

Flowering Trees

Here are some ideas for **Flowering trees (and a few shrubs)** in approximate ordering of flowering. Almost all trees flower in some manner; it's how they have sex (and we're all in favor of that) and produce more trees – except of course Ginkgos which are actually Gymnosperms – but more about those prehistoric trees some other time. Today we're going to discuss trees with showy flowers.

Flowering Plums (Prunus)

Generally the earliest to flower and their flowering also signals the return of the Rufus hummingbirds. Thundercloud is our favorite due to its disease resistance, consistent flowering and toughness once established. Ever notice the beautiful trees along Capital Blvd in Tumwater – those are Thundercloud Plums. Maturing at 20' 20' their light pink flowers contrast well with dark purple foliage. We offer several sizes.



Flowering Currants (Ribes sanguineum)

Another hummer favorite and a northwest native, their early flowering feeds the hummingbirds. Just listen to them zip around hopping from flower to flower. Tolerant of a wide variety of soils and light from full sun to part-shade, this is a great plant for the back of the border. These flower early while others are dormant and then form a backdrop for other plants; in fall blue-black berries provide food for birds.

King Edward the VII has showy red flowers and can be grown as a tree or shrub. Size can be managed by pruning. Allow 6-8' for shrub form, 8-10' for tree form. Selected as a Great Plant Pick (GPP) for the Northwest, read more at: [King Edward Flowering currant - GPP](#)

Pulborough Scarlet – also bright red, with whitish centers. Habit similar to King Edward. Also a GPP, link to read more: [Ribes Pulborough Scarlet - GPP](#)

Flowering Cherries (prunus)

Next to flower are the cherries. Singles, doubles, pink, white, upright or weeping, green or maroon foliage. Whatever you like best, there is a cherry for you.

Akebono – 25' x 25', delicate pink flowers, green foliage with yellowish fall color. A GPP selection. [Akebono Flowering cherry-GPP](#)

Kwanzan – 30 x 20 ' , vase shaped, double rosy-pink flowers with dark green foliage, bronzy orange-red fall color. Read more and pictures at [Kwanzan Cherry](#)





Mt Fuji – 15' x 20'. Pink buds open to double white flowers. Fall color yellow-orange. This is the tree planted in our well-house garden. (Pictured spring and fall.)

Royal Burgundy – 20' x 15'; Double rosy-pink flowers contrast with maroon foliage. Fall color is bronzy purple. Read more @ [Royal Burgundy Cherry](#)

Subhirtella – weeping pink cherry. Depending on how high it's grafted is this small tree grows to 15' x 15', has pink flowers along its weeping branches. Easy to maintain for small yards.

Magnolias (deciduous)

In the winter, the branches hold fuzzy buds which produce, mostly on bare branches, lovely flowers of pink, white, yellow, purple and shades in between. Garden carefully under magnolias, they have fleshy roots and give them a little extra mulch and compost to keep the roots cool and feed their heavy flowering.

Alexandrina - Large flowers, rose-purple at the base and pure white inside, shrubby 10 to 15'.

Butterflies – Tulip shaped yellow flowers, slightly scented of lemon. Can be grown as a small tree or multi-stemmed large shrub. To 15 -20' x same.

Elizabeth - Yellow, fragrant, tulip-shaped flowers spring, to 25-30' tree. Selected as a great Plant Pick for the NW. Read more at [Elizabeth Magnolia- GPP](#)

Royal Star Magnolia - strap or star shaped white flowers spring, fragrant 10-15'x same.

Rosea Star Magnolia - strap or star shaped pink flowers spring, fragrant 10-15'x same.

Leonard Messel – Light pink strap shaped flowers, spring. Small tree will be 12-15 in 10 years, eventually to 20' x 15'. Selected as a great Plant Pick for the NW.

[Leonard messel Magnolia - GPP](#)

Galaxy – (Pictured) Lots of large, fragrant 6-9" red-purple flowers spring. Narrow tree when young, becomes wider with age. To 15-20' x 8-10' in 10 yrs, eventually 30-40'. A GPP, more details at: [Galaxy Magnolia - GPP](#)





Crabapples (Malus) – Loved by birds and people, for their lovely spring flowers and showy fall fruit that feeds the birds and us. Did you know a crabapple can also be used to pollinate an apple tree? We select crabapples for good color, shape and disease resistance.

Lollipop Dwarf - White flowers, small green leaves, symmetrical, dense rounded habit. Yellow 3/8" fruit fall. Slow to 10' x 10' – can be kept smaller.

Prairiefire - Bright pink-red flowers with purple foliage that turns to reddish-green. Dark red 3/8" fruits. To 20' x 20'. Read more at: [Prairiefire Crabapple](#)

Royal Raindrops - Pink-red flowers combine with purple cut-leaf foliage red 1/4" persistent fruits for the birds. To 20' x 15'. (pictured), more at: [Royal Raindrops Crabapple](#)

Louisa - Pink flowers on weeping form are followed by 3/8" yellow fruit. To 10-15' x 8-10'. More at [Louisa Crabapple](#)

Dolgo - White flowers spring followed by 1.5" red oval fruit. Great for crabapple jelly and eating. To 30' x 25'.

Sugar Tyme - Fragrant, white flowers smother tree in spring, red 1/2" fruit. To 18' x 15'.

Dogwoods

Trees, shrubs, even a groundcover. Flowers in spring, many with fall fruit and great fall or winter color; what's not to like. See our earlier article on 'Dogwoods - More Than You Ever Wanted to Know' on our website at this link: LMG- Garden - Tips [Dogwoods \(MTYEWTk\)](#)

Golden Chain Trees (Laburnum)

Long fragrant racemes of yellow flowers cascade from these trees like a golden chain. Flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. We have the upright variety 'Vossi' which grows to 15-20' x same and the weeping form 'alpinum' growing 10-15' x 8-10'.

(Note: Golden chains are poisonous to livestock however on the plus side, deer usually leave them alone.)



Lilacs (syringa)

The scent of lilacs means summer is coming. Just a few cuttings from some lilacs can perfume the entire house. And such a variety of colors and sizes are available. From deep red purple to pure white, even a bi-colored one. Fragrances can be sweet and floral or spicy.

This is also a plant that is very cold hardy for those of you in the colder outlying regions and deer generally do not bother lilacs. Lilacs should be pruned right after they bloom, never in the fall. Here are some of our favorites.





Ludwig Spaeth - Dark red-purple flowers with the classic lilac fragrance in spring. Large 10-12'

Tinkerbelle - Wine-Red buds, pink flowers, spicy fragrance. Compact 5-6'. Picture link: [Tinkerbelle Lilac](#)

Spokane - magenta buds open to magenta pink flowers, lighter pink then silver white when fully open. Very fragrant. New foliage tipped with burgundy. Large 8-10' x 6-8'. Picture link: [Spokane Lilac](#)

Sensation - Fragrant, bicolored-single purple flowers with white margins. Large 10-12' x 6-8'. (pictured)

'Miss Kim' AKA Korean Lilac - Lavender-blue flowers spring with a mild, sweet fragrance, fall color purplish to burgundy. Compact 5-6'. A GPP selection. Read more at: [Miss Kim lilac - GPP](#)

Beauty of Moscow 'Krasavitsa Moskv' –and she is. Pink buds open to pale pink-white double flowers. To 10-12' x 6-8'. Picture link: [Beauty of Moscow lilac](#)

Ivory Silk – upright tree with large plumes of small fragrant white flowers summer. Fragrance is sweet but different than other lilacs. To 20' x 15' more info: [Ivory Silk Lilac Tree](#)

Japanese Snowbells (Styrax)

Carillon – Soft white bell shaped flowers on a weeping tree with a layered shape. To 8-10'.

Emerald Pagoda - White fragrant bell shaped flowers June, Yellow fall color. To 20-30' x 15-20'. Another GPP [Emerald Pagoda - GPP](#)

Pink Chimes - Pink fragrant bell shaped flowers June, Yellow fall color. To '20-30' x 20'

Fragrant Snowbell (Styrax obassia) - White fragrant bell shaped flowers May-June, yellow fall color. Grows to '20-30' x 20-30'. Fragrant snowbell has larger leaves with more texture and blooms earlier than the other styrax. And it is yet another GPP: [Fragrant Snowbell - GPP](#)

And then there are the summer flowering trees such as: Robinias, Liriodendron or Tulip trees, Stewartias, Franklinias, Evergreen or Southern Magnolias, Hibiscus (what is the plural of hibiscus? Hibisci?), Hydrangeas and Sourwoods – more about them some other time.

Whew! Find something you like? We have lots more at the nursery. Just ask us if you don't see what you're looking for. And if you're looking for plants, we're finding them.

