

# Native Tree Families, Including Large and Small Trees, in the Southern Blue Ridge Region

1/1/08

(Compiled by Rob Messick using three sources listed below.)

- Total number of tree families listed in the southern Blue Ridge region = 33.
- Total number of native large and small tree species listed = 113. (Only 84 according to J. B. & D. L.)  
There are 94 tree species in more frequently encountered families.  
There are 19 tree species in less frequently encountered families.
- There is **93 %** compatibility between Ashe & Ayers (1902), Little (1980), and Swanson (1994).  
(W. W. Ashe lists 105 tree species in the region in 1902. These are fully compatible with current listings.)

▶ means more frequently encountered species.

?? = means a tree species that possibly occurs in the region, though its presence is not clear.

## More frequently encountered tree families (21):

Pine Family	Cashew Family
Walnut Family	Holly Family
Birch Family	Maple Family
Beech Family	Horse-chestnut (Buckeye) Family
Magnolia Family	Linden (Basswood) Family
Laurel Family	Tupelo-gum Family
Witch-hazel Family	Dogwood Family
Plane-tree (Sycamore) Family	Heath Family
Rose Family	Ebony Family
Legume Family	Storax (Snowbell) Family
	Olive Family

## Less frequently encountered tree families (12):

Cypress Family	Bladdernut Family
Willow Family	Buckthorn Family
Elm Family	Tea Family
Mulberry Family	Ginseng Family
Custard-apple (Annona) Family	Sweetleaf Family
Rue Family	Honeysuckle Family

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## • More Frequently Encountered Tree Families:

### Pine Family (10):

- ▶ Fraser fir - *Abies fraseri* (a.k.a. Balsam)
- ▶ red spruce - *Picea rubens*
- ▶ shortleaf pine - *Pinus echinata*
- ▶ table mountain pine - *Pinus pungens*
- ▶ pitch pine - *Pinus rigida*
- ▶ white pine - *Pinus strobus*
- ▶ Virginia pine - *Pinus virginiana*
- loblolly pine - *Pinus taeda*
- ▶ eastern hemlock - *Tsuga canadensis* (a.k.a. Canadian hemlock)
- ▶ Carolina hemlock - *Tsuga caroliniana*

### Sources:

- Message From The President of the United States (Wilson Report), US Government Printing Office, 1902. (pages 93-109)
- Little, Elbert L. *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1980 - 1992.
- Swanson, Robert E. *Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs in the Southern Appalachians*. Johns Hopkins Press, 1994.

**Walnut Family (7):**

- ▶ bitternut hickory - *Carya cordiformis* (a.k.a. *Hicoria minima*)
- ▶ pignut hickory - *Carya glabra*
- ?? red hickory - *Carya ovalis* (a.k.a. *Hicoria odorata*)
- shagbark hickory - *Carya ovata*
- ?? shellbark hickory - *Carya laciniosa*
- ?? Carolina shagbark hickory - *Carya carolinae-septrionalis*
- sand hickory - *Carya pallida* (a.k.a. *Hicoria villosa*)
- ▶ mockernut hickory - *Carya tomentosa* (a.k.a. *Hicoria alba*)
- white walnut - *Juglans cinera* (a.k.a. butternut)
- ▶ black walnut - *Juglans nigra*

**Birch Family (9):**

- hazel alder - *Alnus serrulata* (a.k.a. *Alnus rugosa* or *Alnus alnobetula*)
- ▶ yellow birch - *Betula alleghaniensis* (a.k.a. *Betula lutea*)
- ▶ black birch - *Betula lenta* (a.k.a. sweet birch)
- river birch - *Betula nigra*
- paper birch - *Betula papyrifera* (only at high elevations)
- gray birch - *Betula populifolia* (only at high elevations)
- roundleaf birch - *Betula uber* (only in a small area in Virginia – likely a variety of black birch)
- ▶ American hornbeam - *Carpinus caroliniana*
- ▶ eastern hophornbeam - *Ostrya virginiana* (a.k.a. ironwood)

**Beech Family (14):**

- American chestnut - *Castanea dentata*
- ▶ Allegheny chinkapin - *Castanea pumila*
- ▶ American beech - *Fagus grandifolia*

White Oak Group

- ▶ white oak - *Quercus alba*
- chinkapin oak - *Quercus muehlenbergii*
- dwarf chinkapin oak - *Quercus prinoides*
- ▶ chestnut oak - *Quercus montana* (a.k.a. *Quercus prinus*)
- post oak - *Quercus stellata* (a.k.a. *Quercus minor*)

Red Oak Group

- ▶ scarlet oak - *Quercus coccinea*
- southern red oak - *Quercus falcata* (a.k.a. *Quercus digitata*)
- shingle oak - *Quercus imbricaria*
- blackjack oak - *Quercus merilandica*
- ▶ northern red oak - *Quercus rubra*
- ▶ black oak - *Quercus velutina*

**Magnolia Family (4):**

- ▶ tulip poplar - *Liriodendron tulipifera* (a.k.a. yellow poplar)
- ▶ cucumber magnolia - *Magnolia acuminata*
- ▶ Fraser magnolia - *Magnolia fraseri*
- umbrella magnolia - *Magnolia tripetala*

**Laurel Family (1):**

- ▶ sassafras - *Sassafras albidum*

**Witch-hazel Family (2):**

- ▶ witch-hazel - *Hamamelis virginiana*
- sweet gum - *Liquidambar styraciflua*

**Plane-tree (Sycamore) Family (1):**

- ▶ American sycamore - *Platanus occidentalis*

**Rose Family (10):**

- ▶ downy serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea* (a.k.a. *Amelanchier canadensis*)
- ?? Allegheny serviceberry - *Amelanchier laevis* (a.k.a. smooth serviceberry)
- hawthorns - *Crataegus sp.* (unknown number of species)
- southern crab apple - *Malus angustifolia* (a.k.a. *Malus pyrus*)
- sweet crab apple - *Malus coronaria*
- American plum - *Prunus americana* (a.k.a. wild plum)
- Chickasaw plum - *Prunus angustifolia*
- ▶ fire cherry - *Prunus pensylvanica* (a.k.a. pin cherry)
- ▶ black cherry - *Prunus serotina*
- common choke cherry - *Prunus virginiana*
- ▶ American mountain-ash - *Sorbus americana*

**Legume Family (6):**

- ▶ eastern redbud - *Cercis canadensis*
- yellowwood - *Cladrastis kentukea* (a.k.a. *Cladrastis lutea*)
- honey locust - *Gleditsia triacanthos* (on the TN/NC border, and foothills east of the region)
- ▶ black locust - *Robinia pseudoacacia*
- clammy locust - *Robinia viscosa*
- Kelsey locust - *Robinia kelseyi*

**Cashew Family (3):**

- shining sumac - *Rhus copallina*
- ▶ smooth sumac - *Rhus glabra*
- staghorn sumac - *Rhus typhina* (a.k.a. *Rhus hirta*)

**Holly Family (2):**

- ▶ mountain holly - *Ilex montana* (a.k.a. mountain winterberry)
- ▶ American holly - *Ilex opaca*

**Maple Family (7):**

- ?? chalk maple - *Acer leucoderme* (only small occurrences)
- boxelder - *Acer negundo*
- black maple - *Acer nigrum* (occurs mainly north of the region)
- ▶ striped maple - *Acer pensylvanicum*
- ▶ red maple - *Acer rubrum*
- silver maple - *Acer saccharinum* (a.k.a. *Acer rubrum-drummondii*) (a.k.a. river maple)
- ▶ sugar maple - *Acer saccharum*
- mountain maple - *Acer spicatum*

**Horse-chestnut (Buckeye) Family (2):**

- ?? Ohio buckeye - *Aesculus glabra* (on the western edge of the region)
- ▶ yellow buckeye - *Aesculus octandra*
- painted buckeye - *Aesculus sylvatica* (a.k.a. dwarf buckeye) (only spotty occurrences)

**Linden (Basswood) Family (3):**

- American basswood - *Tilia americana*
- ▶ white basswood - *Tilia heterophylla* (a.k.a. white linden)
- Carolina basswood - *Tilia caroliniana* (a.k.a. Blue Ridge Linn or *T. eburnea*)

**Tupelo-gum Family (1):**

- ▶ black gum - *Nyssa sylvatica* (a.k.a. black tupelo)

**Dogwood Family (2):**

- ▶ alternate-leaf dogwood - *Cornus alternifolia* (a.k.a. blue cornel)
- ▶ flowering dogwood - *Cornus florida*

**Heath Family (4):**

- ▶ mountain laurel - *Kalmia latifolia*
- ▶ sourwood - *Oxydendrum arboreum*
- Catawba rhododendron - *Rhododendron catawbiense*
- ▶ rosebay rhododendron - *Rhododendron maximum*

**Ebony Family (1):**

- ▶ common persimmon - *Diospyros virginiana*

**Storax (Snowbell) Family (1):**

- ▶ Carolina silverbell - *Halesia tetraptera* (a.k.a. *Halesia carolina*) (a.k.a. peawood, or bell-tree)

**Olive Family (4):**

- fringe tree - *Chionanthus virginicus*
- ▶ white ash - *Fraxinus americana* (also a variety: *F. americana* var. *biltmoreana* - known in 1902)
- ▶ green ash - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (a.k.a. red ash)
- pumpkin ash - *Fraxinus profunda* (only spotty occurrences) (may have once been *F. lanceolata*)

• **Less Frequently Encountered Tree Families:**

**Cypress Family (2):**

- eastern red cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*
- northern white cedar - *Thuja occidentalis* (only small occurrences)

**Willow Family (2):**

- bigtooth aspen - *Populus grandidentata*
- black willow - *Salix nigra*

**Elm Family (4):**

- hackberry - *Celtis occidentalis*
- ?? Georgia hackberry - *Celtis tenuifolia* (known on some edges of the region)
- winged elm - *Ulmus alata*
- American elm - *Ulmus americana* (a.k.a. white elm)
- slippery elm - *Ulmus rubra* (a.k.a. *Ulmus pubescens*)

**Mulberry Family (1):**

- red mulberry - *Morus rubra*

**Custard-apple (Annona) Family (1):**

- paw paw - *Asimina triloba*

**Rue Family (1):**

- common hoptree - *Ptelea trifoliata*

**Bladdernut Family (1):**

- American bladdernut - *Staphylea trifolia* (north Georgia mainly)

**Buckthorn Family (1):**

- Carolina buckthorn - *Rhamnus caroliniana* (a.k.a. *Frangula caroliniana*) (occurs mainly near streams)

**Tea Family (1):**

- mountain stewartia - *Stewartia ovata* (a.k.a. mountain camelia) (a.k.a. *Stewartia pentagyna*)

**Ginseng Family (1):**

- devil's - walkingstick - *Aralia spinosa* (a.k.a. spikenard)

**Sweetleaf Family (1):**

- sweetleaf - *Symplocos tinctoria* (a.k.a. horse sugar)

**Honeysuckle Family (3):**

- possumhaw viburnum - *Viburnum nudum* (a.k.a. swamp haw)
- black haw - *Viburnum prunifolium*
- rusty blackhaw - *Viburnum rufidulum* (a.k.a. *Viburnum rufomentosum*)