

# READINGTON TOWNSHIP

Open Space Advisory Board & Environmental Commission

*11th Annual*

## TREE SEEDLING Giveaway

**Saturday, April 19, 2025**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM; “Rain or Shine”**

**PICKELL PARK / PUBLIC WORKS**

273 Mountain Rd, Readington Township, NJ 08889

(off Rt. 523, behind Municipal Bldg., entrance to Pickell Park)

**PLEASE FOLLOW SIGNS & THE DIRECTIONS OF THE VOLUNTEERS**

*Seedlings of several species will be distributed free. Replant trees you lost in recent storms or add trees to your yard! Instructions will be available. Available to Readington residents.*

The trees are 6”-12” inch “seedlings”

- See attached list for available species
- Plant promptly, or store in a cool, damp location for a day or so
- Need to be protected from deer predation
- Need to be kept watered through the first year or two
- **Bring your own bucket, bag, or container to carry your trees home in.**

***First come, first served. No prior reservations.***

# 2025 Available Seedlings

## RED MAPLE (*Acer rubrum*)

Due to its attractive red fall foliage and pleasing form, it is often used as a shade tree for landscapes. Red maple is native and easy to grow and is adaptable to a very wide range of site conditions. It can grow to 60 feet in height at maturity. Small, red flowers in clusters mature in late winter, and the tree is one of the first to flower in early spring. It is not a preferred browse species for deer.



## RIVER BIRCH (*Betula nigra*)

River Birch is a medium to large deciduous native tree with from white to pinkish-brown, peeling bark and multiple trunks, which provides year-round ornamental interest, especially when planted in groups. The dark green, diamond-shaped leaves turn yellow in the fall. It is an adaptable tree that will grow in both wet and dry soils, although it will shed leaves in prolonged summer droughts. A good species to stabilize streambanks. It is fast growing and needs large spaces to grow and spread. Deer do not typically prefer River birch.



## EASTERN REDBUD (*Cercis canadensis*)

The Redbud's delicate blossoms and buds are one of the season's most dramatic displays. But this tree's beauty doesn't end with its flowery show. Unique and irregular branching patterns combine with a trunk that commonly divides close to the ground to create a very handsome, spreading and often flat-topped crown. Blooms in a profusion of rosy pink flowers in April. Features heart-shaped leaves that emerge a reddish color, turning dark green as summer approaches and then yellow in the fall. Makes a bold landscape statement, with its irregular branching and graceful crown.



## PERSIMMON (*Diospyros virginiana*)

American persimmon is a woody, deciduous tree in the Ebenaceae (ebony) family. It is native to the central and eastern United States and can reach 30 to 80 feet high and 20 to 35 feet wide. It can be grown as an ornamental or fruit tree in the home landscape, or in naturalized areas for wildlife. With spectacular autumn foliage and fruit that extends the harvest late into the fall, they are an excellent addition to an edible landscape. Fruit can stay on the tree after the leaves have fallen unaffected by freezing temperatures, giving an attractive addition to a winter garden.



## SWEETGUM (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

American sweetgum grows in full sun to partial shade in neutral to acidic soil that is moist yet well-drained. It is resistant to fire, heat, drought, soil compaction, deer and rabbits. It may grow 60 to 100 feet tall, 40-50 foot spread and a trunk diameter of 4 feet or more. American sweetgum makes an excellent shade tree. It is also a good addition to a woodland or recreational play area and children's, edible, native, nighttime or pollinator gardens. It is wildlife-friendly.



## SWAMP WHITE OAK (*Quercus bicolor*)

Swamp white oak is a native medium-sized deciduous tree growing 50 to 60 feet tall and approximately 50 to 60 feet wide with a broad to oval crown and a short trunk. Young trees have a pyramidal habit. The leaves are two-toned in color. Swamp White Oak prefers full sun, moist to wet acidic soil with a high mineral content, but it is adaptable to drier sites. Due to the root system, it is tolerant of areas that have spring flooding and fairly dry summers. The swamp oak is best planted in an area along a pond, a stream or other wet or low sites.



## RED OAK (*Quercus rubra*)

Northern Red Oak is a medium-sized, moderate to fast-growing, deciduous tree with a rounded to broad spreading crown that branches close to the ground. It may grow 50 to 75 feet tall and equally as wide. The northern red oak prefers full sun, moist to dry, well-drained, acidic, fertile, sandy to loamy soils. Once established, they are drought, dry soil, black walnut, and air pollution tolerant. It is easily transplanted. The northern red oak is typically planted for its ornamental value due to its shape and fall foliage. It is also an important food source for squirrels, deer, and birds. It may be used as a specimen, shade tree, street tree, and in recreational areas.

