

**RECOMMENDED DECIDUOUS TREES FOR THE TWIN CITIES AREA**

Tree Name	Mature Height	Native or Introduced	Soil Type	Fall Color	Flowers and Fruit	Remarks
Quaking Aspen	35-50	N	Will tolerate a wide range of soils.	Golden Yellow		Short-lived. Will spread by root suckering.
Bigtooth Aspen	35-50	N	Prefers finer textured soils.	Yellow		Less susceptible to hypoxylon canker than Quaking Aspen.
Balsam Poplar	60-80	N	Prefers moist alluvial soils, rarely found on dry sites.	Golden yellow		Tree is rarely infected by hypoxylon canker. Fragrant, aromatic odor.
American Basswood	70-100+	N	Moist, deep loamy soils, an excellent soil builder.	Yellow	Cream colored flower clusters in late June, makes excellent honey.	Prolific stump sprouter. Moderate to rapid growth & very shade tolerant.
Paper Birch	50-70	N	Sandy loams, tolerates a variety of soils. Prefers cool, moist sites.	Yellow		Rule-of-thumb: tree needs a sunny head and shady feet. Attractive tree but will require care to survive on lawns.
River Birch	30-40	N	Prefers rich loams & clays, tolerates slightly drier soils than paper birch.	Yellow		Reddish-brown to salmon colored bark. Resistant to bronze birch borer.
Yellow Birch	50-70	N	Rich, moist, loamy soils.	Yellow		Moderately shade tolerant (most tolerant birch.) Twigs have a winter-green flavor.
Ohio Buckeye	30-50+	I	Moist, loamy soils, does poorly on clays.	Yellow-Orange	Beautiful, showy, upright flower clusters in June.	Attractive tree with a broad, rounded crown. Squirrels will usually take care of the nuts.
Catalpa	50-80	I	Best form on rich soils.		Beautiful flower clusters in May and June. Distinct "vanilla bean" seedpod.	Fast growing, tall, narrow branching habit. Large, bright light-green leaves.
Cottonwood	80-100+	N	Prefers moister, bottomland soils.	Yellow	Produces large quantities of silky-haired seeds from female trees.	Rapid growing, large tree. Not found naturally on dry soils but is relatively drought resistant. Male trees available from nurseries.

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Ginkgo	50-100+	I	Prefers sandy, deep, moist soils. Will grow in most soils.	Brilliant yellow	Seed pit is edible, but the fleshy covering gives off a very rancid odor.	Tree is very salt and pollution tolerant. Male trees are preferred due to problem with female seed odor.
Hackberry	30-100+	N	Grows on a wide variety of soils.	Yellow	Edible berry-like fruit in fall.	Distinct corky bark. Shade tolerant. Has some insect problems that are unsightly but rarely harmful to tree. Insects can be annoying to people.
Bitternut Hickory	70-90	N	Prefers rich loamy bottomland soils, tolerates drier upland soils.	Yellow to brown		Must be young to transplant.
Shagbark Hickory	70-80	N	Prefers deep, rich moist alluvial soils, tolerates drier upland soils.	Yellow	Sweet, edible nuts.	Native to SE Minn., in Metro area should be planted on protected sites. Attractive shaggy bark.
Kentucky Coffeetree	50-80	N	Prefers deep, rich soils.		Large thick seedpod, seeds resemble coffee beans.	Fast growing with an open crown when young, dense crown on mature trees.
Honeylocust	50-75	N	Tolerant of dry soils, does well on alkaline, limestone soils.	Yellow	Flowers look like pea flowers. May be a litter problem with the seedpods.	Use of the native species is recommended as some of the varieties are more susceptible to Nectria cankers and may not be entirely winter hardy in the metro area.
Black Locust	30-60	I	Tolerant of a wide range of soils, does well on alkaline, limestone soils		Beautiful bloom of pea-like flowers in June.	Rapid growth and shallow roots make tree useful for erosion control. Prolific root suckering can cause problems in yards.
Black Maple	60-80	N	Loams and clay loams, will grow on moister soils than Sugar Maple can.	Yellow to orange or scarlet.	Bright yellow flowers appearing with leaves, seed ripens in fall.	Tree is very similar to Sugar Maple. So far not cultivated in many nurseries, but could be more promising as an urban tree than Sugar Maple.
Mountain Maple	15-35	N	Usually found on better soils, tolerates wet soils.		Flowers in May & June. Seed ripe in Aug. & Sept.	Shrub, rarely a small tree. Shade tolerant.

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Red Maple	50	N	Sandy loams to silty clays.	Usually red, can be yellow or orange.	Yellow or bright red flowers in spring before leaf out. Seed ripen April to June.	Rapid growth, maturity reached in 70-80 years.
Silver Maple	60-80	N	Sandy loams - silty clays, tolerates wet soils.	Yellow	Flowers appear before leaves. Seed ripens in late spring	Rapid growth, maturity reached in 50-100+ years, surface roots can be a problem. Use with caution around structures, wood is brittle and limbs on larger trees frequently break off.
Sugar Maple	60-80	N	Loams & clay loams, short lived on sandy soils. Will not tolerate poor drainage.	Yellow to orange or scarlet.	Bright yellow flowers appearing with the leaves. Seed ripens in fall	Very shade tolerant. May attain an age of 300-400 years on better sites.
Bicolor Oak	50-70	N	Commonly on rich moist soils, does well on upland soils.	Browns to reds.	Acorns of this and other White oaks are edible.	Summer leaves are greenish above and whitish below, hence bicolor. Curly, scaly bark on young trees, becoming deeply furrowed on older trees.
Bur Oak	70-80+	N	Loamy soils, tolerates dry sandy soils.	Yellows, browns and reds.	Sweet, edible acorn.	Distinctive, attractive rounded crown. Close to white oak in its resistance to oak wilt. The deep taproot makes it very drought resistant but difficult to transplant.
White Oak	80-100	N	Prefers deep loamy soils, will grow on clays to sandy loams.	Attractive reds, browns and purples.	Sweet, edible acorn.	Intermediate shade tolerance. Quite resistant to oak wilt.
Northern Pin Oak	50-75	N	Found on soils ranging from clays to sands.	Scarlet, yellow, brown and purple.		Shade Intolerant. Very susceptible to oak wilt. Similar in appearance to Northern Red oak.

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Northern Red Oak	60-80+	N	Deep, rich fine to medium textured soils.	Brown to dark red.		Intermediate shade tolerance. Very susceptible to oak wilt. Relatively easy to transplant.
Butternut	40-60	N	Moist, rich loams of ravines and coves, but grows well on dry, rocky soils, especially of limestone origin.	Yellow	Nut is sweeter than the walnut. Husk produces an orange or yellow cloth dye.	Shade intolerant. Deep taproot makes transplanting difficult. A sweet syrup can be obtained from sap. Susceptible to Butternut canker.
Black Walnut	70-100+	N	Deep, rich moist alluvial soils (good agricultural soils) slow growth on poorer soils.	Yellow	Edible nut. Husk produces a permanent brown dye.	Shade intolerant. Deep taproot makes transplanting difficult. Roots produce juglone, which is toxic to some plants, tree is incompatible with gardens.
Willow	30-80	N	Usually found on wet sites along waterways.	Yellow		Many varieties of both native and introduced species. Most well-known is the weeping willow of eastern Asia.

**RECOMMENDED CONIFERS FOR THE TWIN CITIES AREA**

Tree Name	Mature Height	Native or Introduced	Soil Type	Crown Form and Foliage	Remarks
Eastern Redcedar	40-50	N	Will grow in a wide range of sites. Often the only tree that will grow on exposed sites (i.e. southwest slopes.)	Dense columnar to pyramidal crown. Two types of needles, scale-like and sharp prickly.	Should not be planted in areas with apple trees as it is the alternate host to cedar-apple rust, a serious disease to apples.
Northern White Cedar	40-50	N	Prefers fine clay to sandy loam soils, common on limestone (alkaline) soils.	Narrow columnar to oblong pyramidal crowns depending on variety. Soft yellow-green to light green scale-like needles on flat fan-like twigs.	Many varieties available for landscaping. Tree is moderately shade tolerant. Favorite browse for deer.
Balsam Fir	40-60	N	Prefers moist loams to clay loams. Will tolerate poorly drained soils.	Narrow, pyramidal crown with a stiff spire-like tip. Shiny, flat needles linear along twig.	One of the most shade tolerant conifer. This is a cold-climate tree, avoid planting on open sites and southern exposures in the metro area.
Concolor Fir	40-80	I	Prefers gravelly and sandy loams, does poorly on clays.	Rounded to pyramidal crown. Attractive silvery-blue to silvery green needles.	Similar to Balsam Fir in its shade tolerance and planting needs. Native to western US but planted in the east due to its beauty.
Douglas-Fir	40-100+	I	Prefers loams and sandy loams, does poorly on clays.	Dense, pyramidal crown with lower branches persisting with ample light. Bluish-green needles.	The Rocky Mountain variety of the tree is commonly planted as an ornamental in the East. The tree is frost-resistant and hardy but should not be planted on exposed sites.
Eastern Hemlock	20-30	N	Is not particular about soil type, but requires moist soils in cool locations, usually north slopes.	Pyramidal crown with lower branches persisting, unique drooping terminal leader. Short, flat green needles.	This is a very attractive tree but has limited use due to its requirement of cool, moist, shady sites. Very shade tolerant.
European Larch	50-100+	I	Prefers loam to fine sandy loam soils.	Rounded crown with wide spreading branches. Soft, pale-green needles shed in the fall.	Needles turn a beautiful yellow to golden-yellow before being shed in the fall. Tree is shade intolerant and needs to be planted in the open.
Tamarack (Eastern Larch)	50-75	N	Often found on wetlands but does well on upland sites under a variety of moisture conditions.	Open, pyramidal crown. Soft, pale green needles shed in the fall.	Similar in characteristics to the European Larch, though generally not as large. This tree is native to Minnesota.

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Tree Name	Mature Height	Native or Introduced	Soil Type	Crown Form and Foliage	Remarks
Austrian Pine	30-70	I	Prefers moist, acid soils but will tolerate dry or slightly alkaline soils.	Rounded crown with right angle branching. 3" to 6" long needles in groups of two; dull, deep green color.	Slower growing than other pines. More salt tolerant than the native pines.
Jack Pine	30-80	N	Prefers loamy sands but will grow on coarse sands and gravels (poor sites.)	Irregular crown with upright branching. Poor natural pruning of dead lower branches. 1" to 2" long needles in groups of two.	Not as attractive as other pines and seldom used in landscaping. Valuable because it will grow on poor sites.
Ponderosa Pine	60-100+	I	Tolerates a wide variety of soils, only pine that will grow in high alkaline soils.	Rounded crown. 5" to 11" needles in groups of two's or three's.	Varieties native to South Dakota may be the best suited for Minnesota, particularly the southwestern part of the state.
Red Pine	50-80+	N	Prefers light acid sandy to sandy loam soils, can tolerate poorer soils.	Distinct symmetrically oval crown. 4" to 6" needles in groups of two.	Minnesota's state tree. Tree is shade intolerant and requires an open site. Effective natural pruning produces a clear straight stem.
Scots Pine	30-60+	I	Prefers fine sands and sandy loams, will grow on a wider variety of soils than other pines.	Very wide crown. 1" to 3" long bluish-green needles in groups of two.	Distinct orangish bark. Poor seed sources resulted in trees with poor form, better sources result in good looking, straight stemmed trees.
White Pine	80-100	N	Prefers moist sandy loams, is found growing over a wide range of soils.	Graceful, plume-like crown, easily recognized from a distance. 3" to 5" soft needles in groups of 5.	An attractive, fast growing tree. It is intermediate in shade tolerance and could be under planted in some situations. Susceptible to white pine blister rust, but controllable.
Black Spruce	30-70	N	Usually found on peat lands, will grow well on most upland soils.	Narrow spire-like crown, the narrowest of the spruces. 1/4" to 1/2" soft bluish green needles.	Though not normally planted as an ornamental, it's narrow crown, shade tolerance and tolerance of wet soils makes it a good choice for some areas.
Norway Spruce	80-100+	I	Prefers medium to fine textured soils (loams and clays.)	Attractive drooping branchlets. 1/2" to 1" shiny green needles.	Fastest growing, longest lived spruce. It's size may make it too large for some areas.
White Spruce	40-80	N	Prefers medium to fine textured soils (loams and clays.) Will grow on a variety of soils.	Attractive conical crown. 1/3" to 3/4" soft green or blue-green needles.	Tree is well adapted to Minnesota. The Black Hills variety is often used as an ornamental.