



Fall 2015 City of Alexandria Tree and Shrub Sale

and

Community Planting Event

Sponsored by the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, with support from Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission & Virginia Master Naturalists

Two ways to contribute to our tree canopy:

- 1) **Buy a tree (or trees!) to plant at home.** To do so, please follow the ordering instructions at the bottom of this page. Plants will be available for pick-up on October 3 at the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave., between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Volunteers will be available to help load plants into cars and to provide information on plant care. While you're there, consider enjoying an autumn walk in Dora Kelley Nature Park and visiting Alexandria's nature center! **All plants are \$20, checks only payable to the City of Alexandria. (including tax and delivery).**
- 2) **Make a tax-deductible gift to the City of Alexandria.** Each donation of \$20 will buy a tree or shrub to be planted in October at the Chambliss Street crossing of Holmes Run (at the western end of Dora Kelley Nature Park). Donors are invited, but in no way required, to participate in the planting event. To donate, please visit Alexandria's Living Landscape Fund site at www.alexandriava.gov/LivingLandscape. Under "Contribution information," please select "Tree Planting" and then "Alexandria Fall 2015 Planting Fund."

Orders and donations must be received by September 27.

The following plants are available (descriptions of the plants can be found on the following pages):

Shrubs and Small Trees

American Hornbeam
Elderberry
American Hazelnut
White Fringetree
Eastern Redbud

Large Trees

River Birch
Black Gum
Pitch Pine
White Oak

To order, please email Susan Gitlin, Vice Chair, Environmental Policy Commission, at smcg611@gmail.com with your a) name, b) email address, c) phone number, d) the type(s) of plants and e) quantity of each type that you'd like to purchase. (*No need to send money at this point; pay for plants when you pick them up on October 3.*) **Payment by check only payable to the City of Alexandria.**

Questions? Contact Susan Gitlin, Environmental Policy Commission at 703.819.8410 or smcg611@gmail.com; or Mary Farrah, Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, at 703.746.5525 or mary.farrah@alexandriava.gov.



American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) – (Sold in 3-gallon pots, 2-3' tall)

American Hazelnuts are mound-shaped shrubs that grow to about 12-15' tall and 10' wide, preferring part shade and slightly moist to dry soils. It produces an edible nut (but you'll need to compete with the birds and squirrels for them!), and has fall color that can vary from bright yellow to deep red.

American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) – (Sold in 2-gallon pots, 2-3' tall)

American Hornbeam, aka Ironwood or Musclewood, slowly grows to 20-30' in height and 10-20' in width. It is best suited for a site in shade or part shade with moist to slightly dry soil. It is known for its graceful, drooping branches; slender trunk with sinewy, almost muscle-like bulges; and scarlet-orange fall color. Butterflies, including the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Striped Hairstreak, and Red-spotted Purple, seek it out as homes for their young.



Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) – (Sold in 3-gallon pots, 4-6' tall)

Black Gum, or Black Tupelo, has horizontally spreading branches and dense foliage that together make for a very nice shade tree. It also features striking fall color when its glossy green leaves turn scarlet. It reaches heights of 50' and greater, some 30' in width, and thrives in full sun or part shade and moist to dry soils.





Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) – (Sold in 2-gallon pots, 3-5' tall)

Redbuds, a perennial favorite, are famous for their heart-shaped leaves and early spring displays of myriad tiny pink-purple flowers that bloom immediately next to its branches and trunk. (Our native bees love these flowers as much as we do!) Redbed prefers partly shady sites and moist to dry, slightly basic soils, but can survive in a wide range of situations. It has a short trunk with spreading branches, reaching a height of 20-30' and a similar width.

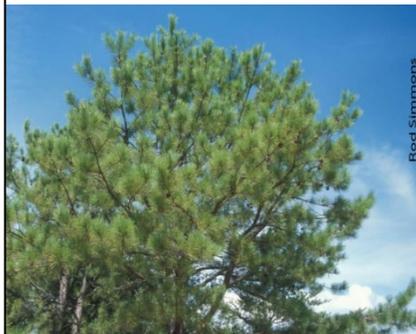


Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) – (Sold in 3-gallon pots, 3-4' tall)

Elderberry is a deciduous shrub that grows 6-12' tall and wide. It prefers partly shady sites and soils that are slightly acidic and somewhat moist, although it can adjust to drier soils. It sports broad clusters of white flowers in the spring and dark purple seeds in the late summer that birds enjoy and that can be made into Elderberry jelly!. It is a fast growing and spreading plant that can be pruned to be a hedge or can otherwise be allowed to grow into a more open form.

Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) – (Sold in 3-gallon pots, 2-3' tall)

This evergreen tree is named for the high resin content of its wood; colonists used its pine knots as torches and the trees as sources of turpentine and tar. Pitch pines grow to 40-70' in dry, acidic soils in open, sunny locations. It has an irregular, gnarled form and drooping branches; its bark starts out reddish-brown but eventually turns black.





River Birch (*Betula nigra*) – (Sold in 3-gallon pots, 3-4' tall)

River Birch features peeling bark on its multiple, slightly leaning trunks. It thrives in partly shady and sunny sites. It loves moist and periodically wet soils, and is very useful for erosion control. It is a fast grower, achieving heights of 50' and more.

White Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) – (Sold in 3-gallon pots, 2-3' tall)

White Fringetree, also called Old Man's Beard, is named for the shrub's unusual, lovely, and fragrant clusters of flowers with white strap-like petals. Fringetree is a very slow grower, but can eventually reach a height and width of 15-20', and sometimes more. It prefers part shade and moist, loamy or sandy, acidic soils.



White Oak (*Quercus alba*) – (Sold in 3-gallon pots, 3-4' tall)

The horizontal branches of this stately tree provide a source of shade for humans, while its leaves, acorns, and branches provide food and shelter for innumerable species of birds and butterflies. The White Oak can grow to 100', preferring somewhat acidic, moist-dry soils in sunny or partly shaded locations.

References:

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, www.wildflower.org

Plant NoVA Natives, *Native Plants for Northern Virginia*, March 2015,

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/e4e149a621e7fe59916869e61a84dbce?AccessKeyId=3787409C771EB71DC1CC&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>