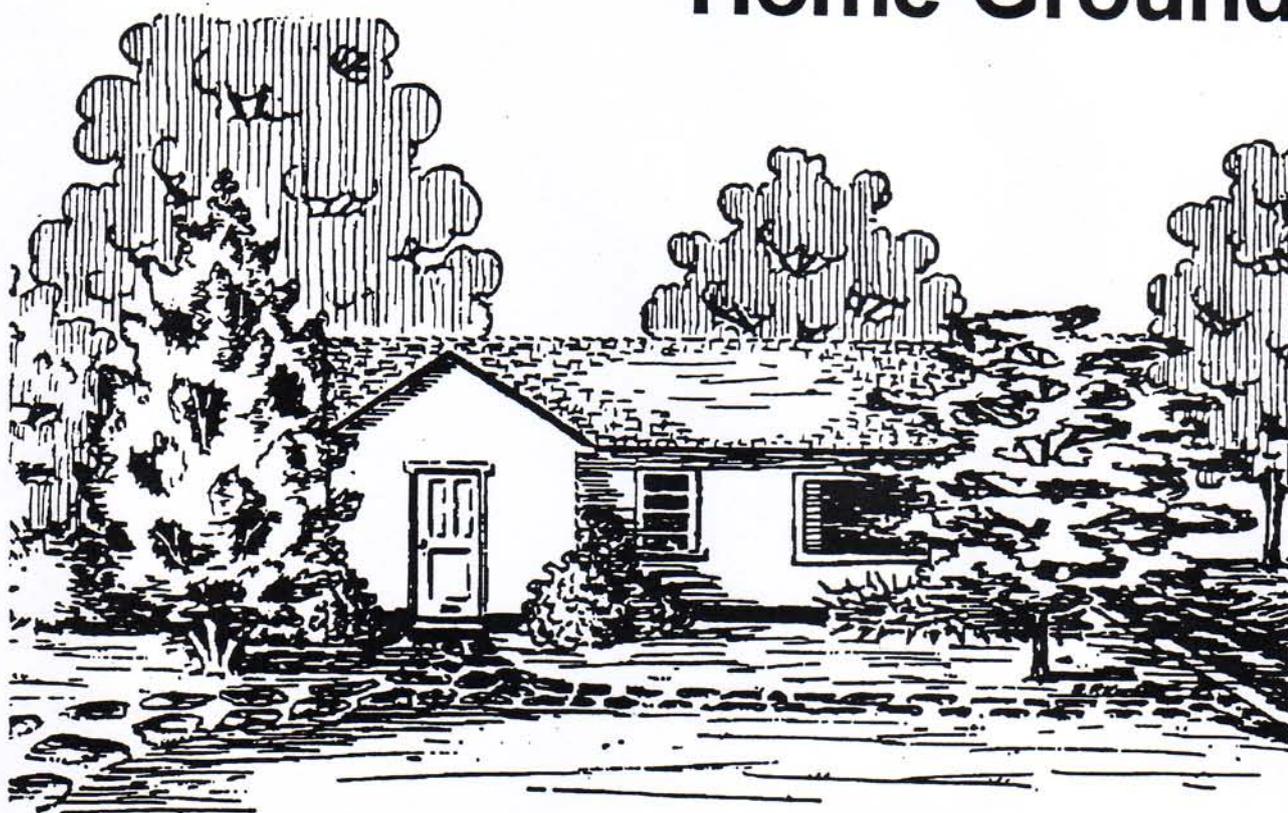


# Fifty Small Trees for New Jersey Home Grounds



*Small and medium-sized trees are best for many suburban home landscapes. The gray birch on left and kousa dogwood on right frame this house and maintain balance and proportion.*

*Joel Flagler, County Agricultural and Resource Management Agent  
Mark Vodak, Extension Specialist in Forestry*

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

**RUTGERS**

Home gardeners and landscape contractors value trees that perform well and display desirable features. These may include shade, screening, flower bloom, autumn color, low maintenance and overall satisfaction. In selecting trees for a specific location it is also important to consider factors such as hardiness, adaptability, growth rate and ultimate size, pest and drought resistance, and pollution tolerance.

Houses with low silhouettes should be framed with trees that remain in pleasing proportion over time. Similarly, larger houses or structures require appropriately sized trees. Trees that grow large as they mature may need to be confined to areas well in the rear of the property. In this way they create a fitting background for the structure.

Costly mistakes can be prevented if attention is paid to the "5 S's": **structure, site, size, space and seasons.** **Structure** refers to the general shape or form and anatomy of the tree, including the crown, trunk, and root system. **Site** considerations include exposure to sun and wind, the soil (pH, fertility, drainage), and topography. The **size** of the tree at maturity, or when it is fully grown, is a major concern. It is desirable to avoid problems with overhead utility lines, interference with roof and gutters, excessive shading and obliteration of walkways, driveways and windows. The consideration of **space** focuses on the area to be planted. Newly planted trees must fit in with the "total package" and balance well with existing plantings and buildings (house, garage, etc.). The **seasons** of usefulness are additional considerations. Choices may be based on spring or summer flowering, summer foliage, autumn color, and winter bark and fruit characteristics. Trees may also be selected as part of a home energy conservation plan: shading from the summer sun for cooling and screening of winter winds for warming.

Selecting the wrong trees for a given landscape can result in many problems in the years ahead. Making a wise choice, however, can bring many years of satisfaction as a planting performs and serves a homeowner's needs.

The following list suggests fifty small flowering trees well-suited for N.J. landscapes. The most desirable qualities of each are listed, beginning with the most outstanding feature. These trees are usually obtainable through local nurseries and garden centers.

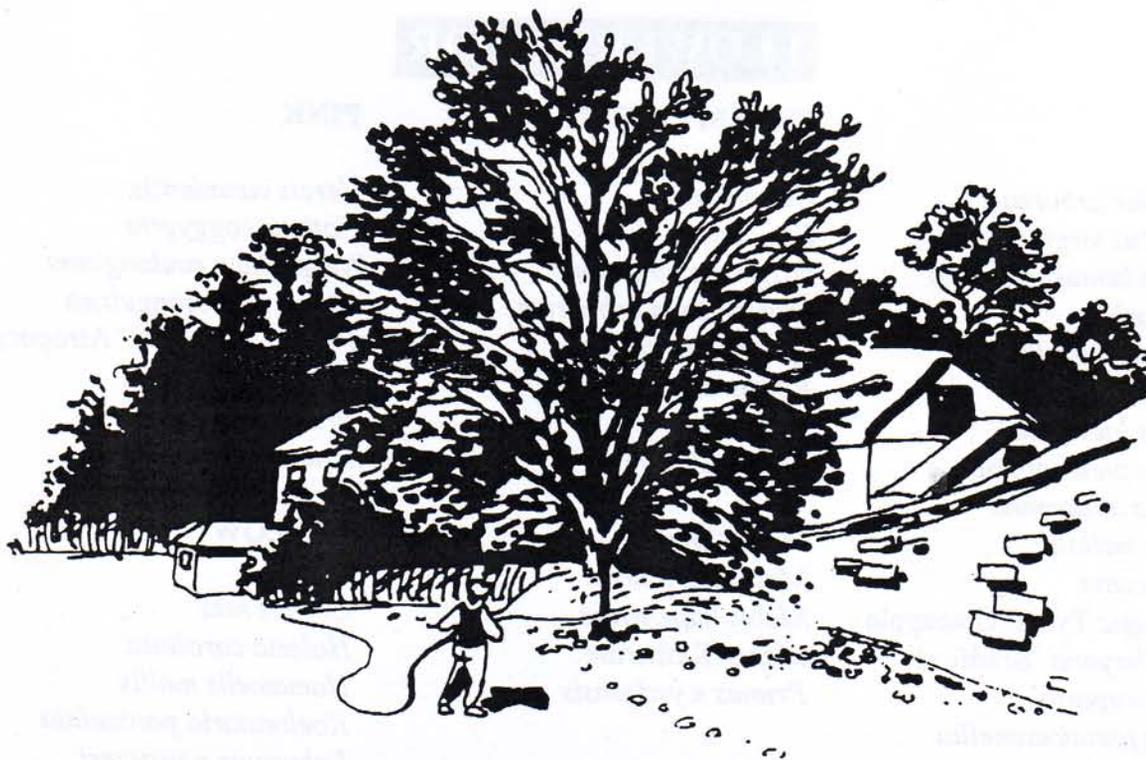
1. *Acer campestre*, **Hedge Maple**, 25 - 35 feet.  
Excellent lawn specimen or street tree, can also be pruned into hedges. Slow-growing, rounded, dense habit, handsome dark green leaves turn yellow in fall.
2. *Acer ginnala*, **Amur Maple**, 15 - 25 feet.  
Popular specimen or screen tree. Dark glossy green leaves, turn yellow and red in fall. Rounded form, tends toward multi-stemmed character.
3. *Acer griseum*, **Paperbark Maple**, 20 - 30 feet.  
Oval or rounded tree with exquisite cinnamon-brown flaking bark. Trifoliate leaves, flat green in summer, turn russet red in fall.
4. *Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium', **Fullmoon Maple**, 8 - 10 feet.  
Refined textured tree with deeply cut leaves that turn brilliant crimson in fall, rounded habit.

5. *Acer palmatum*, **Japanese Maple**, 15 - 25 feet.  
A most useful landscape tree for use as specimen, accent, grouping or border. Many cultivars available with red or green foliage. 'Dissectum Atropurpureum' has purple-red leaves and grows 6-12 feet. Foliage is finely lobed and cut, giving foliage a ferny look. Fall color is brilliant burnt orange.
6. *Amelanchier arborea*, **Shadbush, Serviceberry**, 15 - 20 feet. Slender trunk (when grown as a single stem) and graceful, spreading branches forming a narrow, oblong head. Grows in rich, well-drained woods as an understory tree; also found along water courses in the open. In late April - early May it is covered with ornamental white blooms. The large, berry-like fruits are seedy but very delicious and are eagerly sought by birds. Foliage of refined texture turns red or yellow in autumn. Native. Recommended cultivars include 'Cumulus', 'Robin Hill Pink', 'Tradition'.
7. *Betula nigra*, **River Birch**, 40 - 70 feet.  
Cultivar 'Heritage' with glossy dark green leaves, turn yellow in fall. Attractive, exfoliating, salmon-colored bark.
8. *Betula populifolia*, **Grey Birch**, 20 - 35 feet.  
Small tree of refined texture commonly seen with multiple stems. The bark is chalky white, marked with black triangular patches at bases of slender, arching branches. Triangular, glossy, pale green leaves with long tips tremble in the slightest breeze and turn yellow in autumn. Short lived, unable to compete with other trees, but performs on poor soils and difficult sites.
9. *Carpinus betulus*, **European Hornbeam**, 40 - 60 feet.  
An excellent landscape tree for groupings, screens, or specimens. Relatively pest-free; dark green leaves turn yellow in fall.
10. *Carpinus caroliniana*, **American Hornbeam, Musclewood, Blue Beech**, 20 - 35 feet.  
Interesting, densely branched native tree. Tolerates moist soils. Slate gray bark becomes fluted giving appearance of muscles. Dark green leaves become yellow-orange and scarlet in fall.
11. *Cercis canadensis*, **Eastern Redbud**, 20 - 30 feet.  
Desirable native tree, useful as single specimen or in groupings along wooded border. Rosy-pink blooms in April, followed by brown pods in October. Shade tolerant.
12. *Chionanthus virginicus*, **White Fringetree**, 12 - 20 feet.  
Beautiful specimen shrub or small tree, slow-growing. Fragrant white blooms in late-May or early June. Small dark blue fruit add late summer interest.
13. *Cladastris kentukea (lutea)*, **Yellowwood**, 30 - 50 feet.  
Excellent tree for specimen or shade. Pendant white fragrant flowers in late-May - early-June. Bright green leaves become yellow in fall.
14. *Cornus florida*, **Flowering Dogwood**, 15 - 25 feet.  
An excellent native flowering tree for specimen or group plantings. Dark green leaves become reddish-purple in fall. Showy white bracts in April or May. Persistent fruit ripen in autumn, winter habit pleasing. Susceptible in recent years to anthracnose fungus and decline but apparently depends on site.
15. *Cornus kousa*, **Japanese Dogwood**, 20 - 30 feet.  
Handsome specimen with excellent creamy white flower, red strawberry-like fruit, scarlet fall color and exfoliating winter bark. White bracts are taper-pointed and appear in June, three weeks after *C. florida* blooms.
16. *Cornus mas*, **Corneliancherry Dogwood**, 10 - 25 feet.  
Excellent wide-spreading small tree. Abundant small yellow flowers appear before the leaves in April. Interesting and edible cherry-red fruit in July.

17. *Cotinus coggygria*, **Smoketree, Smokebush**, 10 - 15 feet.  
Upright, spreading small tree best used in groupings. Produces long-lasting showy display of smoky pink floral hairs, resembling clouds of smoke. 'Royal Purple' has rich maroon foliage and inflorescences.
18. *Crataegus crusgalli*, **Cockspur Hawthorn**, 15 - 20 feet.  
Forbidding 2 inch long stout spines and dense branches. Glossy dark green, leathery spatulate leaves turn red in autumn. Red fruits. Suitable for protective screen planting. Excellent specimen on large lawns. Native. Variety *inermis* is thornless.
19. *Crataegus laevigata*, **English Hawthorn**, 15 - 20 feet.  
Low branching, round-topped tree with deep green leaves. Variety 'Crimson Cloud' with red blooms is blight resistant.
20. *Crataegus mollis*, **Downy Hawthorn, Red Hawthorn**, 20 - 30 feet.  
Wide spreading branches. One of the earliest flowering hawthorns; red fruit ripens in late summer.
21. *Crataegus phaenopyrum*, **Washington Hawthorn**, 15 - 25 feet.  
Brilliant autumn foliage and scarlet fruits which persist into winter. Thorns are long and slender. Cultivar 'Fastigiata' has columnar growth form.
22. *Franklinia alatamaha*, **Franklin-tree**, 10 - 20 feet.  
Rare, handsome small specimen tree with smooth fluted bark. Striking large fragrant flowers of white and yellow in late summer. Dark green leaves become fiery orange and red in fall.
23. *Halesia carolina*, **Carolina Silverbell**, 20 - 40 feet.  
Slender native tree with spreading branches and scaly, plate-like bark. Pendant bell-shaped white flowers. Leaves turn yellow in fall. 'Rosea' (var. *rosea*) has pink blossoms.
24. *Hamamelis mollis*, **Chinese Witchhazel**, 10 - 20 feet.  
Small oval to rounded tree with spreading branches. Fragrant long-lasting yellow blooms appear in February and March.
25. *Ilex opaca*, **American Holly**, 20 - 50 feet.  
Broad-leaved native evergreen with spiny leaves. Red berries appear in late autumn (both sexes required for fruit set). 'Jersey Knight' is a male with lustrous dark green leaves and handsome form. 'Jersey Princess' is the female version. 'Canary' is a yellow-fruited form.
26. *Koelreuteria paniculata*, **Goldenraintree**, 20 - 40 feet.  
Excellent small specimen tree or shade tree. Very showy yellow flowers in summer. Handsome foliage, bright green in summer, turns yellow in fall.
27. *Laburnum x watereri*, **Goldenchain Tree**, 15 - 20 feet.  
Upright to rounded small tree. Spectacular in bloom with yellow flowers borne in on long, pendulous inflorescence. Short-lived in the landscape.
28. *Magnolia x soulangiana*, **Saucer Magnolia**, 15 - 30 feet.  
The popular pink hybrid magnolia of springtime. Small specimen tree with wide spreading branches and rounded habit. 'Alba Superba' has fragrant white flowers, with the outer side of petals light purple. 'Lennei' has long dark purple petals with white inside.
29. *Magnolia stellata*, **Star Magnolia**, 15 - 20 feet.  
Small tree for specimen or foundation planting. Fragrant long petaled blooms in April. Cultivar 'Rubra' with purplish rose blooms.

30. *Magnolia virginiana*, Sweetbay Magnolia, 10 - 20 feet.  
Graceful specimen tree often multi-stemmed. Glossy, leathery leaves with silvery underside, sometimes persist into winter. Fragrant creamy white flowers in early summer.
31. *Malus x atrosanguinea*, Carmine Crabapple, 15 - 20 feet.  
Lovely small dense-branching tree. Flower buds crimson, green or dark pink. Very resistant to disease.
32. *Malus baccata*, Siberian Crabapple, 20 - 30 feet.  
Large, white cup-shaped flowers appear as pale green leaves unfold in late April or early May. Yellow or red miniature apples in autumn. Variety *gracilis* has more slender arching branches providing refinement of texture; 'Columnaris' has yellow fruit and upright habit, though susceptible to fireblight.
33. *Malus 'David'*, David Crabapple, 10 - 20 feet.  
Nice rounded habit. Pink-red buds open to white flowers, one and one-half inches in diameter. Spectacular display of tiny red fruit.
34. *Malus floribunda*, Japanese Flowering Crabapple, 15 - 30 feet.  
One of the best crabapples, wide-spreading branches with profuse blooms and red or yellow fruits. Flower is pink in bud, fading white.
35. *Malus hupehensis*, Tea Crabapple, 20 - 35 feet.  
Vase-shaped picturesque form. Pink flower buds fade white. Fruit yellow to red. Cultivar 'Rosea' has pink blooms. Possible susceptibility to fireblight.
36. *Malus 'Katherine'* Crabapple, 20 - 25 feet.  
Loose, open habit; resistant to disease. Double pink blooms fade to white, 2 inches diameter. Yellow fruit with red blush.
37. *Malus 'Sugar Tyme'* Crabapple, 15 - 20 feet.  
Upright oval tree, vigorous and very disease resistant. Pale pink buds open to white fragrant flowers. Abundant persistent red fruit.
38. *Oxydendrum arboreum*, Sourwood, Sorrel-tree, 20 - 30 feet.  
Pyramidal tree with pleasing form. Green peachlike leaves turn brilliant yellow to scarlet in fall. Fragrant, drooping flowers in summer, dry fruits persist through winter.
39. *Phellodendron amurense*, Amur Corktree, 30 - 45 feet.  
Beautiful spreading tree with rounded crown. Deep green compound leaves turn yellow in fall. On mature trees ridged bark appears cork-like, adding interest.
40. *Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea'*, Purple-leaf Plum, Pissard Plum, 15 - 30 feet.  
Upright, densely branched tree with reddish purple foliage. Pink flowers and fruit. May be prone to insect borers.
41. *Prunus sargentii*, Sargent Cherry, 30 - 50 feet.  
One of the most useful cherries, with shiny dark green leaves turning bronze in fall. Large pink flowers in spring, purple fruit ripen in July. 'Columnaris' has narrow, columnar form. 'Accolade' has semi-double pink blooms and open, spreading habit.
42. *Prunus serrulata*, Japanese Flowering Cherry, 15 - 25 feet.  
Popular ornamental with dense masses of pink to white, single or double flowers in April or early May. 'Kwanzan' is very useful and hardy with large double pink blooms. 'Amanogawa' has narrow, columnar form.
43. *Prunus subhirtella*, Higan Cherry, 25 - 35 feet.  
An early (April) blooming cherry. Variety *pendula* has graceful weeping habit with pink blooms in early spring. *Autumnalis* will produce some blooms in fall.

44. *Prunus x yedoensis*, Yoshino Cherry, 30 - 45 feet.  
A beautiful tree with slightly fragrant pink or white blooms in April. 'Akebono' has double pink flowers, 'Ivensii' is a weeping form with white fragrant blooms; 'Shidare' is another weeping form.
45. *Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford', Bradford Callery Pear, 30 - 50 feet.  
A very useful tree providing spring display of white blooms followed by insignificant tiny pears. Outstanding glossy green foliage turns to scarlet and purple in the fall. Other superior pest-free cultivars include 'Chanticleer' and 'Redspire'.
46. *Sorbus aucuparia*, European Mountainash, 20 - 40 feet.  
Graceful, rounded tree with pinnately compound leaves that turn yellow to reddish in fall. Attractive orange-red berry-like fruit in late summer follow white spring blooms. Cultivars 'Apricot Queen', 'Brilliant Pink', and 'Scarlet King' with brightly colored fruit.
47. *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, Japanese Stewartia, 30 - 40 feet.  
Magnificent pyramidal-oval tree. White flowers, two to two and one-half inches diameter occur in July. Bark is grey and orange-brown and flaky, providing excellent winter interest. Performs best on wind-protected sites.
48. *Styrax japonicus*, Japanese Snowbell, 20 - 30 feet.  
A graceful, beautiful small tree with pendulous flowers. In late May - early June abundant fragrant white bell-shaped blooms appear. Cultivar 'Pendula' is weeping; 'Rosea' displays pink blooms.
49. *Syringa reticulata*, Japanese Tree Lilac, 15 - 30 feet.  
Showy clusters of fragrant white flowers in June. This trouble-free lilac is useful as a specimen or street tree. Popular cultivars include 'Ivory Silk' and 'Summer Snow.'
50. *Viburnum sieboldii*, Siebold viburnum, 15 - 20 feet.  
Worthy specimen tree with glossy dark green foliage. Creamy white flowers in great abundance in late May. Cultivar 'Seneca' with pendulant multiple-colored clusters of orange-red to deep red fruit.



## APPROXIMATE HEIGHT RANGE UNDER CULTIVATION

### TEN TO FIFTEEN FEET

*Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium' (8-10)  
*Chionanthus virginicus* (12-20)  
*Cornus mas* (10-25)  
*Cotinus coggygria* (10-15)  
*Franklinia alatamaha* (10-20)  
*Hammelis mollis* (10-20)  
*Magnolia virginiana* (10-20)  
*Malus* 'David' (10-20)

### FIFTEEN TO TWENTY FEET

*Acer ginnala* (15-25)  
*Acer palmatum* (15-25)  
*Amelanchier arborea* (15-25)  
*Cornus florida* (15-25)  
*Cornus kousa* (20-30)  
*Crataegus crusgalli* (15-20)  
*Crataegus laevigata* (15-20)  
*Crataegus phaenopyrum* (15-25)

*Laburnum x watereri* (15-20)  
*Magnolia stellata* (15-20)  
*Malus x atrosanguinea* (15-20)  
*Malus* 'Sugar Tyme' Crabapple (15-20)  
*Prunus serrulata* (15-25)  
*Virburnum sieboldii* (15-20)

### TWENTY TO THIRTY FEET

*Acer campestre* (25-35)  
*Acer griseum* (20-30)  
*Carpinus caroliniana* (20-30)  
*Cercis canadensis* (20-30)  
*Crataegus mollis* (20-30)  
*Magnolia x soulangiana* (20-30)  
*Malus baccata* (20-30)  
*Malus floribunda* (15-20)  
*Malus hupehensis* (20-35)  
*Malus* 'Katherine' (20-25)  
*Oxydendrum arboreum* (20-30)  
*Prunus cerasifera* 'Atropurpurea' (20-30)

*Prunus subhirtella* (25-35)  
*Styrax japonicus* (20-30)  
*Syringa reticulata* (20-30)

### THIRTY TO MORE THAN FORTY FEET

*Betula nigra* (40-70)  
*Betulae populifolia* (20-40)  
*Carpinus betulus* (40-60)  
*Cladastris kentukea* (lutea) (30-50)  
*Halesia carolinia* (20-40)  
*Ilex opaca* (20-50)  
*Koelreuteria paniculata* (20-40)  
*Phellodendron amurense* (30-45)  
*Prunus sargentii* (30-50)  
*Prunus x yedoensis* (30-40)  
*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford' (30-50)  
*Sorbus aucuparia* (20-40)  
*Stewartia pseudocamellia* (30-40)

## FLOWER COLOR

### WHITE

*Amelanchier arborea*  
*Chionanthus virginicus*  
*Cladastris kentukea* (lutea)  
*Cornus florida*  
*Crataegus crusgalli*  
*Crataegus mollis*  
*Crataegus laevigata*  
*Crataegus phaenopyrum*  
*Franklinia alatamaha*  
*Magnolia stellata*  
*Malus baccata*  
*Malus* 'Sugar Tyme' Crabapple  
*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford'  
*Sorbus aucuparia*  
*Stewartia pseudocamellia*  
*Styrax japonica*

### CREAMY WHITE

*Cornus kousa*  
*Ilex opaca*  
*Magnolia virginiana*  
*Oxydendrum arboreum*  
*Syringa reticulata*  
*Virburnum sieboldii*

### PINKISH WHITE

*Malus* 'David'  
*Malus floribunda*  
*Malus hupehensis*  
*Malus* 'Katherine'  
*Prunus x yedoensis*

### PINK

*Cercis canadensis*  
*Cotinus coggygria*  
*Magnolia x soulangiana*  
*Malus x atrosanguinea*  
*Prunus cerasifera* 'Atropurpurea'  
*Prunus sargentii*  
*Prunus serrulata*  
*Prunus subhirtella*

### YELLOW

*Cornus mas*  
*Halesia carolinia*  
*Hamamelis mollis*  
*Koelreuteria paniculata*  
*Laburnum x watereri*

## ORDER OF BLOOM

### MARCH

*Hamamelis mollis*

### APRIL

*Amelanchier arborea*  
*Cercis canadensis*  
*Halesia carolinia*  
*Magnolia stellata*  
*Magnolia x soulangiana*  
*Malus x atrosanguinea*  
*Malus baccata*  
*Malus 'David'*  
*Malus floribunda*  
*Malus hupehensis*  
*Malus 'Katherine'*  
*Malus 'Sugar Tyme' Crabapple*  
*Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea'*

*Prunus sargentii*  
*Prunus serrulata*  
*Prunus subhirtella*  
*Prunus x yedoensis*  
*Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'*

### MAY

*Chionanthus virginicus*  
*Cornus florida*  
*Cornus kousa*  
*Crateagus crusgalli*  
*Crateagus mollis*  
*Crateagus laevigata*  
*Crateagus phaenopyrum*  
*Laburnum x watereri*  
*Sorbus aucuparia*  
*Styrax japonicus*  
*Viburnum sieboldii*

### JUNE

*Cladastris kentukah (lutea)*  
*Cotinus coggygria*  
*Magnolia virginiana*  
*Phellodendron amurense*  
*Syringa reticulata*

### JULY

*Koelreuteria paniculata*  
*Oxydendrum arboreum*  
*Stewartia pseudocamellia*

### AUGUST

*Franklinia alatamaha*

## FALL LEAF COLOR

### RED

*Acer ginnala*  
*Acer griseum*  
*Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium'*  
*Amelanchier arborea*  
*Carpinus caroliniana*  
*Cornus florida*  
*Cornus kousa*  
*Cornus mas*  
*Cotinus coggygria*  
*Crateagus crusgalli*  
*Crateagus mollis*  
*Crateagus phaenopyrum*  
*Franklinia alatamaha*  
*Oxydendrum arboreum*  
*Prunus sargentii*  
*Prunus serrulata*  
*Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'*  
*Sorbus aucuparia*  
*Stewartia pseudocamellia*  
*Styrax japonicus*

### YELLOW

*Acer campestre*  
*Acer ginnala*  
*Amelanchier arborea*  
*Betula nigra*  
*Betula populifolia*  
*Carpinus betulus*  
*Carpinus caroliniana*  
*Cercis canadensis*  
*Chionanthus virginicus*  
*Cladastris kentukea (lutea)*  
*Cotinus coggygria*  
*Crateagus mollis*  
*Halesia carolinia*  
*Hamamelis mollis*  
*Koelreuteria paniculata*  
*Magnolia x soulangiana*  
*Magnolia stellata*  
*Oxydendrum arboreum*  
*Phellodendron amurense*  
*Prunus x yedoensis*  
*Sorbus aucuparia*

*Stewartia pseudocamellia*  
*Styrax japonicus*

### ORANGE

*Acer palmatum*  
*Carpinus caroliniana*  
*Franklinia alatamaha*  
*Hamamelis mollis*

### BRONZE

*Magnolia stellata*  
*Prunus sargentii*  
*Prunus serrulata*  
*Crateagus mollis*

### EVERGREEN

*Ilex opaca*

**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
N.J. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
NEW BRUNSWICK**

Distributed in cooperation with U.S. Department of Agriculture in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Cooperative Extension work in agriculture, home economics, and 4-H, Zane R. Helsel, director of Extension. Rutgers Cooperative Extension provides information and educational services to all people without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, disability or handicap, or age. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

---