Alpharetta
GEORGIA

ALPHARETTA Arboretum AT WILLS PARK

Sponsored by Alpharetta Arboretum, Inc, Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau and City of Alpharetta

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Alpharetta Arboretum at Wills Park

Welcome to the **Alpharetta Arboretum at Wills Park**. An arboretum is a collection of trees assembled and maintained for education, research and enjoyment.

Established in 2008, the Alpharetta Arboretum at Wills Park showcases the natural setting and beauty of many native and non-native tree species in Wills Park, a 110 acre multi-use park near the downtown center of Alpharetta.

As you wander through the park on the walking trail, you will see many street, border and accent trees that offer an educational perspective on the wide choices of trees suited for planting in the urban landscape.

Please take time to walk through the arboretum at your own pace and enjoy the beauty and natural settings. Be sure to visit Alpharetta's other arboretums at **Webb Bridge Park**, **Cogburn Road Park** and **Brooke Street Park**. Don't miss the **Alpharetta Community Garden** while at Wills Park, located next to the Recreation Center.

We invite you to make the Alpharetta Arboretums destinations you will return to often throughout the year.

Tree List

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21 Sweetgum
22 Sycamore
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24 Loblolly Pine

1 | Green Ash

This tree, planted in full sun, quickly grows to 50 or 60 feet tall, making it an excellent shade tree popular in cities and high-use parks throughout eastern United States.

Its leaves are medium green in summer and bright yellow in autumn, and it produces a reddish-purple flower followed by a small tan fruit. Wood ducks, finches and cardinals eat its seeds.

Most oars and canoe paddles are made from Green Ash wood.

2 | Liberty Elm

This tree grows at a rate of two to three feet per year and reaches heights of 100 feet or more. The Liberty Elm was developed to be 99% resistant to Dutch Elm disease. It's an excellent choice as an urban street shade tree.

In forests, its early spring buds and leaves are a favorite treat for deer and other ground dwelling mammals.

3 | Sawtooth Oak

Originally from Japan, Korea and China, this tree grows to 40 to 60 feet with an equal spread at full maturity.

It gets its name from its long, spear-shaped leaves with saw-toothed edges. The leaves are dark green in summer, turning to bright yellow in autumn. It also produces a golden brown flower.

The Sawtooth Oak makes an attractive and durable shade tree, and is adaptable to a wide range of soil and climate conditions.

4 | Chinese Elm

This tree is not native to North America, but at a typical height of 50 feet, it's a terrific choice for open landscape. It is fast growing with dark green leaves and a fall color display that varies from yellow to burgundy.

In forest areas, its shoots, buds and leaves are often eaten by deer, and it provides nesting areas for many birds. This elm is originally from northern and central China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan.

5 | Willow Oak

The natural habitat for this handsome tree is the bottom-lands of the South and Eastern Coastal Plains. It reaches heights of 40 to 60 feet with a spread of 30 to 40 feet at full maturity.

The leaves resemble the willow's, from which it derives its name. Acorns provide food for the whitetail deer, squirrels, wild turkey, quail and some songbirds.

The willow has been harvested for lumber since pioneer days for paneling, newel posts, pulpits, church pews, bar tops, stairs, railings and flour barrels.

6 | Black Gum

Although this tree has been known to reach heights of 60 feet, it rarely grows beyond 30 feet. The leathery leaves turn bright red in autumn.

It flowers from April through June and has blue-black fruit ripening in September and October.

The edible berries can be made into preserves and are reminiscent of a wild cherry.

7 | White Flowering Dogwood

This classic southern tree grows to heights of 20 to 30 feet under taller trees in undisturbed forests. The White Flowering Dogwood is a popular landscape tree, thriving in light shade.

This is one of the most important southern trees, not only for its beauty, but also for its berries that provide food for over 75 species of birds.

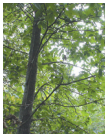
8 | Sassafras

This is an understory tree growing to heights of 30 to 60 feet with a spread of 25 to 40 feet at maturity.

The Sassafras is known for its brilliant display of fall foliage and aromatic smell with bright to medium green leaves that change to deep orange, scarlet, purple and yellow in the fall.

It is still used today to make tea, root beer and a Louisiana spice powder that is added to soups and other dishes.

9 | Pignut Hickory



This tree is extraordinarily tough, growing to heights of 60 to 70 feet. Its fruit ripens in September and has a distinctive pear shape. Autumn leaves turn a dull gold.

This hardy tree can endure poor soils and drier situations. It can be found from Southern Canada to Florida and westward to Mississippi along hillsides and ridges.

It's sometimes called the "Broom Hickory" because early settlers used it to make brooms, tool handles and wagon parts.

10 | White Oak

A White Oak can live up to 600 years, growing to just over 100 feet tall, with a spread of 50 to 100 feet.

This is a tree for large spaces like parks or other recreational areas. Birds, deer, woodpeckers, turkey and squirrels hoard its acorns.

White oak was used extensively for making naval ships, furniture, barrels, fireplace wood and many other items.

11 | Black Cherry

The tallest of all cherries at mature heights of 50 feet, it has been known to rise to a noble 100 feet in height. Leaves are willow-like, and the bark is aromatic and dark red-brown on older trees. Its fruit is dark red, becoming almost black when ripe, and is eaten by birds.

The medicinal properties of the bark have been used for cough medicines, expectorants and the treatment of sore throats.

12 | Southern Red Oak

This oak with a rounded open crown usually grows to 80 feet, but can occasionally reach heights of 125 feet. It's one of the hardiest and fastest growing of the oaks and usually lives for about 150 years.

The heaviest wood of the North American hardwoods, it is used for furniture making, flooring, fireplace wood and veneers.

13 | Persimmon

This understory tree grows to heights of 20 to 60 feet and tolerates full sun or shade. Its thick, dark brown or gray bark is tinged with red, and divided into square plates, giving a distinctly reptilian looking hide. A fruiting tree, it ripens and sweetens in autumn. It is the northernmost member of the Ebony family, with dark brown to nearly black heartwood and is prized for its wavy grained wood.

Native Americans made the pulp of the fruit into bread. The heartwood has been used to make golf clubs, loom

The mission of Alpharetta Arboretum, Inc. is to connect people to nature for their education and enjoyment. We engage the community through horticultural demonstration, ecological education and the stewardship of botanically rich places.

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14 | Sweet Gum Rotundiloba

Its usual height is 40 to 50 feet, but can grow up to 100 feet, with a spread of 25 to 30 feet. This tree is a good choice for a lawn or park, allowing a large area for root development.

The original tree was discovered in the wild in North Carolina in 1930. It is a cultivar, a species of tree intentionally selected and maintained through cultivation.

The spectacular fall foliage of this species is a mixture of yellow, orange, red and purple.

15 | Dawn Redwood

With an ultimate height exceeding 100 feet, its usual height of 35 to 50 feet in 25 years makes it a fast grower needing plenty of room.

This species was once thought to be extinct until found in 1948 growing in a remote valley of the Szechwan province in China. It is now grown all around the world. Recent reexamination of western United States fossils identified the Dawn Redwood as once being native to North America.

While giving an evergreen appearance, it is a deciduous conifer, shedding its leaves for winter.

16 | Water Oak

This oak grows to 50 to 80 feet with the same size spread at maturity. It does well in full sun and partial shade. Because of its fast rate of growth coupled with its weaker wood, its limbs and trunk eventually break or hollow out.

It's a prolific acorn producer, feeding a variety of wildlife. The Water Oak has been used since the 1600's to provide lumber for many homes.

17 | Pin Oak

Few oaks can withstand flooding and wet ground as well as this species. It inhabits poorly drained sites and flatlands throughout eastern central United States, growing to heights of 60 feet or more.

A medium to fast grower, it is used in commercial plantings around buildings as street trees and in parking areas.

18 | Red Maple

This tree can be happy just about anywhere from stream banks and dry difficult sites to swamps. It grows fairly quickly to 60 feet tall and can withstand moderate amounts of modern urban pollution.

A highly adaptable tree with red and sometimes yellow flowers, it has brilliant fall colors from deep red to yellow.

The nation's largest Red Maple is 141 feet tall and over seven feet in diameter and grows in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Bird's Eye Maple is a rare form of maple wood caused by knotting and fungus, treasured for its beauty and strength and used for making musical instruments.

19 | Tulip Poplar

A fast growing member of the Magnolia family, with a yellow/green/orange tulip bloom, this tree grows to a height of 75 to 100 feet, and occasionally, 200 feet. It can live up to 500 years.

It provides shelter for hummingbirds and butterflies. Its seeds are eaten by cardinals and finches, while its leaves host butterfly larvae.

20 | Georgia Oak

Georgia Oak, or Stone Mountain Oak, is a rare deciduous oak. It is native to the southeastern United States, mainly in northern Georgia. It grows on dry granite and sandstone outcrops of slopes of hills. It is a small tree, often shrubby, growing to 25 to 50 feet tall. The tree was first discovered in 1849 at Stone Mountain, Georgia, where several specimens grow along the popular walk-up trail. This tree was grown from an acorn harvested on Stone Mountain. Georgia Oak is listed as an endangered species in the wild.

21 | Sweetgum

The Sweetgum oozes a sweet sticky substance from which it gets its name. It is known as a pioneer tree because it's usually the first tree to move into an abandoned field or logged-out areas, growing fairly quickly to heights of 100 to 140 feet.

It is most easily identified by its seed-bearing fruit, which is a woody, burred ball. The seed balls feed a variety of birds and small animals such as chipmunks, gray and red squirrels.

It was once commercially popular for soaps, adhesives and pharmaceuticals. Today, its wood is valuable for fine furniture and interior finishing.

22 | Sycamore

This tree grows to heights of 80 to 150 feet and produces a fruit ball, which breaks apart into fluff in the winter, spreading seeds. Its bark is smooth and pale with large patches of lighter color.

It is used for furniture, veneer and butcher's blocks, since it can be endlessly hacked on without splitting.

23 | Swamp Tupelo

Like the Black Gum, this tree evolved on extreme sites, and occupies wetlands between North Carolina, Florida and Louisiana. While it can grow to 60 feet under ideal conditions, it rarely reaches over 30 feet.

Its leathery leaves turn bright red in the fall. It flowers from April through June and produces a blue-black berry in September and October.

Because the wood easily warps and shrinks, it is mostly used for pulley rollers, gunstocks, chopping bowls and blocks.

24 | Loblolly Pine

Found in the southeastern United States where it covers several million acres, this evergreen pine grows quickly to 60 to 100 feet in full sun. Its leaves are spiral needles six to nine inches long, and its fruit is an oval cone.

Its name, Loblolly, refers to the moist depressions in river bottoms where it originated.

These trees provide homes and food for many southeastern animals including birds, chipmunks and squirrels.

The Loblolly Pine is raised commercially for lumber, plywood and pulp for paper.

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