter, willowy green stems showy in winter	Fast	Full sun/part shade		6-10	4'	7'		x
<i>Spiraea x bumalda</i>	Spiraea	'Anthony Waterer/ 'Goldmound'	spring blooming	Moderate	Full sun/part shade		5-9	4'	5'		x
<b>Shrub Evergreen Large (Height: 10'+)</b>											
<i>Camellia japonica</i>	Japanese camellia		flowers in spring	Slow/moderate	Partial shade		7-9	15'	10'		x
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	Sasanqua camellia		flowers in fall, tolerates drought	Moderate	Light Shade		6-9	12'	6'		x
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Southern waxmyrtle		fruit good play props, can make wax from them, attracts wildlife, tolerates drought, sand, & salt	Rapid	Full sun/part shade	x	7b-11	15'	10'		
<b>Shrub Evergreen Medium (Height: 6-10')</b>											
<i>Abelia chinensis</i>	Chinese abelia	'Rose Creek'		Moderate-rapid	Full sun/part shade		7-9	7'	6'		x
<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	Japanese aucuba	'Picturata' (variegated)		Slow	Shade		7-10	15'	8'		x
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Hetzii '	Hetz blue juniper			Rapid	Full sun		4-8	10'	15'		x
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common juniper			Slow	Full sun	x	2-8	10'	12'	x	x x
<i>Raphiolepis umbellata</i>	Indian hawthorn		glossy leaves, white flowers, tolerates salt spray	Rapid	Full sun		6-10	6'	10'		x x
<b>Shrub Evergreen Small (Height: 1-5')</b>											
<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> 'Kleim's Hardy'	Kleim's hardy gardenia		scented white flowers, glossy leaves	Moderate	Full sun/part shade		7-10	3'	3'		x
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Nana'	Dwarf yaupon holly		compact, refined form, very tolerant of any soil type, tolerates salt	Moderate/Rapid	Sun/Partial Shade	x	7-10	5'	8'	x	x
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	Spanish lavender		drought tolerant, purple flowers in spring/summer	Moderate	Full sun		6-9	3'	3'		x x
<i>Lavandula x intermedia</i> 'Provence'	Provence lavender		scented herb, used in cooking, vigorous, tolerant of heat and humidity, purple flowers in summer, gray-green foliage	Slow	Full sun		5-11	3'	3'		x
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary		scented herb, used in cooking, very hardy, drought tolerant, small lavender flowers in winter/early spring	Moderate	Full sun/part shade		4-9	4'	4'		x
<b>Shrub Edibles</b>											
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	'Compactum'	edible fruit produced on certain selections, showy summer flowers, good fall color, heat tolerant	Medium	Full sun		8-10	20'	20'		x
<i>Vaccinium</i> species	Blueberry	'Premiere', 'Tifblue', 'Powderblue', 'Southland'	edible fruit, needs full sun for best fruit, clusters of bell-shaped flowers in spring, choose species appropriate to your area		Full sun	x	3-8	6'	5'		x
<b>Vine Deciduous</b>											
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	European honeysuckle		fragrant flowers in summer/fall	Rapid	Full sun/part shade		5-9	20'	n/a		x
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper		vigorous, red fall foliage, shade tolerant	Rapid	Full sun/part shade	x	3-11	30'	n/a	x	x x
<b>Vine Evergreen</b>											
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Chocolate vine		burgundy/purplish flowers in spring, play props, edible fruit occasionally produced, vigorous, shade tolerant	Rapid	Full sun/part shade		5-8	40'	n/a		x
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Cross vine	'Tangerine Beauty'	shade tolerant, orange to dark reddish flowers in spring, quick growing	Rapid	Full sun/part shade	x	6-9	50'	n/a		x
<i>Clematis armandii</i>	Armand clematis		white flowers in spring, textural leaves	Rapid	Full sun/part shade		7b-9	20'	n/a		x
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Coral honeysuckle	'Cedar Lane'	shade tolerant, coral flowers in late-spring to summer, semi-evergreen depending on climate	Medium	Full sun	x	4-10	3'	n/a		x
<i>Rosa banksiae</i>	Lady Banks rose		vigorous, few to almost no prickles, clusters of yellow - white blooms in spring, some scented some not	Medium	Full sun		6-10	20'	n/a		x
<i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>	Yellow star jasmine		small yellow flowers, hardy, fast-growing	Medium-slow	Partial shade		7-8	15'	n/a		x



<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Flame grass	'Adagio'	clump-forming, graceful and textural, foliage turns reddish in fall, with silver plumes, good hiding places	Moderate	Full sun/part shade		3-9	5'	3-5'	x			
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Pink muhly grass		delicate pink hazy flowers in early fall, easy to grow, tolerates some drought & some wet conditions	Moderate	Full sun/part shade	x	6-9	3'	2.5'	x	x	x	
<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>	Mexican feather grass			Moderate	Full sun/part shade	x	6-9	2'	1'			x	x
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switch grass	'Shenandoah'/ 'Cheyenne Sky'/ 'The Blues'/ 'North'	upright clumping, textural, drought tolerant, salt tolerant, good hiding places	Rapid	Full sun/part shade	x	5-9	6'	3'				x
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	Fountaingrass		clump forming, play props, textural	Moderate	Full sun		5-9	3'	2-4'				x
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Crimson fountaingrass		clump-forming, soft, textural grass, red-tinged blades, play props, perennial at the coast, annual elsewhere	Rapid	Full sun/part shade		9-10	5'	4'				x
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	'Prairie Blues'	blooms in late summer, drought tolerant		Full sun	x	3-9						
<b>Groundcover</b>													
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Ajuga		evergreen matting groundcover with blue flowers in spring, spreads quickly and handles some drought		Partial shade		4-8	6"	3'				x
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Candytuft		evergreen, tends to spread, white flowers in spring	Moderate	Full sun		3-8	2'	1.5'				x
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Liriope	'Big Blue'/ 'Variegata'/ 'Royal Purple'	evergreen, forms large clumps, purple flowers, play props	Moderate	Part shade to shade		6-9	2'	12"				x
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus 'Nana'</i>	Dwarf mondo		evergreen, forms tight clumps, slow-growing, textural	Slow	Sun to shade		7-8	3"	2'				x
<i>Rubus calcycinooides</i>	Creeping raspberry		evergreen, small white flowers, spreads over time	Moderate	Sun to part shade		6-10	1'	6'			x	x
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Lyreleaf sage		low groundcover, pale lavender flowers in early spring, easy to grow		Sun to shade	x	6-8	12"	1.5'				x
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Lamb's ears						4-8	8"	1.5'				
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	Lemon thyme		lemon-scented herb, pale purple summer flowers, wildlife attraction		Full sun		5-8	12"	10"				x
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Common thyme		scented herb, tiny lilac flowers in late spring/summer, gray-green leaves, drought tolerant, wildlife attraction	Moderate	Full sun		5-9	12"	1.5'				x

**Natural Learning Initiative | College of Design | North Carolina State University**

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