



‘TOP’ TREES FOR LIGHT SHADE

By Pat Curran

Relatively long-lived, disease/pest resistant, winter-hardy, good foliage quality

Trees for Light Shade

Comments

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| • Acer griseum, paperbark maple | attractive exfoliation at a young age |
| • Acer japonicum ‘Aconitifolium’, fullmoon maple; red fall foliage; shrubby; | |
| • Acer pensylvanicum, moosewood, striped maple; native understory tree | |
| • (Acer pensylvanicum ‘Erythrocladum’, red striped bark variety) | |
| • Asimina triloba, pawpaw | edible fruit, native nearby, nice foliage |
| • Carpinus betulus, European hornbeam | tough, adaptable, used in hedges too |
| • Carpinus caroliniana, musclewood, American hornbeam | adaptable; tolerates occasional flooding; native |
| • Cercis canadensis, redbud | showy spring blooms; self sows |
| • Chamaecyparis nootkatensis, Nookta false cypress; handsome evergreen specimen | |
| • Cornus alternifolia, pagoda dogwood | fruit for birds; native; layered effect |
| • Magnolia acuminata, cucumber tree | large shade tree |
| • Nyssa sylvatica, black gum | consistent fall color; native |
| • Sciadopitys verticillata, Japanese umbrella-pine | evergreen to protect from winter wind and sun\ |
| • Stewartia pseudocamellia, Japanese stewartia | four-season interest |

Reference:

Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening & Cultivation, Donald J. Leopold (professor at SUNY ESF, Syracuse)

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses, Sixth Edition, Michael Dirr (invaluable and comprehensive, but no color pictures)

Dirr’s Encyclopedia of Trees & Shrubs, Michael Dirr (great color pictures, but not as comprehensive)

Shrubs & Vines for American Gardens, Trees for American Gardens, 2 books by Donald Wyman (older references with great plant lists, but do not use USDA hardiness zones)

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