



Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

Photo 4

Photo 5

Photo 6

Ahh – To Grow A Garden – So Get Up and Get Growing –Taylorsville City - Tree Of The Month Article – March 2009 - Ten (10) Exceptional Trees for Interesting and Beautiful Bark - Some other trees with interesting bark other than those discussed below is the Amur Chokecherry with rich glossy cinnamon brown bark, Three-Flowered Maple with exfoliating tan bark, Yellow Birch with a light amber peeling shaggy bark, Lacebark Pine with multiple trunks with whitish gray bark patches, Coral Bark Japanese Maple with a bright coral red bark, and three willow trees the Coral-Bark Willow, Scarlet Curly and Golden Curly Willow all with unique curly pendulous stems of bright colors.

The winter landscape or early spring landscape has its underpinning in what many landscape enthusiasts call the bones of the garden being trees with interesting silhouettes, beautiful bark, and of course, the evergreens. Look closely and you'll find that quite a few plants have interesting bark that is actually easier to appreciate without the distraction of leaves and flowers. Bark often changes over time, so that a species that starts out with thin, smooth bark on twigs and young branches may become thick and flaky or change in color as the tree matures. Ornamental and beautiful bark comes in many forms, including smooth, shiny, ridged, curly, flaky, patchwork, blocky, ridged or peeling.

The Birches more specifically the Paper Bark Birch, as the tree gets a few years of age, the outer white bark peels off in horizontal sheets to reveal reddish-brown bark beneath. (Photo 1) There are several other birch species with attractive bark, including European White Birch with white, non-peeling bark eventually mottled with black (Photo 2); Sweet Birch with shiny, reddish-brown bark and River Birch with peeling, scaly bark mottled with cinnamon brown, beige and orange bark, (Photo 3, Height 40 to 75 feet, Width 20 to 30 feet, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Hardiness zones 2 to 7).

The Cherries have some of the most beautiful bark, many of which are lustrous, shiny and characterized by horizontal grayish-brown markings that are very distinctive. The native Black Cherry has attractive grayish-black bark, but, due to its prolific production of seedling offspring, can be a nuisance species. Nanking Cherry is a shrubby cherry with reddish-brown, shiny and peeling bark. The best of all cherry trees for attractive bark is the Paper Bark Cherry with its rich, shiny, reddish-brown bark that peels with age to resemble satin ribbons, (Photos 4 and 5, Height 20 to 60 feet, and USDA zones 5 to 7).

Japanese Lilac is quite different from the shrub lilacs, distinguished by reddish-brown bark, turning gray and scaly with age, and has prominent horizontal markings similar to cherry bark. When it comes to the flowers of the Japanese Lilac, the similarities with the common shrub-form lilac is remarkable. The tree-form has a creamy-white, large flower that bursts to life in early to mid June that can be up to foot long, boasting its beautifully large flowers after most other ornamental trees have already flowered, (Photo 6, Height 20 to 30 feet, Width 15 to 25 feet, and USDA zones 3 to 7).

Paper Bark Maple is an all-time favorite and one of the best small ornamental trees is distinguished by rich, cinnamon brown peeling bark, especially breathtaking in winter with snow on the ground and backlighting from low-angled sunlight. This slow-growing understory tree is highly ornamental. It has small yellow flowers in spring, great fall foliage color, picturesque with its peeling park, and a stately habit, (Photos 7 and 8, Height 20 to 30 feet, Width 15-25 feet, and USDA zones 4 to 8).

Kousa Dogwood is another tree with outstanding mottled bark with gray, light and dark brown. A beautiful flowering tree that provides visual interest year-round, with white springtime blooms and the red berries last for months, followed by striking red and purple leaf hues just in time for the autumn season. Even in winter, the eye-catching bark and form of the Kousa bring a unique beauty to your landscape, (Photos 9 and 10, Height 20 to 30 feet, Width 15-20 feet, and USDA zones 5 to 8).

American Beech is well known for its smooth, light gray to nearly silver bark. European Beech also has a smooth bark but is darker gray that ages gracefully, (Photo 11, Height 90 to 100 feet, Width 50-70 feet, and USDA zones 3 to 9).



Photo 7

Photo 8

Photo 9

Photo 10

Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17

Yellowwood is a native species that is somewhat similar to beech bark character, though much smaller in height and spread. Another bonus is the fragrant white flowers in spring. Yellowwood is a vase-shaped spreading tree with dark green foliage that turns a delicate yellow or orange in the fall with a smooth light gray bark. Breathtaking, pendulous, foot-long, wisteria-like clusters of fragrant white flowers appear in late spring and early summer. This relatively uncommon North American native is a beautiful, but a slow growing tree, (Photos 12 and 13, Height 40 to 50 feet, Width 35 feet, and USDA zones 4 to 8).

Japanese Stewartia is a multi-stemmed, deciduous tree with a rounded columnar form. It's an excellent specimen tree appreciated as a landscape tree on account of its flowers, colorful bark and autumn foliage. It features stunning bark that exfoliates in strips of gray, orange, and reddish brown once the trunk attains a diameter of 2 to 3 inches. The bark has a tendency to flake off and reveal a rich combination of gray, cinnamon and brown which looks particularly attractive against a background of snow. In midsummer, "glamorous" white camellia-like flowers open in random succession. The beauty of the blossoms lies in their frilled white petals with clusters of yellow and orange stamens jutting out of the white background, which are not long-lasting but they keep on blooming at regular intervals for three (3) to four (4) weeks. The buds are pearl white and flowers are 2 to 2 ½ inches in size, followed by pointed brown seed pods that persist throughout the winter, (Photos 14 and 15, Height 20 to 40 feet, Width 20 to 40 Feet, and USDA zones 5 to 8).

Maidenhair Tree, Genus: Ginkgo, is one of the oldest tree species on the planet. Ginkgo grows only about a foot a year being a slow growing tree. Female trees set fleshy fruit that smell unpleasant as they decay, and they contain edible nuts. Distinctive fan-shaped foliage turns a brilliant clear yellow in fall. Color lasts until first freeze, defoliating almost overnight. Light brown or gray-brown furrowed bark becomes darker and more pronounced as it ages. Insignificant, catkin-like pendulous male flowers are borne in clusters in spring, (Photos 16 and 17, Height 60 to 100 feet, Width 20-25 feet, and USDA zones 5 to 9).

American Hop Hornbeam is a native species found throughout much of the eastern United States, and is a cousin to the birches. It is also often called Ironwood. It makes an excellent broad-pyramidal small landscape tree. It may be a multi-stemmed trunk tree. The stems are very slender, giving the tree a fine textured appearance during the winter season. The yellow fall foliage color is quite attractive in some years. Some trees retain coppery-brown leaves most of the winter. The grayish-brown bark has a fine textured scaly appearance peeling in vertical strips that curve away from the trunk at the top and the bottom, remaining attached in the middle. The trunks of the tree are often twisted and knobby which adds to their interest in the landscape with fruit, which resembles hops, consists of hanging clusters, (Photos 18 and 19, Height 30-35 Feet, Width 25 feet, and USDA zones 3 to 9).

Crape Myrtle is a handsome, summer-flowering, deciduous small tree or shrub. It has been a favorite among Southern gardeners because of its beauty and low maintenance. It has been called the lilac of the south. During recent years considerable breeding work has resulted in a number of new cold hardy cultivars. The Crape Myrtle is valued mainly for its long period of striking summer flowers in shades of white, pink, red or lavender. Bloom time varies, depending on the cultivar but may be up to one hundred and twenty (120) days. Large flower clusters appear on the tips of new branches beginning in early summer and continue into fall. After flowers fade and fall from the tree, the small brown capsules remain throughout the winter. The attractive, exfoliating bark peels away to expose a trunk which ranges in colors from many handsome shades of brown to gray. This bark is especially noticeable in the winter months when the tree is leafless. When leaves are present, lower branches can be removed to show off the handsome bark, (Photos 20, 21, 22 and 23, Height 8 to 30 feet, and USDA zones 6 to 11).



Photo 18



Photo 19



Photo 20



Photo 21



Photo 22



Photo 23