

# Select Native Flowering Trees of Georgia

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Native trees have been formed on the anvil of our local environment. Our pests, climate, and soils have combined to generate a wide diversity of native trees. Out of more than 215 native trees in Georgia, there are a few which deserve closer attention for use in landscapes. Within the forest, along field edges, and in swamps are a number of flowering trees -- a splash of color in an ocean of forest green. Many of these native flowering trees are small, having grown below the forest giants, hidden in out-of-the-way places.

Below are listed a number of native flowering trees. Although technically all trees flower, the trees listed below have showy single flowers or flower clusters. These are the tree jewels of Georgia.

scientific name	common name	region	height	comments
<i>Aesculus flava</i> (octandra)	yellow buckeye	N	65'	showy whitish-yellow flowers
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	red buckeye	C-S	15'	showy red flowers
<i>Aesculus sylvatica</i>	painted buckeye	N-C	10'	showy orange-red flowers
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	downy serviceberry (shad bush)	all (not SE)	25'	early bloom, white flowers
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	devil's walkingstick	all	16'	thorns! small greenish-white flowers
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Eastern baccharis (groundsel tree)	S	16'	plant female, minute clustered white flowers
<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Southern catalpa	C-S	60'	showy, white flowers with yellow spots
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	buttonbush	all	18'	unique, minute creamy white flowers in round heads
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	redbud	all (not SE)	18'	pea-like, purple flowers
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	fringetree (grancy-greybeard)	all	22'	unique, plant female, showy white flowers



The University of Georgia

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scientific name	common name	region	height	comments
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	yellowwood	N	35'	rare! protected areas moist but well-drained soils, showy white flowers
<i>Cliftonia monophylla</i>	buckwheat tree (black titi)	C-S	18'	small white flowers
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	American smoketree	N	25'	rare! plant female, massed hairy grey flowers
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	swamp cyrilla (red titi)	C-S	20'	small white flowers
<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	loblolly-bay	C-S	35'	rare! showy fragrant white flowers
<i>Halesia carolina</i>	Carolina silverbell	all	35'	showy white bell flowers with hint of pink
<i>Halesia diptera</i>	two-wing silverbell	C-S	25'	showy white bell flowers
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	mountain laurel	all (not SE)	18'	showy white to rose flowers
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	cucumbertree	N-C	70'	yellowish-green flowers
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	sweetbay	all	50'	showy white fragrant flowers
<i>Malus angustifolia</i>	Southern crabapple (narrow-leaf crabapple)	all (not SE)	25'	showy pink fragrant flowers, wildlife!
<i>Malus coronaria</i>	Sweet crabapple	N	20'	showy, fragrant pinkish white flowers, wildlife!
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	sourwood	N-C	25'	small white bell flowers
<i>Pinckneya pubens</i>	pinckneya (fevertree)	S	14'	rare! pink with yellow flowers
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	chickasaw plum	all	12'	thicket forming, thorns, wildlife! white flowers
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	black cherry	all	60'	white flowers, wildlife!
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	hoptree	all	18'	unique fruit, greenish-white flowers

scientific name	common name	region	height	comments
<i>Stewartia malacodendron</i>	Virginia stewartia (silky camellia)	C-S	16'	showy white flowers
<i>Stewartia ovata</i>	mountain stewartia (mountain camellia)	N	12'	protected area, showy white flowers
<i>Styrax americana</i>	American snowbell	all	10'	understory with sun, white bell flowers
<i>Styrax grandifolia</i>	bigleaf snowbell	C-S	18'	white bell flowers
<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	tree sparkleberry (farkleberry)	all	20'	small white bell, flowers, wildlife!
<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	rusty blackhaw	all	16'	small fragrant white flowers

region = region of the state for best performance where:  
all = statewide, N = North, C = Central, S = South, and SE = Southeast Georgia.  
height = mature height in feet (juvenile height will be 60-80% of mature height.)  
comments = primarily flower attributes.

flowering trees numbers:  
-- north = 8  
-- central = 11  
-- south = 10  
-- all Georgia = 11  
-- all Georgia except the SE = 4

