

Priority Tree & Tall Shrub Species for Planting, Replacement & Reforestation in Southern NJ

(Burlington, Ocean, Camden, Gloucester, Salem
Cumberland, Atlantic, Cape May)

Trees in Bold
are highest
priority to
plant

UPLANDS or SANDY "BARRENS" SOILS

White oak - *Quercus alba*
Chestnut oak - *Quercus montana*
Post oak - *Quercus stellata*St
Dwarf Chestnut Oak - *Quercus prinoides*
Mockernut hickory - *Carya tomentosa*
Sand hickory - *Carya pallida*
Pignut hickory - *Carya glabra*St
American holly - *Ilex opaca*^E
Sassafras - *Sassafras albidum*
Black cherry - *Prunus serotina*St
Pitch pine - *Pinus rigida*^{E, F, NFW}
Virginia pine - *Pinus virginiana*^{E, F, NFW}
Shortleaf pine - *Pinus echinata*^{E, F, NFW}
Common Hackberry - *Celtis occidentalis*St
Bigtooth aspen - *Populus grandidentata*^F
Grey birch - *Betula populifolia*St
Serviceberry - *Amelanchier canadensis*^{U, AS}
Winged sumac - *Rhus copallinum*^{S, F}
Beach plum - *Prunus maritima*^{S, F}
American hazelnut - *Corylus americana*^{S, AS}
Northern Bayberry - *Morella pensylvanica*^{S, F}
Mountain laurel - *Kalmia latifolia*^{S, E}

Trees
from
← either list →
can be planted
in sites with
moist soil,
not too
wet or dry

LOWLANDS or FINER, INLAND SOILS

Swamp white oak - *Quercus bicolor*St
Willow oak - *Quercus phellos*St
Shagbark hickory - *Carya ovata*St
Bitternut hickory - *Carya cordiformis*St
Black gum - *Nyssa sylvatica*St
American holly - *Ilex opaca*^E
Red maple - *Acer rubrum*St
Sweet gum - *Liquidambar styraciflua*
Tulip tree - *Liriodendron tulipifera*St
Persimmon - *Diospyros virginiana*
River birch - *Betula nigra* (single stem)
Grey birch - *Betula populifolia*St
Downy serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea*^{U, AS}
Allegheny serviceberry - *Amelanchier laevis*^{U, AS}
American hornbeam - *Carpinus caroliniana*^{U, AS}
Sweetbay magnolia - *Magnolia virginiana*^F
Witch hazel - *Hamamelis virginiana*^{S, AS}
Black elderberry - *Sambucus nigra*^S
Possumhaw - *Viburnum nudum* var. *nudum*^{S, AS}
Winterberry holly - *Ilex verticillata*^{S, AS}
Inkberry holly - *Ilex glabra*^{S, AS, E}
Highbush blueberry - *Vaccinium corymbosum*^{S, AS}
Silky Dogwood - *Cornus amomum*^{S, AS}

KEY

E = Evergreen
F = Full Sun
AS = Requires
Afternoon Shade
U = Understory Tree
S = Shrub
St = Street Tolerant
NFW = NOT Fire
Wise

Ask your local
nursery/garden center to
carry these species!
And in small sizes
too!

Optimal Tree Attributes & Planting Considerations

For: Suburban Yards, Shade Tree Replacement Ordinances,
Windbreaks, Woodlots, & Forests

We must plant the right trees in the right way to ensure we have a future forest¹

1. SELECT MULTIPLE SPECIES FROM THE ATTACHED LIST to:

- Plant in open areas to reforest (remove/reduce lawn)
- Replace removed or fallen trees
- Reforest in canopy gaps, under declining trees, or as part of a forest restoration

2. LOCAL ECOTYPE - progeny from NJ or better yet, your county or ecoregion are best suited for your local landscapes.

3. SMALLER SIZES include tubelings, 1 gal - 7 gal size

- container grown stock is preferred! (not rootbound)
- Greater chance of survival and success vs. larger stock^{2,3}
- Grows faster than larger stock (e.g. B&B >2" caliper size)
- Suffer less from transplant shock = fewer disease issues
- Grows healthier, short term & long term
- Most environmentally sustainable option
- Most economic option

4. RESTORE DEGRADED SOILS before planting by mixing in composted leaf litter and/or organic garden soil.

5. PLANT DENSE STANDS of many saplings, not just one or two trees; use 3-10 ft spacing and 10-20 per each large tree lost.

- This planting style is natural as trees live in communities
- Their root systems interlock and protect from windthrow

6. PREVENT DEER DAMAGE - use physical barriers to stop buck rub and deer browse.

- Best options allow air passage, are rigid, require infrequent upkeep, and 6 ft. tall

7. LEAVE THE LEAVES - The best type of mulch! Fallen leaves have evolved with trees and ecosystems⁴ to:

- Nourish soil life
- Provide plant health naturally
- Improve plant & climate resiliency
- Support native biodiversity

In fire risk zones, avoid using pine straw



← 1 YR OLD
PIGNUT
HICKORY
SEEDLING IN
A TREE TUBE
OR
TUBELING
WHICH
ALLOWS
DEEP
TAPROOT
GROWTH.
THIS IS THE
IDEAL
PLANTING
SIZE &
STOCK FOR
HICKORIES

6FT CAGE,
PVC-COATED
WIRE MESH,
PROTECTING
A BITTERNUT
HICKORY
SAPLING

1. Epiphan, J.N., S.N. Handel., and S.S. Mangiafico. 2025. Disturbance in the Forest of Morristown National Historical Park: Influence of Gap Size on Tree Regeneration. Natural Resource Report NPS/MORR/NRR-2025. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.
2. Harris, J.R. and Bassuk, N.L., 1993. Tree planting fundamentals. *Journal of Arboriculture*, 19, p.67
3. Tallamy, D.W., 2021. *The Nature of Oaks: the rich ecology of our most essential native trees*. Timber Press.
4. Epiphan, J. 2025. Why Leave the Leaves and How to Do it. Rutgers Fact Sheet FS1369: Why Leave the Leaves and How to Do it (Rutgers NJAES)

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