

Suggested trees for THI:

Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli* “Inermis”) is native to eastern North America from Ontario to Texas to Florida, and it is widely used in horticulture. This is a small tree growing up to about 10 meters tall and 8 meters wide, rounded in form when young and spreading and flattening as it matures. The leaves are 5 to 6 centimeters long, glossy dark green in color and turning gold to red in the fall. The flowers are white and have a scent generally considered unpleasant. The fruits are small pomes that vary in color, usually a shade of red. This species is a popular ornamental tree which lacks thorns.

Japanese dogwood, kousa, and kousa dogwood, is a small deciduous tree, 26–39 ft tall. It is a native plant to East Asia including Korea, China and Japan. Widely cultivated as an ornamental, it is naturalized in New York State. It has opposite, simple leaves, 4–10 cm long. The tree is extremely showy when in bloom, but what appear to be four, white petals are actually four spreading bracts below the cluster of inconspicuous yellow-green flowers. The blossoms appear in late spring, weeks after the tree leafs out.

The edible fruit is a globose pink to red compound berry 2–3 cm in diameter, though these berries tend to grow larger towards the end of the season and some berry clusters that do not fall from the tree exceed 4 cm. The fruit is sometimes used for making wine. Fall foliage is a showy red color.

It is resistant to the dogwood anthracnose disease, unlike *Cornus florida*, which is very susceptible and commonly killed by it; for this reason, *Cornus kousa* is being widely planted as an ornamental tree in areas affected by the disease.

A number of hybrids between *C. kousa* and *C. florida* have been selected for their disease resistance and good flower appearance. Varieties include:

- *Cornus kousa* Hance subsp. *kousa*, or Japanese dogwood
- *Cornus kousa* Hance subsp. *chinensis* or Chinese dogwood
- *Cornus kousa* “Milky Way” is extremely floriferous and sets a very heavy crop of fruit.
- Satomi, with pink bracts, and Wolf Eyes, a variegated form are popular.
- Constellation

Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) is a deciduous shrub or small tree reaching heights of 20 to 33 ft, often growing as an understory plant in shady woodlands. It may have multiple trunks joining close to the ground. In habit, it is often shaped like a hemisphere (especially when younger) or takes on a dome-like form, especially when mature. The leaves are 4–12 cm long and wide, palmately lobed with five, seven, or nine acutely pointed lobes. The flowers are produced in small cymes, the individual flowers with five red or purple sepals and five whitish petals.

Even in nature, *Acer palmatum* displays considerable genetic variation, with seedlings from the same parent tree typically showing differences in such traits as leaf size, shape, and color. Overall form of the tree can vary from upright to weeping.

Acer palmatum includes hundreds of named cultivars with a variety forms, colors, leaf types, sizes, and preferred growing conditions. Some tolerate sun, but most prefer part shade, especially in hotter climates. Almost all are adaptable and blend well with companion plants. The trees are particularly suitable for borders and ornamental paths because the root systems are compact and not invasive. Trees are prone to die during periods of drought and prefer consistent water conditions; more established trees are less prone to drought. Trees should be mulched with a thick layer of bark.

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a large deciduous shrub or small tree, native to eastern North America from southern Ontario, Canada south to northern Florida. It typically grows to 20–30 ft tall with an 26–33 ft spread. It generally has a short, often twisted trunk and spreading branches. A 10-year-old tree will generally be around 16 ft tall. The bark is dark in color, smooth, later scaly with ridges somewhat apparent, sometimes with maroon patches. The twigs are slender and zigzag, nearly black in color, spotted with lighter lenticels. The winter buds are tiny, rounded and dark red to chestnut in color. The leaves are alternate, simple, and heart shaped with an entire margin, 3–4.5 in long and wide, thin and papery, and may be slightly hairy below.

The flowers are showy, light to dark magenta pink in color, 1.5 cm long, appearing in clusters from spring to early summer, on bare stems before the leaves, sometimes on the trunk itself.

Allegheny serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*) is a small, deciduous, usually multi-trunked understory tree or tall shrub which is native to thickets, open woods, sheltered slopes and wood margins in Eastern North America where it typically grows 15-25' (less frequently to 40') tall. Features showy, 5-petaled, slightly fragrant, white flowers in drooping clusters which appear in early spring (April) before the leaves. Flowers give way to small, round, edible berries which ripen to dark purplish-black in June (hence the sometimes common name of Juneberry) and resemble blueberries in size, color and taste. Berries are often used in jams, jellies and pies. Finely-toothed, obovate leaves emerge with a bronzish-purple tinge in spring, mature to lustrous dark green in summer and turn red-orange in fall. This tree is primarily distinguished from the very similar Missouri native downy serviceberry (*A. arborea*) by its hairless foliage, purplish-tinged new growth and tastier (sweeter and juicier) berries.

No serious insect or disease problems. Rust, leaf spot, fire blight, powdery mildew and canker are occasional disease problems.

Attractive understory tree for lawns, shrub borders, woodland margins or native plant areas. Shrub forms can be grown as tall informal hedges or screens. Good plant for bird gardens (birds love the berries).

PeeGee hydrangeas (*Hydrangea paniculata*) will grow 10 to 25 feet in height; exact height and spread will depend on pruning and growing conditions. These plants are flowering deciduous shrubs. You will also hear "tree hydrangea" (or "hydrangea tree") in reference to this plant, because it can be pruned to have a single trunk or just a few large trunks. They come into flower in mid-to-late summer. The large, cone-shaped flower heads are widest where they meet the stem and taper down from there. They contain white "blooms" that are actually mainly sterile sepals; as such, they last a long time. The flower heads will take on a pinkish color before fading to tan or brown for the winter. A typical head may be 9 inches long and 7 inches across at its widest point. Grow *Hydrangea paniculata* in full sun to get the best blooms.