

Flood Tolerant & Wetland Trees of Georgia

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There are many trees with many species attributes which can successfully grow under wetland and flooded soil conditions. Some tree species are so indicative of wetland conditions they are used for regulatory wetland classification processes. Proper species selection is critical under excessive soil water contents and low soil oxygen. Wetland and flood tolerant species of trees can be good choices under many of these conditions. Continuous and non-flowing water saturation to and above the soil surface throughout the entire year is an excessively harsh environment for most trees, even wetland species.

The two tables below present the scientific name, common name, and a descriptive plant classification for many flood tolerant and wetland trees and large shrubs in Georgia. Table 1 lists flood tolerant and wetland tree species alphabetically sorted by scientific name. Table 2 lists flood tolerant and wetland tree species alphabetically sorted by their common name.

The “wetland and flood tolerant” species classification denotes an ability to thrive in wetland areas and survive extensive flooding. The “flood tolerant” species classification denotes an ability to withstand limited to moderate flooding but not long term flooding and wetland saturation conditions. The “native” species classification denotes a species native to the state of Georgia. The “exotic” species classification denotes a species brought in from outside the region (in many cases from outside the continent). The “dicot” species classification denotes the angiosperm subdivision of dicotyledons (eudicot plants are included in the dicot classification here). The “monocot” species classification denotes the angiosperm subdivision of monocotyledons. The term “tree” is used for plant forms usually growing above 20 feet tall. The term “shrub” is used for plant forms growing below 15 feet tall.

Table 1: Primary flood tolerant and wetland tree species in Georgia alphabetically sorted by scientific name (i.e. first column).

scientific name	common name	plant classification
<i>Acer negundo</i>	boxelder	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	silver maple	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	hazel alder	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Baccharis angustifolia</i>	saltwater false-willow	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Baccharis glomeruliflora</i>	groundsel tree	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Betula nigra</i>	river birch	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Bumelia lycioides</i>	buckthorn bumelia	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Carya aquatica</i>	water hickory	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	pecan	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Carya laciniata</i>	shellbark hickory	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Carya myristiciformis</i>	nutmeg hickory	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	sugarberry	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	buttonbush	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Atlantic white-cedar	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
<i>Cliftonia monophylla</i>	buckwheat tree	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	silky dogwood	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Cornus asperifolia</i>	toughleaf dogwood	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Cornus foemina</i>	stiff dogwood	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Crataegus aestivalis</i>	mayhaw	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Crataegus brachyacantha</i>	blueberry hawthorn	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	green hawthorn	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	swamp titi	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>	Eastern swamp privet	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i>	Carolina ash	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	green ash	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Fraxinus profunda</i>	pumpkin ash	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	water-locust	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	loblolly-bay	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Ilex amelanchier</i>	sarvisberry	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	dahoon holly	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ilex coriacea</i>	large gallberry	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	possumhaw holly	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	inkberry holly	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ilex laevigata</i>	smooth winterberry	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Ilex myrtifolia</i>	myrtle dahoon	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	winterberry	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweetspire	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	Florida anisetree	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Illicium parviflorum</i>	yellow anisetree	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Kalmia carolina</i>	Carolina laurel	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Kalmia hirsuta</i>	hairy laurel	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub

Table 1: Primary flood tolerant and wetland tree species in Georgia alphabetically sorted by scientific name (i.e. first column). (continued)

scientific name	common name	plant classification
Leitneria floridana	corkwood	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
Lindera benzoin	northern spicebush	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Lindera melissifolia	Southern spicebush	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Lindera subcoriacea	bog spicebush	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Litsea aestivalis	pondspice	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
Ludwigia peruviana	primrose-willow	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic dicot shrub
Magnolia grandiflora	Southern magnolia	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
Magnolia virginiana	sweetbay	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Myrica cerifera	Southern bayberry	Flood tolerant small native dicot tree
Myrica heterophylla	evergreen bayberry	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Myrica inodora	odorless bayberry	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
Nyssa aquatica	water tupelo	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Nyssa ogeche	Ogeechee tupelo	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Persea borbonia	redbay	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Persia palustris	swampbay	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Pinckneya pubens	fever-tree / pinkneya	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Pinus ellioti	slash pine	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
Pinus glabra	spruce pine	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
Pinus serotina	pond pine	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
Planera aquatica	planer tree	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Platanus occidentalis	American sycamore	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Populus deltoides	Eastern cottonwood	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
Populus heterophylla	swamp cottonwood	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus bicolor	swamp white oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus falcata	Southern red oak	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus pagodaefolia	cherry-bark oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus laurifolia	laurel oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus lyrata	overcup oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus michauxii	swamp chestnut oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus oglethorpensis	Oglethorpe oak	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus palustris	pin oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus phellos	willow oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Quercus shumardii	shumard oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Rhododendron arborescens	smooth azalea	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Rhododendron atlanticum	dwarf azalea	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Rhododendron canescens	mountain azalea	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Rhododendron viscosum	swamp azalea	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Sabal minor	dwarf palmetto	Wetland & flood tolerant small native monocot tree
Salix alba	white willow	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic dicot tree
Salix babylonica	weeping willow	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic dicot tree
Salix caroliniana	coastal plain willow	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Salix eriocephala	Missouri River maple	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
Salix floridana	Florida willow	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree

Table 1: Primary flood tolerant and wetland tree species in Georgia alphabetically sorted by scientific name (i.e. first column). (continued)

scientific name	common name	plant classification
Salix nigra	black willow	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Salix purpurea	purpleosier willow	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic dicot tree
Salix sericea	silky willow	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Sambucus canadensis	American elder	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Spiraea salicifolia	willowleaf meadowsweet	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic large dicot shrub
Stillingia aquatica	corkwood	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Styrax americana	American snowbell	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
Tamarix gallica	French tamarisk	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic small dicot tree
Tamarix ramosissima	saltcedar	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic large dicot shrub
Taxodium distichum	baldcypress	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
Taxodium nutans	pondcypress	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
Toxicodendron vernix	poison sumac	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Ulmus americana	American elm	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Vaccinium corymbosum	highbush blueberry	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Vaccinium fuscatum	black highbush blueberry	Flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Viburnum nudum	possumhaw viburnum	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
Viburnum obovatum	Walter small-leaf arrowwood	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Viburnum recogitnum	Southern arrowwood	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree

Table 2: Primary flood tolerant and wetland tree species in Georgia alphabetically sorted by common name (i.e. second column).

scientific name	common name	plant classification
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	American elder	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Styrax americana</i>	American snowbell	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	American sycamore	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Atlantic white-cedar	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	baldcypress	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
<i>Vaccinium fuscatum</i>	black highbush blueberry	Flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Salix nigra</i>	black willow	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Crataegus brachyacantha</i>	blueberry hawthorn	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Lindera subcoriacea</i>	bog spicebush	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Acer negundo</i>	boxelder	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Bumelia lycioides</i>	buckthorn bumelia	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Cliftonia monophylla</i>	buckwheat tree	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	buttonbush	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i>	Carolina ash	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Kalmia carolina</i>	Carolina laurel	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Quercus pagodaefolia</i>	cherry-bark oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	coastal plain willow	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Stillingia aquatica</i>	corkwood	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Leitneria floridana</i>	corkwood	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	dahoon holly	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Rhododendron atlanticum</i>	dwarf azalea	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Sabal minor</i>	dwarf palmetto	Wetland & flood tolerant small native monocot tree
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern cottonwood	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Forestiera acuminata</i>	Eastern swamp privet	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Myrica heterophylla</i>	evergreen bayberry	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	Florida anisetree	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Salix floridana</i>	Florida willow	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	French tamarisk	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic small dicot tree
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	green ash	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	green hawthorn	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Baccharis glomeruliflora</i>	groundsel tree	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Pinckneya pubens</i>	fever-tree / pinkneya	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Kalmia hirsuta</i>	hairy laurel	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	hazel alder	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	highbush blueberry	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	inkberry holly	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ilex coriacea</i>	large gallberry	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	laurel oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	loblolly-bay	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree

Table 2: Primary flood tolerant and wetland tree species in Georgia
 alphabetically sorted by common name (i.e. second column). (continued)

scientific name	common name	plant classification
<i>Crataegus aestivalis</i>	mayhaw	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Salix eriocephala</i>	Missouri River maple	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Rhododendron canescens</i>	mountain azalea	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ilex myrtifolia</i>	myrtle dahoon	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	northern spicebush	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Carya myristiciformis</i>	nutmeg hickory	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Myrica inodora</i>	odorless bayberry	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Nyssa ogeche</i>	Ogeechee tupelo	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Quercus oglethorpensis</i>	Oglethorpe oak	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	overcup oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	pecan	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Planera aquatica</i>	planer tree	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Toxicodendron vernix</i>	poison sumac	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Pinus serotina</i>	pond pine	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
<i>Taxodium nutans</i>	pondcypress	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	pondspice	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	possumhaw holly	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	possumhaw viburnum	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>	primrose-willow	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic dicot shrub
<i>Fraxinus profunda</i>	pumpkin ash	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Salix purpurea</i>	purpleosier willow	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic dicot tree
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Persea borbonia</i>	redbay	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Betula nigra</i>	river birch	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	saltcedar	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic large dicot shrub
<i>Baccharis angustifolia</i>	saltwater false-willow	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ilex amelanchier</i>	sarvisberry	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	shellbark hickory	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	shumard oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	silky dogwood	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Salix sericea</i>	silky willow	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	silver maple	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Pinus elliotti</i>	slash pine	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
<i>Rhododendron arborescens</i>	smooth azalea	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Ilex laevigata</i>	smooth winterberry	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Viburnum recogitnum</i>	southern arrowwood	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Southern bayberry	Flood tolerant small native dicot tree
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern magnolia	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern red oak	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	Southern spicebush	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Pinus glabra</i>	spruce pine	Wetland & flood tolerant native gymnosperm tree
<i>Cornus foemina</i>	stiff dogwood	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	sugarberry	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree

Table 2: Primary flood tolerant and wetland tree species in Georgia alphabetically sorted by common name (i.e. second column). (continued)

scientific name	common name	plant classification
Rhododendron viscosum	swamp azalea	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Quercus michauxii	swamp chestnut oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Populus heterophylla	swamp cottonwood	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Cyrilla racemiflora	swamp titi	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Quercus bicolor	swamp white oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Persia palustris	swampbay	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Magnolia virginiana	sweetbay	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum	Flood tolerant native dicot tree
Cornus asperifolia	toughleaf dogwood	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Itea virginica	Virginia sweetspire	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub
Viburnum obovatum	Walter small-leaf arrowwood	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Carya aquatica	water hickory	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Nyssa aquatica	water tupelo	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Gleditsia aquatica	water-locust	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Salix babylonica	weeping willow	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic dicot tree
Salix alba	white willow	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic dicot tree
Quercus phellos	willow oak	Wetland & flood tolerant native dicot tree
Spiraea salicifolia	willowleaf meadowsweet	Wetland & flood tolerant exotic large dicot shrub
Ilex verticillata	winterberry	Wetland & flood tolerant small native dicot tree
Illicium parviflorum	yellow anisetree	Wetland & flood tolerant large native dicot shrub