

# Green and white ash trees are best and fastest growing shade trees

Ash is an excellent shade tree and can work well in your landscape if there is space for it, according to Agricultural Extension Service specialists at North Carolina State University.

Two types of ash are native to North Carolina and grow well throughout the state. They are green ash and white ash. They are among the best and fastest growing of all trees for shade.

The main difference between growing white ash and green ash is the soil requirement. Green ash will grow on a wide variety of soil types. White ash is very demanding in its soil requirements. It needs moist, well drained, loamy or silty soil of high fertility if it is to grow rapidly.

Another difference is in the color of the fall foliage. Green ash provides an early burst of bright yellow color in the fall. The foliage of white ash is more bronze. A

final difference between the two species of trees is their tolerance to shade. White ash can be grown in partial shade. Green ash needs full sun for best growth.

Both species of trees can attain heights of up to 100 feet and a spread of up to 75 feet at maturity. They have attractive, dense summer foliage. Their average life expectancy is 75 years.

Both green ash and white have shallow root systems, which occasionally cause lawn problems if surface water-

ing and fertilization are used. Deep watering and fertilization will cause the roots to form deeper.

Heavy seed crops are often a problem. However, varieties of male trees which do not produce seed are available. Three commercially available seedless varieties of green ash are Marshall's Seedless, Emerald and Summit. Two commercially available seedless varieties of white ash are Rose Hill and Autumn Purple.



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