


2000

EC00-1759 Nebraska Register of Champion Trees 2000

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Saucer Magnolia Champion
Don and Patricia Kingsley,
Hastings, NE

Nebraska Register of Champion Trees 2000



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Elbert C. Dickey, Interim Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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The Nebraska Champion Tree Program

Nebraska is famous for its sports champions, but how about Champion Trees? While Nebraska is considered a “prairie state,” trees have always played a prominent role in the quality of life of Nebraskans. Native trees were used to build the first pioneer homes. They also were used to heat them and protect from them from wind. Trees in our communities and forests provide beauty, protection from wind and blowing snow, useful products, wildlife habitat, cleaner air and water and many other benefits. Clearly, trees contribute to “the good life” in Nebraska. The Nebraska Champion Tree Register helps to remind us of the contribution trees make to the quality of our lives, and to celebrate the beauty, mystery, inspiration and sense of awe that come from being around truly large and ancient trees.

The Nebraska Champion Tree program identifies and recognizes the largest living specimen of all native and the most common introduced tree species in Nebraska. It is administered by the Nebraska Community Forestry Council, UNL Cooperative Extension, and the Nebraska Forest Service. There are 80 species listed in the Nebraska

Champion Tree Register. These tree aristocrats are natural, historical and cultural landmarks. Spend some time around them - we guarantee you will be impressed.

Nebraska is only one of four states without a National Champion Tree. Yet we are convinced a national champion is waiting to be discovered in Nebraska. There also are 19 species currently without state champions. You can help to correct this injustice by:

- Being on the lookout for potential champions
- Nominating big trees in your area
- Developing a Champion Tree Program for your community or county

The trees you plant are the “unsung” champions of Nebraska, working hard to improve our lives and our environment.

Scott Josiah,
Extension Forester, UNL

“Champion Trees Don't Live Forever: Plant Tomorrow's Champion Today!”

Nebraska Register of Champion Trees

This register lists the largest trees of nearly 80 species identified in Nebraska. Most the species are described in the Nebraska Cooperative Extension publication "Trees of Nebraska" (EC 92-1774). The name of the owner and nominator, size and location of each tree follow each listing.

Many people across Nebraska have worked hard to make this register as comprehensive and accurate as possible.

*"Trees are the Earth's endless effort
to speak to the listening heaven"*
Rabindranath Tagore



But the quest to find the largest trees in Nebraska is never over. Champion trees are by nature old, and old trees diminish and die. Larger trees are newly discovered. Thus, this list continually changes as new nominations are submitted. For the most up-to-date list, please see the Nebraska Champion Tree web site at www.nfs.unl.edu

We look forward to working with you to recognize and celebrate these wonderful trees.

Osage Orange Champion
Tom Luttz,
Brownville, Neb.

Nebraska Champion Tree Register

(as of Sept. 1, 2000)

This Nebraska Champion Tree Register lists the most common native and introduced tree species in Nebraska. Most of the listed species are described in **Trees of Nebraska** (Nebraska Cooperative Extension EC 92-1774)

Species	Circum- ference	Ht.	Crown Spread	Total Points	Nominator	Year Last Measured	Year Nominated	Owner & Tree Location
Ash, Green + <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	16' 7"	93'	84'	313	Frank McKivergan Ponca, NE	2000	1986	Frank McKivergan Alive, 3 N of Ponca on Hwy. 12
Ash, White + <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	8' 10"	85'	56'	205	Mark Rouw Des Moines, IA	1999	1995	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Indian Cave State Park, Near Barada
Aspen, Quaking + <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	4' 6"	60'	30'	121	Steve Rasmussen Norfolk, NE	2000	2000	Delbert Lieber S. Sioux City, NE, NE/4 of NE/47 Sect 31, T29N R7E
Baldcypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	13' 0"	56'	57' 9"	226	Scott Josiah Lincoln, NE	2000	2000	University of Nebraska-Lincoln North end of East Campus Arboretum
Birch, European White <i>Betula pendula</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Birch, Paper + <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	4' 5"	48'	33'	109	Paul Andreas Omaha, NE	2000	1981	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Arbor Lodge State Park, Nebraska City, NE
Birch, River <i>Betula nigra</i>	5' 4"	58'	41'	132	Mike Kuhns Lincoln, NE	2000	1988	Mrs. E.B. Schrepf, Front yard 3923 "C" St., Lincoln, NE
Birch, Water + <i>Betula occidentalis</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							

Boxelder + <i>Acer negundo</i>	12' 11"	57'	48'	224	Jim Mischke Ainsworth, NE	1999	1997	Jerry Johnson 4 N of Long Pine in farmstead
Buckeye, Ohio + <i>Aesculus glabra</i>	8' 9"	58'	62' 6"	179	Lewis Wilson St. Edward, NE	1999	1989	Cedar Rapids Schools 408 W. Dayton, Cedar Rapids, NE
Butternut <i>Juglans cinerea</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Catalpa, Northern <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	20' 0"	65'	60'	320	Phil Pierce Omaha, NE	2000	1995	Lloyd Texley 4508 Burdette St, Omaha
Cherry, Black + <i>Prunus serotina</i>	8' 2"	80'	43.5'	189	Rod Edwards Nebraska City, NE	2000	2000	Wildwood Park (by pond) Nebraska City, NE
Chestnut, American <i>Castanea dentata</i>	12' 4"	80'	60'	243	Rod Edwards Nebraska City, NE	2000	2000	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Arbor Lodge State Park, Nebraska City, NE, Chestnut Grove
Coffeetree, Kentucky + <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	10' 9"	68'	72.5'	215	Dennis Kuhn Creston, NE	1999	1986	Walter Wahl 9 S, 1 W of Leigh, 10535 355th St.
Cottonwood, Eastern + <i>Populus deltoides</i>	29' 5"	114'	100'	492	Lou Havercamp McCook, NE	1999	1997	LeRoy Bodeman 6.5 S, 4E of Hayes Center, near livestock well
Cottonwood, Narrowleaf + <i>Populus angustifolia</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Crab Apple * <i>Malus spp.</i>	7' 7"	57'	55'	162	Steve Rasmussen, Wayne & Gary Zimmer, Pierce, NE	2000	2000	Metro Community College – Fort Omaha. West of Bldg. 10, east side of parking lot
Crab Apple * <i>Malus spp.</i>	8' 11"	40'	52'	160	Gus Shires, Lincoln, NE	1999	1984	Dan & Chris King 13th & N. St., Auburn, NE

Species	Circum- ference	Ht.	Crown Spread	Total Points	Nominator	Year Last Measured	Year Nominated	Owner & Tree Location
Douglas, Fir <i>Pseudotsugo menziesii</i>	9' 6"	65'	46'	190	Mark Rouw Des Moines, IA	2000	1995	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Arbor Lodge State Park, Nebraska City, NE
Elm, American + <i>Ulmus americana</i>	17' 0"	98'	81.5'	322	Rod Edwards Nebraska City, NE	2000	2000	Paul & Diane Maddux 618 N 6th St., Nebraska City, NE, front yard
Elm, Rock + <i>Ulmus thomasii</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Elm, Siberian <i>Ulmus pumila</i>	16' 9"	89'	74'	313	Stanley & Jean Shavlik Linwood, NE	2000	2000	Stanley & Jean Shavlik 6 W, 3/4 N, & 1/4 W of Morse Bluff
Elm, Slippery + <i>Ulmus rubra</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Fir, Concolor <i>Abies concolor</i>	11' 1"	40'	40'	183	Bruce Walker Falls City, NE	1999	1985	Kenneth Rieger 4-1/2 E & 4-3/4 N of Falls City, NE, east side of road
Ginkgo * <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	12' 4"	52'	63'	215	Raymond Yost Nebraska City, NE	1999	1981	Raymond Yost On the land of Raymond Yost, Nebraska City, NE
Ginkgo * <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	10' 9"	70'	50'	212	NSA Curators	2000	2000	Joslyn Castle Omaha Bldg. Education, 2902 Davenport St., Omaha
Goldenraintree <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Hackberry + <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	16' 7"	67'	86'	288	Mark Hyberger Beatrice, NE	2000	2000	City of Beatrice, Chautauqua Park Front section along Hwy. 77

Hawthorns <i>Crataegus</i> spp.	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Hickory, Bitternut + <i>Carya cordiformis</i>	9' 10"	89'	68'	224	Mark Rouw Des Moines, IA	2000	1995	City of Nebraska City Wyuka Cemetery, Nebraska City, NE
Hickory, Shagbark + <i>Carya ovata</i>	7' 5"	86'	42'	186	Dennis Adams Lincoln, NE	1980	1980	Elm Tree Farms, Inc. 3 N of Barada near Indian Cave State Park
Honeylocust + <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Hophornbeam, Eastern + <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	4' 0"	41'	36'	98	Pam Peterson Beatrice, NE	2000	2000	Janice Schell 1 S, 3 E of Wymore, NE
Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	9' 3"	59'	36'	179	Phil Rzewnicki West Point, NE	2000	1987	Ken & Susan Hugo 731 N. Main Street, West Point, NE
Juniper, Rocky Mountain + <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	13' 1"	28'	31.5'	192	Ray & Mathew Boice Gering, NE	2000	1994	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Buffalo Creek WMA near Minatare, NE
Larches <i>Larix</i> spp.	8' 7"	58'	60'	176	Dave Mooter Omaha, NE	1999	1981	City of Omaha Miller Park, Omaha, NE
Linden, American + <i>Tilia americana</i>	15' 1"	84'	78'	284	John Anderson Hastings, NE	1999	1987	St. Marks Episcopal Church 414 W. 10th St., Hastings, NE
Locust Black <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Magnolia, Saucer <i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>	3' 1"	27'	40'	74	John Anderson Hastings, NE	1999	1991	Don & Patricia Kingsley 1109 N. Elm, Hastings, NE
Maple, Amur <i>Acer ginnala</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							

Species	Circumference	Ht.	Crown Spread	Total Points	Nominator	Year Last Measured	Year Nominated	Owner & Tree Location
Maple, Norway <i>Acer platanoides</i>	8' 6"	38'	45'	151	Bill Petersen David City, NE	2000	1989	Town of Snyder 309 Pine Street, Snyder, NE
Maple, Red <i>Acer rubrum</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Maple, Silver * +	20' 0"	98'	94'	362	Terry Gompert Center, NE	1993	1993	Mr. & Mrs. Elven Hamilton, Verdigre, NE 1/2 W & 1/2 N of Walnut, NE; SE of Boy Scout Ranch
Maple, Silver * +	21' 0"	75'	110'	354	Dave Mooter Omaha, NE	2000	2000	Joan Novich V. 1115 Ave. E, Plattsmouth, NE
Maple, Silver * +	22' 2"	61'	102'	352	Bernard Sayler Burwell, NE	2000	1994	Kamp Kaleo South edge of Parking Col., Burwell, NE
Maple, Silver * +	24' 2"	45'	67'	352	Jeffrey R. Trospe & James Swenson Oakland, NE	2000	1988	City of Oakland Oakland City Park, West of baseball stadium
Maple, Sugar <i>Acer saccharum</i>	9' 8"	72'	59'	203	Mark Hyberger Beatrice, NE	2000	2000	City of Beatrice, Chautauqua Park NW of ball diamond
Mulberry, Red + or White <i>Morus rubra; M. alba</i>	21' 11"	49'	76'	331	Jon & Ron Koranda Wahoo, NE	2000	1978	Rosemary Koranda Oak Leaf Farm, 2 N & 3 E of Wahoo, NE
Oak, Black + <i>Quercus velutina</i>	16' 9"	82'	72'	301	Bruce Walker Falls City, NE	2000	1980	Rick Kuker 1 1/4 W, 1/2 S of Barada, Lat N. 40 degree, 12.869'; Lon W95, 36.014'

Oak, Bur + <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	13' 11"	75'	105' 6"	268	George Pinkerton Beatrice, NE	2000	2000	City of Beatrice, Chautauqua Park SW of Tabernade
Oak, Chinkapin + <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	13' 1"	70'	67'	244	Rod Edwards Nebraska City, NE	2000	2000	Charles Gudie Nebraska City, NE, Rt 2, 75 S to OPPD Rd, 2 E, 1.5 S, east side - 150 yds into woods
Oak, English <i>Quercus robur</i>	12' 5"	55'	50'	267	David Burke Omaha, NE	1999	1985	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Oak, Northern Red + <i>Quercus rubra</i>	15' 5"	85'	80'	290	Roger Moellendorf Fremont, NE			Mark & Laurie Ferraina 1445 N. Nye St., Fremont, NE
Oak, Pin <i>Quercus palustris</i>	14' 1"	82'	92'	274	Henry Epp Lincoln, NE	2000	1989	Ardene DeCory, backyard 3001 South St., Lincoln, NE
Oak, Swamp White <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	10' 10"	66'	87'	218	Cyril Bish Lincoln, NE	2000	1981	Clay & Betty Whitehead 2500 Woodscrest St., Lincoln, NE
Oak, White + <i>Quercus alba</i>	11' 3"	59'	72'	212	Mark Rouw Des Moines, IA	1999	1995	Irma Meter 1212 Chestnut St., Johnson, NE
Osage Orange <i>Maclura pomifera</i>	16' 9"	49'	74'	268	Rick Hamilton Lincoln, NE	1999	1977	Tom Lutz Minick House, Brownville, NE

Champion White Ash,
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission,
Indian Cave State Park



“Trees are the most conspicuous members of a forest community, for by their form and their height they provide the overriding influence on all other species which exist beneath.”
Carl Wolfe

Species	Circum- ference	Ht.	Crown Spread	Total Points	Nominator	Year Last Measured	Year Nominated	Owner & Tree Location
Hawthorns								
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.								
NO CURRENT CHAMPION								
Hickory, Bitternut +	9' 10"	89'	68'	224	Mark Rouw	2000	1995	City of Nebraska City
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>					Des Moines, IA			Wyuka Cemetery, Nebraska City, NE
Hickory, Shagbark +	7' 5"	86'	42'	186	Dennis Adams	1980	1980	Elm Tree Farms, Inc.
<i>Carya ovata</i>					Lincoln, NE			3 N of Barada near Indian Cave State Park
Honeylocust +								
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>								
NO CURRENT CHAMPION								
Hophornbeam, Eastern +	4' 0"	41'	36'	98	Pam Peterson	2000	2000	Janice Schell
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>					Beatrice, NE			1 S, 3 E of Wymore, NE
Horsechestnut	9' 3"	59'	36'	179	Phil Rzewnicki	2000	1987	Ken & Susan Hugo
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>					West Point, NE			731 N. Main Street, West Point, NE
Juniper, Rocky Mountain +	13' 1"	28'	31.5'	192	Ray & Mathew Boice	2000	1994	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>					Gering, NE			Buffalo Creek WMA near Minatare, NE
Larches	8' 7"	58'	60'	176	Dave Mooter	1999	1981	City of Omaha
<i>Larix</i> spp.					Omaha, NE			Miller Park, Omaha, NE
Linden, American +	15' 1"	84'	78'	284	John Anderson	1999	1987	St. Marks Episcopal Church
<i>Tilia americana</i>					Hastings, NE			414 W. 10th St., Hastings, NE
Locust Black								
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>								
NO CURRENT CHAMPION								
Magnolia, Saucer	3' 1"	27'	40'	74	John Anderson	1999	1991	Don & Patricia Kingsley
<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>					Hastings, NE			1109 N. Elm, Hastings, NE

Pine, Scotch <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	14' 1"	52'	72' 6"	239	Mark Hyberger Beatrice, NE	2000	1988	Roger Weber, backyard 1300 Jefferson Street, Beatrice, NE
Poplar, Balsam <i>Populus balsamifera</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Poplar, White (Silver) <i>Populus alba</i>	14' 5"	102'	78'	295	Roger Moellendorf Fremont, NE	2000	1981	Charles Post 423 W. 11th St., Fremont, NE
Redbud, Eastern + <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Redcedar, Eastern + <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	9' 1"	71'	34'	189	Bob Levenberger Tecumseh, NE	2000	1996	Bill Hauptman, Peru, NE, Julian Corner Hwy 75, 1 N to Road "R", 2 E, SW corner of yard
Russian Olive <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	11' 2"	36'	40'	180	Neal Jennings Lincoln, NE	2000	1980	Kenneth Olson 7909 Leavenworth Street, Omaha, NE
Spruce, Colorado Blue <i>Picea pungens</i>	7' 3"	62'	23.7'	154	Dale Lindgren North Platte, NE	1999	1995	University of Nebraska-Lincoln SW of Admin. Bldg. WCREC, North Platte, NE
Spruce, Norway <i>Picea abies</i>	12' 3"	79'	55'	240	David Feder Plattsmouth, NE	2000	1998	Nebraska Masonic Home 14th St. and Ave C., Plattsmouth, NE
Spruce, White <i>Picea glauca</i>	NO CURRENT CHAMPION							
Sweetgum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	5' 4"	74'	31'	146	Mark Rouw Des Moines, IA	2000	1995	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Arbor Lodge State Park, Nebraska City, NE
Sycamore, American + <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	18' 1"	88'	112'	333	Neal Jennings Lincoln, NE	1999	1980	William Furnas 1 W, 1/4 S of Brownville, NE

<i>Species</i>	<i>Circum- ference</i>	<i>Crown Ht.</i>	<i>Total Spread</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Nominator</i>	<i>Year Last Measured</i>	<i>Year Nominated</i>	<i>Owner & Tree Location</i>
Tree of Heaven <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> NO CURRENT CHAMPION								
Walnut, Black + <i>Juglans nigra</i>	19' 1"	74'	76'	322	Richard Brader Glenville, NE	2000	2000	Richard Brader 1/2 mile west of showboat N. side Hwy. 94
Willow, Black + <i>Salix nigra</i>	12' 10"	74'	74'	247	Steve Rasmussen Norfolk, NE	2000	1988	4 miles N. on 513 Ave. 20 miles E. of O'Neill on Co. Rd. 59, S. side bridge alongo Verdigre Creek.
Willow, Weeping <i>Salix babylonica</i>	17' 2"	97'	58'	317.5	Steve Rasmussen & Jerry Hardy Wayne, NE	1999	1988	Bill Teffers, San Francisco Golf 1st driveway on the west side of Hwy 183, S. of Niobrara River
Yellow-Poplar (tulip tree) <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	12' 6"	59'	73'	227	Jeffrey Troupe Oakland, NE	2000	1991	Milo Benfgord 404 N. Osborn Street, Oakland, NE

*Denotes Co-Champions (total points must be within 2 percent of each other).

+Denotes tree native to Nebraska.

Silver Maple Co-Champion
Mr. and Mrs. Elven Hamilton
Verdigre, Neb.



**American Sycamore
Champion**
William Furnas,
Brownville, Neb.

How Do You Measure a Potential Champ

To evaluate a potential champion tree, measure the tree circumference (distance around the trunk) at 4 1/2 feet above the ground, the vertical height and **average** width of the crown.

Circumference: Measure around the trunk (in inches) at a point 4 1/2 feet above the ground. If the tree is on a slope, measure 4 1/2 feet from the ground midslope. If a large swelling, branch or fork occurs at 4 1/2 feet above the ground, measure the smallest circumference below the obstruction. If the tree forks below 4 1/2 feet, measure the circumference of the largest single stem above the fork.

Height: You can use a yard stick to estimate height. First, measure 100 feet from the tallest part of the tree, preferably on the level. Next, hold the yard stick vertically 25 inches from your eye (about an arm's length). Sight along the zero inch mark to the base of the tree. Then, read the inch mark that aligns with the tree top. This reading in inches multiplied by four gives you the tree's height in feet. A leaning tree's height is measured vertically from the ground to the top of the tree, not along the leaning trunk. Measure height to the nearest foot.

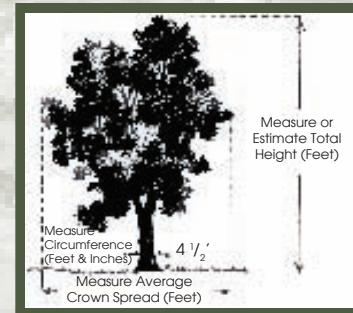
Crown Spread: Crown spread is the average width of widest and narrowest parts of the tree's crown. This measurement should be taken from one edge of the crown, through the tree's trunk to the opposite edge. Determine where the crown's edge is by hanging a weight from a string and sighting up the resulting vertical line. Move back and forth until the string lines up with the crown's edge. Measure the widest spread of the crown and the narrowest, then add them together and divide by 2.

Calculating Total Points: To figure a tree's total point score, assign one point for every inch of stem circumference, one point for each foot of height, and one-fourth point for each foot of average crown spread. The tree with the most points is the champion for that species. If the total points for two or more trees are within 2 percent of each other they will be declared Co-Champions.

Total points = circumference (inches) + height (feet) + average crown spread (feet)/4

Example: Tree Circumference (220") + Height (80 feet)

$$\begin{aligned} &+ \text{Average Crown Spread } \frac{(120' + 80')}{2} = 100' \\ &= \frac{(220 + 80) + 100}{4} = 325 \text{ total points} \end{aligned}$$



To Submit a Nomination

Anyone can nominate a tree at any time for inclusion in Nebraska's Champion Tree Register. If you know of a large tree that you want to nominate for consideration as a Champion tree, please complete the nomination form as follows.

- 1. Record the tree's measurements (directions on page 13)*
- 2. Enclose three or four inches of twig (with leaves or needles if possible) and a photograph to aid in species identification.*
- 3. Send the completed nomination form and sample to:*

*Coordinator, Champion Tree Program
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
107 Plant Industry Building
P.O. Box 830814
Lincoln, NE 68583-0814
For more information call: (402) 472-9869
email: jlackey2@unl.edu*

- 4. If a tree is close in size to the current champion, a forester or member of the Nebraska Community Forestry Council will visit the tree to confirm the species, and remeasure the tree to determine its official score.*

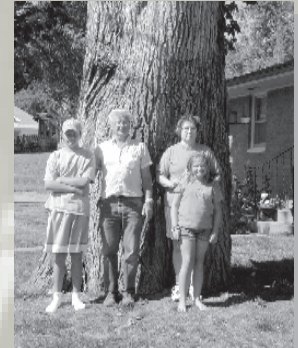
All champions and the five runners-up (notable trees) will be listed on the Nebraska Forest Service Champion Trees Web site at:

www.nfs.unl.edu

"Generations pass while some trees stand, and yet families last not three oaks."

Robert Browning

American Elm Champion
*Paul and Diane Maddox,
Nebraska City, Neb.*



Nomination Form

Tree Species: _____

Date Nominated: _____

Tree owner: Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Tree

Nominator: Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Tree Location: _____ miles _____ and _____ miles _____ of
N or S E or W

(nearest town) (county)

(other location data, give as much detail as possible)

Circumference (at 4.5 feet from the ground) _____ feet,
_____ inches.

Total Height: _____ Average Crown Spread: _____
(feet)

Official Measurements:

Circumference: _____ ft _____ in _____
points

Height: _____ ft _____ points

Crown Spread: _____ ft x 1/4 _____ points

Date: _____ Checked By: _____ Total Points: _____



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