

River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-9
- Develops a cinnamon-colored bark that curls and peels (once mature)
- Can grow as either a single- or multi-stemmed tree
- Features glossy green leaves that are 2-3" long and somewhat triangular; margins are double-toothed and leaves are arranged alternately
- Produces brown and green catkins in April and May
- Yields a large number of tiny nutlets after female catkins mature, typically in May and June
- Is the most borer-resistant birch
- Works well for holding stream banks and keeping erosion in check
- Grows in an oval shape
- Should not be planted in very alkaline soil



Tree Details:

Shape: Oval

Growth Speed: Medium to Fast

Mature Height: 40' - 70'

Mature Spread: 40' - 60'

Highlights: As its name suggests, the river birch naturally grows along riverbanks. But as a landscape tree, it can be planted almost anywhere in the U.S. The species is valued for its relatively rapid growth, tolerance of wetness and some drought, unique curling bark, spreading limbs, and relative resistance to birch borer.

The river birch has not yet reached the popularity of many maples and oaks, but it is well on its way. In 2002, one of its cultivars was even named the Urban Tree of the Year by the Society of Municipal Arborists.

Sun Preference: Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Drought, Loamy, Moist, Sandy, Well Drained, Wet

Wildlife Value: The catkins of the River Birch are used by redpolls and pine siskins. The foliage is eaten by deer and other browsers. The small but plentiful seeds are appreciated by a wide range of songbirds.

History/Lore: River birch wood was once used for ox yokes, wooden shoes and other products around the farm. But they were rather stained by loggers as knotty and spindly, therefore often left to grow along the riverbank to control erosion.

Potential Problems: Aside from drought-induced leaf drop and yellowing foliage due to high pH soil-induced chlorosis, River Birch may have aphids on its new stem and foliage growth, and leaf spot in wet springs (which also leads to leaf drop). However, it should be noted that River Birch is resistant to the bronze birch borer, which plagues the birches of colder climates when they are planted too far south of their natural range (the warmer winters do not kill off the larvae) and is very heat tolerant in summer.



Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)

Overview:

- Zones 3-8
- Produces pyramidal clusters of greenish-white flowers that bloom at the same time leaves are maturing (late May to early June); the flowers of the female trees have a rose-like fragrance.
- Features bipinnately compound leaves that can reach up 36" in length and 24" in width; individual leaflets are only about 2" long
- Is one of the last trees to leaf out in the spring
- Yields seed pods that are 5-10" long and green in color, turning brown, that persist through the winter
- Tolerates drought and pollution
- Grows in an oval or rounded shape



Tree Details:

Shape: Oval

Growth Speed: Slow to medium

Mature Height: 60' - 75'

Mature Spread: 40' - 50'

Highlights: Drought-resistant. Tolerant of pollution. Adaptable to a variety of soils. With its reputation as a tough species, the Kentucky coffeetree is an excellent choice for parks, golf courses, and other large areas. It is also widely used as an ornamental or street tree.

The tree's picturesque profile stands out in all seasons and can be attributed to a unique growth habit of coarse, ascending branches that often form a narrow crown. Tree expert Michael Dirr pointed out that there are "certainly no two exactly alike."

Sun Preference: Full Sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Alkaline, Clay, Drought, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Well Drained, Wet

Wildlife Value: Sources disagree on which parts of the seed pods are edible. The seed pulp is reportedly toxic to cattle.

History/Lore: The Kentucky coffeetree is native to the central states of America from Pennsylvania to Nebraska and from Minnesota to Oklahoma. This tree gets its name because early Kentucky settlers noticed the resemblance of its seeds to coffee beans. In earlier times, its wood was used in the construction of railway sleeper cars.

Potential Problems: Kentucky Coffeetree offers no significant disease or pest problems, and should be more widely planted in open spaces that can afford its large size and beauty at maturity. Since it does not fruit at an early age, determination of gender may take a number of years, since the seedless males offer less of a cleanup problem due to the absence of fallen fruit pods and seeds. In youth, the appearance of this tree often lacks grace, especially in winter, with the little-branched winter outline being especially coarse (Gymnocladus translates as "naked branch").



American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-9
- Features star-shaped leaves with 5 lobes (occasionally 7) that are lustrous medium green in color, toothed along the margins, and 4-7½" in length
- Provides brilliant fall color, with leaves turning brilliant shades of yellow, orange, red, and purple
- Yields long-stemmed, woody, burr-like fruit that is approximately 1½" in diameter
- Grows in a pyramidal shape, becoming more oval or rounded with age
- Needs plenty of space for root development
- Does not tolerate pollution

Tree Details:

Shape: Oval

Growth Speed: Medium to fast

Mature Height: 60' - 75'

Mature Spread: 40' - 50'

Highlights: The American sweetgum — with its star-shaped leaves, neatly compact crown, interesting fruit, and twigs with unique corky growths called wings — is an attractive shade tree. It has become a prized specimen in parks, campuses, and large yards across the country.

If you've got the space and are looking to add some fall color, this tree is a sure bet. The glossy green leaves turn beautiful shades of yellow, orange, red, and purple in the autumn.

Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Drought, Loamy, Moist, Sandy, Well Drained, Wet

Wildlife Value: American sweetgum seeds are eaten by eastern goldfinches, purple finches, sparrows, mourning doves, northern bobwhites and wild turkeys. Small mammals such as chipmunks, red squirrels and gray squirrels also enjoy the fruits and seeds.

History/Lore: The Sweetgum tree is native to the southeastern United States and a member of a genus made up of only six species. The others are found only in Asia. The first historical reference to the tree comes from the author and soldier, Don Bernal Diaz del Castillo, who accompanied Cortez in 1519 and was a witness to ceremonies between Cortez and Montezuma, who both partook of a liquid amber extracted from a sweetgum tree. The tree itself was first noticed and recorded by the historian Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca in 1542. Once commercially popular for soaps, adhesives and pharmaceuticals, today its wood is valuable for fine furniture and interior finishing.



Potential Problems: Sweetgum has the potential for several minor diseases (bleeding necrosis is the worst) and pests, but none of great significance in this rapidly growing shade tree. However, significant surface roots will develop with maturity, especially in shallow or hard clay soils, and occasionally chlorosis (a yellowing of the leaves) will develop in high pH soils, almost always in urban plantings.



Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

Overview:

- Zones 3-8
- Puts on a show in the fall, with leaves turning yellow, burnt orange and red
- Develops a dense crown, offering great shade
- Features 3-5" medium to dark green leaves with 5 (rarely 3) distinct lobes that are slightly coarsely toothed
- Produces small, greenish-yellow flowers in groups that curve downward on long, delicate stems, blooming in April and May
- Yields pairs of winged seed about 1-1½" long that mature in September or October; seeds are produced annually, with particularly heavy crops every 2-5 years
- Grows in a round or oval shape
- Should not be planted in confined spaces or areas where salt is a problem



Tree Details:

Shape: Oval

Growth Speed: Slow to medium

Mature Height: 60' - 75'

Mature Spread: 40' - 50'

Highlights: The sugar maple is one of America's best-loved trees. In fact, more states have claimed it as their state tree than any other single species — those states being New York, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Vermont.

While commercially planted for its delicious syrup and value as lumber, this tree makes a great addition to any yard or park. And one of its most prominent features is amazing fall color. As the seasons change, the leaves turn vibrant shades of yellow, burnt orange, and red.



Sun Preference: Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade

Soil Preference: Acidic, Alkaline, Drought, Well Drained

Wildlife Value: Sugar maples are commonly browsed by white-tailed deer. Squirrels feed on the seeds, buds, twigs and leaves.

History/Lore: In 1663, chemist Robert Boyle informed the Europeans about the tree in the new world that produced a sweet substance. John Smith was among the first settlers who remarked about the Native Americans' sugar processing and the fact that they used the product for barter. They also used the inner bark to make a tea to treat coughs and diarrhea.

Other historic uses included making soap from its ashes, using the bark as a dye, drinking the sap as a spring tonic and taking the syrup for liver and kidney problems.

During the 2001 baseball season, Barry Bonds switched from the traditional ash wood baseball bat to one made of maple and hit 73 home runs—a new record!

Potential Problems: Sugar Maple does not perform nearly as well in the southern limits of its range (zones 7 and 8), where the heat, humidity, and drought of summer take their toll. More commonly, encroachment of construction traffic and the associated soil compaction, soil grade change, root disturbance, and various pollutions associated with housing construction and subsequent urban conditions do not favor established Sugar Maples, and they often respond with a rapid decline or death when their forest is converted into a subdivision.

Sugar Maple also does not like being transplanted into heavy clay soils or to long periods of drought in summer. Verticillium wilt is an occasional disease primarily occurring in wet springs, and leaf scorch is a perennial problem when drought occurs.

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-8 Has a distinctive branching pattern that sets it apart, especially in winter
- Provides great fall color, with leaves turning shades of scarlet and bronze
- Is easier than most to transplant
- Features glossy, dark green leaves that are 3–6" long with 5 lobes (although sometimes 7–9) separated by very deep sinuses
- Produces yellow-green catkins that are 5–7" long and typically appear in April and May
- Yields acorns that are nearly round and 1/2" long with a thin, saucer-like cap made of small, tight scales
- Offers dense shade
- Tolerates heat, air pollution and compacted soil
- Develops a single, central trunk from ground to tip
- Grows in a pyramidal shape
- Cannot tolerate alkaline soils



Tree Details:

Shape: Pyramidal

Growth Speed: Fast

Mature Height: 60' - 70'

Mature Spread: 25' - 40'

Highlights: "The pin oak pleases me for reasons I cannot wholly explain," wrote nature writer Hal Borland in *A Countryman's Woods*.

But homeowners and city foresters are pleased with this tree for very specific reasons: strong wood; dense shade; tolerance of many soil conditions, heat, soil compaction, and air pollution; free from most major pests; pleasing to the eye in all seasons; and easy to plant. Needless to say, this faster-growing oak is a common sight in yards, along streets and throughout parks.

Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Well Drained, Wet

Wildlife Value: Pin oak acorns are eaten by many songbirds, wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, squirrels and smaller rodents but are a particularly important food for many ducks.

History/Lore: The name pin oak comes from its short, tough branchlets located along the branches and limbs. Because of its tolerance for wet conditions, the tree is also known regionally as swamp oak, water oak and swamp Spanish oak. The tree was first observed scientifically prior to 1770.

Potential Problems: Chlorosis is the major problem encountered, due to siting some Pin Oaks into alkaline soils (also referred to as high pH soils, low acidity soils, sweet soils, or calcareous soils). Under these conditions, loss of vigor is a foregone conclusion.

Pin Oak may also exhibit galls due to insect feeding and may suffer from the usual array of pests and pathogens that can affect many Oaks.



Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-8
- Produces fall color in shades of yellow, bronze, and red-purple
- Features dark green deciduous leaves that are 3" to 7" long with a leathery texture
- Yields oblong acorns in pairs, each approximately 1" in length
- Grows in a rounded shape
- Is well-adapted to low-lying areas with poor drainage
- Tolerates compacted soil, drought, and some salt exposure
- Prefers acidic soil
- Can experience chlorosis (yellowing of leaves while the veins remain green) if the soil is not acidic enough



Tree Details:

Shape: Rounded

Growth Speed: Slow - Medium

Mature Height: 50'-60'

Mature Spread: 50'-60'

Highlights: As the name suggests, this oak is found growing wild in low-lying and swampy areas — often moist bottomlands or riverbanks. But it grows just as well in an urban or suburban setting, with tolerance to compacted soil and (perhaps surprisingly) drought.

The swamp white oak is a great choice for a shade or street tree, with the ability to grow at a moderate pace and live more than 300 years. It's the kind of tree you plant for not only your enjoyment but for the benefit of generations to come.

Sun Preference: Full Sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Drought, Wet

Wildlife Value: This oak species attracts a variety of birds.



History/Lore:

The species

was

introduced in 1800.



Potential Problems: Swamp White Oak has three notable problems that may occur. Along with English Oak, it is the Oak most likely to get powdery mildew on its foliage in late summer and early autumn. This causes no damage to the tree; it just makes the leaves have a white cast on a green background.

Along with Bur Oak, Swamp White Oak may have rounded galls on its twigs and branchlets, the result of chewing by the Oak rough bulletgall wasp. Unless infestations are especially dense, no long-term damage is done. Finally, this species will develop chlorosis in high pH (very alkaline) soils, almost always the result of being transplanted into chalky and gravelly urban soils, usually near asphalt and/or concrete.

Common Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-9
- This tree is primarily known for its ripened fruit
- easy to identify in winter because of their thick, dark gray bark that is broken into rectangular blocks

Tree Details:

Shape: oval or pyramidal

Growth Speed: slow

Mature Height: 30'-80'

Mature Spread: 30'

Highlights: Persimmon is quite adaptable to a variety of soil, moisture, and polluted conditions. It prefers moist, well-drained, average soils of various pH's, but easily adapts to poor, rocky, clay, sandy, or even organic soils of dry or moist constitution. It will not tolerate wet sites, but it can survive on thin soils or strip-mined soils. It is found in zones 4 to 9, in full sun to partial sun.

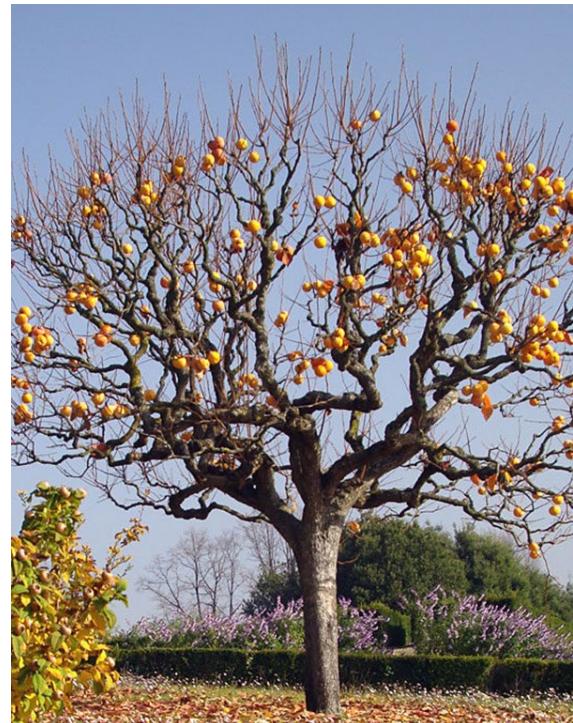
Sun Preference: full sun to partial sun

Soil Preference: moist, well-drained, average soils of various pH's, will not tolerate wet sites

Wildlife Value: This tree is primarily known for its ripened fruits, which provide food for animals and humans alike in mid- to late autumn.

History/Lore: It is also known as the tree that provides wood for some of the best wooden golf club heads and billiard cues that can be made; historically, the fine-grained wood was also used in the production of shuttles for the textile industry.

Potential Problems: Persimmon has relatively few diseases (leafspot on occasion) and pests. Aside from being slow-growing and with the potential in heavy fruiting years to create a sticky mess at the bottom of female trees, it has no liabilities.



Tulip Poplar or Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-9
- Blooms in May and June, producing tulip-shaped flowers 1½–2" in diameter with greenish-yellow petals and a splash of orange at the base
- Provides vibrant yellow color in the fall
- Produces alternating leaves that are 3–6" long with distinctive lobes, a flat base, and two ear-like tips
- Yields colorful seeds held upright in the tree throughout the summer and into autumn
- Features aromatic stems
- Grows in an oval shape



Tree Details:

Shape: Oval

Growth Speed: Fast

Mature Height: 60'-90'

Mature Spread: 30'- 60'

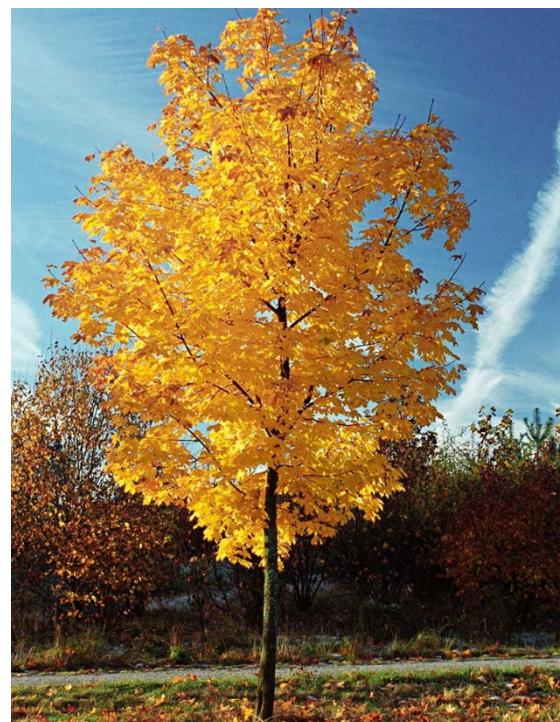
Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Loamy, Moist, Sandy, Well Drained

Highlights: One can argue about whether the "tulips" are the outline of its leaves or its cup-shaped flowers. But both undoubtedly contributed to the fanciful name given to this tree by early settlers. And the tuliptree is still beloved for its beauty today, serving as the state tree of Kentucky, Indiana, and Tennessee. It is the tallest of the eastern hardwoods — and a rapid grower when conditions are right.

If you're looking for a stunning tree that grows quickly and doesn't suffer from many pest problems, your search is over.

Wildlife Value: This tree provides food in many forms for many animals. In fall and winter, young trees are browsed by white-tailed deer and rabbits. The spring flowers provide nectar for ruby-throated hummingbirds. Tuliptree seeds, maturing in summer and persisting into winter, provide food for both birds and mammals, including finches, cardinals, quail, mice, red squirrels, gray squirrels and rabbits.



History/Lore: Once plentiful in their natural habitat in eastern America, tuliptrees were favored by loggers for railroad ties and fence posts. George Washington planted tuliptrees at Mount Vernon which are now 140' tall. And Daniel Boone used the wood of this tree for his 60' dugout canoe.

Potential Problems: Tuliptree has one significant pest (aphids), which chew on new growth and secrete a sticky substance (known as honeydew) on the leaves, which serves as food for a sooty mold, rendering the leaves blackened with fungus and unattractive, but not harmed. Diseases that afflict tuliptree include verticillium wilt, root rot, and trunk canker.

American Crabapple (*Malus coronaria*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-7
- Great for wildlife
- Plant at least 500' from cedars
- Can be a great landscape tree



Tree Details:

Shape: wide spread

Growth Speed: Slow to medium

Mature Height: 35'

Mature Spread: 25'

Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Rich, average, poor or rocky; acidic, neutral or alkaline pH

Highlights: American Crabapple (*Malus coronaria*), also known as Wild Crabapple or Sweet Crabapple, is present throughout all of Ohio, and predominates as a spreading tree native to the upper two-thirds of the Eastern United States, especially the Midwestern States. It is known for its very fragrant, white to white-pink blossoms that are the last among the Crabapples to bloom. Its fruits are very bitter (Sweet Crabapple refers to the scent of both the flowers and fruits, not the taste of the fruits) and greenish-yellow when mature, but make excellent jelly or jam due to their high pectin and high acid content (enough added sugar makes anything taste good).

Wildlife Value: The fruit is eaten by gamebirds and songbirds, black bear, fox, opossum, raccoon, skunk, squirrels, voles, and mice. Rabbits and deer browse on the foliage, twigs, and bark. Because it is densely branched and thorny, American crabapple provides nesting habitat and cover for many species of birds. Good for pollinators including honey and native bees.



History/Lore: Indigenous peoples of North America have used crabapple trees and their fruits for thousands of years as a source of food, tools, and medicine. For example, Native American tribes stored the fruit in the ground to sweeten it and used the bark to treat illnesses.

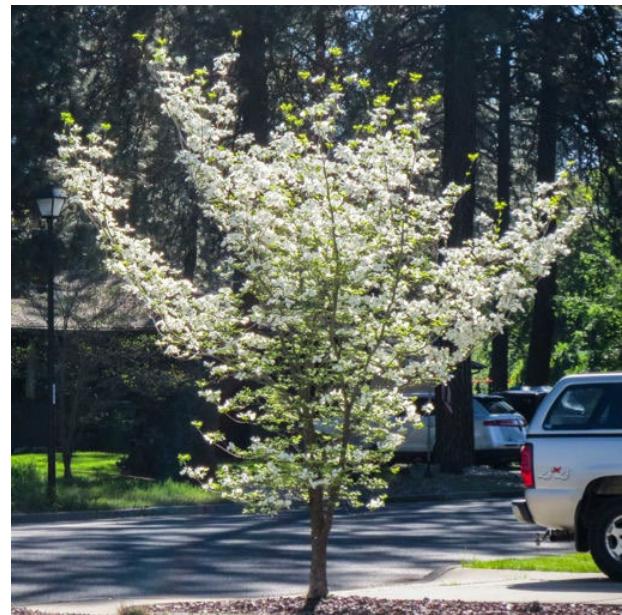
Potential Problems: American Crabapple, like all members of the Rose Family, is prone to a host of diseases and pests, which primarily affect the foliage and fruits. Rust is particularly troublesome to the leaves of American Crabapple, causing many of them to drop, especially when they are found near Junipers (the alternate host) and during wet springs, which promote the spread and development of the disease.



White Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Overview:

- Zones 5-9
- Blooms April–May, with distinctive white bracts (modified leaves) surrounding a smaller insignificant flower
- Is a good choice for planting near utility lines, larger buildings or patios
- Features dark green leaves that are 4–8" long and oval or ovate in shape
- Produces glossy red fruit eaten by birds
- Provides great fall color, with leaves turning red-purple
- Grows in a rounded shape
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Tree Details:

Shape: Round

Growth Speed: Medium

Mature Height: 15' - 30'

Mature Spread: 15' - 30'

Sun Preference: Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Well Drained

Highlights: An excellent landscape choice for all four seasons, the white dogwood is a favorite in many yards and gardens. White “flowers” show their beauty in spring, foliage turns a vibrant red-purple in fall, and glossy red fruits attract winter songbirds for the enjoyment of all.

This tree is a great option to plant near utility lines, next to larger buildings, or near patios. It also offers nice contrast when planted along with pink or red dogwoods with larger evergreens in the background.

Wildlife Value: The seed, fruit, flowers, twigs, bark and leaves are all used as food by various animals. At least 36 species of birds—including ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail and wild turkey—are known to eat the fruit. Chipmunks, foxes, squirrels, skunks, rabbits, deer, beaver, black bear and other mammals also eat the fruit. Foliage and twigs are browsed heavily by deer and rabbits

History/Lore: Native from Massachusetts to Florida and west to Texas, this tree was cultivated in 1731. A favorite in America for centuries, both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson planted it on their plantations. Early Native Americans made medicinal teas from its bark, and desperate Civil War doctors used this tea as a quinine substitute. The wood is extremely hard and has been used for weaver's shuttles, chisel and maul handles, golf club heads and yokes.

It is the state tree of Missouri and Virginia.



Potential Problems: Flowering dogwood suffers tremendously from a number of pathogens and pests. The most important diseases are leaf and stem anthracnose (a serious and often fatal problem in the northeastern United States), leaf powdery mildew (mostly a cosmetic concern), and trunk canker (which will sometimes kill individual trunks, or cause large wounds that are slow to heal). The most important pest is the dogwood borer, which can kill trees outright, especially those under stress (as in severe drought to established trees, but more commonly newly transplanted trees that are not adequately watered). Siting new seedlings, saplings, or large balled and burlapped trees in deep, acidic soils with supplemental organic matter that aids in good drainage, and keeping the tree watered for the first two years of its establishment do wonders for tree health.

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-9
- Blooms in a profusion of rosy-pink flowers in April
- Begin flowering at a young age, sometimes as early as 4 years
- Features somewhat heart-shaped leaves 2-6" in length, emerging a reddish color, turning dark green as summer approaches and then yellow in the fall
- Makes a bold landscape statement, with its irregular branching and graceful crown
- Yields brown to brownish-black pods that are 2-3" in length, remaining on the tree throughout winter



Tree Details:

Shape: Rounded, vase-shape *Growth Speed:* Medium

Mature Height: 20' - 30' *Mature Spread:* 25' - 35'

Sun Preference: Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade

Soil Preference: Acidic, Alkaline, Clay, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Well Drained

Highlights: Known as the harbinger of spring, the American redbud's delicate blossoms and buds are one of the season's most dramatic displays. But this tree's beauty doesn't end with its flowery show. Unique and irregular branching patterns combine with a trunk that commonly divides close to the ground to create a very handsome, spreading and often flat-topped crown. Even in winter, covered with snow, the American redbud is stunning. This species will add a lot of elegance to any space.

Wildlife Value: The early blossoms draw in nectar-seeking insects, including several species of early-season butterflies. Northern bobwhite and a few songbirds, such as chickadees, will eat the seeds. It can be used for nesting sites and nesting materials, and it also provides shelter for birds and mammals.

History/Lore: Native to North America and Canada with cousins in Europe and Asia, this tree was noted by Spaniards who made distinctions between the New World species and their cousins in the Mediterranean region in 1571. Centuries later, George Washington reported in his diary on many occasions about the beauty of the tree and spent many hours in his garden transplanting seedlings obtained from the nearby forest.

It was chosen as the state tree of Oklahoma in 1937.

Potential Problems: Redbud grows rapidly and often lives about twenty years before it begins to decline or die, especially in urban situations where poorly drained, heavy clay soils predominate.



Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Overview:

- Zones 5-11
- Showy blooms on this shrub
- Its ball shaped flowers that resemble little white pom-poms are beautiful and unique.
- Its glossy foliage is a second ornamental feature.
- Great choice for a rain garden and erosion control because it handles wet and poorly drained soils well.



Tree Details:

Shape: shrub

Growth Speed:

Mature Height: 6'-7'

Mature Spread: 6'-12'

Sun Preference: full sun

Soil Preference: performs best in wet soils of variable pH. It becomes more compact in its growth habit when sited in moist soils (organic or clay) that become dry in summer, but adapts to them.

Highlights: If you are looking for unique native plants to add to your garden, then Buttonbush tree is a great choice. It is a great statement plant to mix in with smaller native perennials.

The large woody shrub thrives in full sun but can handle part shade. In addition to its summer blooms, it can provide some fall color to your garden through its deep reddish-brown fruits and yellow foliage.

Wildlife Value: Great nectar plant for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Starting in the early fall, the flowers transition to reddish brown nutlets that resemble balls or buttons. These fruits provide food for wildlife, especially water birds such as wood ducks, over the winter. It is a moth host plant.

History/Lore: As a member of the Madder Family, it is related to Coffee, Sweet Woodruff, Gardenia, and Partridge Berry, among others.

Potential Problems: Buttonbush is usually devoid of any serious disease or pest problems, so long as it is not sited in excessively dry soils.



Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-9
- Medium to large shrub
- Abundant white flowers and red glossy berries with outstanding fall color
- 3 season interest
- Works well in landscape or garden
- Useful for shady, wet sites

Tree Details:

Shape: Multi-stemmed, Thicket-forming, Upright

Growth Speed: Slow

Mature Height: 5' – 10' *Mature Spread:* 3' – 5"

Sun Preference: Partial sun – full sun

Soil Preference: Acid soil, Alkaline soil, Moist, well-drained soil, Wet soil



Highlights: Red chokeberry grows best in moist soil, but is tolerant of dry soils once established. Full sun to part shade. Mulch to conserve moisture. Place at the back of the border as it tends to be somewhat bare on the lower stems. Prune in spring, after flowering. Prune out unwanted suckers to control size.

Wildlife Value: Attracts birds and butterflies. This plant has little resistance to damage from deer. Its fruits are eaten by mammals and birds.

History/Lore: The genus name, *Aronia*, is from the Greek word, 'aria.' This is the Greek name for the species of *Sorbus*, whose fruits are similar to the Chokeberry. The species name, *arbutifolia*, means "with leaves like *Arbutus*." This is a genus of small trees and shrubs that have edible fruit. The common name, Chokeberry, references its tart and bitter berries. They are edible but are so astringent they may cause choking.

Potential Problems: No serious disease/insect problems but they can develop leaf spot and twig/fruit blight; round head apple borers can also be a problem.



Black Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Overview:

- Zones 4-9
- Ornamental and wildlife benefits
- Erosion prevention
- Screening – dense foliage can provide privacy
- Fruits edible when cooked – pies, wine and jellies

Tree Details:

Shape: shrub *Growth Speed:* medium to fast

Mature Height: 5' – 12' *Mature Spread:* 5' – 12'

Sun Preference: full sun – partial shade

Soil Preference: moist, fertile soils. It is often on lake and pond shores, low areas along road ways, in low forest and old fields.

Highlights: The flowers of this species are used to make wine and the fruits are used to make pies and various jams and preserves. Many varieties are available commercially for ornamental as well as culinary use. As some people react negatively to the raw fruit, they should not be eaten unless cooked.

Wildlife Value: This species flowers in June to July depending on the part of the country in which it is found. Bees, wasps, and beetles are strongly attracted to the flowers. Fruits ripen in August to September and are eaten by many species of birds and mammals.

History/Lore: The genus name comes from Greek sambuce, an ancient musical instrument, and refers to the soft pith, easily removed from the twigs and used to make flutes and whistles.

Potential Problems: Warning: POISONOUS PARTS: Leaves, twigs (stems), roots, unripe fruits. Low toxicity if ingested. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, coma. Toxic Principle: Cyanogenic glycoside and alkaloid.



Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

Overview:

- Zones 5-8
- Doesn't require much maintenance
- Thrives in larger spaces
- Features fine and feathery leaves, bright green in color, opposite in arrangement, flattened and about 1/2" long and 1/16" wide
- Produces rounded cones about 3/4–1 3/4" long
- Sheds leaves and slender twigs annually
- Tolerates pollution
- Grows in a pyramidal shape

Tree Details:

Shape: Pyramidal *Growth Speed:* Fast

Mature Height: 70' – 100' *Mature Spread:* 25'

Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Drought, Loamy, Moist, Sandy, Well Drained, Wet



Highlights: This is an impressive tree by any standard. Of special note is that fossils in northern parts of the United States show that the dawn redwood knew the dinosaurs. It was long thought to be extinct—until it was discovered alive and well in a rural, mountainous area of China.

The dawn redwood is relatively carefree and fast growing, with one specimen in Virginia having reached 120 feet in 30 years! While the tree's natural range is an area of only about 232 square miles in China, it has been planted successfully around the world.

Wildlife Value: This tree provides winter cover for birds, small mammals and deer.

History/Lore: The dawn redwood is a living testimony to the surprises still to be found in nature. When dinosaurs roamed the earth, it is believed that trees in the Redwood family were very abundant. Today, only 9 genera and 15 species exist. Dawn redwood was one of those known only as a fossil until 1941, when it was discovered growing in a remote valley of the Szechwan province of China. Seeds were collected by the Arnold Arboretum in 1947, and the species has been distributed worldwide.

Potential Problems: There aren't any serious diseases or pests of dawn redwood, although canker diseases can occur.



Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Overview:

- Zones 3-7
- Evergreen conifer
- Tolerance of poor soil, tolerant of drought

Tree Details:

Shape: Pyramidal

Growth Speed: Medium in youth, slow with age

Mature Height: 30' – 50' *Mature Spread:* 30'

Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Best in well-drained soils of acidic pH, but is known for its tolerance of poor soils that may be sandy, rocky, or of heavy clay, and of acidic, neutral, or alkaline pH.

Highlights: Native to northern Europe and northern Asia, from Scotland to Siberia. It has been widely planted and naturalized throughout northeast and midwest North America for centuries. It is commonly found in Ohio, where it is grown in urban areas as an ornamental evergreen tree, in rural areas of poor soil as a tree for erosion control or for primary establishment, or on Christmas tree plantations.



Wildlife Value: Beneficial for a variety of wildlife from insects to birds to mammals. Large birds of prey may nest in level branches of tall, old trees.

History/Lore:

Potential Problems: Scotch Pine is less susceptible than Austrian Pine to Diplodia tip blight, but still contracts this disease with fatal results. In addition, it also is vulnerable to pine wilt fungus and the pests known as nematodes. However, this pine is very tough in its adaptation to environmental stresses, including heat, drought, severe cold, and sterile soils.



White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

Overview:

- Zones 3-8
- Transplants easily
- Works well for windbreaks
- Is widely used as a Christmas tree
- Features long, slender, blue-green needles, sometimes reaching 5" in length, grown in bundles of 5 that are soft and flexible
- Produces elongated brown cones that are 3-8" in length; each is curved slightly and has smooth scales
- Grows in an oval, pyramidal shape
- Is sensitive to air pollution, road salt and soil compaction



Tree Details:

Shape: pyramidal

Growth Speed: fast

Mature Height: 50' - 80'

Mature Spread: 20' - 40'

Sun Preference: Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade

Soil Preference: Sandy, Drought, Moist, Well Drained, Loamy

Highlights: The eastern white pine has played a very important role throughout the history of America. In colonial days, the best of the trees were set apart by the king for masts on British ships. As the nation grew, the lumber of white pines built our homes and businesses.

Today it is still a valuable commercial tree but also favored in parks and spacious yards — both for its beauty and its fast growth. It has also been named the state tree of both Maine and Michigan.

Wildlife Value: Eastern white pine seeds are favored by black bears, rabbits, red squirrels and many birds, especially red crossbills. While potentially damaging to the trees, the bark is eaten by mammals such as beavers, snowshoe hares, porcupines, rabbits and mice. White pines provide nesting sites as well for many birds including woodpeckers, common grackles, mourning doves, chickadees and nuthatches.

History/Lore: It was originally confined to Appalachia, New England and southern Canada at the time of European settlement and occurred primarily in northeastern Ohio.

Potential Problems: In spite of thriving in many natural settings, White Pine is very susceptible in urban settings to alkaline soil pH causing chlorosis, (resulting in yellowing of the needles and stunting of growth), winter salt spray, air pollution, compacted clay soils and poor water drainage.



Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*)

Overview:

- Zones 2-7
- Displays its unique silvery blue-green color year-round
- Withstands wind better than most spruces due to a wide-spreading and moderately deep root system
- Is a long-lived specimen
- Features needles that are stiff, prickly, and roughly 1-1½" in length
- Provides privacy and a windbreak when planted in a row
- Yields light brown, 3-4" cones which hang downward on the branches and are concentrated in the upper crown
- Grows in a columnar, pyramidal shape

Tree Details:

Shape: Columnar *Growth Speed:* Slow to medium

Mature Height: 50' - 75' *Mature Spread:* 10' - 20'

Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Drought, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Well Drained, Wet

Highlights: One of our most popular ornamental conifers, the Colorado blue spruce (or simply, blue spruce) is a truly magnificent sight. Perhaps Donald Culrose Peattie described it best in *A Natural History of Western Trees*. "This insistently pretty tree displays its charms of tier on tier of branches graduated in perfect symmetry from the longest boughs that sweep the ground to the slender but strong top."

Its silvery blue-green coloring and perfect Christmas tree shape make this tree a great landscaping focal point on commercial and residential properties. It is also widely used for privacy or a windbreak.

Wildlife Value: This spruce provides food and shelter for siskins, nuthatches and crossbills.

History/Lore: The Colorado blue spruce is such a delight that nature seems to have kept it a well-guarded secret for a very long time. It was not until 1862 that this spectacular species was discovered growing in enchanted meadows and stream sides high up in the Rocky Mountains. Once found, the fame of this blue spruce spread quickly, and today it is one of our most widely planted landscape trees as well as the state tree of Colorado. When writing *Handbook on Conifers* in 1969, Henry Tuescher, curator emeritus of the Montreal Botanical Garden, called the Colorado blue spruce one of the five finest conifers. Tuescher gave no reasons for this honor except for the tree's exceptional beauty.



Potential Problems: In recent years, several diseases of Colorado spruce and its cultivated varieties have had a serious impact on this tree where it has been planted in Ohio. Soil and climate conditions in Ohio are very different from the native range of Colorado spruce in western North America. The greater rainfall and humidity relative to its native range makes Colorado spruce very susceptible to fungal diseases like Rhizosphaera and Stigmina needle casts and Cytospora and Phomopsis canker, which lead to needle discoloration, progressive branch dieback from the lower branches upwards, and eventually tree death. For these reasons, planting of Colorado spruce is not recommended in Ohio, and trees better suited to growing in Ohio's environment should be considered instead.

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)

Overview:

- Zones 3-7
- Is the fastest growing of the spruces
- Is easy to transplant
- Can be planted on a wide variety of sites
- Works well for windbreaks
- Features dark green needles that are roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ –1" in length and feel square when rolled between your fingers
- Yields light brown, stiffly scaled, 4–6" cones that sit upright on the branch until fertilized; once fertilized, they gradually turn downward
- Grows in a pyramidal shape
- Can begin to look a little unkempt in its old age



Tree Details:

Shape: Pyramidal

Growth Speed: Fast

Mature Height: 40' - 60'

Mature Spread: 25' - 30'

Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Drought, Loamy, Moist, Sandy, Well Drained

Highlights: Norway spruce is a familiar sight in much of the United States, but it's really a tree of Europe. Throughout the globe, this tree has many uses including lumber, pulpwood, Christmas trees and landscape specimen trees. Its dense branching pattern and tolerance of soil variations has also made it a popular tree for windbreaks.

If you have enough space and want to add a sense of formal dignity to your landscape, the Norway spruce will suit you well.

Wildlife Value: Norway spruce trees support a wide variety of wildlife. They are important as winter cover for deer and small game including grouse, rabbits and woodcock. Songbirds and fur bearers also frequent these forest types. Norway spruce also makes a good roosting tree for hawks and owls.

History/Lore: The Norway spruce hails from Europe. And while this species does grow in Norway, the name is a bit of a misnomer. This tree grew in Eurasia, the Black Forest and other parts of the continent long before

making its way to Norway around 500 B.C. As people emigrated, they often brought trees with them from the Old Country to plant as ornamentals on new homesteads.

Potential Problems: Norway spruce is generally a very healthy tree, even under harsh conditions. Like most spruces, it may suffer needle damage due to feeding by the various spider mites and mysteriously shaped "cones" that are rarely seen are caused by the chewing of cooley spruce gall aphids on the new growth, resulting in their deformity.



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Overview:

- Zones 3-9
- Provides amazing fall color that is yellow to red
- Produces red (sometimes yellow) clusters of small flowers winter to spring
- Features simple, medium to dark green leaves 2-6" in length with 3 or 5 lobes and sinuses that are irregularly toothed
- Yields twin seeds bound at their tips to a long, drooping stems; the seeds ripen in late spring and have attached wings that are up to 1" in length
- Can grow in an oval, rounded, upright or erect shape
- Can be toxic to horses if dry, wilted leaves are consumed



Tree Details:

Shape: Oval

Growth Speed: Fast

Mature Height: 40' - 60'

Mature Spread: 30'-50'

Sun Preference: Full sun, Partial Sun/Shade

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Silty Loam, Well Drained, Wet

Highlights: Red maple is one of the best named of all trees, featuring something red in each of the seasons — buds in winter, flowers in spring, leafstalks in summer, and brilliant foliage in autumn. This pageant of color, along with the red maple's relatively fast growth and tolerance to a wide range of soils, makes it a widely planted favorite.



The natural range of the red maple begins roughly at the eastern edge of the Great Plains north to Lake Superior, extending eastward to the Atlantic. But homeowners and urban foresters are growing this tree all across the United States.

Wildlife Value: The fruits (samaras) provide food for squirrels and many other rodents. Rabbits and deer eat the tender shoots and leaves of red maples.

History/Lore: The Red Maple has many claims to fame, including the greatest north-south range of any tree species living entirely in the eastern forests (Newfoundland to southern Florida). It is also the state tree of Rhode Island. The nation's largest Red Maple lies far to the south of Rhode Island in Great Smokey Mountains National Park. This tree was declared champion in 1997 by American Forests and is listed in the National Register of Big Trees as being 141' tall and just over 7' in diameter at 4½' above ground.

Potential Problems: The number one problem associated with Red Maple is its being transplanted into clay soils of

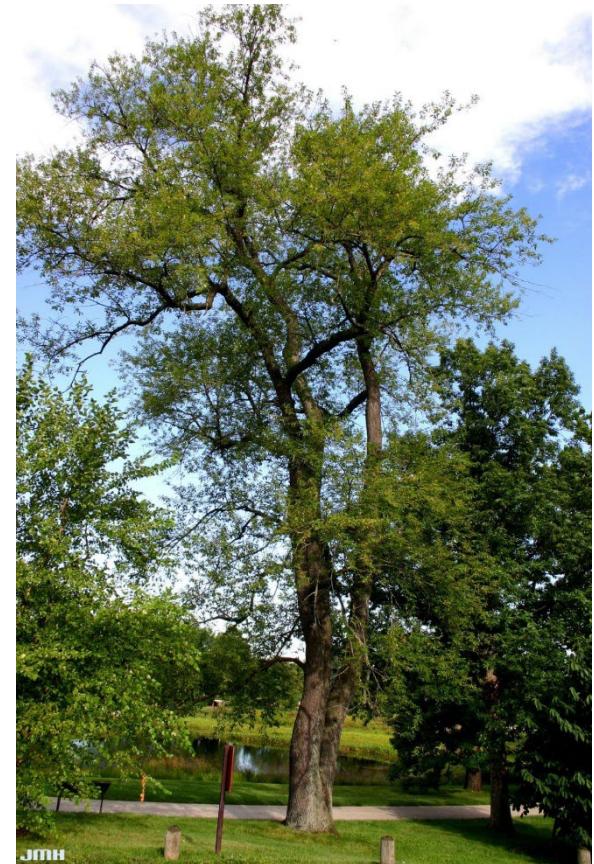
alkaline pH, where it often lives under constant stress and becomes stunted. Alkaline soils (also known as high pH soils) result in manganese deficiency, which results in poor iron uptake, which leads to poor nitrogen utilization, which is visualized as chlorotic (yellowing and scorched) leaves and overall stunted growth. Heavy clay soils induce an even greater degree of surface roots than is normal with Red Maple.

In addition, weakened trees are more subject to pest and pathogen attack, although Red Maple usually does not have serious problems with borers or *Verticillium* wilt, its most frequent problems in this area.

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Overview:

- Zones: 3-9
- Black cherry is known for the beauty and quality of its wood.
- The green leaves turn to yellow in the fall. It is easy to grow and will reward you with dangling, lace-like blossoms in the spring.
- Wildlife eat the fruits.
- This is a fast-growing, pioneer species.
- Black cherry is a large, native tree found in the Midwest and throughout the eastern United States.



Tree Details:

Shape: Pyramidal *Growth Speed:* Fast

Mature Height: 50-60' *Mature Spread:* 20-30'

Sun Preference: Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily), Partial sun / shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Soil Preference: Acid soil, Moist, well-drained soil

Highlights: Black cherry, the largest of the native cherries and the only one of commercial value, is found throughout the Eastern United States. It is also known as wild black cherry, rum cherry, and mountain black cherry. Large, high-quality trees suited for furniture wood or veneer are found in large numbers in a more restricted commercial range on the

Allegheny Plateau of Pennsylvania, New York, and West Virginia. Smaller quantities of high-quality trees grow in scattered locations along the southern Appalachian Mountains and the upland areas of the Gulf Coastal Plain. Elsewhere, black cherry is often a small, poorly formed tree of relatively low commercial value, but important to wildlife for its fruit.

Wildlife Value: Black cherry fruits are an important source of mast for many nongame birds, squirrel, deer, turkey, mice and moles, and other wildlife. The leaves, twigs, and bark of black cherry contain cyanide in bound form as the cyanogenic glycoside, prunasin. During foliage wilting, cyanide is released and domestic livestock that eat wilted foliage may get sick or die. Deer eat unwilted foliage without harm.

History/Lore: The bark has medicinal properties. In the southern Appalachians, bark is stripped from young black cherries for use in cough medicines, tonics, and sedatives. The fruit is used for making jelly and wine. Appalachian pioneers sometimes flavored their rum or brandy with the fruit to make a drink called cherry bounce. To this, the species owes one of its names-rum cherry.

Potential Problems: Eastern tent caterpillars prefer black cherries. The plant drops lots of twigs, leaves, and fruit, and in cultivation can be allelopathic to garden plants. Its aggressive seeding creates weedy thickets, and while deer-resistant, it can be toxic to livestock if foliage is eaten.



Common Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*)

Overview:

- Zones: 5-8
- The dark green leaves of Pawpaw have a tropical look, with their large, shiny blades that are distinctly obovate (widest just behind the leaf tip). They often hang down like "dog ears" from the twigs and may display a clear yellow or golden brown autumn color.
- While seldom noticed, the dark lavender to purple-red flowers of Pawpaw is attractive upon close inspection, hanging like little hats from the otherwise nearly-bare stems in mid-spring. While the flowers of a given tree are perfect and fertile, most or all of the trees in a given colony are root suckers from the same parent tree and a cross-pollinating tree from a genetically different colony is needed for floral fertilization and fruit set.
- The light green immature fruits are borne singly or in small clusters from the thin twigs and ripen to a yellow-brown tasty fruit in late summer, often quickly consumed by wild animals. Clustered fruits are fused at their bases because they arose from different portions of a single fertilized flower.
- The smooth, thin, gray bark of Pawpaw becomes more warty and rough with increasing trunk girth.



Tree Details:

Shape: dense pyramid

Growth Speed: Medium

Mature Height: 25'

Mature Spread: 15'

Sun Preference: full to part sun

Soil Preference: moist, well-drained, deep, rich

Highlights: It is a native understory or woodland edge tree, often found in moist places such as the bottoms of ravines, steep hillsides and creek banks. One tree often gives rise over the course of decades to a sprawling colony via its root system, which suckers several feet away from the parent tree.

This small tree is easily recognized by its large, tropical-looking foliage and prized for its delicious fruits that mature in late summer.

Wildlife Value: Pawpaw trees offer significant wildlife benefits by providing nutrient-rich fruit for mammals (raccoons, deer, bears, squirrels, opossums) and birds (turkeys, woodpeckers), acting as a crucial host plant for the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly and Pawpaw Sphinx moth, and even deterring deer with their leaves, making them a valuable native plant for supporting biodiversity and local ecosystems.

History/Lore: The pawpaw boasts a rich history, prized by Native Americans ([Shawnee](#), [Iroquois](#)) as food and for crafts, co-evolving with megafauna like [mastodons](#), and later becoming a beloved treat for early American figures like [George Washington](#), [Thomas Jefferson](#), [Daniel Boone](#), and [Lewis & Clark](#), even feeding enslaved people on the [Underground Railroad](#), featuring in folk songs, and serving as a vital host for the rare [Zebra Swallowtail butterfly](#), symbolizing a lost connection to native foods that's now seeing a modern renaissance.



Potential Problems: Pawpaw is essentially free from diseases and pests. Its main problems involve re-establishment following transplant shock due to its sparse root system (see notes above) and fruit set as related to self-infertility. Get one or more genetically different pollinator trees.

Cranberry, Highbush (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Overview:

- Zones: 2-7
- Highbush Cranberry blooms in spring with white clusters of tiny florets, surrounded by larger florets.
- Dark green leaves turn purplish-red in autumn, alongside drooping clusters of bright red berries.
- Can be used as a privacy screen
- The berries soften and sweeten over winter, and are eaten by Cedar Waxwing and other birds.
- The very-tart berries are excellent in jams and jellies.

Tree Details:

Shape: large shrub, round

Growth

Speed: moderate

Mature Height: 8-12' *Mature Spread:* 5-10"

Sun Preference: full sun, partial sun

Soil Preference: clay, loam, sand; medium, moist

Highlights: This large, hardy shrub has a moderate growth rate of 1–2 feet per year, reaching 8–12 feet high, and up to 10 feet wide. To keep it from getting larger than desired an annual pruning each year just after flowering can maintain the present size. The arching stems along with a dense rounded form make it a popular landscape choice as a screening hedge. For a solid screen, plants should be spaced about four feet apart. Viburnums flower profusely whether or not pollination occurs. However, poor fruiting will occur with only one Viburnum.



Wildlife Value: Keystone species in the Eastern temperate forest ecoregion, Native Viburnums provide excellent support for wildlife and pollinators, serving as host plants to numerous lepidoptera including the Green Marvel, and Pink Prominent moths.

History/Lore: *Viburnum trilobum*, the American Cranberrybush, holds rich history in Native American diets and traditional medicine (as "Cramp Bark"), prized for its edible, vitamin-C-rich berries used in preserves, and is a significant cultural symbol in Eastern European folklore, especially Ukrainian, representing love, beauty, and national identity as *Kalyna*,

depicted in art, songs, and embroidery, with its name linked to fiery passion and separation.

Potential Problems: American Cranberrybush is generally tough but can face issues like the destructive Viburnum Leaf Beetle, stem borers, fungal spots, and canker, often triggered by stress from poor planting (drainage, sun, water), extreme weather, or nutrient imbalance, leading to leaf damage, wilting, or dieback, requiring good care to stay healthy



Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

Overview:

- Zones: 2-7
- Mass in shrub borders.
- Effective as hedge, screen or for erosion control on banks.
- Native plant garden.
- Able to grow in harsh conditions.



Tree Details:

Shape: Arching, Mounded, Multi-stemmed, Round

Growth Speed: moderate

Mature Height: 10'

Mature Spread: 5-10'

Sun Preference: full sun, part sun

Soil Preference: Acid soil, Alkaline soil, Moist, well-drained soil

Highlights: Ninebark is a cold hardy, tough, native shrub for mixed borders. Pinkish-white flower clusters in late spring, persistent seed capsules and exfoliating bark adds to the seasonal interest. Foliage of cultivars varies in size and color from purple to lime green.

Wildlife Value: Ninebark offers significant wildlife value by supporting pollinators, birds, and beneficial insects through its flowers, dense cover, and seeds, while its unique peeling bark shelters overwintering bugs, making it a resilient, multi-functional native shrub for biodiversity in gardens and landscapes. It provides nectar for bees, butterflies, and flies, food (seeds/berries) for birds, and crucial nesting/shelter sites for various creatures, even serving as a host plant for moths.

History/Lore: Ninebark has rich history with Indigenous uses for medicine and crafting bows/needles, while its name comes from its unique, peeling bark layers, symbolizing beauty and resilience, now a popular ornamental for pollinators, winter interest, and erosion control, bridging traditional uses with modern landscaping.



Potential Problems: Ninebark problems include fungal issues like powdery mildew (white spots, especially in humidity) and leaf spot, plus pests like aphids and spider mites, leading to distorted leaves or sticky residue; fire blight, though less common, can also occur; and root rot from overwatering is a risk, though many varieties are quite hardy. Proper siting (sun, drainage) and good air circulation are key to preventing these issues, especially for older cultivars.



White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Overview:

- Zones: 3-7
- Features tiny, scale-like leaves that are packed closely together in overlapping rows on branchlets, displaying in a flattened, fan-like spray; the leaves change from bright green in the summer to a multitude of rich yellow-brown-green hues in the winter
- Adapts well to shearing and shaping
- Releases a pleasing aroma when leaves are squeezed
- Yields light brown or reddish-brown oblong cones that are $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and persist through winter; cone scales are blunt-tipped and separate from each other at the base
- Can be planted 3' apart for a low-maintenance hedge



Tree Details:

Shape: Pyramidal
medium

Growth Speed: slow to

Mature Height: 40' - 60'

Mature Spread: 10' - 15'

Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Silty Loam, Well Drained, Wet

Highlights: This native evergreen is a hard-working, versatile specimen. The narrow, pyramid shape makes it a natural choice for windbreaks. It requires almost no care when used as a hedge or screen. Pairs of these hardy trees make great accents for doors and garden gates. And single trees soften house corners.

Tall and elegant, the American arborvitae may be the right solution to your landscaping challenges.

Wildlife Value: Providing shelter in the winter and nesting sites for grackles, robins and house finches in the summer, this evergreen is also browsed by deer, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares and an occasional moose. The seeds are eaten by red squirrels and birds such as pine siskins.

History/Lore: The name arborvitae, is a Latin form of the French, "l'arbre de vie," which means, "tree of life." Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist who assigned the Latin name to this species, picked up on other traits. The genus name, *Thuja*, is from a Greek word for perfume. Squeezing the evergreen leaves releases an aroma that is nothing less than nature's perfume.

America arborvitae was useful in early canoes and medicines and became the first North American tree to be introduced to Europe. The specific name, *occidentalis*, means "west," the direction from Sweden where this tree was discovered.

Potential Problems: American Arborvitae often suffer from water stress (too wet/dry), pests like bagworms, spider mites, and scale, and winter damage (burn, snow/ice breakage). Improper planting, poor drainage, and inadequate nutrition are key factors, leading to browning, thinning, or death, with common issues being root rot from wet soil or crispy foliage from drought, and bagworms defoliating them.



Earliglow Strawberry

Zones: 4-8

Sun Preference: Full sun

Soil Preference: Ideal pH 6.5-6.8

Harvest: June, ready to harvest 1 year after planting

Highlights: A variety of strawberry that produces fruit that has a firm, glossy skin, firm flesh, and medium size. Its sweet flavor makes the variety excellent for fresh eating and freezing. Vigorous and runner well. Great for beginners!

