



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

The Garden Guru's Top 10 Trees

Trees form the backbone of any landscape providing structure and definition. They can create shade, attract birds, provide a focal point, and offer gorgeous flowers in spring and brilliant foliage in the fall. Mike Westphal, the Garden Guru guides us through his top ten trees that will enhance your landscape for years to come.

#10 - Crepe Myrtle

Known as the "tree of 100 days", the Crepe Myrtle is an outstanding bloomer as well as being Hampton Roads' favorite tree. This tree comes in many sizes, varieties, shapes, and colors to suit any type of landscape.

Notable Attributes:

- Multi-trunked with a "globe-shaped" canopy
- Exfoliated bark, comparable to river birch
- Very drought & heat tolerant
- Does not need to be pruned often

#9 - Redbuds

Redbuds are native trees to eastern North America, including Hampton Roads, so they are a great addition to any native landscape. They are one of the first trees to bloom in spring. Before their heart-shaped leaves come in, they have red buds that turn into pink blooms.

Notable Attributes:

- Smaller tree - about 20 feet tall/wide
- As an understory tree, it can be grown in full sun to light shade
- Zig-Zag branches with a sprawling crowned canopy

#8 - River Birch

As one of the larger trees on the Garden Guru's list, birch trees are great if you are trying to create some shade or fill in a moisture-prone area of your landscape. Birches can be fast growers, reaching 30-40 feet tall and 25-30 feet wide. When planting, the tree should be placed no closer than 20ft from any structure.

Notable Attributes:

- Golden leaves in fall
- Exfoliated bark
- V-shaped with a crowned canopy

#7 - Styrax - Japanese Snowbell

A beautiful spring bloomer, styrax trees produce small white flowers mid-spring that hang like tiny bells from the branches. Hence the nickname, snowbell.

Notable Attributes:

- Smaller tree - about 20-30 feet tall/wide
- Great to sit under and climb on
- Yellow and red leaves in the fall

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#6 - Serviceberry

Another native tree to the Hampton Roads area. The serviceberry not only has beautiful, fragrant white blooms, but edible berries that birds love. This multi-trunked tree is a bush variety that often has "suckers" or new little branches that pop up. These can be pruned to keep the base clearer.

Notable Attributes:

- Smaller tree - about 20 feet tall/wide
- Berries start off green then red and finally dark purple when ripe
- gold to red leaves in the fall

#5 - Japanese Maples

With over 12,000 different varieties, Japanese Maples are the tree to please all types of landscapes and collectors. This tree can be kept in containers as bosai or planted in the ground. They come in weeping and upright styles.

Notable Attributes:

- Smaller tree - range from 2 - 25 feet tall
- Mulching is important for this tree, 2 - 3 inches deep and about 6 feet in diameter
- They erupt with leaves in the spring and the leaf color intensifies in the fall

#4 - Thundercloud Plum

This ornamental plum tree is one of the first trees to bloom in the spring with their "clear pink" flowers. They have attractive, burgundy leaves that turn a gorgeous red in the fall.

Notable Attributes:

- Smaller tree - about 20 feet tall/wide
- Lollipop-shaped canopy
- Can fruit plums, which the birds love

#3 - Yoshino Cherry

Most popularly known as the Washington D.C. cherry blossom festival tree, the Yoshino cherry greets us every spring with amazing white to pink blooms against their dark colored bark. These trees carry their beauty into the fall as well with golden leaves.

Notable Attributes:

- About 30 feet tall/wide, great for shade
- Sprawling canopy, great for shade
- Can take full sun

#2 - Fringe Tree

More known for their incredibly unique blooms, fringe tree's are the best choice for any full-sun to dappled shade landscape. They have very few issues with disease and insects and can even be started off in containers.

Notable Attributes:

- Native, multi-trunked tree
- Small tree - 15 - 20 feet tall
- Fringe blooms are fragrant

#1 - Dogwood

As the proud Virginian state tree and flower, the Dogwood is a native tree to the Hampton Roads area. They have long-lasting blooms and a beautiful sprawling habit to their canopy.

Notable Attributes:

- Needs moist, well-draining soil. Native soil can be amended with compost and perlite
- Plant high, slightly above ground level
- Avoid pruning in spring and summer

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