

## ANGIOSPERM TREES

### *Acer rubrum*

Common name: Red Maple; Swamp Maple

Form: Deciduous tree, 60 - 90 feet tall

Leaves: Opposite, simple, cordate to palmate, 3 - 5 deep lobes, 3 - 5 inches long, serrate margins; white, tomentose below; red petioles; bright red foliage in fall

Flowers: Umbellate fascicle; small, red to orange-red, crowded on twigs; February - May, before leaves appear

Fruit: Samara; red turning brownish; March - June

Habitat: Wet or moist areas, swamps, low woods, thickets

Comment: The Red Maple is one of the first trees to bloom in spring.





## *Carya illinoensis*

Common name: Pecan

Form: Deciduous tree, 100 - 150 feet tall; trunk gray and furrowed

Leaves: Alternate, odd pinnately compound, 10 - 24 inches long

Flowers: Catkins; yellowish green, staminate (male) and pistillate (female) on same tree; **April - May**

Fruit: Nut; brown, edible; **October - November**

Habitat: Deep, fertile, moist soils

Comment: The local community of Pecan is named after this species.

## *Cinnamomum camphora*

**EXOTIC INVASIVE**

Common name: Camphor Tree

Form: Broadleaved evergreen, 50 - 100 feet tall

Leaves: Alternate, simple, oval to elliptic, up to 5 inches long, entire margins; pink on young growth with a pair or more of strong side veins; very aromatic when crushed



## *Cinnamomum camphora* continued...

- Flowers: Panicles; shorter than leaves, cream-colored; **April**  
Fruit: Berry; black, pea-sized; **June - July**  
Habitat: Sandy soils

## *Cliftonia monophylla*

- Common Name: Buckwheat Tree; Black Titi  
Form: A small tree to 30 feet tall; sometimes seen as a thicket-forming shrub  
Leaves: Evergreen; alternate; elliptical or lanceolate, to 2 inches long,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide; leathery  
Flowers: White or pink, fragrant;  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide, with 5 petals; in racemes; **March - May**  
Fruit: Shiny, yellowish, nut-like, winged drupe,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long **June - August**



Habitat: Swamps, grady ponds, depressions, roadside ditches, river swamps

Comments: Increasingly used ornamentally; an important honey species

## *Diospyros virginiana*

Common name: Common Persimmon



Form: Slow growing deciduous tree, up to 50 feet tall

Leaves: Alternate, simple, ovate, up to 6 inches long, larger on young seedlings, entire margins; dark green turning yellow in fall

Flowers: Green and inconspicuous; staminate (male) and pistillate (female) on separate trees; **May - June**

Fruit: Berry; plumlike, fleshy, orange, edible when ripe; **September - November**

Habitat: Swampy areas, along stream banks, forests, fields, pinewoods

## *Gordonia lasianthus*

Common Name: Loblolly Bay

Form: A canopy species, to 80 feet tall; usually seen as a small tree

Leaves: Evergreen; alternate, leathery; elliptical, to 6 inches long, 3 inches wide

Flowers: Showy, fragrant, 3 inches across; 5 fringed white petals, with golden-yellow stamens in the center; July -October

Fruit: Ovoid capsule, ½ inch across; August - October

Habitat: Low, moist soils; swamp edges, near the bases of rich forested bluffs

Comments: Loblolly Bay is considered rare. It is in the Camellia family and is often used ornamentally.



## *Ilex opaca*

Common name: American Holly

Form: Bushy evergreen shrub or small tree, up to 30 feet tall

Leaves: Alternate, simple, oval or elliptic, 2 - 3 inches long,



- dentate or entire margins with several prominent spines in older leaves; leathery
- Flowers: White, small with four rounded petals; staminate or pistillate on separate plants; **April - June**
- Fruit: Berry; bright red, persisting from autumn to spring; **September - October**
- Habitat: Fertile, moist bottomlands, dry slopes, margins of swamps

### *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Common Name: Sweetgum

Form: Large canopy tree, to 120 feet tall

Leaves: Alternate, deciduous; to 6 inches long; aromatic; palmately 5-lobed, with fine teeth on the margins

Flowers: Formed separately (monoecious); male flowers greenish-yellow in terminal clusters; female flowers in globose clusters in leaf axils; **March - April**

Fruit: Spherical head of spiny, fused capsules; **August - September**

Habitat: A generalist; wet or moist sites; disturbed areas, abandoned fields, fencerows

Comments: Sometimes confused with maples, which have opposite leaves; the aromatic sap has been used as chewing gum and as a base for patent medicines.





## *Liriodendron tulipifera*

- Common name: Tuliptree; Tulip Poplar; Yellow Poplar
- Form: Large canopy tree, to 120 feet tall
- Leaves: Deciduous; alternate; lyre-shaped, 4 - 6 inches long
- Flowers: Perfect; showy, tulip-shaped; 5 petals; greenish-yellow with orange splotches; 3 inches across; **April - May**
- Fruit: Cone-like, brown, upright, to 4 inches long; **September**
- Habitat: Rich, moist woodlands; in our area usually on sites near water.
- Comments: This attractive, well-formed tree, is often used in landscapes.

## *Magnolia grandiflora*

- Common name: Southern Magnolia
- Form: Broadleaved evergreen tree, up to 80 feet tall
- Leaves: Alternate, simple, broad, leathery, pinnately veined, 5 - 8 inches long; oval to oblong tapering to a point, entire margins; underside with rusty-colored wooly hairs
- Flowers: Large, white, showy, fragrant with six, nine, or 12 petals, 7 - 10 inches across; **April - June**
- Fruit: Cone-like structure, 3 - 4 inches long, purplish turning rusty brown, oblong, hairy brown with



bright red follicles embedded; **October**

Habitat: Moist soils with other hardwoods

Comment: This is the state flower and tree of Mississippi.

## *Magnolia virginiana*

Common name: Sweetbay Magnolia



Form: Small evergreen or semi-evergreen tree, up to 90 feet tall; bark gray, smooth

Leaves: Alternate, simple, elliptic to oblong, occasionally obovate, 5 - 8 inches long, up to 3 inches wide; entire margins; leathery, bright, shiny green above, white hairs giving a silvery sheen below

## *Magnolia virginiana* continued...

- Flowers: Solitary, creamy white with nine or 12 petals, 2 - 3 inches across; April - July
- Fruit: Follicles; dark red, smooth, crowded into a cone; July - October
- Habitat: Bayheads, swamps, savannas



## *Nyssa biflora*

- Common name: Swamp Tupelo; Blackgum
- Form: Large deciduous tree, up to 120 feet tall; bark grayish brown to black, exfoliating ridges on mature trees; trunk usually swollen at base
- Leaves: Alternate, simple, elliptical to obovate, narrow; 3 - 6 inches long, entire margins; dark green above, paler and slightly hairy below; turning maroon in fall
- Flowers: Staminate and pistillate on separate trees, staminate in spherical clusters; pistillate on elongate stalks arising from leaf axils; non-descript, green; April - June

- Fruit: Drupe; ellipsoid, purplish blue; **August - October**
- Habitat: Brackish swamps, bogs, savannas, flatwoods, other areas periodically covered by water

## *Persea palustris*

Common name: Swamp Redbay; Swamp Bay

Form: Broadleaf evergreen tree or large shrub, 30 - 40 feet tall; bark reddish brown with irregular furrows and flat topped ridges



Leaves: Alternate, simple, elliptic to lanceolate to broadly elliptic, 3 - 7 inches long, 1 - 2 inches wide, entire margins; rusty-red, curly hairs on the lower surfaces of leaves, petioles and twigs; thick and leathery; spicy odor when crushed

Flowers: White to cream in clusters on long stalks, in leaf axils; **May - June**

Fruit: Drupe; nearly round, shiny dark blue, thin pulp; maturing **September - October**

Habitat: Pinewoods, wooded swamps, shorelines

Comment: Most often the leaves bear conspicuous, fleshy galls caused by tiny fly-like larvae. Galls are unsightly but do not harm the tree. Coastal residents use the Swamp Bay leaves to flavor gumbos, stews and spaghetti.



## *Prunus serotina*

- Common Name: Black Cherry
- Form: Large canopy tree, to 90 feet tall
- Leaves: Deciduous, alternate, lanceolate, to 6 inches long, 1 ½ inch wide, with fine, red-tipped teeth on the margins
- Flowers: White, ¼ inch wide, 5 petals; in racemes; appear with new leaves in spring; **March - April**
- Fruit: Drupe with a single large pit; ⅜ inch across; purple-black when ripe; **July - August**
- Habitat: A generalist; moist or wet forests; fencerows, disturbed sites, cleared land
- Comments: Heavy, reddish brown wood is second only to Black Walnut for cabinetry. The bitter fruits are used for jellies, wine, and to artificially color moonshine whiskey.



## *Quercus nigra*

Common name: Water Oak

Form: Medium-sized deciduous tree, up to 80 feet tall; bark smooth and brown in young trees, gray to black with rough ridges as tree ages

Leaves: Alternate, simple, glabrous, obovate with three lobes at the apex, 2 - 4 inches long, 1 - 2 inches wide, entire to pinnately lobed margins, variable

Flowers: Catkins; hairy; staminate (male) stalked; pistillate (female) solitary; **April**

Fruit: Acorns;  $\frac{5}{8}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long, elliptical; maturing second year; **September - November**

Habitat: Margins of ponds, streams, and lakes and on low ground associated with hardwoods, pinelands

Comment: The Water Oak is adapted to grow in wetter habitats, but it will grow virtually anywhere despite its name.



## *Quercus virginiana*

Common name: Live Oak

Form: Wide-spreading, broadleaf evergreen tree, up to 50 feet tall; branches spread as much as three times the height; bark red to brown, furrowed, separated into cross-cracks



Leaves: Alternate, simple, elliptic to oblong, 2 - 5 inches long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, entire margins; dark, shiny green above and pale gray below; underside with hairs

Flowers: Catkins; staminate (male) hairy, 3 inches long; pistillate (female) spikes of few flowers, 1 - 3 inches long; **April - March**

- Fruit: Acorns;  $\frac{5}{8}$  - 1 inch long; narrow and oblong; green becoming dark, glossy brown; matures first year; **September - November**
- Habitat: Moist to dry, sandy soils, often in pure stands

## *Symplocos tinctoria*

Common Name: Common Sweetleaf; Horse-sugar; Dyebush

Form: Small tree, to 30 feet tall

Leaves: Alternate; evergreen; elliptical, to 6 inches long, 3 inches wide, with a prominent yellowish midvein

Flowers: Creamy-white,  $\frac{2}{3}$  inch across, with many prominent stamens; on twigs of the previous season; flowers appear before new leaves develop in early spring; **February - March**

Fruit: Cylindrical drupe,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long; green becoming brown and dry at maturity; **April - May**

Habitat: In the understory of moist woods

Comments: Sweet-tasting leaves are eagerly browsed by white-tailed deer and livestock. A yellow-green dye has been made by boiling the leaves in water.



## *Triadica sebifera* (*Sapium sebiferum*) EXOTIC INVASIVE

- Common name: Chinese Tallow Tree; Popcorn Tree
- Form: Fast-growing, short-lived deciduous tree, 30 - 40 feet tall; capable of forming dense thickets; milky sap
- Leaves: Alternate, simple, heart-shaped with tips tapering to a sharp point, 1 ½ - 3 inches long, 1 ¼ - 2 ½ inches wide, entire margins; various colors in autumn
- Flowers: Panicle-like; tiny, yellow; in clusters or slender spikes at the ends of branches; **May - June**



Fruit: Capsule; green ripening to brown; maturing in winter; opening to expose three white seeds that resemble popcorn, hence the name; very oily; **August - September**

Habitat: Disturbed areas and forests

Comment: The “popcorn” of this tree is often used in ornamental displays. However, this practice is not suggested because the seeds can be easily spread. Once these trees become established, they are almost impossible to remove from the habitat.