

# THE DESIGN LOOP-PLANT SIZE COMPARISON



**Size It Up!** It's difficult to plan and plant a garden without knowing how it will all fit once the plants reach maturity, and The Garden is a great place to do just that. When dealing with trees, it can make a world of difference. Depending on your purpose for the tree (looks, shade, wind control, etc.), the size and shape of the tree makes as much difference as the location and watering needs. Size proportions are one consideration. Then there's direction of sun/shade path throughout the day, as well as root structure and what will be under, or near its canopy. This display was created with all those concerns in mind. Before planting trees in your yard, you can check out a range of tree sizes up close. Besides seeing examples of height and width of mature trees, the concrete pad has concentric circles showing the size a curve of tree canopies. Always plan for trees several years out. If you have to move or remove a tree, that's a big job. So, pick trees that you enjoy and want to find a permanent home for in your yard. Just make sure they fit your needs before planting. And don't be afraid to select a similar tree that could be a better fit. You'll fall in love with that one, too.



**Smaller Spaces:** When space is limited, a smaller tree, including some of the dwarf varieties is a perfect fit. A tree like this Japanese Mock Orange tree can add drama to a smaller yard without over-powering the rest of the garden. Lower plants that need some shade can dress up the ground under its canopy, too. Mock Orange trees can be shaped during pruning into a smooth rounded top for a manicured look, or allowed to shape organically for a more natural look. If you check the size gauge next to this tree, you see it grows to just over 3' wide and up to about 12' tall.

## PLANT SIZE COMPARISON DISPLAY (continued)



Medium Spaces: For yards with a bit more breathing room, a medium tree is a good fit. The tree shown here is a Natchez Myrtle. As the size gauge shows, its canopy *can* grow fairly wide. With trimming, this one has been maintained to about 6' wide. When their branches are allowed to grow more freely, they can grow 12' wide. This tree has a more upright branching pattern than the Mock Orange, so it will seem taller long before reaching maturity. They can easily reach 12' to 20' tall, but can also be trimmed to a size that works for your yard. Most trees in this range can be kept to a manageable size.



Large Spaces: Large trees spread their branches out to give your yard areas of shade along with their good looks. They also help keep your soil temperature down and fill large spaces to give your yard interest and a more intimate feeling. If you have a larger home and plenty of space around it, a well-placed, large tree can provide shade to cool your house structure as well. The tree shown here is a Sweetshade and tends to grow asymmetrically, but can easily be shaped with trimming. It grows to about 10' to 20' wide and from 12' to 40' tall, so its shade can even cool the roof of a two-story house!



Huge Spaces: Towering well above the Sweetshade tree is our "huge" tree, showing just how far they can grow when you give them room. The tree shown is a Silver Dollar Gum tree. Although it typically doesn't grow taller than the tallest Sweetshade tree, it gets there faster, growing up to 2' per year. It's perfect for its cooling shade and for wind breaks between buildings on larger properties. Silver Dollar Gum trees can grow to 35' - 40' wide and tall. But as a bonus, you can also trim them to stay smaller if desired, making it perfect for shading a patio. Just remember, even when trimmed back, this tree needs space.