

SHADE TREES

Northern Red Oak

Zone: 4 - 8

Height: 50 - 75 feet

Spread: 50 - 75 feet

Bloom Time: May

Bloom Description: Yellowish-green

Sun: Full sun

Notes: Native, moderate to fast growing tree, good for wildlife, though acorns may not appear until the tree reaches 40 years, beautiful red fall color, tolerates dry soils.



Bur Oak

Zone: 3 - 8

Height: 60 - 80 feet

Spread: 60 - 80 feet

Bloom Time: April

Bloom Description: Yellowish-green

Sun: Full sun

Notes: Native tree, good for wildlife, one of the most majestic North American oaks, acorns may not appear until the tree reaches 35 years, prefers loamy soils but will tolerate a wide variety of soil conditions. Bur oak was often associated with the prairie-forest border. Because of its relatively thick, fire-resistant bark and natural resistance to drought, it could compete successfully with the prairie grasses. These "oak groves" were favorite home sites for early settlers in Iowa.



Red Maple

Zone: 3 - 8

Height: 40 - 70 feet

Spread: 30 - 50 feet

Bloom Time: March - April

Bloom Description: Red

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Notes: Native tree that will easily grow in medium to wet, well-drained soils, tolerant to air pollution and Black Walnut, excellent orange-red fall foliage.



American Elm 'Patriot'

Zone: 5 - 9

Height: 40 - 50 feet

Spread: 30 - 40 feet

Bloom Time: March - April

Bloom Description: Green

Sun: Full sun, tolerates light shade

Notes: Fast growing, vigorous, and easily established tree. Excellent resistance to Dutch elm disease (DED), and excellent resistance to elm leaf beetles. It has glossy green foliage with yellow fall color.



Ginkgo 'Autumn Gold'

Zone: 3 - 8

Height: 40 - 50 feet

Spread: 25 - 30 feet

Bloom Time: April

Bloom Description: Green

Sun: Full sun

Notes: Ginkgo trees are commonly called maidenhair trees in reference to the resemblance of their fan-shaped leaves to maidenhair fern leaflets. It is the only surviving member of a group of ancient plants believed to have inhabited the earth up to 150 million years ago and therefore considered a living fossil. Beautiful, yellow fall color that lasts for several weeks. Tolerant of air pollution, deer, and clay soil.



Redmond Linden

Zone: 2 - 8

Height: 50 - 70 feet

Spread: 30 - 45 feet

Bloom Time: June

Bloom Description: Pale yellow

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Notes: The common name of American Basswood (American Linden) is derived from bastwood, in reference to the tough inner bark (bast) which has been used to make rope and mats. The cultivar 'Redmond' is a pyramidal tree with leaves slightly smaller than the straight species. The flowers attract butterflies and bees. It prefers moist soils but will tolerate clay soil and drought conditions.



SMALLER TREES AND ORNAMENTALS

American Hornbeam (Musclewood, Blue Beech)

Zone: 3 - 9

Height: 20 - 35 feet

Spread: 20 - 35 feet

Bloom Time: April

Bloom Description: Green / white

Sun: Full sun to full shade

Notes: The American hornbeam is a native forest understory tree, making it useful for shady landscapes and naturalized gardens. New leaves emerge reddish-purple, changing to dark green, then turn yellow to orange-red in the fall, offering a kaleidoscope of color throughout the year. It is also called Musclewood, which derives its name from the smooth, bluish-gray, sometimes twisting trunk and bark. Prefers moist, rich soils, but will tolerate clay soils.



Eastern Redbud

Zone: 4 - 8

Height: 20 - 30 feet

Spread: 25 - 35 feet

Bloom Time: April

Bloom Description: Pink

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Notes: Native, often multi-trunked understory tree with a rounded crown. It is particularly noted for its stunning pea-like rose-purple flowers which bloom profusely on bare branches in early spring before the foliage emerges. Valuable for birds, butterflies, and native bees. Easily grown in average, well-drained soils. Avoid wet or poorly drained soils.



Crabapple 'Royal Raindrops'

Zone: 4 - 8

Height: 15 - 20 feet

Spread: 12 - 16 feet

Bloom Time: April - May

Bloom Description: Magenta-pink

Sun: Full sun

Notes: 'Royal Raindrops' is a disease-resistant, easy-to-grow, crabapple tree that features deeply lobed purple foliage, magenta-pink single flowers in spring, tiny maroon-red crabapples that mature in late summer and excellent orange-red fall color. Crabapples persist on the tree into early winter and are an attractive food source for birds. Prefers medium moist, well-drained soils.



CONIFERS / EVERGREENS

Norway Spruce (European Spruce)

Zone: 3 - 7

Height: 40 - 60 feet

Spread: 25 - 30 feet

Sun: Full sun

Notes: The Norway spruce grows in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. It has some drought tolerance. It is the fastest growing of the spruces and works well for windbreaks. Its graceful branches are covered with dark green needles. The long, cylindrical cones hang like ornaments. Norway spruce trees support a wide variety of wildlife, they also make a good roosting tree for hawks and owls.

