

Recommended Trees for Northern Tallgrass Prairie (Deciduous)

Species	Height (feet)	Width (feet)	Shape	Fall Color	Street use?	Under utility lines?	Shade Tolerance	Notable Flower	Notable Fruit	Other Notes
Ash, black [Fraxinus nigra]	40+	20+	Oval	Yellow	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. 'Falgold' is a male seedless selection of black ash that has a bright yellow fall color and holds its foliage longer in the fall than is typical for the species. However, 'Falgold' is also grafted onto a white ash rootstock that may limit the cold hardiness of this cultivar.
Birch, paper [Betula papyrifera]	40+	25+	Oval	Yellow	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. 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, yellow [Betula alleghaniensis]	50+	35+	Round	Yellow	No	No	No	No	No	Beautiful exfoliating bark with nice yellow fall color in leaves. Cold and storm resistant. Prefers cooler summer temperatures
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	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. Often classified as a messy tree and produces excessive suckers. May need winter protection from rabbits.
Cherry, pin [Prunus pensylvanica]	25+	18+	Round	Yellow/Red	Sometimes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. Shrubby, thicket-forming plant that is fast growing and short lived. May need winter protection from rabbits.
Coffeetree, Kentucky [Gymnocladus dioica]	50+	30+	Round	Yellow	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Cold hardy and resistant to wind and storm damage. Attractive tree with textured bark for winter interest. Leaves out late in spring.
Crabapple [Malus]	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: 'Donald Wyman', 'Indian Summer', 'Kelsey', 'Liset', Madonna, 'Ormiston Roy', 'Professor Springer', 'Radiant', 'Robinson', 'Red Splendor', 'Selkirk', 'Spring Snow', Sugar Tyme, and 'Thunderchild'. May need winter protection from rabbits.
Crabapple, redbud [Malus x zumi calocarpa]	20+	20+	Round	Yellow	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	May need winter protection from rabbits.
Elm, 'Accolade' [Ulmus x 'Accolade']	50+	35+	Vase	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	A DED resistant elm, which is also resistant to elm leaf beetle. Withstands storms and cold well, great street tree.
Elm, 'Cathedral' [Ulmus x 'Cathedral']	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. Elms are adaptable to urban conditions and grow rapidly.
Elm, 'Discovery' [Ulmus davidiana var. japonica 'Discovery']	30+	25+	Vase	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	A DED resistant elm, which is also resistant to the elm leaf beetle. Elms are adaptable to urban conditions and grow rapidly.
Elm, 'Jacan' [Ulmus davidiana var. japonica 'Jacan']	30+	25+	Vase	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	A DED resistant elm, which is also resistant to the elm leaf beetle. Elms are adaptable to urban conditions and grow rapidly.
Ginkgo, Biloba [Ginkgo biloba]	25+	25+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Yes	No	No	No	Female only	Common street tree in other parts of the state. Females produce fruit that smells bitter when dropped in fall. Cold resistant
Ginkgo, 'Maygar Gold' [Ginkgo biloba 'Maygar Gold']	40+	20+	Round	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Female only	Upright form with beautiful fall colors. Well suited for planting in cold areas. On the smaller side of the Ginkgo cultivars.
Ginkgo, 'Autumn Gold' [Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold']	45+	35+	Round	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Female only	Beautiful fall colors, fast growing, and well suited for colder environments.
Hackberry [Celtis occidentalis]	40+	30+	Oval	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	No	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. 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.
Hophornbeam (Ironwood) [Ostrya virginiana]	20+	25+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. 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]	50+	25+	Oval	Yellow	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. 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'. Lindens are sensitive to deicing salt. In addition, they are chronically prone to girdling root syndrome that develops planting too deep. Always plant lindens shallow and mulch.
Linden, 'Glenleven' [Tilia x flavenscens 'Glenleven']	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Yes	No	Partial	Yes	Yes	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.
Maple, Amur [Acer ginnala] ¹	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] ¹	35+	35+	Irregular	Yellow/Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. 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 Northern Tallgrass Prairie due to its cold hardiness and site tolerance.
Maple, red [Acer rubrum] ¹	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] ¹	40+	40+	Oval	Red/Orange/Yellow	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. Does not do well on alkaline soils. Common sugar maple from a nearby seed source is recommended over cultivars. Recommended cultivars are '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. Use should be restricted to the southern and western portion of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie subsection.
Oak, bur [Quercus macrocarpa]	40+	50+	Round	Brown	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. 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	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. Prefers light, sandy soils. May become chlorotic in alkaline soils. Very susceptible to oak wilt.
Oak, red [Quercus rubra]	40+	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. Use should be restricted to the southern and western portion of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie subsection.
Oak, white [Quercus alba]	40+	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. Use should be restricted to the southern and portion of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie subsection.
Ohio Buckeye, 'Autumn Splendor' [Aesculus glabra 'Autumn Splendor']	20+	20+	Irregular	Red/Maroon	Yes	Sometimes	Partial	Yes	Yes	Is a 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 r color.
Serviceberry, Allegheny [Amelanchier laevis] ²	15+	10+	Oval	Orange/Red	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sensitive to deicing salts and prefers slightly acid soils. Cultivars include 'Cumulus', 'Prince Charles', and 'Snowcloud'.
Serviceberry, Shadblow [Amelanchier canadensis] ²	15+	10+	Oval	Orange/Red	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tolerant of deicing salts, but prefers slightly acid soils.
Viburnum, nannyberry [Viburnum lentago]	12+	6+	Oval	Red/Maroon	Sometimes	Yes	Partial	Yes	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. Large shrub with showy flowers, fruits, and fall color that can be pruned into a small tree.

¹ - Maples other than 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 treat girdling root syndrome.

² - Serviceberries are typically large shrubs, but may be trained into a single- or multiple-stemmed, small tree if desired.