

Your Landscaping Questions Answered

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Question: We see a lot of different trees growing above 30 ft tall. But are there any smaller trees which have specific advantages when added to the landscaped yard?



A Snow White Flowering Dogwood



Eastern Red Bud

Answer: Yes, there is an altogether different category called “Ornamental Trees”. When selecting a flowering tree for your yard or PATIO, consider these to complement colors and sizes of your existing plants. Fruiting flowering trees add another dimension of color to your landscape in late summer or fall. Fall foliage color adds the final element to your decision. Many of the flowering trees display stunning fall colors and can liven up your yard with deep splashes of reds, oranges and yellows.

Great Ornamental Trees: Ornamental trees have unique characteristics that are different from 'normal' or shade trees. There are many beautiful Ornamental & flowering trees in every region. Each type of flowering tree usually also has several varieties within their family.

Their form, canopy, leaf & flower shapes are unique, artistic & provide a relief to the transition from shrubs to big trees and fill a void in vertical scale of your landscape.



Viburnum 'Black Hawk'-(Red fall color) Serviceberry-'Autumn Brilliance'

1. **Eastern redbud (Cercis Canadensis)** – blooms very early in the spring, before leaves are on most trees. The deep pink to purple blossoms, cover twigs and smaller branches. The heart-shaped leaves turn often into attractive shades of reddish-purple and orange in the fall.
2. **Saucer Magnolia (Magnolia Soulangeana)** – Produces cup-shaped flowers, which bloom purple on 18/25 feet tall trees. The much smaller shrubby Stellata 'Royal Star' whose white flowers appear before the leaves in the spring is Fragrant.
3. **Lilacs**–Awesome and beautiful with many varieties growing from 12 to 20 feet heights; flowers are fragrant in shades of Cream, Lavender, Pink, Blue, Red and sensational purple.
4. **Snow White Flowering Dogwood**– Called ' Cherokee Princess' gives a spectacular floral display once its round buds open to white flowers in May. It has brilliant red fall foliage and berries that attract birds with an interesting form during winter months.
5. **The Pink Flowering Dogwood tree, Cornus Florida Rubric**– has very large classic single pink flowers that appear in early spring before foliage comes out. The foliage turns a brilliant red in the fall, followed

by bright berries which last into the winter. The trees grow to a height of 15 feet. Pagoda, Kousa and other Dogwoods are pretty and easy to grow.

6. Washington Hawthorn– They produce white blooms in clusters, in late spring to early summer. The flowers yield to red berries that persist throughout winter and are eaten by birds. Summer leaves are a shiny, sculpted dark green; fall foliage ranges from orange to red.
7. Newport Plum tree– has beautiful reddish–purple foliage (leaves) with bright red tips that last all summer long. This tree is a great choice for a decorative ornamental tree and is one of the first trees to bloom in the spring. An outstanding beauty, it really puts on a show with its fragrant and quite delicate–looking pink flowers, followed by vibrant purple fruit.
8. **Yoshino Cherry Tree**– The Yoshino Cherry tree is the main cherry tree in the Washington tidal basin. Known as Somei–yoshino in Japan, it is a hybrid that was first introduced in Tokyo in 1872. It has fragrant, white–pink flowers; oriental branching pattern; glossy bark; dark–green leaves. Likes full sun, well–drained soil and is a very widely used ornamental tree.
9. Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance'– It is very useful and beautiful as both a single leader tree, as well as a large multi–stem shrub. The name Autumn Brilliance correctly describes the outstanding red fall leaf color, but equally spectacular is the burst of white spring flowers, followed by a small very dark colored edible berry.
10. Crabapples–These produce beautiful flowers (some fragrant) of many colors in spring & fruit thru winter. More than 200 varieties of crabapples exist.

Importance of blooming time of Ornamental Trees –All of us enjoy when everything comes into bloom in the spring, but if you want to have an extended blooming season, then trees with different blooming periods must be considered.

Why and When Foliage is Important–When you're using your ornamental trees or shrubs to give a certain look to your landscaping especially

nearer to the house, you must think of the type of foliage the tree has. So foliage can be as important as the blossoms.

Erosion Management–Ornamentals can be used to strategically help combat erosion, effectively controlling it.

Altering the Landscape–Have you noticed Landscapes that have everything in a straight line, whether vertically or horizontally? One thing that can be done to help it look less rigid or formal is to put in some flowering smaller trees or shrubs at strategic points to alter the lines if they're too obvious.

Ornamental Borders–Separation between property borders is one of the obvious uses of ornamental trees. We could place ornamental trees in certain spots to accentuate and delineate those areas. One major area is the driveway which can be transformed into an extraordinary piece of your landscaping art. Patios too gain elegance if Ornamental trees are added

Enjoy Your Ornamental Trees–It's simply a matter of understanding the characteristics of the ornamental tree and applying your landscaping strategy and making decisions based on your wants and needs.