





Give me a Real Tree!

By Garry Menendez, University of Tennessee

It's Saturday afternoon. You go out to get the mail and you hear it. Not the sound of the kids playing in the neighbor's yard. Not the sound of the starlings perched high in the oak tree. This noise may not sound too destructive from a distance, but it most surely is changing our landscape and our quality of life for that matter. It's the high pitched, incessant whine of the chainsaw!



Our region is known to many as the beautiful, leafy Southeast with attractive towns and neighborhoods and lots of shade. The towns are still here, but the shade is diminishing each fall beginning with the first drop of a leaf. Is it the gutter cleaning, the raking or the fear of being flattened that prompt so many into eliminating their big trees? Or maybe we just have too much time or money on our hands when the decision is made to reduce these majestic giants to mere piles of waste mounded near the curb for the city to haul away. After all, this



does seem to be reflective of how productive our weekends are. The bigger the collection of stuff at the street, the more proof we have to our neighbors that we actually did something.

It's time to think about autumn and the great activities that come with it. Crisp Saturday afternoons, apple cider, pumpkins and perhaps best of all – the death of mosquitos! Along with this, many people will choose to visit the garden centers and fill their trunks with beautiful, little ornamental trees. This is where the problem lies. Now don't get me wrong. I am *not* anti-dogwood. But there are ornamental trees and there are shade trees. Most ornamental trees reach the peak at about 20-feet tall or less. Shade trees, on the other hand, can grow to the sky, as they should. I'll refrain from depicting the evilness of tree topping here. I think

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that message is being successfully delivered at last. Here are a few tips on selecting and locating *real* shade trees.

- * Plant shade trees where they'll provide real benefit. The south and west sides of most properties are the areas where the sun really bakes. Planting in these areas may actually decrease your utility bills while allowing the low winter sun to still provide solar heat when you really need it.
- * Stay away from power lines. If you don't keep the tree pruned, KUB will and it's not a pretty sight. This is an ideal place for dogwoods, crabapples, hawthorns, redbuds, etc.
- * Technology has improved the ability of maintenance-free gutter protection to keep leaves and acorns out while allowing rainwater to collect easily. Although this initially can be a pretty hefty investment, consider the amount of cooling one big tree can provide during those hazy, hot & humid days you'll experience in August.

Lastly, here is a list of really good shade trees. Some garden centers will give you a look of betrayal if you request anything beside a dogwood or Bradford pear. Tell them you desire more than a decoration. You want a legacy to your grandchildren. That should wake them up. Good luck and happy planting!

Garry's Top Ten Shade Trees:

10. COMMON HACKBERRY
9. AMERICAN LINDEN
8. SAWTOOTH, WILLOW, SCARLETT OR WHITE OAK
7. KENTUCKY COFFEETREE
6. TULIP POPLAR
5. GINGKO (male)
4. AMERICAN BEECH
3. ZELKOVA
2. RED or SUGAR MAPLE
1. BLACK GUM

Gary Menendez is an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee's Institute of Agriculture, Department of Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design. ❁

1998 TNA TRADE SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

By Roger Spivey, TNA Executive Vice President

The 1998 Tennessee Nurserymen's Association Trade Show is scheduled for September 3-4 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

TNA has reserved a block of sleeping rooms at Opryland for Trade Show attendees and exhibitors beginning on Wednesday, September 2. Reservations should be made by calling (615) 883-2211. All sleeping room reservations must be made prior to August 1. Group rates are \$129 for a single and \$134 for double occupancy. Each additional person in a room is \$15. Children 12 years and younger are free when occupying the same room as their parents. Rates are subject to the existing 8 percent sales tax and 4 percent room tax.

Our group rates will be available three days prior to first arrival date (September 2) and three days after departure date (September 4) on a space-available basis. Check out time is 11 a.m.; therefore, please do not arrive prior to 3 p.m. to ensure your room will be ready. If you check out after 11 a.m. on the day of your departure, you may incur a late charge.

Trade Show registration begins at 8 a.m. September 3 in the Ryman B-3 registration desk located on the lower level of the convention center. Trade Show hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. September 3 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. September 4.

We look forward to seeing you there!

1998 TFGA SHORT COURSE & TRADE SHOW PROGRAM:

Sunday, November 1

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| 1:00 - 5:00 | Educational Sessions |
| 5:00 - 6:30 | Welcome Reception |

Monday, November 2

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| 9:00 - 6:00 | Trade Show |
| 9:00 - 12:00 | Educational Sessions |
| 12:00 - 1:30 | Banquet & TFGA Business Meeting |
| 1:30 - 5:00 | Educational Sessions |

Tuesday, November 3

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 7:30 - 8:30 | Breakfast with the Experts |
| 8:30 - 12:30 | Educational Sessions |

Keynote Speaker: Jim Nau, new variety manager for the Ball Seed Company, is a foremost expert on herbaceous plant material. He is the author of several books, including *Ball Culture Guide: The Encyclopedia of Seed Germination* and the *Ball Perennial Manual*. His current position with Ball Seed Company allows him to see the "new" plants before they become mass-produced. Jim will share with you some of the new and exciting plants that he sees coming down the pike.

Hotel Registration:

Make your Hotel Reservation in advance.
Park Vista Resort Hotel
800-421-7275
423 436-5141

Registration form on page 71.