

Black Maple

Acer nigrum



Mature Height: 60-110'

Mature Width: 40-50'

Wildlife Benefits: Maples are commonly browsed by white-tailed deer. Squirrels and small mammals feed on the seeds, buds, twigs and leaves.

Notes: Excellent shade tree. Sometimes considered a subspecies of Sugar Maple, the Black Maple has a slow to medium rate, with height increases of anywhere from less than 12" to 24" per year. It grows best in deep, well-drained, acidic to slightly alkaline soil. It prefers moist soil conditions but has moderate drought tolerance. Should not be planted where salt is a problem.

Bur Oak (AKA Mossycup Oak)

Quercus macrocarpa



Mature Height: 60-100'

Mature Width: 60-120' (often wider than they are tall!)

Wildlife Benefits: Acorns are an important source of food for wildlife, however it may take up to 35 years for this tree to bear a first crop of acorns. Other wildlife, such as deer and porcupine, eat the leaves, twigs and bark.

Notes: Excellent shade tree. Generally considered to be a low-maintenance, long-lived tree. Grows relatively rapidly, compared to other native oak species. Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Prefers moist well-drained loams, but adapts to a wide range of soil conditions. Good drought tolerance. A good urban tree since it is resistant to air pollution and car exhaust. The acorns of this species, distinguished by very deep fringed cups, are the largest of all native oaks.

Red Oak

Quercus rubra



Mature Height: 50-80'

Mature Width: 60-75'

Wildlife Benefits: Acorns from this tree are at the top of the food preference list for blue jays, wild turkeys, squirrels, small rodents, whitetail deer, and raccoons. It may take up to 40 years for this tree to produce a large acorn crop. Deer also browse the buds and twigs in wintertime.

Notes: Generally a durable and long-lived tree. Considered a good urban tree, it tolerates pollution and compacted soil. Easily grown in average, dry to medium moisture, acidic soil in full sun. Prefers fertile, sandy, finely-textured soils with good drainage. Grows as much as two feet a year for 10 years.

American (Common) Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana



Mature Height: 35-60'

Mature Width: 25-35'

Wildlife Benefits: Opossums, raccoons, skunks, deer, and birds feed upon the fruit. Fruiting typically begins when the tree is about 6 years old.

Notes: Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Somewhat wide range of soil tolerance, but prefers moist, sandy soils. Drought tolerant. Promptly remove root suckers unless naturalized effect is desired. Plants are usually dioecious (separate male and female trees), but some trees have “perfect” flowers. Female trees need a male pollinator in order to set fruit. Edible persimmon fruits (1-2” in diameter) mature in fall to an orange to reddish-purple color, and may persist on the tree into winter.

Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis



Mature Height: 15-30'

Mature Width: 25-35'

Wildlife Benefits: The early blossoms draw in nectar-seeking insects, including several species of early-season butterflies and long-tongued bees such as blueberry bees and carpenter bees. Northern bobwhite and a few songbirds, such as chickadees, eat the seeds.

Notes: Redbuds are known for their early spring show of pinkish-purple flowers, but they also provide a pop of bright yellow in the fall. The tree is pH adaptable and can tolerate full sun or part shade and clay or sandy soil. It should be kept well-watered until established. This tree is very sensitive to herbicides and chemicals sprayed on lawns. Keep the tree vigorous by pruning out dead branches as needed.

American Hazelnut (AKA American Filbert)

Corylus americana



Mature Height: 6-15'

Mature Width: 6-8'

Wildlife Benefits: The nuts are eaten by squirrels, deer, turkey, woodpeckers, pheasants, grouse, quail and jays. The male catkins are a food staple of turkeys throughout the winter. The dense, low growth habit provides cover and nesting sites for birds and other wildlife. It hosts numerous butterflies, including Polyphemus and Io moths.

Notes: An easy-to-grow native shrub that produces edible nuts in late summer approximately 2-3 years after planting. Able to thrive in a wide range of conditions, this native shrub tends to sucker from the roots and is a good choice for hedgerow or windbreaks. It can be pruned at any time of year and its deep green leaves turn copper and yellow in autumn. Tolerates virtually any soil type and is drought-tolerant once established. A single shrub will produce some nuts, but as a wind-pollinated species 3-5 shrubs are recommended for optimal nut production.

American (Black) Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis/ Sambucus nigra var. canadensis



Mature Height: 5-12'

Mature Width: 5-12'

Wildlife Benefits: The edible berries provide food for dozens of bird species and other wildlife. Deer eat twigs and leaves (since shrub is fast growing, they don't usually do any permanent damage).

Notes: Grow in medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Spreads by root suckers to form colonies. Prune suckers as they appear unless naturalizing. A large number of late winter pruning options include (a) pruning out dead or weakened stems, (b) shortening one year stems or (c) cutting back to the ground to rejuvenate. Some horticulturists recommend a hard spring pruning for maintaining best foliage and habit. Provides effective erosion control on moist sites.