

Street Trees for Nebraska

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

E indicates plants suitable primarily to Eastern Nebraska.

☼ Indicates plants with the best drought tolerance.

Large & Medium Deciduous Trees (typically over 30 feet tall at maturity)

Note on Ash Trees: At the present time, native ash trees including green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*) and white ash (*F. americana*) are being decimated by the emerald ash borer in the eastern U.S. and the insect is spreading toward Nebraska. Until the full extent of the problem is understood, native ash species should be avoided.

1. Ash, Manchurian - *Fraxinus mandshurica* (☼; unique upright growth; black buds; needs to be planted more)
 2. Buckeye, Ohio - *Aesculus glabra* (☼; very tough native tree; rounded form; attractive spring flowers)
 3. Catalpa, Northern - *Catalpa speciosa* (☼; tough tree with large, heart-shaped leaves, beautiful flowers and long seed pods)
 4. Coffeetree, Kentucky - *Gymnocladus dioica* (☼; amazingly adaptable native legume; beautiful winter outline)
 5. Cottonwood, Eastern - *Populus deltoides* (majestic, native tree; can grow to 90' tall; not for extremely dry sites or tight spaces)
 6. Elm, American - *Ulmus americana* (☼; new disease resistant cultivars include 'Valley Forge' & 'New Harmony'; 60'x50')
 7. Elm, Japanese - *Ulmus davidiana* var *japonica* (☼; nice rounded habit; doing well in Dakotas; 30-40'x30-40')
 8. Elm, Lacebark - *Ulmus parvifolia* (**E**, ☼; distinctive mottled bark; nice shape; southeast Nebraska only)
 9. Elm, misc. hybrids - *Ulmus spp.* -- ☼; Promising new hybrid elms include:
 - 'Accolade' – looks like American elm; Morton hybrid of *U. japonica* and *U. wilsoniana*; 50' x 40'.
 - 'Discovery' – excellent form and cold hardiness; Manitoba hybrid *U. davidiana* and *U. japonica*; 45' x 45'.
 - 'Frontier' – lacebark elm hybrid with *U. carpinifolia*; good fall color; 40' x 30'.
 - 'New Horizon' - cross between *U. japonica* and *U. pumila*; upright habit; strong branch structure; 50'x30'
 - 'Pioneer' – cross between *U. glabra* and *U. carpinifolia*; fast growing; dense, rounded shade; 50' x 50'.
 - 'Triumph' – cross between 'Vanguard' and 'Accolade'; vigorous upright growth habit; 60' x 40'.
 10. Filbert, Turkish - *Corylus colurna* (**E**; also called tree hazel; pyramidal shape like linden; scaly bark; 35' x 25')
 11. Ginkgo - *Ginkgo biloba* (**E**; very interesting leaf; good yellow fall color; tolerant of poor soils; grows to 60'tall)
 12. Goldenrain Tree - *Koelreuteria paniculata* (**E**; interesting yellow flower panicles followed by papery fruit capsules; 35' x 25')
 13. Hackberry - *Celtis occidentalis* (☼; native; very tough; interesting stucco-warty bark; nice rounded/arching habit; good street tree)
 14. Honeylocust - *Gleditsia triacanthos* (☼; very tough and reliable; provides dappled shade; many seedless/thornless forms available)
 - 'Northern Acclaim' – selected from N. Dakota; proven hardiness and drought tolerance; 45' x 35'.
 - 'Moraine' – an older selection that is still one of the best; rounded habit; dark green; 45' x 40'.
 - 'Shademaster' – a rapid grower with ascending branches; darker foliage; 50' x 35'.
 - 'Skyline' – common selection; distinctively upright pyramidal form; very cold hardy; 50' x 35'.
 15. Horsechestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum* (**E**; similar to Ohio Buckeye; beautiful creamy flowers; prone to leaf diseases; 35' x 30')
 16. Linden, American - *Tilia americana* (☼; good native tree with large leaves; tough/reliable; fragrant flowers; 60' x 40')
 17. Linden, Littleleaf - *Tilia cordata* (very tight, pyramidal form; dense shade; not as reliable as *T. americana*; 45' x 30')
 18. Linden, Silver - *Tilia tomentosa* (**E**; similar to *T. americana*; attractive leaves have silvery underside; 50' x 40')
- Note:** Because of their pendulous branching, lindens can be difficult to use along streets. Avoid very tight spots.
19. Locust, Black - *Robinia pseudoacacia* (☼; native; has short thorns; fragrant flowers; good on poor, dry soils; grows to 50' tall)
 20. Maple, Black - *Acer nigrum* (**E**; similar to sugar maple but more upright and with large, droopy leaves; native in Iowa)
 21. Maple, Freeman - *Acer* × *freemanii* (hybrid between red and silver maples; tolerates wet or dry soils; good fall color)
 - 'Autumn Blaze' – very popular choice; rapid grower; good fall color; own root; 50' x 40'.
 - 'Celebration' – similar to Autumn Blaze but more upright; good fall color; own root; 45' x 25'.
 - 'Marmo' – selected for its attractive mottled red-green fall color; 50' x 35'.
 - 'Sienna Glen' – a newer selection from Minnesota with good cold hardiness; own root; 45' x 35'.
 - 'Scarlet Sentinel' – vigorous upright growth habit; reliable fall color; 40' x 25'.
 22. Maple, Miyabe - *Acer miyabei* (☼; similar to hedge maple; thick, glossy leaves; doing well in Colorado; needs to be planted more)
 23. Maple, Norway - *Acer platanoides* (**E**; dark green leaves; dense shade; try to use seed grown types)
 - 'Crimson King' – a common purple-leaf form; needs protection in Nebraska; 35' x 35'.
 - 'Deborah' – dark bronze-green foliage in summer; good cold hardiness; 40' x 40'.
 - 'Emerald Lustre' – vigorous grower; good branching habit, dark green foliage; 45' x 45'.
 - 'Emerald Queen' – popular choice; upright habit; cold hardy; prone to some frost cracking; 45' x 35'.
 - 'Superform' – rapid grower with straight trunk; good cold hardiness; heavy shade; 45' x 40'.
 24. Maple, Red - *Acer rubrum* (**E**; very popular in E Nebraska; good fall color; good for wet sites; graft problems common)
 - 'Autumn Spire' – upright form from Minnesota; good cold hardiness; 45' x 25'.
 - 'Burgundy Belle' – a heat and drought tolerant selection from Kansas; excellent fall color; 40' x 35'.
 - 'Northfire' – a newer selection from Minnesota; brilliant early fall color; own root; 45' x 40'.
 - 'Red Sunset' – very common selection with good fall color; upright habit; own root; 45' x 30'.
 - 'Rubyfrost' – a newer selection from Wisconsin; good drought tolerance and cold hardiness; 40' x 35'.

25. Maple, Sugar - *Acer saccharum* (E; beautiful tree that should be planted more; nice fall color and attractive chalky bark)
 - 'Fall Fiesta' – thick, leathery leaves resist wind tatter; good yellow to red fall color; 50' x 40'.
 - 'Green Mountain' – dark green, leathery, scorch resistant foliage; yellow-orange fall color; 50' x 35'.
 - 'Legacy' – dense habit; very thick, glossy leaves; reliable fall color in southeast Nebraska; 50' x 35'.
26. Oak, Bur - *Quercus macrocarpa* (☼); outstanding tree; big and majestic - up to 70' tall and wide; very tough and reliable)
27. Oak, Black - *Quercus velutina* (E; native; glossy, dark-green leaf; great spring and fall color; needs to be used more)
28. Oak, Chestnut - *Quercus montana* (E; interesting wavy leaf; prefers moist, fertile soils; good for wet sites; avoid high pH)
29. Oak, Chinkapin - *Quercus muehlenbergii* (☼); great native tree; tolerates high pH soils; narrow, chestnut-like leaves)
30. Oak, English - *Quercus robur* (☼); good across much of Nebraska; looks somewhat like white oak; narrow types available)
31. Oak, Northern Pin - *Quercus ellipsoidalis* (E; similar to the common pin oak but more tolerant of high pH soils)
32. Oak, Red - *Quercus rubra* (☼); native; one of the most commonly planted oaks in Nebraska; tough and adaptable; nice fall color)
33. Oak, Sawtooth - *Quercus acutissima* (E; fast growing oak from Asia; unique, sawtooth-edged leaves; upright growth)
34. Oak, Shumard - *Quercus shumardii* (E; ☼; rarely planted; drought tolerant; very similar to red oak)
35. Oak, Swamp White - *Quercus bicolor* (becoming very popular; glossy leaves and flaky bark; good for wet or dry soils)
36. Oak, White - *Quercus alba* (E; ☼; native to region; similar to bur oak in growth; good fall color; rarely produces acorns in Nebraska)
37. Pagodatree, Japanese - *Sophora japonica* (tough; late summer flowers add extra beauty to this formal, mid-size tree)
38. Pecan - *Carya illinoensis* (E; makes a nice yard tree; underutilized; seek northern seed sources; transplant when small)
39. Planetree, London - *Platanus × acerifolia* (E; similar to sycamore with very attractive smooth, creamy bark; 70' x 50')
40. Sycamore - *Platanus occidentalis* (tough native; beautiful mottled and creamy/white bark; good on wet sites; up to 80' x 50')
41. Zelkova - *Zelkova serrata* (E; related to elm; attractive smooth bark; upright habit when young; southeast Neb. only)

Small Deciduous Trees (typically 15 to 30 feet tall at maturity)

42. Chokecherry (tree form) - *Prunus virginiana* (☼); tough native 20' tall; 'Canada Red' Cherry and 'Shubert' Cherry are cultivars)
43. Corktree, Amur - *Phellodendron amurense* (☼); source of cork in Asia; drought tolerant; low branching and wide spreading)
44. Crabapple - *Malus* spp. (☼); many reliable cultivars available; wide variety of flower/fruit colors; choose plants in late summer)
 - 'Adams' – pink flower; disease resistant; orange-red fall color; persistent fruit; 25' x 20'.
 - 'David' – white flower; disease resistant; rounded habit to 15' x 15'.
 - 'Donald Wyman' – white flower; dark green summer foliage; showy, persistent fruit; 20' x 25'.
 - 'Indian Summer' – rose red flower; attractive bright red fruit; rounded; 15' x 15'.
 - 'Prairifire' – red flowers bloom later than most; nice summer foliage; 15' x 15'.
 - 'Spring Snow' – completely covered with fragrant white flowers in spring; 25' x 15'.
 - 'Sugar Tyme' – snowy white flowers; crisp green foliage; persistent fruit; 18' x 15'.
 - 'Zumi Calocarpa' – deep red buds open to white flowers; very showy; 20' x 20'.
45. Hawthorn, Cockspur - *Crataegus crusgalli* (☼); nice white flowers; glossy green leaves; abundant red fruit; disease resistant; 15' x 15'; variety *inermis* is a nice thornless form; Lavalley Hawthorn (*Crataegus × lavalleyi*) is a striking hybrid that grows 15' x 10')
46. Hawthorn, Downy - *Crataegus mollis* (an interesting native with downy leaves in spring; low, spreading habit; 15' x 15')
47. Hawthorn, Washington - *Crataegus phaenopyrum* (E; attractive foliage, flower and fruit; tough; relatively disease free; 20' x 20')
48. Hawthorn, misc. - *Crataegus* spp (E; ☼; most hawthorns are thorny and prone to leaf-spot diseases; miscellaneous types worth trying include: 'Crimson Cloud' (*C. laevigata*) with red flowers; 'Snowbird' and 'Toba' are double flower selections from Canada; and Russian Hawthorn (*C. ambigua*) very thorny and tough; from 15-20' x 15')
49. Hophornbeam (Ironwood) - *Ostrya virginiana* (☼); native understory tree; shaggy bark; yellow fall color; hop like fruit; 20' x 15')
50. Lilac, Japanese Tree - *Syringa reticulata* (tough; fluffy white flowers in May; attractive bark; can grow to 40' tall)
51. Lilac, Pekin - *Syringa pekinensis* (distinctive creamy white flowers; very similar to Jap. tree lilac but not as large; 20' x 15')
52. Maple, Hedge - *Acer campestre* (pumpkin yellow fall color; drought tolerant; should be planted more)
53. Maple, Shantung - *Acer truncatum* (☼); nice ornamental from Asia; glossy, distinctive leaves; maroon fall color; rounded; 15' x 15')
54. Maple, Tatarian - *Acer tataricum* (☼); very similar to Amur Maple but more pH adaptable)
55. Mountainash, Oakleaf - *Sorbus × hybrida* (proven in western Neb; attractive white flower, red fruit; oak-like leaves; 30' x 20')
56. Oak, Blackjack - *Quercus marilandica* (☼); interesting natural habit; attractive, glossy foliage; tough and underutilized; 35' x 25')
57. Oak, Gambel - *Quercus gambelii* (W; ☼; native to Rocky Mountains; prefers well-drained soils; great potential for W. Nebraska)
58. Pear, Callery - *Pyrus calleryana* (upright ornamental with pungent/showy white flowers; good fall color; many improved cultivars)
 - 'Aristocrat' – nice pyramidal shape; brilliant red fall color; 30' x 25'.
 - 'Autumn Blaze' – the hardiest of the *P. calleryana* types; crimson red fall color; 35' x 20'.
 - 'Chanticleer' / 'Cleveland Select' – upright habit; proven hardy; red-purple fall color; 25' x 15'.
 - 'Redspire' – mass of white in spring; not as cold hardy; red-purple fall color; 30' x 20'.
59. Pear, Ussurian - *Pyrus ussuriensis* (☼; hardiest of all pears; attractive leaves; good flower; nice fall color; good sub for crabapple)
60. Redbud - *Cercis canadensis* (E; nice native ornamental; purple flowers in early spring; select from northern seed source)
61. Smoketree - *Cotinus obovatus* (E; nice fall color; plummy, smoke-like flowers; underused)