

Compacted Sites: Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Comments
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	balsam fir	40-60'	Flat, fragrant needles, upright cones.
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	50-70'	Round crown, transplants readily, grows much better on moist sites.
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	silver maple	45-75'	Oval crown with pendulous branches, transplants well, fast growth
<i>Betula nigra</i>	river birch	40-70'	Peeling cinnamon-brown bark, often multi-stemmed
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	hackberry	40-60'	Vase-like habit, easily transplanted, very adaptable. Slow to establish.
<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	black ash	40-70'	Large black buds, 'Fallgold' recommended for fall color.
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	green ash	40-60'	Fast growth, deep shade, broad rounded form, seedless varieties.
<i>Larix laricina</i>	larch, tamarack	40-70'	Native, deciduous conifer, yellow fall color, few pests
<i>Malus hybrids</i>	crabapple	15-25'	Excellent variety in flower, fruit and foliage, and habit.
<i>Picea mariana</i>	black spruce	30-70'	Spire-like conical habit with flaky brown cones.
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	eastern cottonwood	80-100'	Open, irregular mature habit, fast growth, seedless 'Siouxland' recommended.
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	bicolor oak	60-70'	Resistant to oak wilt, yellow fall color, prefers acidic soil.
<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	peachleaf willow	30-40'	Long, fragrant leaves.
<i>Salix nigra</i>	black willow	30-60'	Small- to medium-sized tree with orange twigs.
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	northern white cedar, arborvitae	40-50'	Scale-like leaves, broad pyramidal form; 'Techny' recommended



Larch are native to Minnesota and are one of the few deciduous conifer trees. Shown here in November with lingering fall color, larch are well suited for wet or compacted soils.



'Northwood' red maple has bright orange fall color and grows to 50 feet. It is a U of M introduction developed by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, released in 1980.

Compacted sites are common in urban and suburban areas where construction equipment is used to build homes and alter the landscape. Trees on this list will tolerate compacted soils, but remember no trees respond well to a major grade change or construction damage.

Compiled by Kim Sullivan, Anoka County Master Gardener. Anoka County is north of the metropolitan Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and has numerous new communities where compacted soil is an issue with growing plants.