

# TREES & SHRUBS NATIVE IN IOWA

Common Name	Scientific Name	Mature Height		Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Natural Habitat / Soils / Sites	Uses / Limitations
		ft	m				
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	80	24	fast	tolerant	moist, upland woods & slopes; protected bluffs & ravines	shade tree; spacious / intolerant of salt
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	70	21	medium	intermediate	woods; especially alluvial flats	susceptible to dutch elm disease
American Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	15	5	medium	intermediate	woodland openings and borders	great for wildlife
American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	35	11	slow	very tolerant	moist, but sufficiently drained	small spaces; shady places / relatively disease-free
Balsam Fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	50	15	slow	very tolerant	steep, N-facing bluffs, limited to extreme NE Iowa	limited sites
Balsam Poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	50	15	fast	very intolerant	moist woods; woodland edges	
Beaked Hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	6	2	medium	intermediate	N-facing wooded slopes; algific talus slopes	limited availability
Bebb Willow	<i>Salix bebbiana</i>	25	8	fast	intolerant	moist ground; N-facing talus slopes; fens	limited availability
Bigtooth Aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	45	14	fast	very intolerant	moist to dry; usually upland woods	
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	70	21	slow	intolerant	upland woods; wooded slopes; bluffs	shade tree; reforestation / limited availability
Black Ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	50	15	medium	intolerant	moist, wooded slopes; alluvium	limited availability
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	50	15	medium	intolerant	moist, wooded slopes; upland woods	needs full sun
Black Maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i>	60	18	medium	very tolerant	moist woods; wooded slopes	excellent shade tree on well drained sites
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	60	18	medium	intermediate	upland woods; sandy, alluvial flats	reforestation
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	80	24	fast	intolerant	moist woodlands; especially alluvial woods	great timber / wildlife tree; good nut production
Black Willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	50	15	fast	very intolerant	streambanks; lake margins; alluvial woods	riparian areas
Blackhaw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	12	4	slow	intermediate	woodland borders	great low growing tree
Blackjack Oak	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	35	11	slow	intermediate	upland woods; SE Iowa	limited availability
Blue Ash	<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i>	40	12	medium	intermediate	rocky bluffs	shade tree; limited availability
Boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	50	15	fast	tolerant	alluvial woods; moist, disturbed areas; riparian areas	riparian areas / short-lived; storms
Buffaloberry	<i>Sheperdia argentea</i>	8	2	medium	intermediate	dry uplands; loess bluffs; prairie-woodland edges	
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	100	30	slow	intermediate	dry uplands; slopes	excellent long term shade tree; spacious

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Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	60	18	slow	intolerant	moist, wooded slopes; alluvial woods	nuts; shade tree / butternut decline
Canada Plum	<i>Prunus nigra</i>	20	6	medium	intolerant	steep, N- or E-facing, wooded slopes	limited availability
Canadian Yew	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	3	1	slow	tolerant	rocky bluffs; moist wooded slopes	
Chinkapin Dwarf Oak	<i>Quercus prinoides</i>	20	6	slow	intolerant	dry ridges; rocky bluffs	limited availability
Chinkapin Oak	<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>	50	15	slow	intolerant	exposed bluffs; rocky slopes	excellent shade tree for southern half of Iowa
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	20	6	medium	very intolerant	open woods; woodland borders; rocky bluffs	extremely hardy / insects; black knot; short service life
Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	20	6	slow	intermediate	open, upland woods; pastures	attractive; thornless
Common Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	10	3	medium	intolerant	dry, wooded bluffs; rocky slopes	
Common Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	25	8	medium		wooded alluvium; wooded slopes: limited to southern Iowa	
Common Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	40	12	slow	very tolerant	sandstone bluffs	best in southern Iowa
Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	100	30	very fast	very intolerant	moist habitats; usually on alluvium; riparian areas	fast growing tree; riparian areas
Coyote Willow	<i>Salix exigua</i>	25	8	fast	intolerant	streambanks; sandbars; alluvial bottoms	
Dotted Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus punctata</i>	25	8	slow	intermediate	open woods; pastures	adverse sites / rust; mildew; fruit litter
Downy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	30	9	slow	intermediate	open, upland woods; sandy alluvium; openings	rust problem
Downy Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	25	8	medium	tolerant	moist, wooded slopes; rocky, wooded slopes	very attractive
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	40	12	medium	very intolerant	dry, open woods; rocky bluffs; pastures	great windbreak tree
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	15	5	slow	tolerant	wooded ravines; wooded bluffs; alluvium; southern Iowa	street tree
Eastern Wahoo	<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	15	5	medium	tolerant	moist woods	very attractive
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	8	2	fast	intermediate	edges of moist woods; shorelines; fencerows	
Fleshy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus succulenta</i>	30	9	slow	intermediate	open woods; woodland edges	limited availability
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	10	3	medium	tolerant	upland woods	great for wildlife
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	60	18	fast	tolerant	alluvial or low, moist woods	good shade tree

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Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	60	18	slow	intermediate	moist low woods; open, disturbed soil	shade tree / nipple gall; powdery mildew
Heart-Leaved Willow	<i>Salix rigida</i>	10	3	fast	very intolerant	streambanks; wet lowlands; ditches	limited availability
Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	70	21	fast	intolerant	alluvial woods; old pastures; sandy prairies	plazas; parking lots / insects; <i>Thyronectria</i> ; thorns
Hoptree / Water Ash	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	15	5	slow	intermediate	along streams; rocky bluffs; sandy habitats	background shrub
Hortulan Plum	<i>Prunus hortulana</i>	15	5	medium	very intolerant	road cuts; low woods	limited availability
Inland Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier interior</i>	20	6	medium	tolerant	dry sandstone ledges	very attractive
Ironwood / Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	30	9	slow	tolerant	upland wood; wooded slopes	shade tree / salt-sensitive
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	60	18	medium	intolerant	moist, wooded ravines; alluvium	shade tree / free of diseases
Margaret's Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus margaretta</i>	30	9	slow	intermediate	upland woods; slopes; open alluvial woods	limited availability
Meadow Willow	<i>Salix petiolaris</i>	10	3	fast	very intolerant	moist prairie remnants; marsh edges; fens	limited availability
Mexican Plum	<i>Prunus mexicana</i>	20	6	medium	very intolerant	roadsides; fencerows	limited availability
Missouri River Willow	<i>Salix eriocephala</i>	40	12	fast	intolerant	streambanks; wet lowlands; ditches	
Mountain Maple	<i>Acer spicatum</i>	20	6	slow	tolerant	steep, moist, N- & E-facing wooded slopes	limited availability
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	15	5	medium	intermediate	upland woods	great for wildlife
Northern Pin Oak	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	50	15	medium	intolerant	open, sandy, upland woods	excellent shade tree
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	50	15	medium	tolerant	moist or sandy, lowland woods	leaf scorch
Pagoda Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	20	6	slow	tolerant	moist, upland woods	background tree
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	70	21	fast	intolerant	steep, sheltered, rocky bluffs; N-facing slopes; limited to NE Iowa	borer; problems off site
Peachleaf Willow	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	40	12	fast	intolerant	along streams	riparian areas
Pear Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus calpodendron</i>	30	9	slow	intermediate	prairie openings in upland woods; edges	limited availability
Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	70	21	slow	intolerant	alluvial woods; SE Iowa	nuts
Pignut Hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>	70	21	slow	intermediate	dry, upland woods	reforestation / limited availability

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Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>	30	9	fast	very intolerant	woods; clearings	short lived
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	60	18	slow	intolerant	alluvial woods	landscape tree; spacious / chlorosis
Post Oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	30	9	slow	intolerant	dry, open, upland woods; SE Iowa	limited availability
Prairie Crabapple	<i>Malus ioensis</i>	22	7	medium	intolerant	dry, bushy uplands; open woods; prairie remnants	ornamental / highly resistant to diseases
Prickly Ash	<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	12	4	slow	intolerant	edges; upland woods; openings	
Pussy Willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	15	5	fast	intolerant	streambanks; low prairies; marsh edges	great riparian plant
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	40	12	fast	very intolerant	open woods; moist praries; woodland edges	background planting
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	50	15	medium	tolerant	wooded bluffs	excellent shade tree
Red Mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>	35	11	medium	tolerant	moist, alluvial woods; wooded slopes	fruit litter
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	70	21	medium	intermediate	moist, upland woods	excellent shade tree
Red-Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	8	2	fast	tolerant	shores; lake & pond margins; fens	great for wildlife
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	80	24	fast	intolerant	alluvial woods; stream margins	leaf miner; moisture stress; short service life
Rock Elm	<i>Ulmus thomasii</i>	70	21	medium	intermediate	bases of moist, wooded slopes	dutch elm disease
Rough-Leaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	8	2	medium	tolerant	moist woods; along streams; woodland borders	
Roundleaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	8	2	medium	tolerant	rich, upland woods; N-facing, wooded slopes	limited availability
Roundleaf Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	20	6	medium	tolerant	sandstone ledges; algific slopes	very attractive
Sandbar Willow	<i>Salix interior</i>	30	9	fast	intolerant	streambanks; sandbars; alluvial bottoms	riparian areas
Saskatoon Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	18	5	medium	tolerant	thickets; margin of lakes	very attractive
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	70	21	slow	intermediate	dry, upland woods; bluffs; statewide	nuts; limited availability
Shellbark Hickory	<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	70	21	slow	very tolerant	alluvial woods; southern Iowa	limited availability
Shingle Oak	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	45	14	slow	intermediate	bottomlands; dry hillsides; southern Iowa	street tree; for southern Iowa
Shining Willow	<i>Salix lucida</i>	25	8	fast	intolerant	low, moist ground; lakeshores; streambanks; fens	riparian areas

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Showy Mountainash	<i>Sorbus decora</i>	20	6	medium	intolerant	hedges; woodland margins; sandstone outcrops	limited availability
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus obliqua</i>	10	3	medium	tolerant	wet thickets; low woods; wet prairies	great for wildlife
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	120	36	very fast	tolerant	alluvial woods; riparian areas	fast growing shade tree; consider cultivars
Slippery Elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	60	18	medium	tolerant	wooded slopes & bluffs	susceptable to dutch elm disease
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	15	5	medium	intermediate	woodland openings; edges; disturbed areas	great fall color
Speckled Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>	30	9	medium	intermediate	sandy soil in alluvial woods; streamsides; seeps	
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	20	6	medium	intermediate	dry openings in woods; edges; rocky slopes	great fall color
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	60	18	medium	very tolerant	moist woods; wooded slopes	excellent shade tree
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	70	21	slow	intermediate	alluvial woods	excellent shade tree
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	100	30	fast	intermediate	alluvial woods	shade tree / anthracnose; lace bug
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	70	21	medium	intolerant	upland woods	excellent shade tree / drought; ash decline
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	100	30	slow	intermediate	uplands woods; dry slopes	shade tree / sensitive to compaction & root damage
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	90	27	medium	intermediate	sandy or rocky, steep, wooded slopes & ledges	works best in eastern half of Iowa
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	20	6	fast	very intolerant	fencerows; woodland edges; open woods	great for wildlife
Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	10	3	medium	intermediate	moist, wooded, N-facing slopes	
Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	100	30	medium	intermediate	N-facing, rocky, wooded slopes	

adapted from : Iowa State University Forestry Extension: Trees & Shrubs Native to Iowa; Ames, IA, 2001

Michael A. Dirr: Manual of Woody Landscape Plants; Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses; Athens, GE, 1990