

Summer Flowering Trees

Spring is over; summer is finally here (I think?). All the beautiful spring flowering trees are done blooming and are now covered in lush foliage... now what? I'll tell you what – you can now enjoy some of the more unusual flowering trees throughout the summer months! These aren't your run-of-the-mill weeping cherry trees, oh no! These are trees that you don't see in everyone's garden, trees that offer such wonderful blooms that I would definitely call them "Unique"... with a capital "U".

Franklin Tree (*Franklinia alatamaha*) – Named after Benjamin Franklin, this special tree displays **beautiful large white flowers with yellow centers**. They bloom in late summer/early fall. Narrow bright green leaves turn to a mix of orange and red in the fall. While they can be a little picky about where they're planted – they are definitely worth the effort!



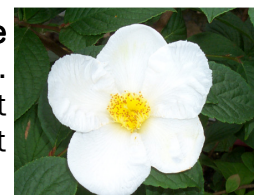
Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) – **Bright yellow flower clusters appear in summer** on this colorful tree! The leaves are bright green but when they first emerge they show a tinge of red. Golden Rain Trees also produce attractive fruit pods that carry through fall and winter providing seasonal interest. Named after Joseph Gottlieb Koelreuter (an 18th century botanist). This tree works great in small gardens, as a patio shade tree, or as a specimen tree. They are easy to grow and once established show great signs of drought tolerance.

Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) – Who can resist a Magnolia? The long bluish-green foliage has silvery undersides. This beautiful tree offers **lemony scented, creamy white flowers in early summer**. Flowers are followed by unique fruit pods with orange-red seeds. This particular Magnolia is native to the Eastern U.S. They tend to prefer soils that are on the acidic side and need some protection from harsh winds, but other than that they are a joy to have in the garden!



Sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*) – Also known as Sorrel Tree or Lily of the Valley Tree, Sourwood develops **clusters of drooping, fragrant white flowers in mid-summer**. They are covered with bright green leaves in spring, flower in summer, and showcase some awesome fall foliage colors of red, orange, and burgundy. This tree is also native and will be a wonderful addition to any garden.

Japanese Stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamillia*) – Another beauty... **large camellia-like flowers appear in early summer**. The dark green leaves turn red to purple in fall. The reddish-brown peeling bark offers winter interest as well. This tree can be a bit fussy about soil conditions and they like to be protected from harsh winds, but once established they are maintenance and pest free!



So if your garden needs a little more color in the summer (besides all those annuals and perennials) please be sure to check out these trees – believe me, you won't be disappointed!

- Heather Neuin
Pennsylvania Pride Grow Team