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Plant them in the right spot

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Tips for growing indoors and out

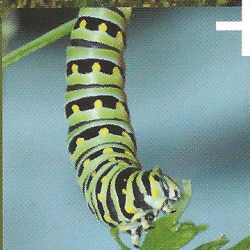
# OHIO GARDENER

OHIO'S OWN GUIDE TO GREAT GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

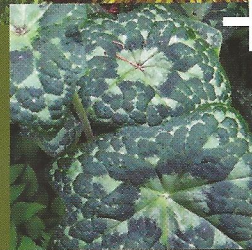
## A Garden for All Seasons

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+ CATERPILLARS  
Are they pests or future butterflies?  
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+ TEXTURE  
These plants will 'touch' you  
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# SITE-SPECIFIC

## Trees to Consider

Selecting the right tree for the right space is vital. This handy list can help.

**Story & Photography By Scott A. Zanon**

few feet from the trunk. It is a native understory tree that needs regular watering during the growing season and does not tolerate heavy, wet, alkaline soils.

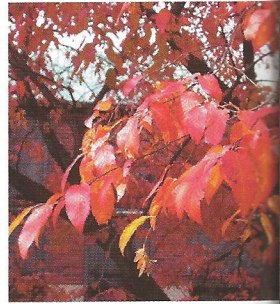
**American Hornbeam;  
Musclewood; Blue Beech,  
Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)**

Zones: 3-9

Size: 25 feet tall and wide

Culture: Difficult to transplant; full sun but prefers shade and best in deep, moist, fertile, slightly acidic, well-drained soils.

A small understory tree tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions. Typically found along streams and rivers and is good in naturalized areas as it will tolerate periodic flooding. It is also tolerant of pruning and can be used as a hedge or screen. This tree is not drought-tolerant.



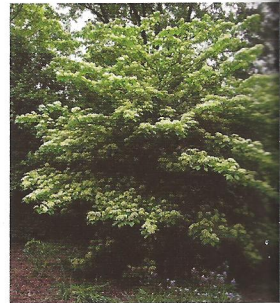
**Pagoda Dogwood; Alternate-Leaf  
Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)**

Zones: 3-7

Size: 15-20 feet tall and wide

Culture: Full sun or part shade, but usually looks and performs better in light shade; requires slightly-acidic, moist, well-drained soil; protect from harsh winter winds.

A small understory tree native to much of the eastern United States. It gets its common name from its pagoda-like horizontal branching pattern. The interesting branching structure gives the plant winter appeal. Seems to do best in colder climates and the key to success is keeping the root zone cool, moist and acidic. During dry spells water young plants.



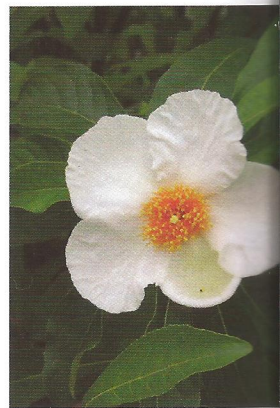
**Franklinia; Franklin Tree  
(*Franklinia alatamaha*)**

Zones: 5-8

Size: 10-20 feet tall and 10 feet wide

Culture: Requires humus-rich, moist, acidic, well-drained soil; full sun to part shade with best flowering and fall color occurring in full sun. Water it during dry spells, especially when young.

A small aristocratic specimen tree valued for its showy white flowers and reasonably good fall color. Cultivated specimens of Franklinia are commonly bushy plants often with multiple trunks like a shrub, but it can usually be trained into tree form. A historical tree that is indeed fickle. Good drainage is essential and in cold climates, the plant may die back to the ground.



A tree is likely the largest dollar investment that we make in plant material. Like a stock or mutual fund, it is a long-term investment that matures over time. Selecting the right tree for the right space is paramount. We, as gardeners, are continuously searching for new trees to consider as an addition to our garden to improve our landscape.

The site has to be able to support a tree throughout its life and there needs to be enough space for the tree to grow without causing a nuisance or obstruction. Please consider all aspects of the potential new planting site.

Most trees have few requirements while others have several. They could include, light, wind, soil, moisture, pH, drainage, hardiness and more. My new book, *Landscaping with Trees in the Midwest: A Guide for Residential and Commercial Properties*, offers some additional trees that may require a bit more thought, work, site assessment and analysis to consider before purchasing and planting. Here is a list of a few recommendations to consider.

**Striped Maple; Moosewood; Snake Bark Maple**

(*Acer pensylvanicum*)

Zones: 3-7

Size: 15-25 feet tall and wide

Culture: Prefers partial or light shade and cool, moist, well-drained slightly acidic soil; not tolerant of poor soils, heat or drought.

A lovely small tree that should be pruned as needed to show off the beautiful bark. Not tolerant to afternoon sun, typical of an understory tree. To flourish, proper cultural conditions need to be considered. The bark and fall color are very worthy. Plant it where you can enjoy its beauty during the winter months.

**Common Pawpaw; Custard Apple**

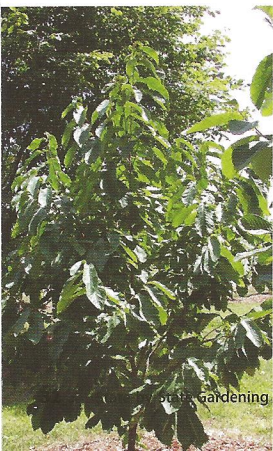
(*Asimina triloba*)

Zones: 5-9

Size: 15-20 feet tall and wide

Culture: Full sun or shade and best in moist, fertile, deep, slightly acidic, well-drained soils.

A small tree that has the largest edible fruit native to North America. The pawpaw is native to shady, rich bottom lands, where it often forms dense undergrowth (thicket) in the forest as it tends to produce root-suckers a





### Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*)

Zones: 5-8

Size: 30 feet tall by 20 feet wide

Culture: Full sun to part shade; prefers rich, acidic, well-drained, moist soils in a partial shade environment. Tolerant of fairly heavy shade.

This small understory woodland tree has a native habitat on wooded slopes and along stream banks in the central and southern United States. It exhibits prolific midspring white bell-shaped flowers that hang from the branches. Once difficult to find, a number of nurseries are now propagating it and increasing the availability. As more people plant this tree, eventually it will get the appreciation so deserved.

### Sourwood; Lily of the Valley Tree; Sorrel Tree (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)

Zones: 5-9

Size: 25 feet tall and 20 feet wide; 50-75 feet in the wild

Culture: Full sun to part shade; best flowering and fall color occurs in sun. Prefers an acidic, moist, well-drained, humus soil.

This attractive tree is occasionally used as an ornamental because of its brilliant fall color and midsummer flowers. In the right location and under the correct conditions, this can be a spectacular specimen plant. It is not tolerant to urban environments or alkaline soils and requires watering during hot, dry summers.



### Common Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

Zones: 4-8

Size: 30-60 feet tall by 25-40 feet wide

Culture: Ideally suited in full sun for best autumn color, but will tolerate partial shade; best in moist loamy, acidic, well-drained soil. Prune in winter.

This attractive medium native ornamental tree has spectacular autumn color. It makes a fine specimen or is excellent as a thicket in a naturalized setting. Found as single or multi-trunked forms. It is practically impossible to transplant and thus must be container grown.

### Japanese Stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamellia*)

Zones: 5-7

Size: 25-40 feet tall and 10-20 feet wide

Culture: Full sun to partial shade; slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil high in organic matter.

One of the nicest multi-season ornamental trees for the garden. Offers magnificent peeling bark and fall color along with the lovely white flowers in midsummer. Avoid placing this Japanese native in hot spots as it prefers morning sun. It performs best in light shade, especially in the hottest part of summer.



### Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax japonicus*)

Zones: 5-8

Size: 20-30 feet tall and wide

Culture: Full sun to part shade; best in well drained, moist, acidic soil supplemented with organic matter.

A lovely, small, low-branched tree with a distinct horizontal appearance that does well in and around patios. Another excellent, somewhat unknown tree with delicate white (or pink) flowers blooming in spring or early summer – also has interesting bark. This tree may cause a significant number of bees when in bloom so be careful. Does not take heat well, and requires supplemental watering. In cold climates, locate in an area protected from winter winds.

### Serbian Spruce (*Picea omorika*)

Zones: 4-7

Size: 50 feet tall by 20 feet wide

Culture: Best in a deep, rich soil being moist and well-drained; pH adaptable. Best in partial shade but tolerates full sun; best to offer some protection from strong winter winds.

A beautiful large evergreen specimen tree noted for its narrow, pyramidal silhouette. Graceful arching branches add to its merits. It is useful as a specimen, screen or in groups. Here is a spruce that should be recognized and used more in the landscape, but it needs some protection from winter winds.



### Oriental Spruce (*Picea orientalis*)

Zones: 4-7

Size: 55 feet tall by 20 feet wide

Culture: Will tolerate poor and clay soil, but soil should be well-drained; pH adaptable. Likes partial shade to full sun; best to offer some protection from harsh winter winds in sheltered locations.

An extremely attractive large evergreen specimen tree noted for its dense, narrow, pyramidal habit with pendulous, horizontal branching. Here is another spruce that needs to be more readily available for use in the landscape but requires some protection from winter winds. ♪

Scott Zanon is the author of *Landscaping with Trees in the Midwest: A Guide for Residential and Commercial Properties*. It was released in July by Ohio University/Swallow Press.