

The BEST Southeastern Native Plants for your Garden

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UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens

10 best big trees (ranked)

(fall color, nice crown, bark, longevity, flowers, fruits)

1. *Acer barbatum* - southern sugar maple
2. *Nyssa sylvatica* - black gum
3. *Acer rubrum* - red maple cultivars
4. **Tilia americana* - American basswood
5. *Magnolia grandiflora* - southern magnolia cultivars
6. *Betula nigra* - river birch
7. *Quercus shumardii* - Shumard oak
8. *Quercus rubra* - northern red oak
+ *Quercus alba* – white oak
9. *Quercus phellos* – willow oak
10. *Fraxinus americana* - white ash

10 worst big trees

(brittle, disease, nuisance, spiny, drought, short-lived, no color)

1. *Acer saccharinum* - silver maple
2. *Salix nigra* - black willow
3. *Robinia pseudoacacia* - black locust
4. *Gleditsia triacanthos* - honey locust
5. *Celtis laevigata* - southern hackberry
6. *Morus rubra* - red mulberry
7. *Catalpa bignonioides* - catalpa
8. *Juglans nigra* - black walnut
9. *Prunus serotina* - black cherry
10. *Platanus occidentalis* - sycamore
11. ☺ *Liquidambar styraciflua* – sweetgum ok?

10 best small flowering trees

(flowers, fruits, foliage, form, bark, adaptability)

1. *Cornus florida* - flowering dogwood
2. *Cladrastis kentuckeya* - yellowwood
3. *Magnolia macrophylla* - big-leaf magnolia
4. *Oxydendrum arboreum* - sourwood
5. *Asimina triloba* – paw-paw
6. *Chionanthus virginicus* - fringe tree
7. *Halesia diptera* - two-winged silver bell
8. *Cercis canadensis* - redbud
9. *Taxodium ascendens* - pond cypress
10. *Pinus glabra* - spruce pine

12 best shrubs

1. *Amelanchier* × *grandiflora* - Serviceberry
2. *Aronia arbutifolia* - red chokeberry
3. *Viburnum nudum* - smooth withered
4. *Vaccinium corymbosum* - blueberry cultivars
5. *Hydrangea quercifolia* - oakleaf hydrangea
6. *Fothergilla gardenii* - dwarf witch-alder
7. *Rhododendron austrinum* - Florida azalea
8. *Aesculus parviflora* - bottlebrush buckeye
9. *Clethra alnifolia* - sweet pepperbush
10. *Ilex verticillata* – winter red holly cultivars
11. *Illicium floridanum* - Florida anise cultivars
12. *Rhapidophyllum hystrix* - needle palm

8 best sun-loving perennials (alphabetical)

1. *Amsonia hubrichtii* - Arkansas blue star
2. *Asclepias tuberosa* - orange butterfly weed
3. *Baptisia alba* - wild indigo cultivars
4. *Eutrochium dubium* - Joe-pye weed
5. *Phlox carolina* - tall phlox cultivars
6. *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* - sweet coneflower
7. *Stokesia laevis* - Stoke's aster cultivars
8. *Aster oblongifolium* – aromatic aster cultivars

22 best shade-loving perennials & ferns (alphabetical)

1. *Chrysogonum virginianum* - green-and-gold
2. *Dicentra eximia* - bleeding-heart
3. *Geranium maculatum* – wild geranium
4. *Heuchera americana* 'Dale's-strain' - Alumroot
5. *Hexastylis arifolia*, *H. minor* – heartleaf Ginger
6. *Lobelia cardinalis* - cardinal flower
7. *Phacelia bipinnatifidum* –fern-leaf Phacelia
8. *Pachysandra procumbens* - Alleghany-spurge
9. *Polemonium reptans* - Jacob's-ladder
10. *Polygonatum biflorum* - large Solomon's-seal
11. *Sanguinaria canadensis* - bloodroot
12. *Shortia galacifolia* – Oconee Bells
13. *Smilacina racemose* - False Solomon's-seal
14. *Spigelia marilandica* - Indian-pink
15. *Stylophorum diphyllum* - wood poppy
16. *Tiarella wherryi* - foamflower
17. *Trillium cuneatum* - little sweet Betsy + others
18. NY fern
19. Wood ferns (*Dryopteris*) (evergreen)
20. Ostrich fern – Heat Tolerant forms The King, Fanfare
21. Maidenhair fern
22. Cinnamon fern, Royal fern
23. Christmas fern (evergreen)

Univ. of NC at Charlotte Botanical Gardens

<http://gardens.uncc.edu> Plant Sale Oct 14-15, 2016

book - *Native Plants of the Southeast* 2014. Timber Press