



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Tall Trees for Roadside Planting in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Common Name	Scientific Name	Adult Height (ft)	Ornamental Flower	Attracts Wildlife	Salt Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Growth Rate	Unique Characteristic
Baobab	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	60	Yes	Yes	Low	High	Med.	Massive, stout, smooth trunk. Culturally significant African tree. Large flowers and fruit can be a nuisance.
Bay Rum	<i>Pimenta racemosa</i>	45	No	No	Low	Med.	Slow	Attractive, smooth bark and fragrant leaves used for tea and bay rum. Does not tolerate caliche soil.
Black Olive	<i>Bucida buceras</i>	60	No	No	High	Low	Slow	Iconic dry forest species with strong wood. Once common, now rare. Prefers guts and moist sites.
Bully Mastic	<i>Sideroxylon foetidissimum</i>	80	No	No	High	High	Med.	Long-lived, increasingly rare native tree with attractive yellow flowers and valuable hardwood.
Dog Almond	<i>Andira inermis</i>	60	Yes	Yes	Med.	Med.	Med.	Native tree looks similar to mahogany, but with clusters of small, attractive, but short-lived purple flowers. Bats attracted to large fruit.
Kapok	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	80	No	No	Med.	High	Fast	Giant, fast-growing tree known for its buttress roots and thorny trunk. Tall and spreading canopy that releases large volumes of fluffy cotton.
Mesple	<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	60	No	Yes	High	High	Slow	Hardy tree with edible fruit prefers moist sites. Large fruit make this tree inappropriate for areas above vehicles.
Pink Poui	<i>Tabebuia heterophylla</i>	50	Yes	Yes	Med.	High	Med.	Drought- and stress-tolerant tree that produces many showy pink blooms throughout the year.
Maria	<i>Calophyllum calaba</i>	50	Yes	Yes	High	Med.	Med.	Ornamental non-native tree. Dense, dark green canopy and fragrant white flowers. Bats are attracted to the large fruit.
Royal Palm	<i>Roystonea borinquena</i>	60	No	Yes	Med.	Low	Med.	Tall, majestic native palm. Demands moist sites and tolerates flooding. Flowers and seeds are valuable for wildlife.
Sandbox Tree	<i>Hura crepitans</i>	80	No	No	Low	Med.	Fast	Large thorns and caustic sap make this tree appropriate only in certain areas. Dry fruit 'explodes' when ripe and artisans make jewelry from the shells.
Turpentine	<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	50	No	Yes	High	Very High	Med.	Fast growing tree tolerant of roadside conditions. Attractive, smooth reddish bark. Copious fruit production provides food preferred by rare birds.
Twinberry	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i>	50	No	Yes	High	High	Slow	Rare, ornamental native tree with smooth bark and fragrant white flowers. Drought-tolerant. Slow growth rate can be challenging to work with.
Water Mampoo	<i>Pisonia subcordata</i>	50	No	Yes	High	High	Fast	Smooth, shiny, swollen trunk, often with exposed roots. Soft wood. Attractive and tough tree can get large even in poor soil. Only female trees produce sticky fruit.
West Indian Mahogany	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	60	No	No	High	High	Med.	Classic Virgin Islands roadside tree, strong wood and tolerant of physical abuse common on roadsides.