

## Trees & Shrubs Native to NE Illinois

**Oaks, *Quercus* sp. — Our most important native species.** Host trees for: imperial and polyphemus moths, red-spotted purple and several species of hairstreak butterflies.

Bur Oak, *Q. macrocarpa* 50-100' h and w. Full sun. Mesic.

White Oak, *Q. alba* - 50-80' h and w. Mildly shade tolerant. Mesic, but won't accept wet soil.

Swamp White Oak, *Q. bicolor* - 50-80' h and w. Full sun. Wet soil.

Red Oak, *Q. rubra* - 50-80' h, 40-80' w. Somewhat shade tolerant oak, accepts light shade. Dry-Mesic.

Pin Oak, *Q. palustris* - 60-70' h, 45' w. Sun to very partial shade. Must be wet.

**Hickories, *Carya* sp. — Important savanna species along with oak.** Host trees for: luna moth, several species of hairstreak and skipper butterflies.

Shagbark Hickory, *C. ovata* - 40-60' h and 25-35' w. Accepts some shade when young but full sun later. Mesic to dry soil.

Bitternut hickory, *C. cordiformis* - 40-60' h, 30-40' w. Shade tolerant when young; full sun when mature. Mesic to dry soil.

American Linden or Basswood, *Tilia americana* - 50-70' h and 40-50' w. Tolerates a little shade but best in full sun. Mesic soil. Host tree for: question mark, eastern tiger swallowtail, red-spotted purple, and mourning cloak butterflies

Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum* - 50-75' h and 35-55' w. Shade to partial shade. Mesic to dry-mesic soil.

Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis* - 50-60' h and 40-50' w. Full sun. Mesic to slightly wet. Host tree for: question mark, mourning cloak, American snout, hackberry emperor butterflies and io moth.

Ash, *Fraxinus* sp. A wonderful group of trees that we do not recommend because of emerald ash borer. Host tree for: American dagger and giant leopard moths and eastern tiger swallowtail, hickory horned devil, linden looper, and spiny oak butterflies.

**Birch, *Betula* sp. — Fast-growing trees often with beautiful bark.** Most need good moisture supply. Host trees for: imperial and luna moths, eastern tiger swallowtail, Compton tortoiseshell, mourning cloak, duskywing butterflies.

River birch, *B. nigra* - 30-40' h and 20-30' w. Full sun. Wet or wet-mesic soils.

Paper birch, *B. papyrifera* - 50-60' h and 30' w. Full to partial sun. Wet or wet-mesic soils.

**Evergreen trees — Great winter shelter for birds, some food value for wildlife.** Host trees for: imperial moth.

White pine, *Pinus strobus* - 50-70' h and 40-50' w. Tolerates light shade; prefers full sun. Mesic to dry.

White Cedar, Eastern arborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis* - 20-30' h and 10-15' w. Full sun. Moist, cool soil.

### Smaller trees

Serviceberry, *Amelanchier* sp. - 20-25' h and w, depending on species. Most tolerate light shade but prefer sun. Mesic to slightly damp. Host tree for: blindy sphinx moth and striped hairstreak butterfly.

Blue beech, *Carpinus caroliniana* - 15-20' h and 10-15' w. Tolerates light shade, prefers full sun. Mesic.

American Plum, *Prunus americana* - 15-20' h and 10-15' w. Full sun. Mesic to dryish soil.

Cherry species, *Prunus* sp. - size varies with species from 50' tree to 15' shrub. Full sun. Mesic to dry soil. Host for: eastern tiger swallowtail, coral hairstreak, spring azure, red-spotted purple, and viceroy butterflies.

Hawthorn species, *Crataegus sp.* - 15-30' h and 15-35' wide, depending on species. Full sun. Mesic. Host for: mourning cloak and striped hairstreak butterflies and interrupted dagger, small eyed sphinx, and smeared dagger moths.

Redbud, *Cercis canadensis* - 15' h and 10' w. Full sun to light shade. Mesic.

**Viburnums, *Viburnum sp.* — Among the most beautiful, healthy, and wildlife friendly of all native shrubs.** Host for hummingbird cloverwing butterfly.

Blackhaw viburnum, *V. prunifolium* - 15' h and 8-12' w. Full sun to partial shade. Mesic soil.

Nannyberry viburnum, *V. lentago* - 15' h and 8-12' w. Full to partial sun. Mesic soil.

Maple Leaf Viburnum, *V. acerifolium* - 4-6' h and w. Partial shade. Mesic soil.

American Cranberry, *V. trilobum* - 8-10' h and 6-8' w. Full sun to partial shade. Wet mesic to wet soils.

Arrow wood viburnum, *V. dentatum* - 8-10' h and 5-8' w. Full sun to partial shade. Mesic to dry mesic soil.

American hazelnut, *Corylus americana* - 8-10' h and w. Full sun to partial shade. Mesic. Host for: polyphemus moth and saddled prominent butterfly.

Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin* - 6-12' h and w. Sun and shade tolerant. Mesic or wet mesic. Host for: spicebush swallowtail butterfly and giant leopard and promethea moths.

Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius* - 8-10' h and w. Full sun to partial shade. Mesic to damp mesic.

**Dogwoods, *Cornus, sp.* — Provide good wildlife food and nice blossoms.** Host for: polyphemus moth and dogwood thyatid, spring/summer azure butterflies.

Pagoda dogwood, *C. alternifolia* - 15' h - 10-15' w. Shade. Mesic or moist mesic.

Red osier dogwood, *C. stolonifera* - 6-8' h and w. Full sun. Mesic to moist soil.

Gray dogwood, *C. racemosa* - 6-9' h - 3-6' w. Full sun to partial shade. Mesic to moist mesic.

Witch hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana* - 10-15' h and w. Full sun to partial shade. Mesic.

Elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis* - 8-10' h and 6-8' w. Full to half day sun. Mesic to damp soil.

Hydrangea, *Hydrangea argoescens* - 3-5' h and w. Shade. Moist soil.

Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata* - 8-12' h and w. Full sun. Moist to wet soil.

Black chokeberry, *Aronia melanocarpa* - 6' h - 4' w. Full sun to partial shade. Mesic to wet

Several species not detailed above are important as hosts for lepidoptera, including:

Cottonwood and other poplars - viceroy, eastern tiger swallowtail, red-spotted purple, and mourning cloak butterflies and twin spotted sphinx, satin and virgin moths.

Willows - viceroy, eastern tiger swallowtail, several hairstreak species, Compton tortoiseshell, northern finned prominent, and mourning cloak butterflies.

American elm - question mark, eastern comma, and mourning cloak butterflies

Black walnut - luna moth

Sumac - luna moth and spring/summer azure butterflies