

Recommended Trees for Northwest and Central Minnesota (Deciduous)

Species	Height (feet)	Width (feet)	Shape	Fall Color	Street use?	Under utility lines?	Shade Tolerance	Notable Flower	Notable Fruit	Other Notes
Birch, paper [Betula papyrifera]	40+	25+	Round	Yellow	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Has attractive, exfoliating, white bark. Performs best where root system is cool, shaded, and free from competition with turf. Susceptible to birch leaf miner and bronze birch borer.
Birch, 'Prairie Dream' [Betula papyrifera]	50+	40+	Round	Yellow	No	No	No	No	No	Resistant to bronze birch borer. Beautiful exfoliating white bark with age, well adapted to winters in the area. Stress tolerant.
Cherry, black [Prunus serotina]	40+	20+	Oval	Yellow	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Often classified as a "messy" tree and may produce excessive suckers. May need winter protection from rabbits.
Cherry, pin [Prunus pensylvanica]	25+	18+	Round	Yellow/Red	Sometimes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Shrubby, thicket-forming plant, which is fast growing and short-lived. May need winter protection from rabbits.
Crabapple [Malus sp.]	15+	15+	Round	Yellow	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Due to the many varieties available, you can almost customize a tree to your site. Select a variety that is resistant to both fire blight and apple scab, slower growing, and non-suckering. E of the maintenance involved with crabapples, many varieties are best suited for parks; however, the following cultivars are recommended and may be used along streets: 'David', 'Donald Wyman', 'Indian Summer', 'Liset', Madonna, 'Ormiston Roy', 'Professor Springer', 'Robinson', 'Red Splendor', and Sugar Tyme.
Crabapple, redbud [Malus x zumi calocarpa]	20+	20+	Round	Yellow	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Elm, 'Cathedral' [Ulmus x 'Cathedral'] ¹	40+	40+	Oval	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	A Dutch elm disease (DED) resistant elm, which is also resistant to the elm leaf beetle.
Elm, 'Jacan' [Ulmus davidiana var. japonica 'Jacan'] ¹	30+	25+	Vase	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	A DED resistant elm, which is also resistant to the elm leaf beetle.
Hackberry [Celtis occidentalis]	40+	30+	Oval	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	Interesting gray, corky bark. Performs better than most trees in alkaline soils. Sensitive to salt spray. Common hackberry is recommended over cultivars. Cultivars include 'Delta' and 'Prairie Pride'.
Hickory, bitternut [Carya cordiformis]	50+	50+	Oval	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	Has striking, sulfur-yellow buds. Adaptable to a wide variety of soils. May be best as a park tree in a space that provides ample room for growth. Native to the Hardwood Hills.
Hophornbeam (Ironwood) [Ostrya virginiana]	30+	25+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Yes	An attractive medium-sized tree with interesting bark and graceful form. Flowers are catkins that add winter interest. Drought tolerant and performs well in narrow boulevards. This species is very sensitive to deicing salt and needs watering during dry periods.
Lilac, Japanese tree [Syringa reticulata]	15+	12+	Oval	Yellow	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Excellent small tree with prolonged, showy, white flowers beginning in early summer. Very tolerant of deicing salts. Cultivars include 'Ivory Silk' and 'Summer Snow'.
Linden, American [Tilia americana] ²	50+	25+	Oval	Yellow	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Large tree with fragrant flowers produced in the early summer. Is fairly tolerant of a broad range of soil conditions, including heavy clay soils. Available cultivars include 'Boulevard', 'Front Yard', 'Fastigiata', and 'Redmond'.
Linden, 'Glenleven' [Tilia x flavenscens 'Glenleven'] ²	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	Yes	Yes	
Maple, Amur [Acer ginnala] ³	15+	15+	Irregular	Yellow/Red	Yes	Yes	Partial	Yes	Yes	Select a cultivar for better summer and fall foliage. Recommended cultivars include 'Bailey Compact', 'Embers', 'Emma', 'Flame', and 'Red Wing'. May need protection from rabbits in the winter.
Maple, boxelder [Acer negundo] ³	35+	35+	Irregular	Yellow/Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	Relatively short-lived tree. Do not use in situations where hazard trees could be a concern. Cultivars, including 'Barron' and 'Sensation', generally have more desirable characteristics than the species. One of the better trees for use in the northern portion of the Aspen Parklands due to its cold hardiness and site tolerance.
Maple, red [Acer rubrum] ³	40+	30+	Round	Red	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Common red maple from a nearby seed source is recommended over common cultivars. This species is best used in riparian and natural forests and well-prepared home and park landscapes. Appropriate cultivars include 'Autumn Spire', Firedance, and Northfire.
Maple, sugar [Acer saccharum] ³	40+	40+	Oval	Red/Orange/Yellow	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Native to the Hardwood Hills. Does not do well on alkaline soils. Common sugar maple from a nearby seed source is recommended over cultivars. Recommended cultivars are as follows: 'Bonfire', 'Centennial', 'Commemoration', 'Majesty', 'Legacy', and 'Sweet Shadow'.
Oak, bicolor [Quercus bicolor]	40+	30+	Oval	Yellow/Brown	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	Very tolerant of heavy, poorly drained soils. Is quite drought tolerant and does well in upland sites in the landscape. Native to the Hardwood Hills.
Oak, bur [Quercus macrocarpa]	50+	50+	Round	Brown	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Large, majestic tree that tolerates a broad range of soil conditions. This species is largely underused.
Oak, northern pin [Quercus ellipsoidalis]	40+	25+	Pyramidal	Orange/Brown	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Prefers light, sandy soils. May become chlorotic in alkaline soils. Very susceptible to oak wilt.
Oak, red [Quercus rubra]	50+	40+	Pyramidal	Red	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Handsome tree with glossy green foliage and excellent orange to red fall color. Fairly tolerant to a range of soil and site conditions. Susceptible to oak wilt. May become chlorotic in alkaline soils.
Oak, white [Quercus alba]	50+	40+	Oval	Red/Brown	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	Large, stately tree with wide spreading crown. More resistant to oak wilt than red oaks. Existing trees are sensitive to construction damage. Native to the Hardwood Hills.
Ohio Buckeye [Aesculus glabra]	20+	20+	Irregular	Red/Maroon	Yes	Sometimes	Partial	Yes	Yes	Small- to medium-sized tree with very showy flowers in late spring. This species is very tolerant of deicing salts. The cultivar 'Autumn Splendor' is valued for its hardiness and red to maroon fall color.
Serviceberry, Allegheny [Amelanchier laevis] ⁴	15+	10+	Oval	Orange/Red	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Native to the Hardwood Hills. Sensitive to deicing salts and prefers slightly acidic soils. Cultivars include 'Cumulus', 'Prince Charles', and 'Snowcloud'.
Serviceberry, Shadblow [Amelanchier canadensis] ⁴	15+	10+	Oval	Orange/Red	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tolerant of deicing salts, but prefers slightly acidic soils.
Viburnum, nannyberry [Viburnum lentago]	12+	6+	Oval	Red/Maroon	Sometimes	Yes	Partial	Yes	Yes	Large shrub with showy flowers, fruits, and fall color that can be pruned into a small tree.

¹ - Elms are adaptable to urban conditions and grow rapidly.

² - Lindens are sensitive to deicing salt. In addition, they are chronically prone to girdling root syndrome that develops from planting too deep. Always plant lindens shallow and mulch.

³ - Maples other than boxelder and Norway maple are sensitive to deicing salt. Maples perform better in lawn or park settings and in groups, rather than as single specimens in fully exposed boulevards. Planting with the root collar at ground line is important to see and prevent girdling root syndrome.

⁴ - Serviceberries are typically large shrubs, but may be trained into a single- or multiple-stemmed, small tree if desired.