



Trees Native to Northeastern Illinois

Why plant native?

Native plants (trees, shrubs) can help the local ecosystem by providing habitat and food for native birds, mammals, and insects. Native trees and shrubs are also more adapted to the region and can provide a lower maintenance option as compared to exotic species and some cultivars.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Soil Moisture Preference	Grows Best In	Mature Height (ft)	Mature Width (ft)	Shape
Sugar Maple	<u>Acer saccharum</u>	medium	shade to sun	60-75	40-55	Tree
Ohio Buckeye	<u>Aesculus glabra</u>	medium-wet	shade to sun	20-40	20-30	Tree
River Birch (f)	<u>Betula nigra</u>	wet-medium	full sun	30-40	20-30	Tree
Bitternut Hickory	<u>Carya cordiformis</u>	medium-wet	part sun	50-75	30-40	Tree
Pignut Hickory	<u>Carya glabra</u>	medium-dry	part sun	50-75	30-40	Tree
Shagbark Hickory	<u>Carya ovata</u>	medium-dry	part sun	60-80	40-50	Tree
Mockernut Hickory	<u>Carya tomentosa</u>	dry/well-	part sun	50-75	30-40	Tree
Hackberry (p)	<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>	medium-wet	full sun	40-60	40-50	Tree
Scarlet Hawthorn	<u>Crataegus coccinea</u>	dry-medium	full sun	20-30	20-35	Small Tree
Cockspur Hawthorn	<u>Crataegus crus-galli</u>	medium	full sun	20-30	20-35	Small Tree
Downy Hawthorn	<u>Crataegus mollis</u>	medium	full sun	20-30	20-35	Small Tree
American Beech	<u>Fagus grandifolia</u>	medium	shade	50-60	40-50	Tree
Kentucky Coffee Tree (p)	<u>Gymnocladus dioicus</u>	dry/well-	full sun	50-60	40-50	Tree
Butternut	<u>Juglans cinerea</u>	medium-dry	full sun	40-50	30-50	Tree
Black Walnut	<u>Juglans nigra</u>	medium-dry	full sun	50-60	30-50	Tree
Tamarack (f)	<u>Larix laricina</u>	wet-medium	full sun	30-50	20-30	Tree
Prairie Crab	<u>Malus ioensis</u>	dry-medium	full sun	15-20	10-15	Small Tree
Black Tupelo, Sour Gum (p)	<u>Nyssa sylvatica</u>	medium-wet	full sun	30-50	25-30	Tree
Sycamore (p)	<u>Platanus occidentalis</u>	wet-medium	part sun	75-100	50-75	Tree
White Oak (p)	<u>Quercus alba</u>	medium-dry	part sun to sun	50-80	50-80	Tree
Swamp White Oak (f, p)	<u>Quercus bicolor</u>	wet-medium	part sun to sun	50-60	50-60	Tree
Scarlet Oak, Hill's Oak (p)	<u>Quercus ellipsoidalis</u>	dry/well-	full sun	40-75	40-75	Tree
Shingle Oak (p)	<u>Quercus imbricaria</u>	medium	full sun	40-50	40-50	Tree
Bur Oak	<u>Quercus macrocarpa</u>	medium-wet	full sun	50-80	50-80	Tree
Chinkapin Oak	<u>Quercus muehlenbergii</u>	medium-dry	full sun	50-80	50-70	Tree
Pin Oak (f)	<u>Quercus palustris</u>	wet-medium	full sun	60-70	40-50	Tree
Northern Red Oak (p)	<u>Quercus rubra</u>	medium-dry	part sun	60-80	60-75	Tree
Black Oak (p)	<u>Quercus velutina</u>	dry/well-	full sun	50-75	50-60	Tree
Sassafras	<u>Sassafras albidum</u>	medium-dry	shade to sun	20-30	25-40	Tree
Basswood, Linden (p)	<u>Tilia americana</u>	medium	full to part sun	60-80	30-40	Tree

Want to have a successful planting?

Choose a tree by researching its mature size and preferences for your setting, and plan on providing supplemental water for the first few growing seasons. Smaller, younger trees can require a smaller hole to plant, may adapt faster to your site, and need less watering while getting established. Consider the soil moisture and sunlight in your planting area and choose a species well-suited to it. Keep large species away from buildings and power lines. Plant, water, and mulch properly.

Why are scientific names important?

The scientific name of a tree/shrub will help you ensure you are buying a true native species. Plants whose scientific names include words in single quotes such as *Acer saccharum* 'Legacy' or *Viburnum carlesii* 'Compactum' may be cultivars, ornamentals or nativars. These species can perform in a residential landscape but generally lack the features of true natives that help support the local ecosystem.

This list is limited to those native species that might generally be available from nurseries that grow trees and shrubs native to northeastern Illinois. It was developed by Openlands with technical support from The Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative, and modified for the Village of Grayslake.

