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GEORGIA

Warnell School of Forestry
& Natural Resources

Publication WSNR-20-56C

July 2020

Most Common United States & Southeastern U.S. Community Trees

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Professional tree health care providers in different states and sub-state units, all with unique tree species and growing conditions, were asked to list the most common and important street and shade tree species for their geographic area. All species lists were consolidated to generate a composite list for the United States and a composite list for the Southeastern United States. These lists represent common community tree species which professional tree health care providers and urban foresters should be able to recognize and manage.

The Nation

Figure 1 lists the top 55 (ranked into 17 places) most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the lower 48 United States. There were 39 geographical / dendrological unit species lists compiled for this U.S. composite list. Trees are listed by scientific and common name in descending order (starting with the most common and important). Tree species number, tree species rank order, and percentage of separate geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species are listed. Figure 2 is identical to Figure 1 except it is sorted alphabetically by species scientific name.

The most common tree species cited in communities of the United States was boxelder (*Acer negundo*). Rounding out the top five most common tree species in communities of the U.S. were: American elm (*Ulmus americana*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*).

The Southeast

Figure 3 lists the top 45 (ranked into 3 places) most commonly utilized and important street and shade tree species in the Southeastern United States. Trees are listed by scientific and common names in descending order (starting with the most common and important). Tree species number, tree species rank order, and percent of separate Southeastern states or geographical / dendrological areas where professionals cited the tree species are listed. There were 10 geographical / dendrological unit species lists compiled for this composite list. Figure 4 is identical to Figure 3 except it is sorted alphabetically by species scientific name.

The most common tree species cited in communities of the Southeastern United States was red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Many tree species tied to comprise the second and third spot on the Southeastern list.

Figure 1: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States. List includes species number, species rank order, percent of individual geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species, scientific name, and common name. A rank of one (1) signifies the most common and important tree species.

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
1	1	92	<u>Acer negundo</u>	boxelder
2	2	90	<u>Ulmus americana</u>	American elm
3	3	85	<u>Acer saccharinum</u>	silver maple
4	3	85	<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	Eastern redbud
5	3	85	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash
6	3	85	<u>Juglans nigra</u>	black walnut
7	4	82	<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple
8	5	77	<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>	hackberry
9	6	74	<u>Quercus rubra</u>	Northern red oak
10	6	74	<u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u>	black locust
11	7	69	<u>Acer saccharum</u>	sugar maple
12	7	69	<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum
13	7	69	<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow poplar
14	8	67	<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	honeylocust
15	8	67	<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	sycamore
16	8	67	<u>Quercus palustris</u>	pin oak
17	8	67	<u>Tilia americana</u>	American basswood
18	8	67	<u>Ulmus pumila</u>	Siberian elm

Figure 1: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States. (continued)

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
19	9	64	<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch
20	9	64	<u>Pinus sylvestris</u>	Scott's Pine
21	10	62	<u>Fraxinus americana</u>	white ash
22	10	62	<u>Quercus macrocarpa</u>	bur oak
23	11	59	<u>Ailanthus alhssima</u>	tree-of-heaven
24	11	59	<u>Gingko biloba</u>	gingko
25	12	56	<u>Aesculus hippocastanum</u>	horsechestnut
26	12	56	<u>Catalpa speciosa</u>	Northern catalpa
27	12	56	<u>Cornus florida</u>	dogwood
28	12	56	<u>Gymnocladus dioica</u>	Kentucky coffeetree
29	12	56	<u>Malus</u> spp.	crabapple species
30	12	56	<u>Pinus nigra</u>	Austrian pine
31	13	54	<u>Pinus strobus</u>	Eastern white pine
32	13	54	<u>Ulmus parvifolia</u>	Chinese elm
33	14	51	<u>Abies concolor</u>	white fir
34	14	51	<u>Acer platanoides</u>	Norway maple
35	14	51	<u>Platanus acerifolia</u>	London plane tree
36	14	51	<u>Tilia cordata</u>	littleleaf linden
37	15	49	<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar
38	15	49	<u>Populus deltoides</u>	Eastern cottonwood
39	15	49	<u>Populus nigra</u>	Lombardy poplar
40	15	49	<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry
41	15	49	<u>Pseudotsuga menziesii</u>	Douglas-fir
42	15	49	<u>Quercus alba</u>	white oak
43	15	49	<u>Salix babylonica</u>	weeping willow
44	15	49	<u>Taxodium distichum</u>	baldcypress

Figure 1: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States. (continued)

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
45	16	46	<u>Betula pendula</u>	European white birch
46	16	46	<u>Carya ovata</u>	shagbark hickory
47	16	46	<u>Elaeagnus angustifolia</u>	Russian olive
48	16	46	<u>Fagus grandifolia</u>	American beech
49	16	46	<u>Koelreuteria paniculata</u>	Golden raintree
50	16	46	<u>Picea abies</u>	Norway spruce
51	16	46	<u>Populus tremuloides</u>	quaking aspen
52	17	44	<u>Cedrus deodara</u>	deodar cedar
53	17	44	<u>Crataegus</u> spp.	hawthorn species
54	17	44	<u>Prunus cerasifera</u>	purple-leaf plum
55	17	44	<u>Sorbus aucupana</u>	European mt.-ash

Figure 2: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. List includes species number, species rank order, percent of individual geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species, scientific name, and common name. A rank of one (1) signifies the most common and important tree species.

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
33	14	51	<u>Abies concolor</u>	white fir
1	1	92	<u>Acer negundo</u>	boxelder
34	14	51	<u>Acer platanoides</u>	Norway maple
7	4	82	<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple
11	7	69	<u>Acer saccharum</u>	sugar maple
3	3	85	<u>Acer saccharinum</u>	silver maple
25	12	56	<u>Aesculus hippocastanum</u>	horsechestnut
23	11	59	<u>Ailanthus alhssima</u>	tree-of-heaven
19	9	64	<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch
45	16	46	<u>Betula pendula</u>	European white birch
46	16	46	<u>Carya ovata</u>	shagbark hickory
26	12	56	<u>Catalpa speciosa</u>	Northern catalpa
52	17	44	<u>Cedrus deodara</u>	deodar cedar
8	5	77	<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>	hackberry
4	3	85	<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	Eastern redbud
27	12	56	<u>Cornus florida</u>	dogwood
53	17	44	<u>Crataegus spp.</u>	hawthorn species
47	16	46	<u>Elaeagnus angustifolia</u>	Russian olive
48	16	46	<u>Fagus grandifolia</u>	American beech
21	10	62	<u>Fraxinus americana</u>	white ash

Figure 2: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
5	3	85	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash
24	11	59	<u>Ginkgo biloba</u>	gingko
14	8	67	<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	honeylocust
28	12	56	<u>Gymnocladus dioica</u>	Kentucky coffeetree
6	3	85	<u>Juglans nigra</u>	black walnut
37	15	49	<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar
49	16	46	<u>Koelreuteria paniculata</u>	Goldenraintree
12	7	69	<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum
13	7	69	<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow poplar
29	12	56	<u>Malus</u> spp.	crabapple species
50	16	46	<u>Picea abies</u>	Norway spruce
30	12	56	<u>Pinus nigra</u>	Austrian pine
31	13	54	<u>Pinus strobus</u>	Eastern white pine
20	9	64	<u>Pinus sylvestris</u>	Scott's Pine
35	14	51	<u>Platanus acerifolia</u>	London plane tree
15	8	67	<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	sycamore
38	15	49	<u>Populus deltoides</u>	Eastern cottonwood
39	15	49	<u>Populus nigra</u>	Lombardy poplar
51	16	46	<u>Populus tremuloides</u>	quaking aspen
54	17	44	<u>Prunus cerasifera</u>	purple-leaf plum
40	15	49	<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry
41	15	49	<u>Pseudotsuga menziesii</u>	Douglas-fir
42	15	49	<u>Quercus alba</u>	white oak
22	10	62	<u>Quercus macrocarpa</u>	bur oak

Figure 2: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
16	8	67	<u>Quercus palustris</u>	pin oak
9	6	74	<u>Quercus rubra</u>	Northern red oak
10	6	74	<u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u>	black locust
43	15	49	<u>Salix babylonica</u>	weeping willow
55	17	44	<u>Sorbus aucupana</u>	European mt.-ash
44	15	49	<u>Taxodium distichum</u>	baldcypress
17	8	67	<u>Tilia americana</u>	American basswood
36	14	51	<u>Tilia cordata</u>	littleleaf linden
2	2	90	<u>Ulmus americana</u>	American elm
32	13	54	<u>Ulmus parvifolia</u>	Chinese elm
18	8	67	<u>Ulmus pumila</u>	Siberian elm

Figure 3: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States. List includes species number, species rank order, percent of individual geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species, scientific name, and common name. A rank of one (1) signifies the most common and important tree species.

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
1	1	90	<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple
2	2	80	<u>Acer negundo</u>	boxelder
3	2	80	<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch
4	2	80	<u>Carya glabra</u>	pignut hickory
5	2	80	<u>Carya tomentosa</u>	mockernut hickory
6	2	80	<u>Cedrus deodara</u>	deodar cedar
7	2	80	<u>Celtis laevigata</u>	sugarberry
8	2	80	<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	Eastern redbud
9	2	80	<u>Cornus florida</u>	flowering dogwood
10	2	80	<u>Diospyros virginiana</u>	persimmon
11	2	80	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash
12	2	80	<u>Ilex opaca</u>	American holly
13	2	80	<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum
14	2	80	<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow poplar
15	2	80	<u>Morus rubra</u>	red mulberry
16	2	80	<u>Pinus echinata</u>	shortleaf pine
17	2	80	<u>Pinus taeda</u>	loblolly pine
18	2	80	<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	sycamore
19	2	80	<u>Populus deltoides</u>	Eastern cottonwood
20	2	80	<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry
21	2	80	<u>Quercus falcata</u>	Southern red oak
22	2	80	<u>Quercus marilandica</u>	blackjack oak
23	2	80	<u>Quercus michauxii</u>	swamp chestnut oak
24	2	80	<u>Quercus phellos</u>	willow oak

Figure 3: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States.
(continued)

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
25	2	80	<u>Quercus nigra</u>	water oak
26	2	80	<u>Quercus virginiana</u>	live oak
27	2	80	<u>Salix nigra</u>	black willow
28	2	80	<u>Taxodium distichum</u>	baldcypress
29	2	80	<u>Ulmus alata</u>	winged elm
30	2	80	<u>Ulmus americana</u>	American elm
31	3	70	<u>Acer saccharinum</u>	silver maple
32	3	70	<u>Carya ovata</u>	shagbark hickory
33	3	70	<u>Fagus grandifolia</u>	American beech
34	3	70	<u>Fraxinus americana</u>	white ash
35	3	70	<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	honeylocust
36	3	70	<u>Juglans nigra</u>	black walnut
37	3	70	<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar
38	3	70	<u>Magnolia virginiana</u>	sweetbay
39	3	70	<u>Nyssa aquatica</u>	water tupelo
40	3	70	<u>Pinus elliottii</u>	slash pine
41	3	70	<u>Pinus palustris</u>	longleaf pine
42	3	70	<u>Quercus alba</u>	white oak
43	3	70	<u>Quercus falcata</u>	
			<u>pagodaefolia</u>	cherrybark oak
44	3	70	<u>Quercus stellata</u>	post oak
45	3	70	<u>Sassafras albidum</u>	sassafras

Figure 4: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. List includes species number, species rank order, percent of individual geographical / dendrological units where professionals cited the tree species, scientific name, and common name. A rank of one (1) signifies the most common and important tree species.

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
2	2	80	<u>Acer negundo</u>	boxelder
1	1	90	<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple
31	3	70	<u>Acer saccharinum</u>	silver maple
3	2	80	<u>Betula nigra</u>	river birch
4	2	80	<u>Carya glabra</u>	pignut hickory
32	3	70	<u>Carya ovata</u>	shagbark hickory
5	2	80	<u>Carya tomentosa</u>	mockernut hickory
6	2	80	<u>Cedrus deodara</u>	deodar cedar
7	2	80	<u>Celtis laevigata</u>	sugarberry
8	2	80	<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	Eastern redbud
9	2	80	<u>Cornus florida</u>	flowering dogwood
10	2	80	<u>Diospyros virginiana</u>	persimmon
33	3	70	<u>Fagus grandifolia</u>	American beech
34	3	70	<u>Fraxinus americana</u>	white ash
11	2	80	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash
35	3	70	<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	honeylocust
12	2	80	<u>Ilex opaca</u>	American holly

Figure 4: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
36	3	70	<u>Juglans nigra</u>	black walnut
37	3	70	<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	Eastern redcedar
13	2	80	<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	sweetgum
14	2	80	<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	yellow poplar
38	3	70	<u>Magnolia virginiana</u>	sweetbay
15	2	80	<u>Morus rubra</u>	red mulberry
39	3	70	<u>Nyssa aquatica</u>	water tupelo
16	2	80	<u>Pinus echinata</u>	shortleaf pine
40	3	70	<u>Pinus elliottii</u>	slash pine
41	3	70	<u>Pinus palustris</u>	longleaf pine
17	2	80	<u>Pinus taeda</u>	loblolly pine
18	2	80	<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	sycamore
19	2	80	<u>Populus deltoides</u>	Eastern cottonwood
20	2	80	<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry
42	3	70	<u>Quercus alba</u>	white oak
43	3	70	<u>Quercus falcata</u> <u>pagodaefolia</u>	cherrybark oak
21	2	80	<u>Quercus falcata</u>	Southern red oak
22	2	80	<u>Quercus marilandica</u>	blackjack oak
23	2	80	<u>Quercus michauxii</u>	swamp chestnut oak
25	2	80	<u>Quercus nigra</u>	water oak
24	2	80	<u>Quercus phellos</u>	willow oak
44	3	70	<u>Quercus stellata</u>	post oak
26	2	80	<u>Quercus virginiana</u>	live oak

Figure 4: Most commonly utilized and important street and shade trees in the Southeastern United States sorted alphabetically by scientific name. (continued)

species number	rank order	percent of surveys	scientific name	common name
27	2	80	<u>Salix nigra</u>	black willow
45	3	70	<u>Sassafras albidum</u>	sassafras
28	2	80	<u>Taxodium distichum</u>	baldcypress
29	2	80	<u>Ulmus alata</u>	winged elm
30	2	80	<u>Ulmus americana</u>	American elm

Citation:

Coder, Kim D. 2020. Most common United States & Southeastern U.S. community trees. University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources Outreach Publication WSFNR20-56C. Pp.12.

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