Summer ~

The dog days of summer! Now is the time to think about next summer, or all of the summers yet to come. What better way to enjoy those lazy days of summer but sitting under a beautiful tree and watching the clouds roll by. Happy Planting!

~River Birch ~

*Betula Nigra*

The tree’s wood has very little commercial value but river birch is extremely popular as an ornamental. It is hardy for all U.S. climate zones, is fast-growing, nicely forked, and wind and ice resistant. River birch peels in colorful flakes of brown, salmon, peach, orange, and lavender and is a bonus for regions deprived of paper and white birches.

River birch is well named as it loves riparian (wet) zones, adapts well to wet sites and reaches its maximum size in rich alluvial soils. However, the tree is very heat-tolerant and can survive modest droughts. River birch transplants easily at any age and grows into a medium tree of about 40' to 70'. The tree is very intolerant to shade.
American Beech Trees can grow almost anywhere in the country! So Basking Ridge, start planting! They are ideal shade trees. They have long branches that create a large, dense shade canopy... protecting anything underneath from the hot summer sun.

The dark green leaves have a unique pattern that adds character to your yard... and they turn a bright bronze in the fall.

The beautiful blue-gray bark is very smooth, and looks elegant in all seasons. The wood is very strong, and is very damage resistant.

The American Beech Tree's nuts often attract many forms of wildlife, including pigeons, squirrels and blue jays. Remember that the deer aren’t the only ones who need to eat.

Beech Trees are typically under story trees, so they can grow in areas that don't get much
sun. They're also very disease and insect resistant as well. What more can you want. This could be the perfect addition to your yard!

"Once upon a time in America, great leafy high-arching cathedrals of elms lined the streets of villages and cities from the Atlantic to the Rockies, casting a deep cool shade upon life's turmoil."

A silent killer arrived in a shipment of logs from France. Dutch elm disease spread East quickly: Within two years American elm trees in New Jersey were falling prey to the deadly fungus, which continued to spread throughout America.

Since then millions of American Elms have been lost to this dreaded disease. Rapidly the tree was following the path taken by the American Chestnut. Yet a true American Elm survivor proved to be resistant to the D.E.D. and has become the parent of hope. The Princeton Elm. And from this tree we continue to bring healing and the restoration of this most regal American icon. So, Basking Ridge, do your part to help bring the Regal Elm back to the forefront of our American Landscape!
A drive down an elm-line street. Though becoming fewer and harder to find, their beauty and tranquility draws families for weekend jaunts. Will they be there for your loved ones to enjoy tomorrow or will we leave a concrete trail in its place?

Dramatic contrast of the same street, with and without the lofty elms.
INVASIVE

Mile-a-Minute Vine: *Polygonum perfoliatum*

Mile-a-minute is an herbaceous, annual, trailing vine in the Buckwheat family. The one to three inch leaves are alternate, light green, shaped like an equilateral triangle, and have barbs on the underside. The delicate, narrow, reddish stems can grow to 20 feet, have curved downward pointing barbs and are surrounded at intervals by circular, cup shaped leafy structures, known as ocreas. Small, inconspicuous white flowers, and segmented, metallic blue fruits emerge from within the ocreas.

The equilateral triangle shape of the leaves and the blue, berry-like fruits help to distinguish this plant from several similar vines including the native tear-thumbs.

Native to Eastern Asia, this weed is now widespread in the Mid-Atlantic States to Ohio, Oregon and Mississippi. The barbed stem and rapid rate of growth -up to six inches a day- allows this plant to climb over natives, reducing their access to sunlight and their ability to photosynthesize. Seeds of mile-a-minute are dispersed by birds, ants, small mammals, and by water, remaining buoyant for 7-9 days. Mile-a-minute generally colonizes open or disturbed areas such as edges of woods, streams, and roads. It prefers wet soils and requires much light.
Prior to seed development these vines can be removed by hand, if thick gloves and heavy clothes are worn. Balled-up vines should be left to dehydrate for several days before disposal. Repeated mowing and trimming can prevent flowering and seed production. Applications of herbicides containing glyphosate and clopyralid have also been effective. Sufficient cover of native vegetation may help prevent mile-a-minute from establishing a colony.

Make NO mistake this is a very dangerous vine. Beware!