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EC74-1210 Shade and Flowering Trees

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Shade and Flowering Trees
SHADE and FLOWERING TREES

By Wayne Whitney
Extension Horticulturist
Clark Jensen
Area Extension Agent

This list has been prepared to help you select kinds of trees reasonably certain to succeed in your area. The regions for which they are recommended are given with each kind. The extent of each region is shown on the map on the following page.

Although many plants may be found growing outside recommended areas, their success in such places is generally due to exceptionally favorable sites or superior care.

The average grower should confine his main plantings to species that are known to be adapted. It is always interesting to try new things, but try new plants in a small way and expect the worst until they prove themselves to be adapted. Many of the plants listed require good care, including supplemental water, in order to thrive.

Zones shown on the map indicate large areas in which certain groups of trees and shrubs may be planted with reasonable assurance of success. These large zones differ in temperature, rainfall, elevation, or soil type. Within all zones there are small local areas where environmental conditions may be more severe or more favorable than average. These small areas may differ from their surrounding zones in soil type, fertility, moisture supply, or exposure.

1/ The plants recommended in this list were selected in cooperation with representatives of the Nebraska Association of Nurserymen.
Woody plant species serve the following purposes:

1. **Landscape development.** Woody plants are the basic permanent materials in every landscape planting. Each plant should serve a distinct purpose and hence should be chosen for its mature size, shape, and other growth characteristics.

2. **Comfort.** Man and beast enjoy the comfort provided by shade trees and the protection from winds which comes from properly constituted and located windbreaks and shelterbelts. These make Nebraska a better, more comfortable place in which to live.

3. **Conservation.** The soil saving effects of woody plants are widely appreciated. Plantings made now will benefit future generations. Wild life is also encouraged and protected by plantings, particularly of the shrubby type.

4. **Decorative effect.** Greenness is always restful and the varying texture of foliage adds interest. Colorful blossoms, berries, foliage and twigs are useful in developing landscape effect.

5. **Community pride.** A well planted home or community attracts favorable attention and serves as a stimulus to further neighborhood development.
6. **Financial reward.** An effective windbreak improves the value of a farm and a well planned landscape planting around the residence increases the desirability and value of any home.

7. **Personal satisfaction.** Many homeowners or members of their families develop special interests in particular plant species. Relaxation comes through working with living things. Where inclination leads and space permits, woody species may be the type chosen.

**DECIDUOUS BROADLEAF TREES**

**Shade Trees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Recommended for Regions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birch, Cutleaf Weeping <em>(Betula alba pendula laciniata)</em></td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deeply cut leaves, drooping branches, silvery-white bark. May winterkill in dry years. Very subject to attack by borers if weakened by drought or heat.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European - Betula Alba</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaves entire, branches upright, Bark silvery-white. May winterkill in dry years. Subject to borers in dry, hot years.</strong></td>
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Elm

**American (Ulmus americana)** 60 - 100 feet

The most widely planted shade tree. Wide spreading, arching branches. Plant with caution because of Phloem necrosis, Dutch Elm Disease and European elm scale. Caution: Do not plant in solid blocks!

**Moline (Ulmus americana Moline)** 60 - 100 feet

Variety of American elm. Narrow, pyramidal, rapid-growing tree, subject to the same pests as the American.

**Chinese (Ulmus pumila)** 40 - 50 feet

Rapid growing, quite drouth resistant. Not recommended as a lawn tree except in the drier portions of the state. Chlorosis resistant.

**Hybrid Elm Varieties**

Resistant to Phloem necrosis and Dutch Elm Disease.
Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) 1,2,3
60 feet.

A "living fossil."
Attractive foliage of
fan-shaped leaves,
quite different from
common broadleaf
trees. The foul-
smelling fruit is pro-
duced only if male and
female trees are plant-
ed near each other.
Slow growing.

Green Ash (Fraxinus
pennsylvanica lanceolata) 1,2,3,4,5
50 - 60 ft.

Shapely round-headed
tree with slender,
spreading branches.

Marshalls Seedless Green Ash 1,2,3,4,5
A clean tree for lawn
plantings as it does
not produce seed.
(Propagated from a
selection made by
Marshalls Nursery)

Honeylocust (Gleditsia traicanthos) 1,2,3,4,5
40 - 60 feet

Light shade cast by
relatively thin foliage
makes this excellent
for lawns. Podless and
thornless selections are
now available. Drought
resistant. Moraine or
Beatrice are good
varieties. Chlorosis
resistant.
Hackberry (*Celtis Occidentalis*) 1,2,3,4,5

50 - 60 feet

Good street tree, but relatively slow growing. Berries provide food for birds. Drought resistant.

Kentucky Coffeetree 1,2,3,4,5

(*Gymnocladus dioicus*)

40 feet

Very hardy. Wide, flat pods hang on all winter.

Linden - All drought resistant.

American (*Tilia americana*) 1,2,3,4,5

75 - 100 feet

Spreading tree, large leaves, fragrant flowers in the spring.

Little Leaf (*Tilia Cordata*) 1,2,3,4,5

65 feet

Little leaf has smaller leaves and is also a smaller tree than American.

Redmond (*Tilia euchlora Redmond*) 1,2,3,4,5

65 feet

Pyramidal linden, excellent shape.

(Propagated from selection made by Plumfield Nursery.)
Maple

Amur Maple (Acer ginnala) 1,2,3,4,5
Small tree or tall shrub (Satan Shrub)

Norway (Acer platanoides) 1,2 60 feet
Round-headed tree makes dense shade. Trunks of young trees subject to sunscald can be wrapped.

Schwedler (Acer platanoides Schwedleri) 1,2 50 - 60 feet
Same as Norway but foliage is red in spring, becoming reddish-green in summer.

Soft (Acer saccharium) 1,2,3,4,5 60 - 80 feet
Rapid growing, not very long-lived. Plant in moist locations. Various varieties, such as Blair and Cutleaf, are available. Subject to ice storm damage unless properly shaped.

Sugar (Acer saccharum) 1,2 50 - 70 feet
Leaves turn bright orange or scarlet in autumn.
Oak

Pin (*Quercus palustris*) 70 - 80 feet

Pyramidal form, rapid growth. Foliage turns orange-scarlet in fall. Very susceptible to chlorosis.

Red (*Quercus rubra*) 70 - 80 feet

Good city tree, resistant to smoke; rapid grower.

Bur (*Quercus macrocarpa*) 70 - 80 feet

Wide spreading, massive tree.

Poplar

White (*Populus alba*) 60 feet

Leaves lobed, white beneath. Sometimes mistaken for maple. Suckers badly on moist soil.

Other species and varieties, including cottonwood. Some are wide spreading trees, others such as Lombardy and Bolles are narrow and upright.
Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) 20 - 25 feet

Silvery-gray leaves, grayish-white berries. Chlorosis resistant.

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) 75 feet

Bark smooth, colored olive-green to almost white on young parts but flaking off from old trunk.

**FLOWERING TREES**

The trees in this group are grown more for their flowers or fruits than for shade. Those marked "tender," although apt to suffer winter damage occasionally, are interesting enough to justify planting in spite of occasional loss.

Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) 80 feet

Orange-yellow flowers in spring the size and shape of tulips. These furnish a good source of nectar for bees.

Willow, Golden Weeping (*Salix: Niobe*) 30 - 35 feet

Weeping form with light green leaves and golden-yellow bark.
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Pagoda-tree (Sophora japonica)</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender, 25 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long panicles of yellowish-white flowers in late summer. Used occasionally for variety.</td>
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</tr>
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Flowering Crab (Malus species) 10 - 25 feet

| White, pink, or red blossoms in spring, some species with ornamental fruit large enough to use. |

Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida) Tender, 15 feet

| Shrub-like, large single white flowers, red fruit. Foliage turns various shades of red in the fall. |

Flowering Plum (Prunus species) 8 - 18 feet

| Pink flowers in the spring. Several species and varieties are available. |

Goldenrain-tree (Koelreuteria paniculata) Tender, 35 feet

| Yellow flowers in broad, loose panicles in the summer. |
Hawthorn (Crataegus species) 15 - 30 feet

Many species and varieties. Flowers in the spring. Orange or red fruits in the fall.

Mountain Ash (Sorbus americana) Tender, 25 feet

Clusters of bright orange-red fruits in the fall. Sunscalds in exposed locations.

Magnolia (Magnolia soulangeana) 20 feet

Tender in other areas. Large pink and white blossoms in early spring.

Redbud (Cercis canadensis) 30 feet

Pink, pea-like flowers in spring before leaves appear. Does best in a protected location.

Tree Lilac (Syringa amurensis japonica) 25 feet

Large clusters of small white flowers in June.