

Dry Soil: Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Comments
<i>Abies balsamea</i> , <i>Abies concolor</i>	balsam fir; concolor fir	40-60'	Popular as Christmas tree for shape and scent; adelgid can be a pest problem.
<i>Betula nigra</i>	river birch	40-70'	Peeling cinnamon-brown bark; often multi-stemmed; can become chlorotic (yellow).
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	hackberry	40-60'	Vase-like habit; easily transplanted; very nice; slow to establish.
<i>Crataegus crusgalli</i>	cockspur hawthorne	20-30'	Var. <i>inermis</i> recommended; effective in groups; wide-spreading low-branches.
<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>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>	honeylocust	30-60'	Delicate silhouette; readily transplanted; 'Skyline' recommended.
<i>Malus</i> hybrids	crabapple	15-25'	Excellent variety in flower, fruit, foliage, and habit.
<i>Picea glauca</i>	white spruce	40-60'	Dense pyramidal to conical; transplants easily.
<i>Picea mariana</i>	black spruce	30-70'	Spire-like conical habit with flaky brown scales.
<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; requires acidic soil.
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	bur oak	40-60'	Long-lived; pest resistant native tree.
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese tree lilac	15-25'	Excellent specimen tree; good in groups; 'Ivory Silk' recommended.
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American linden	60-80'	Fragrant flowers mid-June; transplants readily; large silver-grey leaf.



r: River birch has attractive bark year-round; it is much more tolerant of dry soils than white paper birch.

l: Honeylocust provides light lacy shade and tolerates dry soil conditions. Select improved forms with no thorns and seedpods; this tree also has nice yellow fall color.

The Anoka Sand Plain is a wide area of light, sandy soil in central Minnesota that is a challenge for growing plants. This list identifies trees that can grow in dry or sandy conditions. These are trees that, after establishment, can be grown with minimal water or supplemental irrigation.

Compiled by Kim Sullivan, Anoka County Master Gardener. Anoka County Master Gardeners are experienced gardening in dry conditions.