

## A Random Sampling of Tree Selection Ideas, 2008

*Acer buergerianum* – Trident maple. Small mature size (20'-30' high or larger with time and good site conditions) just what the doctor ordered for so many of our limited-space landscape and streetscape sites. Has shown good performance over time in New Bern and elsewhere.

*Acer leucoderme* – Chalkbark maple. Southern and southeast U.S. native, typically found in well drained to dry upland sites. Displays good drought tolerance. Small to medium size under landscape conditions. Similar in appearance to the native *Acer barbatum* (Florida maple), and both are sometimes described as subspecies or varieties of sugar maple. Worth a look!

*Acer truncatum* – Purpleblow maple or Shantung maple. Possibly a tree on the verge of becoming an important "new" introduction. Should have good heat tolerance over most of NC. Watch for a new introduction trademarked as Main Street. Outstanding fall color. Small size – perhaps 20'-25' in height – makes this a useful tree where rooting space or overhead space is limited.

*Carya aquatica* – Water Hickory. Little known native hickory which occurs naturally in wetlands and similar sites. Attractive tree which has done well in NCUFC trials. Large tree at maturity, possibly up to 110 feet in height.

*Chionanthus retusus* – Chinese fringetree. Excellent flowers, foliage, form. Top Ten performer in NCSU's NC Urban Tree Evaluation Program. 'Ivory Tower' will fit into narrower spaces than the species; this cultivar is expected to grow to around 15' high and 3' wide.

*Cornus drummondii* – Roughleaf dogwood. Similar to *C. amomum* and *C. asperifolia*, a shrubby dogwood species which can develop into a small tree. All three are worth evaluating. Impressive specimens of *C. amomum* (silky dogwood) are growing at the Craven County Agricultural Building in New Bern. Performance has been better in a slightly lower, wetter and shadier location for the silky dogwood.

*Diospyros virginiana* – Persimmon. Tough, drought-tolerant, long-lived. A neglected native tree? Male cultivars worth seeking out.

*Keteleeria davidiana* – Keteleeria. Rarely seen in landscapes, but an interesting tree for collectors and evaluators. Climatic adaptability of the various keteleeria is still being sorted out, but thus far *K. davidiana* seems to have the most reliable cold hardiness. From Taiwan and China. Conifer collector's item thus far.

*Keteleeria evelyniana* - Observers have noted relatively poor cold hardiness for this species, but for some reason a tree located at the Bartlett Tree Lab facility in Charlotte has done quite well.

*Liquidambar styraciflua* – Sweetgum. Large tree with several outstanding landscape attributes for the right location – including fall color, tolerance of wet sites, drought tolerance and reasonably good sturdiness in hurricanes. The cultivar 'Slender Silhouette' should mature somewhere around 50'-60' tall and 6'-8' wide, which could open up a lot of new possibilities for placement in the landscape.

*Nyssa sylvatica* – Blackgum. Landscape attributes include outstanding fall color. Leaf spot is a persistent problem, but not so noticeable depending on where the tree is placed. Consider also *Nyssa ogeche*, Ogeechee tupelo (important nectar source for bees – has done exceptionally well in trials at Auburn University).

*Parrotia persica* – Persian parrotia. Big shrub or small tree in the Hamamelidaceae family (along with witchhazels). Toughness of this plant, including drought tolerance, has been somewhat overlooked. Excellent foliage; older trees develop interesting exfoliating bark. Best in Piedmont and west into the mountains.

*Pistacia chinensis* – Chinese pistache. Medium-size shade tree with demonstrated toughness for a variety of landscape sites, including dry soils and high soil pH. Excellent fall color.

*Quercus georgiana* - Georgia oak. Described on a UGA Campus Arboretum website as "A hidden jewel, shy, small, rounded, with glistening dark green summer leaves that turn mahogany-red in fall. Tolerant of heat and drought, and grows on granite outcrops in Georgia." Small to medium size at maturity, perhaps 25-50 feet high. Worth a closer look? Good performance in tough conditions in Charlotte.

*Quercus nutallii* - Nutall oak. Great alternative, along with Shumard oak and overcup oak, to the old standard pin oak (*Quercus palustris*). Native to central/south-central states. Seems to be a tough plant. With adequate rooting space, has good potential for parking lots. Impressive results thus far in the New Bern area.

*Quercus shumardii* – Shumard oak. Medium-size oak, similar in appearance to Nutall oak. Native range includes NC and other eastern states. According to Dirr, "Proved superior in 13 year shade tree evaluations at Auburn University". Certainly a good selection to have in the arsenal. Think also about *Q. nutallii* and *Q. lyrata*.

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