

The Best Large Shade Trees by Karen Brown, PPCMG

This is a great time to plant trees. Neil Sperry recently posted his list of favorites for the state again, so they are listed here in case you missed it. In no particular order:

1. Live Oak, which can grow to 40 ft. tall and over 60 ft. wide. Not good to plant near a street or in a small area. Evergreen
2. Shumard Red Oak, which can grow to 60 ft. tall as well as wide. Pretty fall color
3. Chinquapin Oak, Could get 60 ft. tall and 50 ft. wide. A member of white oak family so not as susceptible to oak wilt. Pretty branching habit
4. Bur Oak, Can get 60 ft. tall as well as wide. Has those giant acorns and interesting bark pattern.
5. Pecan, Can grow 70 ft. tall and wide. You will need deep soil and be ready to pick up the branches it sheds. Native is fine but there are many varieties that do well in nut production. Womack Nursery in DeLeon is an excellent source.
6. Chinese Pistache, could get 50 ft. tall and 50 ft. wide. This tree has male and female trees. The beautiful red berries on the female trees can result in many unwanted seedlings, but have not been a problem for me. The male trees don't have the berries, so this won't happen. The fall color is beautiful.
7. Cedar Elm, could get to 50 ft tall and 40 wide, but most in our county in rocky areas don't. It is likely to get mistletoe and could get powdery mildew. It still is a great tree for our area.
8. Eastern Redcedar Juniper, which can get 45 ft. tall and wide. It is native to eastern part of state but might make a better evergreen for our area than the cedar trees we are used to.
9. Mesquite, which can make a big tree. This is my addition to the list for our area because it is native and is the perfect shade tree for dry areas. Scrubby ones can be eliminated but a large one is beautiful.

Perhaps this list will spur you on to plant some trees! Questions can be directed to the Extension Office at 940-659-1228. Come in and meet our new agent, Jason Westbrook!