

# SWEET GUM

*(Liquidambar styraciflua)*

**Identification:** large star-shaped lobed green leaves and spiky gumballs.

**Material Usage:** furniture, boxes, baskets, veneer, plywood, railroad ties and fuel.

**Food Source:** Birds, squirrels and chipmunks eat its seeds. Ruby-throated hummingbirds sip its nectar.

**Habitat Provided:** It hosts moths and butterflies in spring.

*Did you know?* The dried sap can be used as chewing gum.

**Mature Size:** 90–100 ft. height, 2–3 ft. trunk diameter.

**Virginia Range:** Piedmont and Coastal Plains.

**Lifespan:** 150–400 years.



# SYCAMORE

*(Platanus occidentalis L)*

**Identification:** large, light-green leaves and mottled green and white bark.

**Material Usage:** chopping blocks, particle board, paper pulp and energy biomass for fuel.

**Food Source:** Songbirds eat the seeds.

**Habitat Provided:** Red-tailed hawks, woodpeckers and hummingbirds nest in it.

*Did you know?* Because sycamores tolerate air pollution and compacted soils, they thrive in cities.

**Mature Size:** 80–100 ft. height, 2–4 ft. trunk diameter.

**Virginia Range:** throughout. Usually grow along river banks and in low areas.

**Lifespan:** 200–300 years.



# AMERICAN BEECH

*(Fagus grandiflora)*

**Identification:** dark-green ovate-shaped leaves with pinnate veins and serrated margins.

**Material Usage:** flooring, furniture, tools and charcoal fuel.

**Food Source:** People and many wildlife species eat beech nuts.

**Habitat:** Birds and insects make it their home.

***Did you know?*** Large, old trees may become hollow and provide shelter for wildlife.

**Mature Size:** 60–80 ft., 2–3 ft. trunk diameter.

**Virginia Range:** throughout. Grow in rich, well-drained soil and moist coves.

**Lifespan:** 300 to 400 years.



# LOBLOLLY PINE

*(Pinus taeda)*

**Identification:** needles grow 6–9 inches long in bundles of three.

**Material Usage:** mulch and boards for construction. Its resin is used to make turpentine.

**Food Source:** Birds and small mammals eat the seeds. Fox squirrels eat the cones.

**Habitat:** Many wildlife species nest in this pine, including osprey, eagles and red-cockaded woodpeckers.

**Did you know?** Grown on about 29 million acres in the Southeast, loblolly pine is the most important timber tree in Virginia.

**Mature Size:** 90–110 ft. height, 2–3 ft. trunk diameter.

**Virginia Range:** throughout.

**Lifespan:** 275 years.



# WINGED ELM

*(Ulmus alata)*

**Identification:** woody, wing-like growths that can be seen along the branchlets.

**Material Usage:** flooring, boxes, crates and furniture. The wood is flexible and particularly useful for rocking chairs.

**Food Source:** Birds and small mammals eat the seeds. Deer and rabbits eat the foliage.

**Habitat Provided:** Birds and other small mammals nest in the winged elm.

*Did you know?* Elm is a choice wood for the manufacture of high-quality hockey sticks.

**Mature Size:** 40–50 ft. height, 1–2 ft. trunk diameter.

**Virginia Range:** Southern Piedmont and Coastal Plains.

**Lifespan:** 100–150 years

