



Why plant native? Our remaining songbirds and butterflies cannot survive solely on the European and Asian trees and shrubs that cover so much of our suburban landscape. They need trees and shrubs native to northeastern Illinois because of intricate food chain requirements. Native shrubs and trees provide food, places to hide and rest, and places to lay eggs and raise young. Many of these features are subtly timed to synchronize with other species. Native shrubs and trees provide a wise investment compared to delicate or high-maintenance cultivars. They are generally more resistant to disease and, once established, require relatively small amounts of water and no fertilizer.

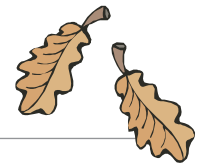


Trees and Shrubs Native to Northeastern Illinois

Common Name	Scientific Name	Soil Moisture Preference	Grows Best In	Mature Height (ft)	Mature Width (ft)	Notable Features
Trees						
Black Maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i>	dry-medium	part sun	60-70	35-55	Grows well in shade; great fall color
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	medium	shade to sun	60-75	40-55	Great fall color; shade tolerant; possibility for replacing ash trees
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	medium-wet	shade to sun	20-40	20-30	Grows well in shade, does not do well in compacted soils
Serviceberry, Juneberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	medium-dry	part sun	15-25	10-15	Showy flowers mature into berries; people and birds love
Inland Shadblow	<i>Amelanchier interior</i>	dry/well-drained	part sun	15-20	10-15	Showy flowers mature into berries; people and birds love
Alleghany Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	dry/well-drained	shade to sun	20-25	15-18	Showy flowers mature into berries; people and birds love
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	medium-wet	part shade	15-20	15-20	Protect from south and west; large fruit but 2 or more needed to produce it
Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	medium-moist	full-part sun	30-50	20-40	Pretty peeling bark, fast growing
River Birch †	<i>Betula nigra</i>	wet-medium	full sun	30-40	20-30	Very drought sensitive; pretty peeling bark
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	medium-dry	full sun	50-70	30-40	Best suited to cool ravines
Blue Beech, Muscledwood *	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	medium-wet	part sun	25-35	20-30	Great fall color; sinewy bark; good for screen or hedge
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	medium-wet	part sun	50-75	30-40	Yellow fall color; important for birds/butterflies
Pignut Hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>	medium-dry	part sun	50-75	30-40	Yellow fall color; important for birds/butterflies
Kingnut Hickory	<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	wet-medium	part sun	75-100	50-75	Yellow fall color; important for birds/butterflies
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	medium-dry	part sun	60-80	40-50	Yellow fall color; important for birds/butterflies
Mockernut Hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	dry/well-drained	part sun	50-75	30-40	Yellow fall color; important for birds/butterflies

† – survives flooding for 30% of the growing season;
 * – good for privacy screening, buckthorn replacement

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Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	medium-wet	full sun	40-60	40-50	Very adaptable; important for migrating birds
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	medium	part sun	15-20	20-25	Very showy purple flowers in spring
Pagoda Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	medium	shade to part sun	15-25	15-25	Birds love the fruit; beautiful shape with white flowers
Scarlet Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus coccinea</i>	dry-medium	full sun	20-30	20-35	Birds love the berries and protection offered by thorns; showy flowers
Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	medium	full sun	20-30	20-35	Birds love the berries and protection offered by thorns; fragrant flowers
Downy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	medium	full sun	20-30	20-35	Birds love the berries and protection offered by thorns; picturesque shape
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	medium	shade	50-60	40-50	Outstanding golden fall color
Kentucky Coffee Tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	dry/well-drained	full sun	50-60	40-50	Widely adaptable to urban areas
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	medium-dry	full sun	40-50	30-50	Nuts are milder in taste than the black walnut
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	medium-dry	full sun	50-60	30-50	Beautiful tree; important for butterflies
Tamarack †	<i>Larix laricina</i>	wet-medium	full sun	30-50	20-30	Soft, tufted needles turn golden and drop in fall
Prairie Crab	<i>Malus ioensis</i>	dry-medium	full sun	15-20	10-15	Apples eaten by wildlife in winter; gorgeous flowers in spring; will sucker
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	dry-medium	full sun	30-50	25-30	Glossy orange/red fall color; birds devour fruit in fall; protect from west winds
Hop Hornbeam, Ironwood *	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	medium-dry	shade to sun	25-40	15-20	Grows well in shade, offering critical mid-layer height; can be used as a screen
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	medium-dry	sun	50-80	20-40	Tolerates light shade; needs good soil and protection from west wind
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	wet-medium	part sun	75-100	50-75	Fast growing tree with distinctive white and green bark; drought intolerant
Big Tooth Aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	wet-medium	full sun	45-55	30-45	Fast growing; soil needs to be well-drained
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	medium-wet	full sun	30-45	15-20	Fast growing; suckers vigorously - one plant will get you 10 in 2 years
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	medium-dry	part sun to sun	50-80	50-80	High ecological value; majestic tree; state tree



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Swamp White Oak †	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	wet-medium	part sun to sun	50-60	50-60	High ecological value; requires moist soil
Scarlet Oak, Hill's Oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i> (or <i>Q. ellipsoidalis</i>)	dry/well-drained	full sun	40-75	40-75	High ecological value; does well as a street tree, great fall color
Shingle Oak	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	medium	full sun	40-50	40-50	High ecological value; adaptable to a variety of soils
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	medium-wet	full sun	50-80	50-80	High ecological value; majestic tree; tolerates wide range of soils
Chinquapin Oak	<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>	medium-dry	full sun	50-80	50-70	High ecological value; drought resistant and tolerates high soil pH
Pin Oak †	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	wet-medium	full sun	60-70	40-50	High ecological value; susceptible to disease if not in acidic soil
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	medium-dry	part sun	60-80	60-75	High ecological value; grows in shade
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	dry/well-drained	full sun	50-75	50-60	High ecological value; does best on sand or gravel
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	medium-dry	shade to sun	20-30	25-40	Prefers acidic soil
White Cedar, Arbor Vitae †	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	wet-medium	part sun	30-40	10-15	Fairly adaptable but does not like dry and hot, butterfly host
Basswood, American Linden	<i>Tilia americana</i>	medium	full to part sun	60-80	30-40	Important butterfly host

Shrubs

Bearberry, Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> var <i>coactilis</i>	dry/well-drained	part sun	6 inches	3-5	Broadleaf evergreen; prefers acidic soil
Speckled Alder †	<i>Alnus incana</i> var <i>rugosa</i>	wet	part sun	10-15	10-15	Fast growing; fixes nitrogen in soil that can be used by other plants
Lead Plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	dry/well-drained	part sun to sun	2-4	2-4	Purple to blue flowers; normal for tips of branches to die back in winter
False Indigo Bush †	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	wet-medium	full sun	6-15	5-15	Purple to blue flowers; normal for tips of branches to die back in winter
Black Chokeberry †,*	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	wet-medium	part sun	3-5	6-8	Vibrant red-orange fall color; berries persist into winter
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	dry/well-drained	part sun to sun	3-4	3-5	White flowers attract butterflies and pollinators
Buttonbush †	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	wet	part sun to sun	6-12	12-18	Will grow in standing water or good garden soil; white flowers



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Sweet Fern	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	dry/well-drained	part sun	2-4	4-8	Lovely scent; great ground cover; needs well-drained soil; can be aggressive
Blue-fruited Dogwood †	<i>Cornus obliqua</i>	wet-medium	part sun	6-10	6-10	Birds relish the shiny blue fruit; reddish-purple fall color
Red Osier Dogwood †	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	wet-medium	full sun	7-9	7-10	To keep stems red, prune older stems to ground in spring before leaves emerge
Hazelnut, Filbert *	<i>Corylus americana</i>	medium-wet	part sun	6-8	6-8	Tasty nuts; better nut production when you have 3 or more plants
Dwarf Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	medium-dry	full sun to shade	2-3	2	Small mounding shape makes a nice choice for shrub borders; showy red, yellow and orange fall color.
Wahoo †	<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	medium-wet	shade to sun	6-10	6-10	Bright red fall color and attractive fruit; needs some protection from wind
Witch Hazel *	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	medium	part sun to sun	15-20	15-20	Yellow flowers bloom in fall; needs a fine, moist, well-drained soil
Wild Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	medium-wet	shade	3-5	5-8	Shade tolerant, white flowers bloom in June and July
Kalm's St. John's Wort †	<i>Hypericum kalmianum</i>	wet-medium	full sun	2-5	3-6	Beautiful yellow flowers; looks great in masses
Shrubby St. John's Wort †	<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	medium-dry	part sun	2-5	3-6	Yellow summer-blooming flowers
Winterberry †	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	wet-medium	shade to sun	6-10	6-10	Showy red berries in fall, plant 3 - 5 for fruit production
Common Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	dry/well-drained	full sun	4-8	8-10	Sprawling evergreen for sandy soil
Spicebush *	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	wet-medium	shade to sun	6-12	6-12	Small yellow flowers in spring, brilliant yellow fall color; shade tolerant
Ninebark †,*	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	wet-medium	shade to sun	5-10	6-10	Durable large shrub with exfoliating bark; great in borders
Shrubby Cinquefoil †	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	wet-medium	full sun	1-4	2-4	Bright yellow flowers in summer; vigorous and hardy
American Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	dry/well-drained	full sun	15-25	15-20	Beautiful, edible fruit; maroon-red fall color; will sucker freely to create thicket
Common Choke Cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	medium-wet	full sun	15-20	10-15	White spring flowers, birds relish berries; red-orange fall color
Wafer Ash *	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	medium-dry	shade to sun	15-20	10-15	Flowers, leaves and fruit very aromatic, winter seed interest, grows on tough sites
Fragrant Sumac *	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	dry/well-drained	part shade to sun	2-6	6-10	Reddish-orange fall color with bright red fruit; great habitat plant
Shining Sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	dry/well-drained	sun	6- 10	3 -6	Brilliant fall color; must have light, well-drained soil (sand is best) and full sun

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Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	dry/well-drained	full sun	10-15	10-25	Best tall sumac for clay soils; great fall color; suckers; ideal for berm
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	dry/well-drained	sun	15-25	15-20	Red-orange fall color; beautiful shape; suckers vigorously into lovely thickets
Wild Black Currant †,*	<i>Ribes americanum</i>	wet-medium	shade to sun	3-6	3-6	Edible fruit; does well in dry shade under older oaks; nice fall color
Prickly Wild Gooseberry	<i>Ribes cynosbati</i>	medium-dry	part shade to sun	3-6	3-6	Edible fruit looks prickly but doesn't hurt; adapts to shade and a range of soils
Wild Gooseberry	<i>Ribes missouriense</i>	dry/well-drained	part shade to sun	3-6	3-6	Edible fruit but be cautious of thorns; when grown in full sun, fall color is dark purple
Early Wild Rose	<i>Rosa blanda</i>	medium-dry	full sun	4-8	4-8	Blooms late May-early June; rose hips are red and sizable; creates a thicket
Pasture Rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	medium-dry	full sun	3-6	6-10	Creates loose thickets; blooms heavily in June; small crimson hips in fall
Scarlet Rose	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	wet	part sun	3-6	3-6	Numerous bright scarlet rose hips are showy in winter
Illinois Rose	<i>Rosa setigera</i>	medium-dry	full sun	3-4	10-15	Can be used as a hardy climbing rose; recommend 'renewal pruning' every 3 years
Purple Flowering Raspberry	<i>Rubus odoratus</i>	dry/well-drained	part sun	3-6	3-6	Showy purple flowers; can grow in denser shade but then will not flower or fruit well
Pussy Willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	wet-medium	part shade to sun	25-35	12-15	Furry one inch long catkins emerge in early spring
Prairie Willow †	<i>Salix humilis</i>	medium-dry	part sun	6-12	6-12	Yellow fall color; creates colonies
Elderberry †,*	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	medium	shade to sun	6-12	6-12	Showy white flowers, shiny purple fruit for birds and humans; great for borders with half day sun
Meadowsweet †	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	wet-medium	part sun to sun	2-3	2-3	Can grow in standing water; cone-shaped white flower blooms in June
Steeplebush †	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	medium-wet	full sun	3-6	3-6	Spectacular pink blooms in July
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	medium-dry	shade to sun	3-6	3-6	Large white berries persist throughout winter
Early Low Blueberry †	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	medium-dry	full sun	2-3	2-3	Blueberries are small but numerous; attracts many birds and pollinators

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Maple-leaved Arrowwood *	Viburnum acerifolium	dry/well-drained	shade to sun	3-6	4-5	Rose-red fall color; creamy white flowers give way to black berries popular with birds
Nannyberry *	Viburnum lentago	medium-wet	part sun	15-20	10-15	Fabulous fall color; beautiful white flowers in May; berries popular with birds
Blackhaw *	Viburnum prunifolium	medium-dry	shade to sun	12-15	8-12	Makes a nice hedge, one of the more shade-tolerant viburnums; birds relish fruit
Downy Arrowwood *	Viburnum rafinesquianum	dry/well-drained	part sun	12-15	8-12	Glossy leaves turn crimson in fall; great for butterflies
Highbush Cranberry †	Viburnum trilobum	wet-medium	full to part sun	8-12	8-12	Scarlet-red fruit and nice fall color
Prickly Ash	Xanthoxylum americanum	dry/well-drained	part shade to sun	8-12	5-10	Important food source for giant swallowtail butterfly; very thorny; can be aggressive

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Why are scientific names important? When looking to buy native plants, use the scientific name to ensure you are buying a true native and avoid plants whose scientific names include words in single quotes such as *Acer saccharum* ‘Legacy’ or *Viburnum carlesii* ‘Compactum.’ Cultivars, ornamentals and nativars can perform beautifully in a landscape but be aware that they generally may lack features of true natives that are needed by songbirds, butterflies and others who share ancient relationships with them that impact species survival. Slight alterations to nectar, blooms, fruits, thorns, leaves and roots may interfere with critical needs.

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 with technical support from The Morton Arboretum. For a more detailed list, see *Plants of the Chicago Region* by Swink and Wilhelm.

How to select trees and shrubs

1. When buying trees and shrubs, select ones that are small and young. They’ll be less expensive, fit in your car, require a smaller hole, adapt faster to your site and need less watering while getting established. They’ll typically catch up to larger-sized specimens in no time.
2. Choose your species carefully. Pick something well-suited to your soil moisture and sunlight so it can survive and thrive. When shopping, don’t be enticed by a good-looking plant that is poorly suited to your site.
3. Pay attention to mature size and keep large species far enough away from buildings and power lines.
4. Plant, water and mulch properly. See www.Openlands.org/beautiful for simple planting and care tips.

Congratulations! Improving your property’s value and beauty today helps people and nature for generations to come.



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