



Naperville

**Parkway
Tree
Species
Guide**



Updated February 2016

**RECOMMENDED
LARGE
TREES
(over 50' tall)**

FREEMAN MAPLE

Acer x freemanii



DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 35' wide. Upright-oval habit with strong central leader. Cross between Silver Maple and Red Maple. Fall color is an excellent red. May have some orange, yellow and tints of green.

CULTURE: Adapts to most sites except extremely dry locations. Full sun or light shade. Drought and alkaline soil tolerant.

LANDSCAPE USE: Excellent for parkway plantings or as a large shade tree. Many cultivars exist, including 'Marmo' and 'Autumn Blaze'.

SUGAR MAPLE / BLACK MAPLE

Acer saccharum / *Acer nigrum*



DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 40' wide. Dense, upright-oval to rounded crown. Dark green leaves changing to brilliant yellow or orange-red in the fall.

CULTURE: Likes well-drained, moist soils. Does poorly in compacted soil with limited root space. Full sun to partial shade. Intolerant of salts. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Excellent shade tree. Used in parks, golf courses and as a street tree. (Black Maple is a midwestern version of Sugar Maple better adapted to our region.)

CATALPA

Catalpa speciosa



DESCRIPTION: 55' tall x 30' wide. Tree is narrow with an irregular oval crown. Large heart-shaped bright green leaves turn yellow-green to brown in the fall. Large beautiful white flowers in late spring. Fruit are long thin pods about measuring about 12".

CULTURE: Medium to fast growing. Tolerant of many soil types and moisture conditions. Very urban tolerant and can withstand hot, dry environments.

LANDSCAPE USE: Used in parks, large residential lots and as a parkway tree. Very picturesque in winter.

HACKBERRY

Celtis occidentalis



DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 40' wide. Broad oval to rounded native tree with ascending arching branches. Medium green leaves turn yellow in the fall. Interesting gray bark with unique warty texture. The small purple fruits attract birds and wildlife.

CULTURE: Adaptable to a broad range of soil conditions and tolerates wet and dry sites. Withstands wind, drought, full sun and gritty urban conditions. Witches broom and leaf galls can be an aesthetic problem.

LANDSCAPE USE: Good tree for open, dry and windy sites. Best as a large lawn or park tree. Many cultivars exist.

GINKGO

Ginkgo biloba



DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 40' wide. Pyramidal when young, broadening with age and becoming picturesque. Attractive fan-shaped leaves that turn yellow in the fall. Only male trees, which do not bear objectionable fruit, should be planted.

CULTURE: Slow to grow but adaptable to wide range of soil pH. Prefers good soil with adequate moisture. Requires full sun. Very urban tolerant, no notable insect or disease problems. One of the oldest trees, growing on earth for more than 150 million years.

LANDSCAPE USE: Excellent city tree. Many cultivars exist.

HONEYLOCUST

Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis



DESCRIPTION: 65' tall x 50' wide with an open spreading crown. Can be vase shaped. Casts a moderate shade which allows grass to grow under it. Leaves are compound and are yellow in the fall.

CULTURE: Fast growing and transplants readily. Adaptable to a wide range of soil. Tolerates salt, heat, drought and compaction. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Good tree for lawns or in areas where filtered light is desired. Popular street and parking lot tree. Many new cultivars exist that do not have pods or thorns.

KENTUCKY COFFEETREE

Gymnocladus dioica



DESCRIPTION: 65' tall x 50' wide. Native species that is well adapted to alkaline soils. Has many distinctive, unique features, including unusual bark and interesting, bipinnately compound leaves. Leaf color is dark, bluish green in summer and yellow in fall.

CULTURE: Requires full sun, has a medium growth rate and has very few diseases or insect problems. Seed pods can be a litter problem. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Adaptable to urban conditions. Tolerates salt, drought and tough conditions. Can be used as a specimen tree for large areas and as a street tree.

DAWN REDWOOD

Metasequoia glyptostroboides



DESCRIPTION: 70' tall x 35' wide. Pyramidal shape with single straight leader. A "deciduous" conifer. Has green, fern-like leaves which turn red to orange-brown in fall. Bark is reddish-brown.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate and prefers rich soil. This tree has many attractive unique features and has been growing for more than 100 million years.

LANDSCAPE USE: Planted mainly as a specimen tree and a street tree.

LONDON PLANETREE

Plantanus x acerifolia



DESCRIPTION: 70' tall x 50' wide at maturity. Pyramidal when young and rounded when older. Large leaves turn yellow in fall. Tree has beautiful exfoliating bark. The seed is a 1" round ball.

CULTURE: Medium to fast growing. Tolerates urban conditions well.

LANDSCAPE USE: Good for large sites including parks, golf courses and parkways.

SAWTOOTH OAK

Quercus acutissima



DESCRIPTION: 55' tall x 50' wide at maturity. Pyramidal in youth, becoming oval and rounded with age. Dark green leaves are oblong with bristle-like teeth and turn yellow to golden brown in fall.

CULTURE: Medium to fast growth rate. Easy to transplant and adaptable to many soil types except alkaline. Acorns are popular with wildlife.

LANDSCAPE USE: Good specimen tree for large lawns, parks and parkway trees.

WHITE OAK

Quercus alba



DESCRIPTION: 65' tall x 65' wide. Pyramidal when young, broad rounded at maturity. Dark green leaves turn brown to rich red to wine color in fall.

CULTURE: Slow to medium growth. Prefers moist, well-rained acidic soils. Native to Illinois and is the state tree.

LANDSCAPE USE: Large areas are best for this tree. It is used along streets and in parks.

SWAMP WHITE OAK

Quercus bicolor



DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 60' wide. Broad, open, round topped crown. Native to Illinois and adapted to alkaline soil and poorly-drained areas. One of the best oak trees for urban conditions. Yellow/brown fall color.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Tolerates drought, salt and soil compaction better than other oaks.

LANDSCAPE USE: Requires ample space. Useful for large park-like areas and to reestablish native stands of oaks. Also planted as street trees.

BUR OAK

Quercus macrocarpa



DESCRIPTION: 80' tall x 60' wide. A very large, broad and spreading native tree with a very stout, coarse and grand stature. Yellow/brown leaves in fall.

CULTURE: A sturdy and durable tree with a long life that tolerates urban stresses well. Growth is slow at first and then medium.

LANDSCAPE USE: Requires spacious grounds for room to grow. Used in parks, large estate grounds and as a street tree.

CHINKAPIN OAK

Quercus muhlenbergii



DESCRIPTION: 55' tall x 50' wide at maturity. Dark yellowish green leaves in the summer turning yellow to orange-brown in the fall. Somewhat round habit when young becomes more open and rounded with age.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Somewhat difficult to transplant and prefers rich bottomland soils, but is also found on dry limestone outcroppings. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Beautiful tree in old age. Great tree for parks and parkway.

RED OAK

Quercus rubra



DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 60' wide at maturity. A stately native tree. Pink to reddish leaves unfold in the spring. Foliage is dark green in summer. Excellent red to brown color in fall. Bark is grey with streaks of silver.

CULTURE: Fast growth rate. Transplants readily in spring. Tolerates urban conditions. Prefers well-drained acidic soils.

LANDSCAPE USE: Sturdy tree used in lawns and parks.

BALD CYPRESS

Taxodium distichum



DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 25' wide. Stately deciduous conifer with pyramidal to columnar shape. Fine textured leaves turn russet soft brown to orange-brown in fall. Tree produces small cones that turn brown at maturity.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Adaptable to wet or dry conditions. Best known in wet areas, where it may develop "cypress knees". Prefers acidic soil. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: In parks and large estates it makes a great specimen. Also used as parkway trees as it is very adaptable to urban conditions.

AMERICAN LINDEN

Tilia americana



DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 40' wide. Pyramidal shape when young, becoming oval and more rounded in maturity. Light green leaves in summer, yellow in fall. Small yellow fragrant flowers in summer. New twigs and buds are an attractive red color in winter.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Uniform habit. Shade tolerant and adaptable to urban conditions. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Spacious tree for lawns, parks and parkways. Several improved cultivars exist.

HYBRID ELM

Ulmus species



DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 50' wide. Leaves are green in summer and yellow in fall. Habit is generally vase shaped. Many new hybrid elm cultivars exist which exhibit resistance to Dutch elm disease. 'Accolade', 'Triumph' and 'Commendation' are a few.

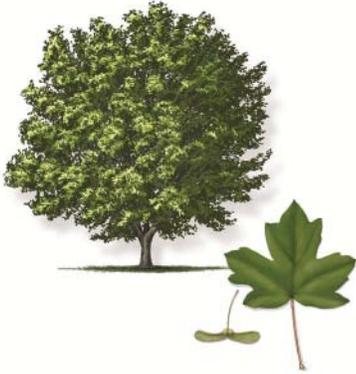
CULTURE: Elms are adaptable, fast growing, urban tolerant and easy to transplant in spring or fall.

LANDSCAPE USE: Good for street trees, parks and large lawn areas.

**RECOMMENDED
MEDIUM
TREES
(30' to 50' tall)**

HEDGE MAPLE

Acer campestre



DESCRIPTION: 35' tall x 35' wide. Globe-shaped tree. Very dense habit, low branched, may occasionally require limbing up for clearance. Yellow fall color, unique corky bark.

CULTURE: Slow to medium growth. Very urban tolerant. Transplants readily. No serious diseases or pests, and it can tolerate severe pruning if needed.

LANDSCAPE USE: Excellent small- to medium-sized specimen tree. Can be used for large hedge rows and under power lines.

MIYABE MAPLE

Acer miyabei



DESCRIPTION: 40' tall x 25' wide. Upright oval to rounded shape. Green leaves turn pale yellow in late fall. Handsome corky bark.

CULTURE: Fast growing. Prefers moist, well-drained soil on the acidic side but is adaptable to dry sites. 'State Street' is the only cultivar.

LANDSCAPE USE: Good specimen tree for small residential areas and parkways.

RED MAPLE

Acer rubrum



DESCRIPTION: 50' tall x 40' wide. Oval to round crown with smooth gray bark. Red flowers in very early spring. Bright green leaves develop beautiful fall colors ranging from yellow to orange to red.

CULTURE: Best in full sun. Requires well-drained soil with ample moisture. Develops chlorosis if grown in highly alkaline soil. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Good tree for lawn, park or street. Many cultivars are available.

OHIO BUCKEYE

Aesculus glabra



DESCRIPTION: 40' tall x 40' wide. Tree has rounded shape. Palmate leaves are dark green turning yellowish orange in fall. Buckeye fruit are brown 1-2" round spheres. Flowers are 4-7" tall white clusters in the spring.

CULTURE: Native to Illinois river banks. Prefers moist, deep, well-drained acidic soil and full sun to part shade.

LANDSCAPE USE: This tree is best for parks and natural settings.

HORSECHESTNUT

Aesculus hippocastanum



DESCRIPTION: 50' tall x 40' wide. Oval to rounded crown. Green palmately compound leaves turn yellow-brown in fall. 5-12" long clusters of white flowers in spring.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Prefers moist, well-drained soil and full sun to part shade. Avoid very dry sites.

LANDSCAPE USE: Good tree for parks and large areas. Also used as a street tree. One cultivar exists. 'Baumannii' is fruitless.

TURKISH FILBERT

Corylus colurna



DESCRIPTION: 45' tall x 30' wide. Conical, symmetrical shape. Foliage is dark green in summer and yellow in fall.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Withstands a range of adverse conditions including drought. Disease and pest resistant.

LANDSCAPE USE: Useful as a specimen tree and as a street tree.

AMERICAN BEECH

Fagus grandifolia



DESCRIPTION: 50' tall x 40' wide. Usually has a short trunk and wide spreading crown. Dark green leaves turn golden bronze in fall. Smooth grey bark.

CULTURE: Slow growth rate. Prefers moist, well-drained acidic soil. Will not tolerate wet or compact soil. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Best in large areas like parks or wide parkways.

BLACK TUPELO

Nyssa sylvatica



DESCRIPTION: 40' tall x 25' wide. Pyramidal when young, spreading to an irregular rounded crown. Dark green leaves change to vivid yellow, orange, scarlet and then purple colors in the fall.

CULTURE: Slow growth. Prefers moist, well-drained acidic soil. Full sun to part shade in wind-sheltered locations. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: One of the most consistent native trees for fall color. Excellent as a specimen and street tree.

IRONWOOD

Ostrya virginiana



DESCRIPTION: 35' tall x 25' wide. A very graceful, medium-sized tree that is pyramidal in youth. Dark green leaves turn yellow in fall.

CULTURE: Slow growing. Transplant in spring. Prefers rich, moist, well-drained soil. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Useful in naturalized settings and as a small- to medium-size parkway tree for narrow spaces.

ENGLISH OAK

Quercus robur



DESCRIPTION: 50' tall x 40' wide. Pyramidal in youth turning rounded in maturity. Dark green leaves turn brown in the fall.

CULTURE: Slow to medium growth. Prefers well-drained soil.

LANDSCAPE USE: Good tree for parks and along streets. Many cultivars exist. Some are very columnar and are good for small spaces.

LITTLE LEAF LINDEN

Tilia cordata



DESCRIPTION: 50' tall x 40' wide. Very conical shape when young. Its branching habit is dense, and it has small yellow fragrant flowers in summer.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Readily transplanted in the spring or fall. Prefers well-drained soils.

LANDSCAPE USE: Grows best on fertile soils, but it is urban tolerant. Used in parks, lawns and as a street tree. Susceptible to Japanese beetles. Many cultivars exist.

SILVER LINDEN

Tilia tomentosa



DESCRIPTION: 50' tall x 30' wide. Pyramidal when young to upright oval on maturity. Dark green upper leaf surface with silvery hairs beneath turns yellow in fall. Small yellow-white fragrant flowers in summer.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Prefers moist, well-drained soil. Pollution tolerant.

LANDSCAPE USE: One of the best lawn and street trees. Tolerates heat and drought and is less prone to insects than other lindens.

ZELKOVA

Zelkova serrata



DESCRIPTION: 50' tall x 40' wide. Vase shaped. Native to China and Japan. A fine textured tree with attractive bark and leaves that turn yellow to orange-brown in fall.

CULTURE: Its growth rate is medium. Somewhat marginally hardy in our region. Can be subject to winter injury.

LANDSCAPE USE: Used as a specimen tree and as a street tree.

**RECOMMENDED
SMALL
TREES
(under 30')**

JAPANESE MAPLE

Acer palmatum



DESCRIPTION: 15-25' tall with an equal or greater spread. Large variations occur due to so many cultivars. Leaf color varies greatly (from red/purple to green) depending on the cultivar. Leaves have 5 or 7 lobes spread symmetrically from a central point, like fingers from the palm of a hand. Very “showy” tree. Can be single or multi-stemmed.

CULTURE: Slow- to medium-growth rate. Prefers partial shade with moist, high organic matter and well-drained soils. Needs protection from wind and late spring frost. This tree has been cultivated for more than 300 years with over 158 cultivars.

LANDSCAPE SITE: Used as a single specimen tree or in groupings. Can be used as a parkway tree under utility lines if in a protected site.

SERVICEBERRY

Amelanchier species



DESCRIPTION: 20' tall x 15' wide. A very ornamental and attractive small tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Has white flowers in spring and green foliage in summer which turns orange-red in fall. Also has small fruits which wildlife enjoy.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Prefers rich soil and sheltered sites. Does well in shade. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Attractive for all seasons as a specimen tree, in mass plantings or in naturalized settings. Can be used under power lines.

AMERICAN HORNBEAM

Carpinus caroliniana



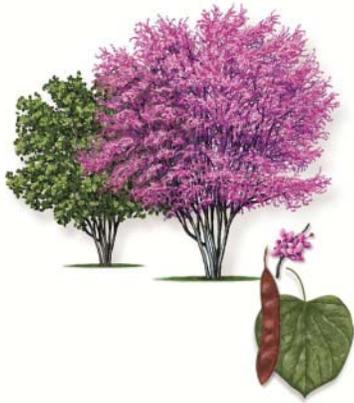
DESCRIPTION: 25' tall x 25' wide. Rounded to broad spreading shape with smooth gray bark. Dark green leaves turn red-orange in fall.

CULTURE: Slow growth rate. Best in moist soils, but tolerates both wet and dry sites. Prefers slightly acidic soils and is somewhat difficult to transplant. Native to Illinois as an understory tree in the forest, preferring dappled shade.

LANDSCAPE USE: Best in naturalized settings and adaptable to many urban conditions. Can be used under utility lines in the parkway.

REDBUD

Cercis canadensis



DESCRIPTION: 25' tall x 25' wide at maturity. Can be single stem tree or multistem shrub. A very attractive, native tree with small purple flowers which cover its branches in spring. Fall color is yellow.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Transplant in spring. Adaptable to sunny or shady conditions. Some disease problems limit its longevity.

LANDSCAPE USE: Excellent in naturalized settings and can be used under power lines.

DOGWOOD

Cornus species



DESCRIPTION: 20' tall x 20' wide. Many species are available for this area. Dark green leaves turn a reddish purple. Green-yellow to yellow-white flowers.

CULTURE: Slow to medium growth. Moist, well-drained soil. Sun to partial shade. Some species are native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Small ornamental specimen. Used in naturalized areas, borders and under utility lines.

COCKSPUR HAWTHORN

Crataegus cresgalli var. inermis



DESCRIPTION: Thornless cultivar grows 25' tall X 25' wide. Broad rounded, low branches crown. Dark green leaves turn bronze-red to purple-red in fall. White flowers in spring.

CULTURE: Slow to medium growth. Prefers well-drained soil. Tolerates urban conditions. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: Single specimen, groupings and good under utility lines.

COMMON WITCHHAZEL

Hamamelis virginiana



DESCRIPTION: 25' tall x 10' wide. Small tree with spreading rounded branching. Yellow fragrant flowers in late fall. Green leaves turn yellow in fall.

CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Prefers moist soil. Somewhat tolerant of urban conditions. Full sun or shade. Avoid very dry sites. Native to Illinois.

LANDSCAPE USE: For naturalized locations, borders and for under utility lines.

MAGNOLIA

Magnolia species



DESCRIPTION: Magnolias come in many shapes and sizes. (For this guide, we are referring to several of the smaller varieties such as 'Stellata' which are adapted for use under power lines.) Noted for their large attractive and fragrant flowers, which vary from white to dark purple. 'Stellata' grows to 15' tall x 15' wide.

CULTURE: Slow to medium growth. Flower buds are sometimes damaged by late frost. Should be planted in sheltered locations. Prefers rich, well-drained and slightly acidic soil.

LANDSCAPE USE: Common as an accent plant around buildings and gardens. Used under utility lines.

ORNAMENTAL CRAB APPLE

Malus species



DESCRIPTION: Hundreds of varieties exist. Some are under 10' tall, while others are over 35'. Each cultivar has been selected for attractive flowers, fruit, growth habit and disease resistance. Flower displays are beautiful and come in many different colors. Fruit is small.

CULTURES: Certain varieties are less susceptible to apple scab, fire-blight and rust diseases. Fairly fast growers and prefer full sun.

LANDSCAPE USE: Planted as specimen trees and can be used for mass plantings in large areas. Appropriate for use under power lines.

JAPANESE TREE LILAC

Syringa reticulata



DESCRIPTION: 25' tall x 20' wide. Small oval to rounded ornamental tree. Grows upright, has attractive reddish-brown, cherry-like bark and has plumes of white flowers in summer.

CULTURE: Medium growth. Relatively pest free, transplants easily and prefers full sun.

LANDSCAPE USE: Excellent in confined areas around buildings or under power lines in parkways. Tolerates urban conditions.

**SUGGESTED
SPECIES FOR
SPECIAL
SITUATIONS**

Trees that should be planted more often

American Beech	Chestnut Oak
Yellow Buckeye	Chinkapin Oak
Kentucky Coffeetree	Shingle Oak
Hybrid Elm	Swamp White Oak
Turkish Hazelnut	White Oak
Cucumber Magnolia	Pecan
Black Maple	Sourgum
Miyabe Maple	Sweetgum
Bur Oak	Tuliptree
	Yellow-wood

Trees not recommended for planting

Alder (<i>invasive</i>)	Siberian Elm (<i>brittle wood, elm leaf beetle</i>)
Ash (<i>widely overplanted in our community and Emerald Ash Borer</i>)	Black Locust (<i>borers</i>)
European White Birch (<i>borers</i>)	Amur Maple (<i>invasive</i>)
Grey Birch (<i>borers</i>)	Boxelder Maple (<i>brittle wood, boxelder bugs</i>)
Paper Birch (<i>borers</i>)	Norway Maple (<i>invasive</i>)
Buckthorn (<i>extremely aggressive</i>)	American Mountainash (<i>borers, fire blight disease</i>)
Butternut (<i>canker disease</i>)	European Mountainash (<i>borers, fire blight disease</i>)
Black Cherry (<i>borers, black knot disease</i>)	White Mulberry (<i>fruit</i>)
Choke Cherry (<i>black knot disease</i>)	Callery Pear (<i>invasive</i>)
European Bird Cherry (<i>borers, black knot disease</i>)	Royal Paulownia (<i>extremely aggressive</i>)
Pin Cherry (<i>borers</i>)	Scotch Pine (<i>pine wilt disease</i>)
Sweet Cherry (<i>borers</i>)	Cottonwood Poplar (<i>brittle wood, cottony seed</i>)
American Chestnut (<i>chestnut blight disease</i>)	Lombardy Poplar (<i>canker disease</i>)
American Elm (<i>Dutch elm disease</i>)	White Poplar (<i>suckers</i>)
Red Elm (<i>Dutch elm disease</i>)	Russian-olive (<i>canker disease</i>)
Rock Elm (<i>Dutch elm disease</i>)	Tree of Heaven (<i>brittle wood</i>)