

# Tree Descriptions

## Small Trees & Shrubs

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**Arrowwood Viburnum** (*Viburnum dentatum*) – Dense shrub growing to 6-10 feet. Produces dark blue to black drupe clusters. Grows best in full to partial shade on well-drained moist soils with a low pH. Fruit is utilized by several bird species.

**American Mountain-Ash** (*Sorbus americana*) – Attractive small tree to 30 feet. Slow-growing; short-lived. Moderately shade-tolerant – it grows best in full sunlight. Tolerates highly acidic, purely organic soils. Characteristic of moist to wet areas. Showy floral display in late spring is followed by bright red berries in September to October. Berries are favored by grouse and songbirds and persist on the tree through winter.

**Nanking Cherry** (*Prunus tomentosa*) – Attains heights of 6-10 feet. Produces bright red edible fruit in July preceded by fragrant white flowers in May. Requires well-drained soil and full sun, but is fairly drought tolerant. Provides an excellent summer food source for wildlife. Is susceptible to rabbit grazing.

**Black Chokeberry** (*Aronia melanocarpa*) – Matures to a height of 4-8 feet at a moderate growth rate. Shade tolerant tree displays white flowers in spring followed by dark purple berries and red fall color. Drought tolerant tree preferring full to partial sun. Adapted to a variety of well-drained soils. Berries are utilized by birds, and shrub can be browsed on by deer and rabbits.

**Midwest Crabapple** (*Malus baccata* var. *mandshurica*) – Hardy tree growing to a height of 25 feet. Produces white flowers in spring and yellow to red pea-sized fruit. Grows best in full sun on heavy loams which are slightly acidic, but adapts well to a variety of soil conditions. Requires well-drained soils. Fruit provides an excellent food source for wildlife. Trees are susceptible to damage by rodents and rabbits girdling the base of the tree.

**Red Splendor Crabapple** (*Malus 'Red Splendor'*) – Moderately fast growing tree reaching heights of 20-30 feet. Produces showy pink floral displays in spring and small edible red fruit in fall. Grows well in a variety of soils but requires full sun and moist soils. Tree provides excellent food source for wildlife as tree holds fruit into winter.

**Highbush Cranberry** (*Viburnum trilobum*) – Attractive shrub growing to heights of 15 feet that will tolerate a high degree of shade once established. Tolerates a broad range of soil types, including wet clay sites. Prefers a moist site in the open or in partial shade. Produces handsome clusters of white flowers. The bright scarlet berries are winter food for ruffed grouse.

**Gray Dogwood** (*Cornus racemosa*) – Dense suckering shrub attaining heights of 6-10 feet. Produces clusters of creamy white flowers in late spring, mature fruit is white as well. Plant takes on deep maroon color in fall. Quite adaptable to all sunlight conditions and tolerant to wide range of moisture and fertility conditions.

**Red-osier Dogwood** (*Cornus sericea*) – Native red stemmed shrub attaining heights of 7-10 feet. Produces small white flower clusters in spring. Prefers moist soils and is shade tolerant but prefers full sun. Drought intolerant. Excellent food source for many wildlife species in the fall.

**American Elderberry** (*Sambucus canadensis*) – Fast-growing shrub to 12 feet. Will reproduce vegetatively and produce excellent nesting cover. Grows in full sun or partial shade. Best growth in well-drained soils but does tolerate saturated soils. Rarely found on dry upland sites. One of the best wildlife shrubs as at least 80 species of birds and mammals relish the fruit. Excellent background shrub since it often has an unkempt irregular crown. Fruits ripen from August to September and are used in pies, jams and wine.

**Downy Hawthorn** (*Crataegus mollis*) – Long-lived tree growing moderately fast to heights of 15-20 feet. Produces pink to lavender flowers in spring and an edible red berry. Tolerates a range of soil types including unproductive soils, but prefers well-drained soils with adequate sunlight. Berries are utilized by wildlife.

**Hazelnut** (*Corylus americana*) – Dense bushy shrub growing quickly to heights of 10-15 feet. Produces a smaller nut than its commercial counterpart the European Hazelnut, but is still a popular nut for consumption. Is found on well-drained sites in slightly basic soils. Tolerates incidents of fire well; quickly resprouting following fire.

**Common Lilac** (*Syringa vulgaris*) – Hardy suckering shrub growing to 8-12 feet. Produces showy fragrant white to purple flowers in spring. Adaptable to a wide range of soil types. Tolerates drought conditions well but does not withstand ponding conditions.

**Villosa Lilac** (*Syringa villosa*) – Ornamental shrub growing up to 10 feet. Produces pale pink flowers approximately two weeks later than the Common Lilac. Best growth occurs in full sun on well-drained soils but tolerates a variety of soil types except extremely sandy soils. Variety does not spread by suckering.

**Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*) – Attractive fast-growing tall shrub to 25 feet. Will sucker to form thickets and provide wildlife cover. Moderately shade-tolerant. Grows on a broad range of soil types. Produces creamy white flowers in showy clusters in May or June. Sweet edible fruit ripens in September and will persist into winter but is usually taken sooner by wildlife.

**Ninebark** (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) – Small much branched shrub to 10 feet. Shade-intolerant. Banks of streams, shores and in swamps and swales farther from borders of water. Showy flowers but because of coarse winter appearance usually used as borders and screens. Handsome when in flower. Fruit in August to September, persisting into winter.

**Pin Cherry** (*Prunus pensylvanica*) – Shade-intolerant small tree to 30 feet. Fast-growing; short-lived. Usually found in open disturbed uplands. White flowers in May or early June. Sour fruit widely utilized by game and other animals. Fruit makes good jellies. Grows on many upland soils including infertile sand. Will sprout from roots to form small clones.

**American Plum** (*Prunus americana*) – Tree growing to a height of 10-20 feet. Produces fragrant, showy flowers in early spring. Yields 1" red edible fruit in Aug-Sept. Suckers freely. Grows best in full sun on rich well-drained soils; will tolerate dry sandy soils. Is an excellent source of food during summer for wildlife.

**Shadblow Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier canadensis*) – Multistemmed shrub growing to heights up to 15-30 feet. Produces white to light pink flowers in early spring, followed by sweet, dark purple to black berries. Does best in full to partial sun on moist well-drained soils. Will tolerate dry soils and some shade. Fruit juicy and tasty and relished by grouse, songbirds, and small mammals.

## Tall Trees

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**Green Ash** (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) – Medium-sized tree to 60 feet. Shade-intolerant; fast-growing; moderately long-lived. Characteristic of sites that are poorly drained or flooded during the spring or that have periodically high water tables. Adapted to variety of soil conditions. More branchy than white ash and widely planted as shade, ornamental and shelterbelt tree.

**Basswood** (*Tilia americana*) – Moderately slow-growing large tree to 80 feet. Shade-tolerant but should be planted in full or partial sun. Adaptable to sites that vary from well-drained to somewhat poorly drained. Prefers moist nutrient-rich sand to loam soils. Blossoms are especially attractive to bees. Fruits mature in September or October and persist through winter providing food for grouse and squirrels. Plant 2 or more for pollination.

**Paper Birch** (*Betula papyrifera*) – Familiar and handsome shade and ornamental tree to 80 feet. Fast-growing and shade-intolerant. Found on a great variety of soils but prefers moist sandy loams in a pH range of 5.0 to 8.0. Well-drained to somewhat poorly drained soils. Grouse utilize buds.

**Yellow Birch** (*Betula alleghaniensis*) – Slow-growing, long-lived tree to heights of 75 feet or more. Best growth occurs on well-drained fertile loams and moderately well-drained sandy loam soils, but is adaptable to a wide range of soils in the presence of adequate sun and moisture.

**Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*) – Medium sized tree reaching 40-60 feet. Produces ¼ inch dark purple seeded fruit called drupes. Does well in a variety of soils but does best on moist well-drained soils in full to partial shade. Tolerates drought by dropping a portion of its leaves. Fruit is utilized by a variety of birds.

**Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*) – Fast-growing and moderately long-lived tree reaching heights of 70 feet. Shade-tolerant. Found in all sorts of woods, it prefers a wet to moist poorly drained sand or loam soil. This is a well named tree as the flowers, young fruit, and autumn foliage are a brilliant red. Often planted as a shade tree.

**Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*) – Fast growing tree, attaining heights up to 80 feet. Prefers well-drained soils but will tolerate moist soil conditions. Needs ample room for large crown and spreading roots. Tree is utilized by birds for nesting and cover.

**Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*) – Slow-growing, long-lived tree to 90 feet. Very shade-tolerant. Thrives on a diversity of soils but rarely in swamp habitats. Prefers a moist well-drained clay or loam, but will grow on sandy sites. The upland maple of the sugar bush, it is widely planted as an ornamental and shade tree.

**Bur Oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*) – Slow-growing, long-lived tree to 80 feet. Highly drought tolerant. It prefers full sun on a moist site but is moderately shade-tolerant and does grow on a broad range of soils. It

is found on wet clay soils and also those that are inundated in spring. Somewhat rough appearance makes it less desirable as an ornamental but the acorn is sweet and edible and is much prized by wildlife.

**Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) – Moderately fast-growing large tree that thrives on rich moist soils but also grows on sandy sites. Long-lived, it reaches heights of 70 feet and does best in full sun or light shade. Desirable street and lawn tree as it is tolerant of salt. Acorns taken by grouse, squirrels, deer and others.

**Siouxland Cottonwood** (*Populus deltoides* ‘Siouxland’) – Extremely fast growing tree to heights of 50 feet. Highly adaptable to various soils especially alkaline soils, but grows best with full to partial sun exposure. Growth up to 4-5 feet per year is common. Provides good shade and cover for wildlife.

**Hybrid Poplar** – Generally a fast growing hybrid of the Cottonwood reaching heights of 40 to 60 feet. Requires moist, well drained-soils with a moderate pH. Not tolerant of drought or ponding conditions. Often planted in windbreaks and in riparian plantings.

## Conifers

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**Black Spruce** (*Picea mariana*) – Moderately fast growing tree attaining heights of 30-70 feet. Long lived tree up to 250 years is quite shade tolerant. Does best in moist but well-drained organic soils such as peat, will also do well on upland soils. Provides good nesting sites for birds and cover for birds and small mammals.

**White Cedar** (*Thuja occidentalis*) – Slow growing tree attaining a height of 40-50 feet. Prefers well-drained soil but will tolerate wet soils. Provides an excellent year round cover source and some food value. Trees are highly susceptible to deer damage.

**Red Pine** (*Pinus resinosa*) – Moderately fast growing to 50-80+ feet. Grows best in well- drained soils and is tolerant of dry, acid, sandy soils. Provides excellent year-round cover for wildlife.

**White Pine** (*Pinus strobes*) – Rapidly growing tree to 80-100 feet. Does well in a variety of well-drained soils; will not tolerate wet soil conditions. Excellent year-round cover source for wildlife. Trees highly susceptible to deer damage.

**White Spruce** (*Picea glauca*) – Rapidly growing tree to 40-80 feet. Highly adaptable tree is shade tolerant and does well in a variety of soil and moisture conditions. Is an excellent year-round cover source.

**Tamarack** (*Larix laricina*) – Tree grows to a height of 50-75 feet. Produces a brilliant yellow color in fall. Will tolerate a wide range of soil moisture conditions; will not tolerate drought conditions. Is an excellent year-round cover source.