

Trees Knoxville will offer one and three-gallon trees to Knoxville residents for planting at their residences. A brief description of the available tree varieties for this season is provided below. Trees will be available at Tree Giveaway events on a first-come, first-served basis. All trees on this list are in 3 gallons except for the PawPaw, which are all 1 gallon.

Source for photos and text: *North Carolina Cooperative Extension; Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox*



KOUSA DOGWOOD (*CORNUS KOUSA*)

- Prefers a sunny location but will tolerate shade
- Slow growth rate
- Does well in open areas
- Well drained soils
- More resilient to drought and disease than native dogwood
- Cold hardy

**Height at maturity
20-30 ft**



TULIP POPLAR (*LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA*)

- Native deciduous tree with attractive tulip-like flowers
- Grow in full sun
- A favorite nesting site for birds, and the flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds
- Moist, well-drained soils,
- Is sensitive to heat and drought and has a low compaction tolerance

**Height at maturity
90-120 ft**



MAGNOLIA (*MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA* “KAY PARRIS”)

- Broadleaf evergreen
- Prefers full sun
- Prefers good drainage and occasionally wet soils
- Long bloom season with fragrant flowers
- Rapid growth
- Drought tolerant once established

Height at maturity
20-25 ft



AUTUMN BRILLIANCE SERVICEBERRY (*AMELANCHIER GRANDIFLORA* ‘AUTUMN BRILLIANCE’)

- Prefers full-sun to partial shade
- Soils with good draining, moist, occasionally wet
- Attracts pollinators and provides food for wildlife
- Shallow root, keep a layer of mulch around tree
- Fruits can be used for pies, jellies, and jams

Height at maturity
20-25 ft



PAW PAW (*CARPINUS CAROLINIANA*)

- Grows in deep shade to full sun
- Tolerates occasional wet or moist conditions but prefers good drainage
- Purplish-brown flowers mature before the leaves emerge
- Late summer to early fall, pawpaw produces an edible fruit
- Attracts butterflies, pollinators, small mammals, and songbirds

Height at maturity
15-30 ft

TREES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION 2026 PLANTING SEASON



CARLONA SILVERBELL (*HALESIA CAROLINIA*)

- Full sun to partial shade
- well-drained soil
- It can be grown as a large multi-trunked shrub or trained into a small understory tree
- Blooms will occur from when it is very young (a few years) to the end of its life
- Prefers moist soil, and is very sensitive to drought so it will need supplemental irrigation

Height at maturity
30-40 ft



PERSIMMON (*DIOSPYROS VIRGINIANA*)

- Full sun to partial shade
- Good draining, moist, and occasionally dry
- Persimmons are dioecious, meaning there are separate male and female trees, and you need both in order to get fruit
- Fruits are very sweet when ripe and are a food source for many birds and mammals
- Will tolerate hot, dry conditions, poor soils, urban conditions, and wind

Height at maturity
30-80 ft



AMERICAN HOLLY (*ILEX OPACE 'SATYR HILL'*)

- Broadleaf evergreen
- Grows in full sun to partial shade
- It will tolerate occasionally wet or dry soil, but not flooding
- Place in a location with afternoon shade but away from house
- Beautiful color and interest in a winter garden

Height at maturity
40-60 ft

TREES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION 2026 PLANTING SEASON



IRONWOOD OR HOP-HORNBEAM (*OSTRYA VIRGINIANA*)

- Slender deciduous tree in the birch family
- Prefers deep shade or partial shade, but tolerates full sun
- Easy to grow and succeeds in most soils, and in urban settings
- Nutlets are eaten by songbirds, wild turkeys, quail, and small mammals
- Slow growing

**Height at maturity
20-40ft**



WITCHAZEL (*HAMAMELIS VIRGINIANA*)

- Full sun to partial shade
- Soil should be moist, acidic, organically rich and well draining, intolerant of drought
- Leaves are attractive yellow color in the fall
- Fruit is eaten by small mammals and birds.
- Late fall to late winter with cheery yellow spider-like blooms

**Height at maturity
15-20 ft**



AMERICAN HORNBEAM (*CARPINUS CAROLINA*)

- Deciduous tree in the birch family native to Eastern US
- Found growing in moist soils
- Does well in heavy shade
- Leaves turn orange-red in fall
- Yellow-green flowers in the spring
- Wildlife friendly tree

**Height at maturity
20-30 ft**



RED MAPLE (*ACER RUBRUM* "OCTOBER GLORY")

- Native deciduous tree with red fall foliage
- Easy to grow in full sun to partial shade
- Grow in average, medium to wet, well-drained soil
- Cold hardy with tolerance for urban conditions
- Bees use nectar, tree supports pollinators and other wildlife

Height at maturity
40-70 ft



CHINQUAPIN OAK (*QUERCUS MUEHLENBERGII*)

- Native deciduous white oak tree with chestnut like leaves
- Grow in full sun
- Host plant for many moth and butterfly species and attracts wildlife
- Prefers moist to well drained alkaline soils, but adapts to many soil types
- Yellow and red. fall foliage

Height at maturity
40-60 ft



SHUMARD OAK (*QUERCUS SHUMARDII*)

- Native deciduous tree with red fall foliage
- Grow in full sun
- Host plant for many moth and butterfly species and attracts wildlife
- Tolerant of urban conditions like drought, dry soil, and air pollution
- Fast growing

Height at maturity
50-70 ft