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Selecting woody landscape plants

FOR FALL COLOR

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

LAURA G. JULL



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WHEN SELECTING PLANTS FOR LANDSCAPING, CONSIDER CHOOSING PLANTS THAT NOT ONLY HAVE SHOWY FLOWERS IN SPRING OR SUMMER, BUT ALSO COLORFUL FALL FOLIAGE. THIS PUBLICATION PROVIDES AN EXTENSIVE—THOUGH BY NO MEANS COMPREHENSIVE—LIST OF COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE WOODY PLANTS WITH SHOWY AUTUMN COLOR. CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL NURSERY OR GARDEN CENTER FOR AVAILABILITY OF SPECIFIC SPECIES.

COLD HARDINESS RATINGS LISTED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE BASED ON THE USDA COLD HARDINESS ZONE MAP SHOWN ON PAGE 2.



About fall color

Each year, as the days get shorter and the temperatures start to cool, the change of season turns the green leaves of summer into a kaleidoscope of yellows, oranges, reds, purples, and bronzes. A variety of factors interact to play a role in determining how spectacular the display will be.

LEAF PIGMENTS: NATURE'S PAINT

The palette of pigments present in the leaves determine the color that will adorn the tree. Dazzling variations arise when different concentrations of pigments are combined.

CHLOROPHYLLS are the green pigments in leaves. They capture energy from the sun and use it to change water and carbon dioxide into food (sugars). In the fall, chlorophyll breaks down faster than it's produced, revealing the other pigment colors.

CAROTENOIDS make up the yellow, orange, and some red pigments. They are present in the leaf throughout the growing season, but their colors are usually masked by chlorophyll. Carotenoids protect leaves from the harmful byproducts of photosynthesis. Since carotenoids are always present, yellow and gold fall colors are least affected by weather.

ANTHOCYANINS are the pigments responsible for most of the red, pink, and purple colors. The extra sugars that accumulate in the fall permit the production of anthocyanins. These colorful pigments act as internal sunscreen to protect the photosynthetic system allowing the plant to recover nutrients from the leaves more easily. Plants that have no red fall color are usually more resistant to damage from bright light, so they have no need to produce protective anthocyanin pigments.

TANNINS are not pigments, but are responsible for the tan and brown coloring of some leaves such as seen in beeches and oaks.

WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR?

During the summer, most of a plant's nutrients are located within the leaves. The shortening of day length and cooler temperatures, particularly at night, signal the plant to begin preparing for winter by transporting the carbohydrates (sugars) and mineral nutrients from the leaves to the stems and roots for storage, to be reused the following spring. A layer of cells at the base of the leaf petiole (stalk) transforms, gradually closing off the flow of sugars and minerals into and out of the leaf. In a process called senescence, chlorophyll breaks down, causing leaves to change color and eventually fall to the ground.

TIMING AND INTENSITY OF FALL COLOR

Many factors play a role in determining the timing and intensity of fall color, bringing an element of unpredictability and variety to the season. Peak fall color, for example, can shift by as much as 2 weeks from year to year.

PLANT HEALTH. Plants that are drought-stressed, newly planted, or are suffering from insects or diseases may have poor fall color or they may have increased production of red pigments.

MOISTURE LEVELS. Good soil moisture throughout the season coupled with a dry fall can improve fall color. However, excessively wet or dry weather will cause poor color development. During a severe drought, leaves may dry, curl, and drop before fall color has sufficiently developed.



TEMPERATURES. Cool, dry, sunny days plus cooler night temperatures stimulate production of anthocyanins, producing brilliant reds and purples. Warm weather, by contrast, may reduce the development of anthocyanins. During unusually warm autumns, plants may accelerate fall color development, shortening the time leaves remain on the plant. An early hard frost may severely damage leaves, arresting fall color development before the brightest colors are exposed.

LIGHT LEVELS. Leaves produce the best coloration when they receive sufficient sunlight. Plants growing in dense shade will usually fail to develop intense red and orange coloring.

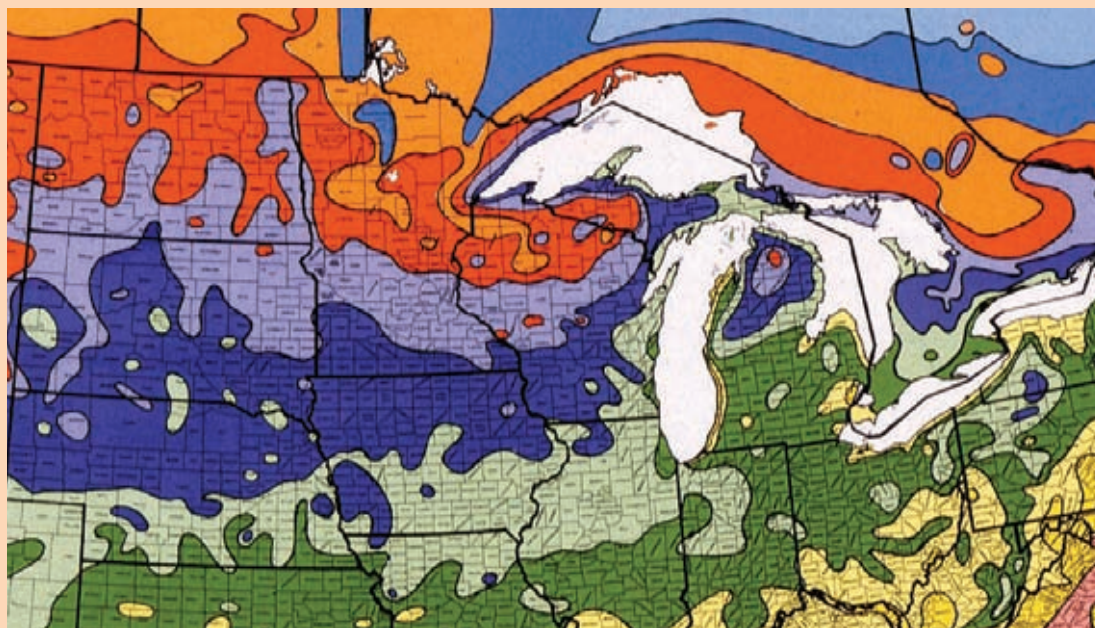
OTHER FACTORS. The intensity of color change may also be affected by the levels of various minerals in the plant—nitrogen, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, and sodium—as well as by the acidity in the leaves and by genetics.

Plants are listed alphabetically by scientific name within each section.



USDA COLD HARDINESS ZONES AND AVERAGE ANNUAL MINIMUM WINTER TEMPERATURES

-45° to -50°F	2a
-40° to -45°F	2b
-35° to -40°F	3a
-30° to -35°F	3b
-25° to -30°F	4a
-20° to -25°F	4b
-15° to -20°F	5a
-10° to -15°F	5b



Large & medium trees (TALLER THAN 30 FEET)



AUTUMN BLAZE®
FREEMAN MAPLE

Freeman maple, *Acer x freemanii*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 40–60'

SPREAD: 35–40'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: oval to rounded; ascending branches

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange-red to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: tiny reddish flowers in clusters in early spring; red double samara (winged) fruit on female trees in spring; deeply lobed leaves; smooth light gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S. and WI; natural hybrid of red and silver maples

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates wet soil; prone to narrow crotch angles and limb breakage; shallow roots; plant in spring



Miyabe maple, *Acer miyabei*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 30–40'

SPREAD: 30–40'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: upright oval to rounded; low branches

FALL COLOR: yellow (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: dark green leaves; corky looking bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates urban conditions and road salt; tolerates drier soils



Black maple, *Acer nigrum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 50–60'

SPREAD: 35–45'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: upright to rounded

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: thick, leathery leaves; black bark

NATIVE HABITAT: central U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, fertile soil; pH adaptable; sensitive to road salt; tolerates heat and drought better than sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)



Norway maple, *Acer platanoides*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 40–50'

SPREAD: 35–40'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: wide-spreading, rounded; dense

FALL COLOR: yellow to gold (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: greenish-yellow flowers in early spring; dark green leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Europe

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires well-drained soil, does not tolerate wet soil; tolerates road salt; very invasive, do not use near any natural areas; susceptible to verticillium wilt and girdling roots; shallow roots



Red maple, *Acer rubrum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 40–60'

SPREAD: 25–35'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: oval to rounded to irregular

FALL COLOR: yellow to bright red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: clusters of tiny red flowers in early spring; red double samara (winged) fruit on female trees in spring; smooth, light gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

(continued)



RED MAPLE

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires a moist, well-drained, slightly acid to acid soil; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates wet soil; sensitive to drought, road salt, and air pollution; susceptible to verticillium wilt; prone to narrow crotch angles and limb breakage; shallow roots; leaves toxic to horses



Sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 60–75'

SPREAD: 35–50'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: upright, oval to rounded

FALL COLOR: yellow to bright orange-red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: smooth bark when young, becoming plate-like with age

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, fertile soil; pH adaptable; sensitive to road salt, drought, and air pollution; does not tolerate wet soil; susceptible to verticillium wilt and girdling roots; sap tapped in early spring for making maple syrup; state tree of Wisconsin



Pacific Sunset® maple,

Acer 'Warrenred'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 30–50'

SPREAD: 30–40'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: oval, spreading

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange, red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought, heat, and air pollution



Autumn Splendor buckeye,

Aesculus x arnoldiana 'Autumn Splendor'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 30–40'

SPREAD: 20–30'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: oval to rounded; dense; low branches

FALL COLOR: deep burgundy red (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: yellowish-green flower panicles (clusters) form at ends of branches in mid-spring; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, rich, fertile soil; pH adaptable; less susceptible to leaf scorch than other buckeyes; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; poisonous fruit



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Yellow buckeye, *Aesculus flava*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 60–75'

SPREAD: 25–35'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, oval; dense; low branches

FALL COLOR: golden yellow to orange (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: yellowish-green to creamy flower panicles (clusters) form at ends of branches in mid-spring; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: southern and eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, rich, fertile soil; pH adaptable; less leaf scorch susceptible; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; poisonous fruit



Homestead buckeye, *Aesculus x marylandica* 'Homestead'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 30–40'

SPREAD: 20–30'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, oval; low branches

FALL COLOR: orange to red (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: creamy-yellow flower panicles (clusters) form at ends of branches in mid-spring

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, rich, fertile soil; pH adaptable; scorch-resistant foliage; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; poisonous fruit, but few produced



Yellow birch, *Betula alleghaniensis*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 60–75'

SPREAD: 30–40'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright to rounded; open

FALL COLOR: bright yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, exfoliating (peeling) bark is yellowish to dark gray to bronze, shiny

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, northern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a cool, moist, well-drained soil; pH adaptable; will not tolerate poor soils; sensitive to drought; resistant to bronze birch borer; plant in spring; stems aromatic when scratched



Sweet birch, cherry birch,

Betula lenta

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 40–55'

SPREAD: 30–40'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: pyramidal becoming irregular and rounded; open

FALL COLOR: bright yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: reddish-brown to blackish bark

NATIVE HABITAT: northeastern to eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a cool, moist, well-drained, slightly acidic to neutral soil; will not tolerate poor soils; sensitive to drought; resistant to bronze birch borer; plant in spring; stems aromatic when scratched; rarely available at nurseries



Paper birch, canoe birch, white birch, *Betula papyrifera*

HARDINESS ZONE: 2b

HEIGHT: 50–70'

SPREAD: 35–45'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: upright, loose pyramidal becoming irregular oval to rounded

FALL COLOR: yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white, exfoliating (peeling) bark with black markings

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, Alaska, northeastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a cool, moist, well-drained soil; pH adaptable; will not tolerate poor, dry soils; likes full sun, but plant where roots will receive afternoon shade; sensitive to drought and heat; susceptible to bronze birch borer and birch leaf minor; plant in spring



SWEET BIRCH

Whitespire Senior gray birch,

Betula populifolia 'Whitespire Senior'

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 30–40'

SPREAD: 10–20'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: narrow, pyramidal to spire-like (coming to a fine point), usually multi-stemmed; pendulous branches

FALL COLOR: yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white, non-peeling bark with black, triangular patches below branches; dark black bark at base of tree

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada and eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, cool soil; pH adaptable; tolerates sandy and rocky soils; does not tolerate heat; likes full sun, but plant so roots receive afternoon shade; less susceptible to bronze birch borer than other white barked birches; plant in spring



Bitternut hickory, yellowbud hickory, *Carya cordiformis*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 60–80'

SPREAD: 40–50'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: narrow to upright oval; straight, symmetrical trunk

FALL COLOR: bright golden yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: bright yellow buds; lacy texture to canopy; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; bitter nut inside yellowish-green husk; fruit can make a litter mess



Shagbark hickory, *Carya ovata*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 60–80'

SPREAD: 40–50'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: oblong to oval crown; straight, symmetrical trunk

FALL COLOR: bright yellow to yellow-brown

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: edible nut attracts wildlife; showy, exfoliating (peeling), shaggy bark in long strips

NATIVE HABITAT: southern Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates sandy soil, drought, and road salt; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; nut inside yellowish-green husk; fruit can make a litter mess



Katsuratree,

Cercidiphyllum japonicum

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 40–60'

SPREAD: 35–50'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: pyramidal becoming oval to rounded

FALL COLOR: yellow to apricot

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: reddish new leaves in spring that turn blue-green; grayish-brown, slightly shaggy bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan and China

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires a moist, well-drained, rich, cool soil; very sensitive to drought and heat; does not tolerate compacted, poorly drained soil; likes full sun, but plant so roots receive afternoon shade; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



American yellowwood, yellowwood,

Cladrastis kentukea

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 30–40'

SPREAD: 40–60'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: vase-shaped becoming rounded; low branches

FALL COLOR: bright yellow to gold

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flower panicles (clusters) are fragrant and hang from ends of branches in early summer; smooth, gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: southern U.S. in mountains and south-central U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires a moist, well-drained, fertile soil; pH adaptable; sensitive to drought; does not tolerate compacted, poorly drained soil; susceptible to verticillium wilt; prone to narrow crotch angles and limb breakage



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American beech, *Fagus grandifolia*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 50–70'

SPREAD: 50–70'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: pyramidal to oval becoming rounded; horizontal, low branches

FALL COLOR: yellow to russet-brown

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: edible brown nut in fall attracts wildlife; smooth, gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a cool, rich, loamy, slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; does not tolerate wet, poorly drained, compacted soil, drought or high pH; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



White ash, *Fraxinus americana*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 50–80'

SPREAD: 50–70'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: pyramidal becoming rounded to oval

FALL COLOR: yellow-orange to purple (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: smooth bark when young, becomes furrowed and somewhat corky looking with age

NATIVE HABITAT: southern Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; does not tolerate dry, rocky soil; tolerates road salt; susceptible to many diseases and insect pests, including Emerald ash borer; female trees produce tan samara (winged) fruit that can make a litter mess; plant male selections to avoid fruit (Autumn Purple®, Autumn Applause®, Skyline®, etc.)



Golden Desert® European ash,

Fraxinus excelsior 'Aureaefolia'

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 30–35'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: compact, rounded

FALL COLOR: bright gold (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: bright yellow twigs with black buds; golden-yellow new leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Europe and western Asia

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates road salt; susceptible to many diseases and insect pests, including Emerald ash borer; marginally hardy



AUTUMN PURPLE®
WHITE ASH



Fallgold black ash,

Fraxinus nigra 'Fallgold'

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 35–40'

SPREAD: 25–30'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, oval

FALL COLOR: golden yellow (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: scaly, flaky bark; seedless

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates wet soil; susceptible to many diseases and insect pests, including Emerald ash borer



AMERICAN BEECH

Green ash, red ash,

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

HARDINESS ZONE: 2a

HEIGHT: 50–60'

SPREAD: 30–45'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: pyramidal becoming oval to upright

FALL COLOR: yellow to gold (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES:

ashy-gray to tan bark

NATIVE HABITAT: southern Canada, eastern U.S., northern plains and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates dry, sterile soil, road salt and wet soil; susceptible to many diseases and insect pests, including Emerald ash borer; female trees produce tan samara (winged) fruit that can make a litter mess; plant male cultivars to avoid fruit ('Newport', 'Patmore', 'Summit', etc.)



Cimmaron® green ash,

Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Cimzam'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 40–50'

SPREAD: 30–40'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: narrow when young with upright branches; becomes oval with age

FALL COLOR: red to burgundy to orange-red (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: glossy, dark green leaves; seedless

NATIVE HABITAT: southern Canada, eastern U.S., northern plains and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates dry sterile soil, road salt, and wet soil; susceptible to many diseases and insect pests, including Emerald ash borer; may be a hybrid with white ash



Ginkgo, maidenhair tree,

Ginkgo biloba

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 50–80'

SPREAD: 30–60'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: pyramidal becoming wide-spreading with age

FALL COLOR: bright golden-yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, fan-shaped leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates sandy soil, drought, road salt, and air pollution; female trees produce smelly, soft fruit that make a litter mess; plant male selections to avoid fruit ('Autumn Gold', 'Presidential Gold™', 'Princeton Sentry®', etc.)



SKYLINE® THORNLESS HONEYLOCUST

Thornless honeylocust,

Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 50–70'

SPREAD: 40–50'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: vase-shaped becoming flat-topped with age; open

FALL COLOR: bright golden-yellow (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: nice, vase-shaped form; tiny leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: central and southern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates periodic flooding, drought and road salt; pest prone; tiny leaflets rarely require raking in autumn; female trees produce large pods that make a litter mess; plant male selections to avoid fruit (Shademaster®, Skyline®, True Shade®, etc.)



GINKGO

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Kentucky coffeetree,

Gymnocladus dioica

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 50–75'

SPREAD: 40–50'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: vase-shaped, upright to irregular; open

FALL COLOR: yellowish

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: large, lacy, blue-green leaves; ashy-gray, furrowed bark with exfoliating (peeling) plates

NATIVE HABITAT: southern Canada, central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates periodic flooding, drought, and road salt; slow to establish; female trees produce large pods that make a litter mess; plant male selections to avoid fruit ('Espresso', 'Kentucky Colonel', 'Stately Manor', etc.)



European larch, *Larix decidua*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 70–75'

SPREAD: 30–35'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: pyramidal with straight trunk and horizontal branches with pendulous branchlets; open

FALL COLOR: yellow (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: soft, needle-like leaves; dark brown to gray, persistent cones

NATIVE HABITAT: Europe

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a deep, rich, slightly acid to neutral, moist, well-drained soil; will not tolerate heavy clay, compacted soil, or drought; tolerates road salt; requires full sun; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



Japanese larch, *Larix kaempferi*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 70–90'

SPREAD: 30–35'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: pyramidal with straight trunk and horizontal branches with pendulous branchlets; open

FALL COLOR: yellow (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: soft, needle-like, blue-green leaves; brown to gray, persistent cones

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a deep, rich, slightly acid to neutral, moist, well-drained soil; will not tolerate heavy clay, compacted soil, or drought; tolerates road salt; requires full sun; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



American larch, tamarack,

Larix laricina

HARDINESS ZONE: 2a

HEIGHT: 40–70'

SPREAD: 15–30'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: pyramidal with straight trunk and horizontal branches with pendulous branchlets; open

FALL COLOR: yellow (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: soft, needle-like, blue-green leaves; tiny, brown to gray, persistent cones

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, Alaska, northern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a deep, rich, organic, cool, slightly acid to acidic, moist, well-drained soil; will not tolerate heavy clay, compacted, high pH soils, drought, or heat; tolerates wet soil and moderate road salt; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; requires full sun; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



Sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 60–70'

SPREAD: 40–50'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: pyramidal when young; oblong to rounded when mature

FALL COLOR: yellow to red to purple (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: dark green, glossy, star-shaped leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern, southern, and lower midwestern U.S. and Mexico

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a deep, moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil; sensitive to air pollution; may turn chlorotic (yellow) in high pH; tolerates road salt; requires large area for roots to grow; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; very marginally hardy; globular, spiny fruit in fall can make a litter mess



Tuliptree, tulip-poplar, yellow-poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 70–90'

SPREAD: 25–40'

GROWTH RATE: fast

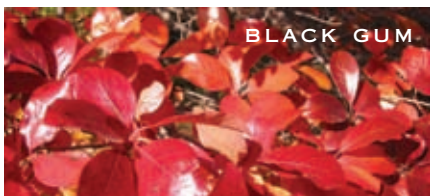
FORM: pyramidal becoming upright-oval; branches high up in tree

FALL COLOR: golden yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, tulip-shaped, greenish-yellow flowers with orange interiors appear in late spring high up in tree; leaf resembles outline of a cat's face

NATIVE HABITAT: southern Canada, and eastern, southern and midwestern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a loamy, deep, moist, well-drained soil; pH adaptable; will not tolerate dry, compacted, heavy clay soils or drought; susceptible to verticillium wilt; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; marginally hardy



Dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 70–90'

SPREAD: 25–35'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: narrow pyramidal becoming broad with straight trunk

FALL COLOR: russet-brown to orange-brown (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: soft, feathery, dark green, needle-like leaves; reddish-brown, shreddy bark

NATIVE HABITAT: China

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a deep, slightly acidic to neutral soil; tolerates wet soil, may turn chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; very marginally hardy



Black gum, tupelo, sour gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 40–50'

SPREAD: 30–50'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: pyramidal becoming rounded; horizontal branches

FALL COLOR: orange-red, scarlet to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: female trees produce bluish-black fruit in late summer to fall but are hidden by leaves; fruit attracts birds; dark green, glossy leaves; horizontal branches

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and central U.S. and extreme southeastern WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in an acidic to slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; tolerates wet soils, drought, and road salt; sensitive to air pollution; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



Persian parrotia, *Parrotia persica*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 25–35'

SPREAD: 15–30'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: broadly pyramidal to rounded; upright branches

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange, red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small flowers have red stamens (male parts) that fade to yellow in early spring; exfoliating (peeling), gray, green, white, and brown bark when old

NATIVE HABITAT: Iran

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a loamy, well-drained, slightly acidic soil; tolerates drought and heat; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; very marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



Amur corktree, *Phellodendron amurense*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 30–45'

SPREAD: 40–55'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: vase-shaped becoming broad spreading; low branches; open

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FALL COLOR: yellow (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES:

furrowed, grayish-brown bark feels like cork

NATIVE HABITAT: northern China and Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought and air pollution; requires large area for roots to grow; slow to establish; female trees produce black fruit that stain sidewalks and reseed readily; only plant male selections like 'Macho' or Shademaster®



Eyestopper® corktree,

Phellodendron lavalleyi 'Longenecker'

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 30–35'

SPREAD: 35–45'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: rounded; wide-spreading; open

FALL COLOR: bright yellow (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES:

furrowed, grayish-brown bark feels like cork; fruitless

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought; slow to establish; marginally hardy



EYESTOPPER® CORKTREE

Bigtoothed aspen,

Populus grandidentata

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 50–70'

SPREAD: 20–40'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: pyramidal becoming oval to irregular; open

FALL COLOR: bright yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES:

leaves flutter in wind creating a nice sound; light, grayish to creamy bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates dry, sandy to gravelly soil and road salt; requires full sun; performs best in cooler climates; short-lived due to pests and weak wood (branches easily break in storms); rarely available at nurseries



Upright European aspen,

Populus tremula 'Erecta'

HARDINESS ZONE: 2b

HEIGHT: 30–50'

SPREAD: 10–12'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: upright, narrow, fastigate

FALL COLOR: yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES:

leaves flutter in wind creating a nice sound; smooth, creamy bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Europe, northwestern Africa and China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; performs best in cooler climates; tolerates air pollution and road salt; less susceptible to cankers than Lombardy poplar



QUAKING ASPEN

Quaking aspen, *Populus tremuloides*

HARDINESS ZONE: 2a

HEIGHT: 30–50'

SPREAD: 20–30'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: pyramidal to upright; branches high up in tree

FALL COLOR: bright yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES:

leaves flutter in wind creating a nice sound; smooth, creamy bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, Alaska, northern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; performs best in cooler climates; tolerates road salt; suckers and forms colonies; short-lived due to pests and weak wood (branches break easily in storms)



Pin cherry, fire cherry,

Prunus pensylvanica

HARDINESS ZONE: 2b

HEIGHT: 30–40'

SPREAD: 18–25'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: slender, rounded to oblong; suckering

FALL COLOR: salmon-orange

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, small, white flowers in clusters in spring; small, cherry-red fruit in summer; fruit attracts wildlife; smooth, reddish-brown bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires well-drained soil; will not tolerate wet, poorly drained, or compacted soil; tolerates sandy soil; requires full sun; pest prone; suckers and forms colonies; short-lived; plant in spring



Sargent cherry, *Prunus sargentii*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 25–35'

SPREAD: 20–30'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: oval, vase-shaped; short trunk

FALL COLOR: orangish-red to bronze

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, pink flowers in clusters in early spring; purplish-black, edible fruit in summer; fruit attracts wildlife; reddish-gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires well-drained soil; will not tolerate wet, poorly drained, or compacted soil; moderate road salt tolerance; requires full sun; plant in spring



Golden larch, *Pseudolarix amabilis*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 30–50'

SPREAD: 20–40'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: broad pyramidal; wide-spreading with horizontal branches; open

FALL COLOR: bright orange to golden (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: soft, needle-like, bright green, feathery leaves; horizontal branches

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern China

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a light, deep, rich, slightly acid to acidic, moist, well-drained soil high in organic matter; will not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil or drought; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; requires full sun; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



Ussurian pear, *Pyrus ussuriensis*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 30–45'

SPREAD: 25–30'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: dense, rounded; wide-spreading

FALL COLOR: yellow to reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers with ruffled edges in early spring; 1–2" fruit is yellowish-green in fall

NATIVE HABITAT: northeastern Asia

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; less susceptible to fireblight than most pears; rarely available at nurseries



White oak, *Quercus alba*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 60–90'

SPREAD: 60–80'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: pyramidal becoming rounded

FALL COLOR: dark red to wine (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: blue-green, lobed leaves; brown acorns in fall attract wildlife; light ashy-gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a deep, acidic to neutral soil; will not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates road salt; can get oak wilt; susceptible to anthracnose; plant in spring; acorns can be a litter problem



GOLDEN LARCH



WHITE OAK

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Crimson Spire™ oak,

Quercus x bimundorum 'Crimschmidt'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 35–45'

SPREAD: 10–15'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: columnar, tightly fastigiata

FALL COLOR: rusty-red to purple (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: brown acorns in fall attract wildlife; tight, columnar form makes it a good choice for narrow spaces

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; will not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil; can get oak wilt; plant in spring; acorns can be a litter problem



Scarlet oak, *Quercus coccinea*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 70–80'

SPREAD: 50–60'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: pyramidal becoming rounded

FALL COLOR: red to scarlet (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: brown acorns in fall attract wildlife; deeply cut, glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and midwestern U.S. and southcentral WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a sandy-loam, slightly acidic soil; will not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates dry soil; susceptible to oak wilt; plant in spring; acorns can be a litter problem



Pin oak, *Quercus palustris*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 70–80'

SPREAD: 40–50'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: pyramidal with tight branching

FALL COLOR: russet to orange-red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: brown acorns in fall attract wildlife; deeply cut, glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S. to Midwest

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a rich, loamy, acidic, moist, well-drained soil; will not tolerate compacted soil; turns very chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates wet soil; susceptible to oak wilt; plant in spring; acorns can be a litter problem



Chestnut oak, *Quercus prinus*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 50–70'

SPREAD: 40–60'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: pyramidal becoming oval to rounded

FALL COLOR: yellow-orange to brown (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: brown acorns in fall attract wildlife; deeply ridged bark

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; will not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil; drought tolerant; can get oak wilt, but less susceptible than red oaks; plant in spring; acorns can be a litter problem; rarely available at nurseries



SELECTING WOODY LANDSCAPE PLANTS FOR FALL COLOR —

Northern red oak, *Quercus rubra*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 60–75'

SPREAD: 50–60'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: pyramidal becoming rounded

FALL COLOR: red to russet-red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: brown acorns in fall attract wildlife; smooth, gray bark on younger branches; furrowed bark at base

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a sandy-loam, slightly acidic soil; will not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates air pollution; tolerates moderate road salt; susceptible to oak wilt; plant in spring; acorns can be a litter problem



Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 30–60'

SPREAD: 25–40'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: pyramidal becoming oval to irregular; often with crooked trunk

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange to scarlet

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small, yellow, fragrant flowers in early spring; female trees produce dark blue fruit on scarlet stems in fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and southern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a slightly acid, sandy soil; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; suckers and can form colonies; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; stems aromatic when crushed; rarely available at nurseries



Baldcypress, *Taxodium distichum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 50–70'

SPREAD: 25–35'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: narrow pyramidal becoming oval; straight trunk

FALL COLOR: russet-brown to orange-brown (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: soft, feathery, needle-like, bright green leaves; reddish-brown, shreddy bark

NATIVE HABITAT: southeastern and southcentral U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils but performs best in a slightly acidic to neutral pH; turns chlorotic (yellow) at very high pH; tolerates heat, wind, drought, wet soil, and road salt; use northern seed/plant sources to ensure cold hardiness



Black oak, *Quercus velutina*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 50–60'

SPREAD: 50–60'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: irregular to rounded; wide-spreading

FALL COLOR: red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: brown acorns in fall attract wildlife; deeply furrowed, black bark

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a sandy-loam, slightly acidic soil; will not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil; tolerates poor, dry soils; susceptible to oak wilt; can retain old, dead branches; plant in spring; acorns can be a litter problem





SHAWNEE BRAVE®
BALDCYPRESS

Harvest Gold linden,

Tilia 'Harvest Gold'

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 30–40'

SPREAD: 20–30'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, oval

FALL COLOR: golden yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: pale yellow, fragrant flowers in pendulous clusters in early summer; small nutlets extend from leaflike bracts in summer to fall

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; does not tolerate road salt; more resistant to sunscald on trunk than other lindens



American elm, *Ulmus americana*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 80–100'

SPREAD: 60–100'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: vase-shaped; wide-spreading; arching branches

FALL COLOR: yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: nice, vase-shaped form with pendulous branches

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates compacted, dry, clay soils, periodic flooding, road salt, air pollution, and drought; very disease prone; short-lived due to Dutch elm disease, choose only resistant cultivars like 'New Harmony', 'Princeton', and 'Valley Forge'; samara (winged) fruit in late spring can create litter mess



Frontier elm, *Ulmus* 'Frontier'

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 30–40'

SPREAD: 20–30'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: broadly oval to pyramidal with ascending branches

FALL COLOR: burgundy (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: glossy, dark green leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates compacted, clay soil, heat, and air pollution; resistant to Dutch elm disease; marginally hardy



Japanese zelkova, *Zelkova serrata*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 60–70'

SPREAD: 50–70'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: vase-shaped with ascending branches

FALL COLOR: yellow, bronze-red to orange (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: semi-exfoliating (peeling) bark with orange and brown patches

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; drought tolerant; very marginally hardy



FRONTIER ELM



Small trees (SHORTER THAN 30 FEET)

Paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 20–25'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright-oval to vase-shaped

FALL COLOR: orange to dark red to bronze (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: very showy, cinnamon to reddish-brown, exfoliating (peeling) bark

NATIVE HABITAT: China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; sensitive to drought; susceptible to verticillium wilt; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; very marginally hardy



Full moon maple, *Acer japonicum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 10–20'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: multi-stemmed; rounded; low branches

FALL COLOR: yellow to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: nice textured, lobed leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, fertile soil; pH adaptable; sensitive to drought; very marginally hardy



JAPANESE MAPLE

Manchurian maple, *Acer manschuricum*

Acer manschuricum

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 20–30'

SPREAD: 20–25'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright

FALL COLOR: bright orange-red (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: smooth, gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Manchuria

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; sensitive to drought; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; rarely available at nurseries



Nikko maple, *Acer maximowiczianum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 20–30'

SPREAD: 20–25'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright, vase-shaped

FALL COLOR: yellow to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: smooth, gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan and China

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; very marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



MANCHURIAN MAPLE

Japanese maple, *Acer palmatum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 6–25' (depends on cultivar)

SPREAD: 6–25'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: multi-stemmed; oval to broad; layered

FALL COLOR: orange to red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: red double samara (winged) fruit in summer; leaves of some cultivars are purple and/or finely cut; smooth gray bark; weeping forms available

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan, China, and Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, organic soil; sensitive to drought; does not tolerate compacted, poorly drained soil; susceptible to verticillium wilt; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; very marginally hardy



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Moosewood, striped maple, snake-bark maple,

Acer pensylvanicum

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 15–20'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: broad, rounded; low branches

FALL COLOR: bright yellow (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: green to tan, double samara (winged) fruit in summer in pendulous chains; bright green leaves and stems; showy, smooth green bark with white stripes

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S. and Door County, WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, slightly acidic, fertile, cool, rich soil, high in organic matter; requires shade; sensitive to drought; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; rarely available



Korean maple, purplebloom maple,

Acer pseudosieboldianum

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 15–25'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: multi-stemmed; rounded; layered branches

FALL COLOR: orange to reddish-purple (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: smooth, gray bark; nicely textured, lobed leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Korea and Manchuria

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, fertile soil; pH adaptable; sensitive to drought and heat; susceptible to verticillium wilt



Siebold maple, *Acer sieboldianum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 20–25'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: multi-stemmed; rounded

FALL COLOR: yellow-orange to red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: smooth, gray bark; nicely textured, lobed leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, fertile soil; pH adaptable; sensitive to drought; susceptible to verticillium wilt; marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



Mountain maple, *Acer spicatum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 15–30'

SPREAD: 15–25'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: multi-stemmed; upright; low branching

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange-red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: greenish-yellow flowers borne in upright, flower racemes in June

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and northern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, fertile, acidic, cool soil; does best in natural environments; does not tolerate urban conditions; prefers shade to partial shade; rarely available at nurseries



Amur maple,

Acer tataricum subsp. *ginnala*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 15–18'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: multi-stemmed; rounded; low branches

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange or bright red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: yellowish-white, fragrant flowers in mid-spring; red double samara (winged) fruit in summer; interesting, dagger-shaped leaves; smooth, dark gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: China, Manchuria, and Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires well-drained soil; tolerates drought and road salt; susceptible to verticillium wilt; very invasive, do not use near wooded areas



KOREAN MAPLE

Three-flowered maple, *Acer triflorum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b
HEIGHT: 20–25'
SPREAD: 15–25'
GROWTH RATE: slow
FORM: upright to rounded; low branches
FALL COLOR: orange (late)
ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, exfoliating (peeling), tan to ashy-brown bark
NATIVE HABITAT: Manchuria and Korea
CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; sensitive to drought; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; rarely available at nurseries



Shantung maple, purpleblow maple, *Acer truncatum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b
HEIGHT: 20–30'
SPREAD: 20–30'
GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate
FORM: broad, rounded; dense
FALL COLOR: yellow-orange to purple (late)
ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: reddish-purple new leaves in spring quickly changing to dark green, glossy, star-shaped leaves
NATIVE HABITAT: northern China, Russia, Korea, and Japan
CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought, heat, and air pollution; rarely available at nurseries



Apple serviceberry, *Amelanchier x grandiflora*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a
HEIGHT: 15–30'
SPREAD: 15–25'
GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate
FORM: multi to single-stemmed; upright, irregular
FALL COLOR: yellowish-orange to red
ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in clusters in early spring; bronzish new leaves; sweet, red fruit turning dark purple in early summer; fruit attracts wildlife; smooth, gray bark
NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid; parents native to WI
CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a slightly acidic, loamy, moist, well-drained soil; may turn chlorotic (yellow) at very high pH; does not tolerate compacted, poorly drained soil; tolerates full sun to partial shade; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



Allegheny serviceberry, *Amelanchier laevis*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a
HEIGHT: 15–25'
SPREAD: 15–20'
GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate
FORM: upright, irregular
FALL COLOR: reddish-bronze to orange
ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in clusters in early spring; bronzish new leaves; sweet, red fruit turning dark purple in early summer; fruit attracts wildlife; smooth, gray bark
NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern, southern, and central U.S. and WI
CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a slightly acidic, loamy, moist, well-drained soil; may turn chlorotic (yellow) at very high pH; does not tolerate compacted, poorly drained soil; tolerates full sun to partial shade; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



THREE-FLOWERED MAPLE

White Tigris striped maple, *Acer 'White Tigris'*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b
HEIGHT: 15–20'
SPREAD: 15–20'
GROWTH RATE: slow
FORM: broad, rounded; low branches
FALL COLOR: bright yellow (early)
ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: green to tan double samara (winged) fruit in summer in pendulous chains; bright green leaves and stems; showy, green bark with white stripes
NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin
CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil that is fertile, cool, rich, and high in organic matter; requires shade; sensitive to drought; more heat tolerant and adaptable than moosewood (*Acer pensylvanicum*); difficult to transplant, plant in spring



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Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 15–20'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, pyramidal to rounded; suckers

FALL COLOR: bright yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: dark purple to maroon flowers in mid-spring; edible fruit is greenish-yellow changing to brownish-black in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and southern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, deep, rich, slightly acidic to neutral, moist, well-drained soil; sensitive to drought; tolerates full sun to shade; suckers; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



American hornbeam, musclewood, ironwood, blue beech,

Carpinus caroliniana

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 20–30'

SPREAD: 20–30'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: multi-stemmed; wide-spreading; oval to rounded; low branches

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: tiny nutlets are borne at base of lobed bract, arranged in pendulous clusters in late summer and fall; smooth, dark gray bark resembles muscles

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a deep, rich, slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; tolerates periodic flooding; sensitive to drought; tolerates full sun to partial shade; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



Pagoda dogwood, *Cornus alternifolia*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 15–20'

SPREAD: 25–30'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: spreading; flat-topped; layered, horizontal branches low to ground

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, creamy white, fragrant, flat-topped flowers in clusters in early summer; bluish-black fruit on bright red stems in summer; fruit attracts wildlife; horizontal, tiered branches

NATIVE HABITAT: southern Canada, northeastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires slightly acidic to neutral, cool, organic, moist, well-drained soil; likes full sun, but plant so roots receive afternoon shade; sensitive to heat, drought, road salt, and air pollution; susceptible to golden canker



APPLE SERVICEBERRY



AMERICAN HORNBEAM

Kousa dogwood, *Cornus kousa*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 20–30'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: vase-shaped becoming rounded; horizontal branches

FALL COLOR: scarlet to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, creamy-white flowers with four-pointed bracts in June; dark pinkish-red, rounded, edible fruit in late summer to fall; exfoliating (peeling), multi-colored bark when older

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan, Korea, and China

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a sandy-loam, acidic to slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil high in organic matter; sensitive to road salt; very marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



American smoketree,

Cotinus obovatus

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 20–30'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: rounded, upright to oval

FALL COLOR: yellow-orange to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, yellowish turning smoky pink flowers in early summer

NATIVE HABITAT: mountains of southcentral U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; drought tolerant; susceptible to verticillium wilt; prone to narrow crotch angles and limb breakage; sensitive to road salt



Cockspur hawthorn,

Crataegus crus-galli

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 20–30'

SPREAD: 20–35'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: multi-stemmed; broad, wide-spreading; flat-topped; low, horizontal branches

FALL COLOR: bronzish-orange to reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in clusters in late spring; deep-red fruit in pendulous clusters in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; dark green, glossy leaves; horizontal, tiered branches

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates poor soils, drought, road salt, and air pollution; requires full sun; susceptible to rust; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; has very sharp thorns (a thornless variety is available); fruit can create a litter mess



Washington hawthorn,

Crataegus phaenopyrum

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 20–30'

SPREAD: 20–25'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: multi-stemmed; vase-shaped to broadly oval; low, horizontal branches; dense

FALL COLOR: orange, scarlet to reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in clusters in late spring to early summer; bright orange-red, persistent fruit in pendulous clusters in fall to winter; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada and eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates poor and sandy soils; drought tolerant; requires full sun; susceptible to rust; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; has very sharp thorns



Winter King hawthorn,

Crataegus viridis 'Winter King'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 20–25'

SPREAD: 20–30'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: vase-shaped to rounded; wide-spreading; low, horizontal branches

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange (color not consistently good)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in late spring; bright orange-red, persistent fruit in fall to winter; fruit attracts wildlife; silvery gray stems; bark exfoliates exposing orange inner bark; horizontal, tiered branches; few if any thorns

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates poor soils; drought tolerant; requires full sun; less susceptible to rust; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE 

Accolade cherry, *Prunus* 'Accolade'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 20–25'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: vase-shaped; open

FALL COLOR: bright yellow to orange

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, semi-double, light pink flowers in early spring; dark green leaves; fruitless

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires well-drained soil; will not tolerate wet, poorly drained, or compacted soil; requires full sun; plant in spring; rarely available at nurseries



American plum, *Prunus americana*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 12–18'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: low, spreading; suckering

FALL COLOR: orange to yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white, fragrant flowers in early spring; large, 1" diameter, yellow to red, edible fruit in summer; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and southern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires well-drained soil; will not tolerate wet, poorly drained, or compacted soil; requires full sun; tolerates road salt; pest prone; short-lived; suckers and forms colonies; plant in spring; fruit can create a litter mess



Manchurian apricot,

Prunus mandshurica

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 15–20'

SPREAD: 10–15'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, spreading to rounded

FALL COLOR: golden-orange

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white to pink flowers in early spring; small, edible fruit; fruit attracts wildlife; requires cross pollination for fruit set

NATIVE HABITAT: Manchuria and Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires well-drained soil; will not tolerate wet, poorly drained, or compacted soil; requires full sun; plant in spring; rarely available at nurseries



Autumn Blaze callery pear,

Pyrus calleryana 'Autumn Blaze'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 25–35'

SPREAD: 20–30'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: upright, pyramidal to oval to rounded

FALL COLOR: reddish-orange to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in mid-spring; small, light brown, rounded fruit; dark green, glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: China and Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; tolerates drought, road salt, and air pollution; can get fireblight; has wider crotch angles and branches less prone to splitting than other callery pear trees



Edgewood® pear, *Pyrus* 'Edgedell'

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 25–30'

SPREAD: 20–25'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: compact, rounded

FALL COLOR: deep reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in mid-spring; small, light brown, rounded fruit; silvery undersides of leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; can get fireblight; marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



SELECTING WOODY LANDSCAPE PLANTS FOR FALL COLOR —

Korean Sun™ pear,

Pyrus fauriei 'Westwood'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 10–12'

SPREAD: 10–15'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: compact, rounded; wide-spreading

FALL COLOR: reddish-orange to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in spring; small, black fruit in fall

NATIVE HABITAT: Asia

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; drought tolerant; susceptible to fireblight



Korean mountainash,

Sorbus alnifolia

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 25–35'

SPREAD: 20–25'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: pyramidal becoming oval to rounded

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange-red
ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in mid-spring; small, persistent, pinkish-red to scarlet fruit in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; produces fruit heavily in alternate years (small amounts other years)

NATIVE HABITAT: central China, Korea, and Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a cool, moist, well-drained soil; pH adaptable; does not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil or air pollution; pest prone; highly susceptible to fireblight; short-lived



American mountainash,

Sorbus americana

HARDINESS ZONE: 2b

HEIGHT: 15–30'

SPREAD: 15–20'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: narrow, rounded; spreading branches; open; short trunk

FALL COLOR: orange-yellow to reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in mid-spring; small, orange-red to scarlet-red fruit in pendulous clusters in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a cool, acidic, moist soil; found naturally around edges of bogs and swamps; does not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soils; pest prone; highly susceptible to fireblight; short-lived



AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE 

European mountainash,

Sorbus aucuparia

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 20–35'

SPREAD: 15–25'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, oval to rounded; multi-stemmed; low branches

FALL COLOR: yellowish-orange to purple (variable)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in mid-spring; small, orange-red to red fruit in pendulous clusters in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; bronze to grayish-brown; smooth bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Europe and western Asia

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a cool, moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil; does not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil, drought, or air pollution; pest prone; highly susceptible to fireblight and borers; short-lived



Show mountainash, *Sorbus decora*

HARDINESS ZONE: 2b

HEIGHT: 20–30'

SPREAD: 15–25'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: upright, oval to rounded

FALL COLOR: yellow-orange to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, large, white flowers in mid-spring; small, orange-red fruit in large, pendulous clusters in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a cool, moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil; does not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil, drought or air pollution; pest prone; highly susceptible to fireblight; short-lived



Japanese stewartia,

Stewartia pseudocamellia

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 20–35'

SPREAD: 15–25'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: pyramidal to oval

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange, red, to dark reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in summer; exfoliating (peeling), gray and orange-brown bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in an acidic to slightly acidic, fertile, loamy, moist, well-drained soil high in organic matter; requires full sun, but plant so roots receive afternoon shade; very marginally hardy; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; rarely available at nurseries





Large & medium shrubs (TALLER THAN 6 FEET)

Bottlebrush buckeye,

Aesculus parviflora

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 8–12'

SPREAD: 12–15'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: large, spreading; suckering

FALL COLOR: bright yellow (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flower panicles (clusters) resembling a bottle brush form at ends of branches in July; few if any fruit produced

NATIVE HABITAT: southeastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a moist, well-drained, rich, organic soil; pH adaptable; full sun to partial shade; resistant to powdery mildew and leaf blotch; suckers readily; poisonous fruit, but few produced



Red chokeberry, *Aronia arbutifolia*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 6–8'

SPREAD: 5–7'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: upright, rounded; spreading; suckering

FALL COLOR: red-orange to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white to light pinkish-white flowers in mid-spring; glossy, bright red fruit in pendulous clusters in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils; can turn chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates wet soil, drought, and road salt; suckering; gets leggy with age and will need pruning



Black chokeberry,

Aronia melanocarpa

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 5–8'

SPREAD: 6–10'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: upright, rounded; suckering

FALL COLOR: orange to wine red (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in mid-spring; black fruit in pendulous clusters in late summer to early fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: central and eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates wet soils, drought, and road salt; suckers readily; forms colonies



Purple chokeberry,

Aronia x prunifolia

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 10–12'

SPREAD: 8–10'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: upright; suckering

FALL COLOR: wine-red to purplish-red (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in mid-spring; purplish-black fruit hang in clusters from late summer to early fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates wet soils, drought, and road salt; suckers readily; forms colonies; rarely available at nurseries



Fringetree, white fringetree,

Chionanthus virginicus

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 12–15'

SPREAD: 6–10'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: multi-stemmed small tree to large shrub; spreading; open

FALL COLOR: yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: lacy, fragrant, white flowers hang in showy panicles (clusters) in late May; female plants produce attractive dark blue clusters of fruit

NATIVE HABITAT: southeastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a deep, fertile soils; pH adaptable; tolerates air pollution; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



Gray dogwood, *Cornus racemosa*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 10–15'

SPREAD: 10–15'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: upright to rounded; wide-spreading; suckering

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple to purple



BLACK CHOKEBERRY



GRAY DOGWOOD

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE 

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: creamy-white flowers in late spring; white fruit borne on bright reddish-pink stems in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, northeastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates wet soil and drought; suckers readily; forms colonies



Winter Flame bloodtwig dogwood,

Cornus sanguinea 'Winter Flame'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 6–8'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: upright; wide-spreading; suckering

FALL COLOR: bright yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: creamy-white flowers in late spring; purplish-black fruit in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife; very showy yellow, orange, and red stems in winter

NATIVE HABITAT: Europe

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates wet soil, sensitive to drought; suckers readily; also known as 'Midwinter Fire'



Redosier dogwood, redtwig dogwood, *Cornus stolonifera*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 7–9'

SPREAD: 8–10'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: upright; wide-spreading; suckering; stoloniferous

FALL COLOR: yellow to reddish-purple (variable)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: creamy-white flowers in late spring; white fruit in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife; stems turn bright to dark red or yellow in winter (depends on cultivar)

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and midwestern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates wet soils; very sensitive to drought; susceptible to twig canker; suckers readily; forms colonies



American hazelnut, American filbert, *Corylus americana*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 5–10'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: irregular to rounded; suckering

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: edible, brown nuts enclosed in green, leafy bracts in fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; drought tolerant; tolerates full sun to partial shade, but better fall color in full sun; suckers readily; forms colonies; plant in spring



Nordine smokebush,

Cotinus coggygria 'Nordine'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 10–15'

SPREAD: 10–15'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright; wide-spreading

FALL COLOR: orange-yellow to purplish

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, yellowish flowers turning smoky pink to purple in early summer; flowers look like puffs of smoke; purplish new leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: southern Europe to central China and the Himalayas

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; drought tolerant; susceptible to verticillium wilt



Hedge cotoneaster,

Cotoneaster lucidus

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 6–10'

SPREAD: 6–10'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, rounded; wide-spreading

FALL COLOR: yellow to reddish-orange (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small black fruit in fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Siberia and northern Asia

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH, but performs best in a loose, fertile soil; tolerates poor, dry soil and road salt; does not tolerate poorly drained, wet soil; requires full sun; can get fireblight



SELECTING WOODY LANDSCAPE PLANTS FOR FALL COLOR —

Winged euonymus, burningbush,

Euonymus alatus

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–15' (depends on cultivar)

SPREAD: 6–15'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: upright, rounded; compact; horizontal branches

FALL COLOR: pinkish to bright red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: reddish fruit in fall with orange-red aril (seed coating); winged, corky stems showy in winter

NATIVE HABITAT: China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; will not tolerate poorly drained soil; tolerates road salt; plant in full sun for best fall color; prone to rabbit injury at base; very invasive, do not use near natural areas



Yeddo euonymus, *Euonymus*

hamiltonianus subsp. *sieboldianus*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 10–15'

SPREAD: 10–12'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: small tree to large shrub; upright; open

FALL COLOR: orange to reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, pinkish-purple fruit with orange-red aril (seed coating)

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan and Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; susceptible to scale; rarely available at nurseries



Large fothergilla, *Fothergilla major*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 6–10'

SPREAD: 5–8'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: rounded to oval; dense; produces a few suckers at base

FALL COLOR: bright yellow-orange to red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, fragrant, white flowers resemble a small bottle brush in mid-spring; blue green leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: southeastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in an acidic to slightly acidic, sandy loam soil high in organic matter; sensitive to drought; full sun to partial shade; prone to rabbit injury at base



Vernal witchhazel,

Hamamelis vernalis

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 6–10'

SPREAD: 10–15'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: rounded to oval, irregular; dense; suckering

FALL COLOR: golden yellow (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, small, fragrant, yellow to orangish, strap-like flowers with reddish interiors in late winter; leaves emerge bronze-colored and turn blue-green

NATIVE HABITAT: southcentral U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a loamy, slightly acidic soil; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates wet soil; sensitive to drought; tolerates full sun to shade; suckers; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



Common witchhazel,

Hamamelis virginiana

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 15–20'

SPREAD: 20–25'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: small tree to large shrub; upright, irregular to rounded; wide-spreading; open

FALL COLOR: bright yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, yellow, strap-like, long-lasting flowers in late fall; smooth, gray bark

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a loamy, slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; sensitive to drought; tolerates full sun to partial shade; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



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Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 6–12'

SPREAD: 6–10'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: rounded; loose, open to dense

FALL COLOR: bright yellow to golden

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small, greenish-yellow flowers in early spring; female shrubs produce scarlet fruit in fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires a moist, well-drained soil; tolerates full sun to partial shade; difficult to transplant, plant in spring; very marginally hardy; stems aromatic when scratched; rarely available at nurseries



Sweet azalea,

Rhododendron arborescens

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 8–10'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright; spreading; open

FALL COLOR: reddish

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, very fragrant flowers in summer; flowers are white to light pink with red stamens and a yellow blotch

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and southeastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, loamy, acidic to slightly acidic soil high in organic matter; will not tolerate high pH, poorly drained, compacted soil, drought, or road salt; very marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



Prairie Flame™ winged sumac, shining sumac,

Rhus copallina var. *latifolia* 'Morton'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 5–7'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: compact; wide-spreading; suckering; opens with age

FALL COLOR: bright red to scarlet (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: glossy, dark green leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates dry, rocky soil, drought, and road salt; susceptible to verticillium wilt; suckers readily; forms colonies



Smooth sumac, *Rhus glabra*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 10–15'

SPREAD: 15–25'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: flat-topped; wide-spreading; suckering; open

FALL COLOR: orange to scarlet to purple (early)

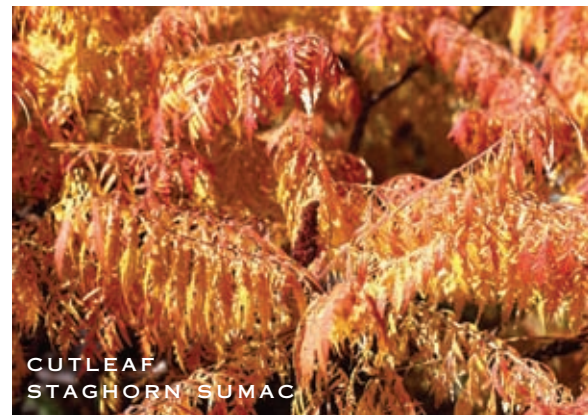
ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: female plants produce clusters of large, red, slightly hairy fruit at the tips of branches; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought and road salt; susceptible to verticillium wilt; suckers readily; forms colonies



PRAIRIE FLAME™
WINGED SUMAC



CUTLEAF
STAGHORN SUMAC

Staghorn sumac, *Rhus typhina*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 10–25'

SPREAD: 15–25'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: flat-topped; wide-spreading; suckering; open

FALL COLOR: orange to scarlet (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: female plants produce clusters of large, red, hairy fruit at the tips of branches; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought and road salt; susceptible to verticillium wilt; suckers readily; forms colonies



Broadleaf lilac, *Syringa oblata*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 6–8'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright; wide-spreading; suckering

FALL COLOR: wine-red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: fragrant clusters of showy, pinkish to pale lilac flowers form at ends of branches in early May; new leaves emerge bronze in spring and change to dark green

NATIVE HABITAT: Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; does not tolerate wet soils; heat tolerant; requires full sun; susceptible to verticillium wilt; suckers readily



Highbush blueberry,

Vaccinium corymbosum

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 6–12'

SPREAD: 8–10'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright to rounded; wide-spreading; multi-stemmed

FALL COLOR: orange to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, urn-shaped flowers are white tinged with pink in small clusters in mid-May; edible, sweet blueberry in summer; fruit attracts wildlife; reddish stems in winter

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern, southern, and midwestern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, loamy, very acidic soil high in organic matter; tolerates moist sandy soil; does not tolerate high pH, poorly drained, compacted soil, or drought



Koreanspice viburnum,

Viburnum carlesii

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 6–8'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: compact; rounded; dense with stiff branches

FALL COLOR: reddish-wine (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, very fragrant, white flowers in mid-spring; rarely produces fruit

NATIVE HABITAT: Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, moist, well-drained soil; pH adaptable; does not tolerate poorly drained, compacted soil; requires full sun; prone to rabbit injury and viburnum borer at base; difficult to establish



Arrowwood viburnum,

Viburnum dentatum

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 6–12'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, vase-shaped to rounded; dense; suckers with long, straight stems

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange-red to purple, depends on cultivar

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, creamy-white flowers in late spring; dark blue fruit in late summer to early fall; fruit attracts wildlife; pleated leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: central and eastern U.S. and Canada

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH, but performs best in a fertile, cool soil; tolerates poor soils and moderate road salt; tolerates full sun to partial shade; suckers readily



Nannyberry viburnum,

Viburnum lentago

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 15–20'

SPREAD: 8–10'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: multi-stemmed tree to large shrub; upright, arching; open; suckering; gets leggy with age

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, creamy-white flowers in mid-spring; bluish-black fruit hangs in clusters in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; dark green, glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, moist, well-drained soil; pH adaptable; tolerates wet and dry soil, and moderate road salt; requires full sun; very susceptible to powdery mildew; suckers readily



Doublefile viburnum,

Viburnum plicatum f. *tomentosum*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 6–8'

SPREAD: 8–12'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: broad-rounded; wide-spreading; horizontal branches

FALL COLOR: wine-red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in mid to late spring; bright red fruit changing to black in summer to early fall; fruit borne on bright red stems; fruit attracts wildlife; horizontal, tiered branches

NATIVE HABITAT: China and Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; does not tolerate poorly drained, compacted, heavy clay soil; requires full sun; very marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



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Blackhaw viburnum,

Viburnum prunifolium

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 12–15'

SPREAD: 10–12'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: multi-stemmed tree to large shrub; rounded; stiff, horizontal branches; suckers

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, creamy-white flowers in late spring; bluish-black fruit in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; dark green, glossy leaves; horizontal, tiered branches

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, moist, well-drained soil, but is adaptable; pH adaptable; tolerates dry soil and moderate road salt; tolerates full sun to partial shade; suckers readily



Rusty blackhaw viburnum,

Viburnum rufidulum

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 10–20'

SPREAD: 10–15'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: multi-stemmed tree to large shrub; rounded; suckers

FALL COLOR: burgundy to maroon

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, creamy-white flowers in late spring; dark blue fruit in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; dark green, glossy, leathery leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and southern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; drought tolerant; suckers readily; very marginally hardy



Sargent viburnum,

Viburnum sargentii

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 8–12'

SPREAD: 8–12'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, rounded; wide-spreading

FALL COLOR: yellow to red to burgundy

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in late spring; scarlet to red fruit in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: northeastern Asia

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, moist, well-drained soil; pH adaptable; sensitive to drought; tolerates full sun to partial shade; very susceptible to viburnum borer



Wavecrest Siebold viburnum

Viburnum sieboldii 'Wavecrest'

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 10–15'

SPREAD: 10–12'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: multi-stemmed tree to large shrub; upright; stiff branches; open

FALL COLOR: red to burgundy

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, creamy-white flowers in late spring; fruit change from red to black in late summer to fall; fruit borne on red stems; fruit attracts wildlife; large, pleated, interesting leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, moist, well-drained soil; pH adaptable; sensitive to drought; marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



American cranberrybush viburnum,

Viburnum trilobum

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 8–12'

SPREAD: 10–12'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, vase-shaped, arching to spreading; suckers

FALL COLOR: yellow to reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white, lacy flowers in late spring; bright red fruit hang in clusters in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife; reddish new leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, moist, well-drained soil; pH adaptable; tolerates wet soil and moderate road salt; sensitive to drought; tolerates full sun to partial shade; very susceptible to viburnum borer; suckers readily; dwarf forms available





Small shrubs (SHORTER THAN 6 FEET)

Running serviceberry,

Amelanchier stolonifera

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: upright; wide-spreading; suckering

FALL COLOR: yellow to orange

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in mid-spring; sweet, red fruit turning dark purple in summer; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a slightly acidic, loamy soil; tolerates dry, rocky, sandy soils; can turn chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates full sun to partial shade; prone to rabbit injury at base of plant; suckers readily; forms colonies; difficult to transplant, plant in spring



RUNNING SERVICEBERRY



KOREAN BARBERRY

Golden Carousel® barberry,

Berberis 'Bailsel'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–5'

SPREAD: 5–6'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: upright, arching

FALL COLOR: bright orange-red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, bright yellow flowers in mid-spring; bright red fruit hang in clusters in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; foliage emerges bright yellow and fades to lighter green in summer

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought and road salt; foliage may burn in full sun, provide some afternoon shade; sharp spines on stems; invasive, do not plant near natural or wooded areas



Emerald Carousel® barberry,

Berberis 'Tara'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–5'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: arching, mounded

FALL COLOR: red to reddish-purple (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, bright yellow flowers in mid-spring; bright red fruit hang in clusters in fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought and road salt; requires full sun; very invasive, do not plant near natural or wooded areas; sharp spines on stems



Korean barberry, *Berberis koreana*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 4–5'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, arching; suckering; open

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, bright yellow flowers in mid-spring; bright red fruit hang in clusters in fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought and road salt; requires full sun; suckers readily; sharp spines on stems; invasive, do not plant near natural or wooded areas



Japanese barberry,

Berberis thunbergii

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 2–6'

SPREAD: 2–6'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: variable; upright, arching to mounded

FALL COLOR: orange to wine-red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small, bright yellow flowers in mid-spring; orange-red fruit in fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: very invasive, do not plant near natural or wooded areas; adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought and road salt; requires full sun; sharp spines on stems





CRANBERRY COTONEASTER

Cranberry cotoneaster,

Cotoneaster apiculatus

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 2–3'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: wide-spreading; stiff, horizontal branches that arch; forms mounds

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple to bronze (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small, pink flowers in mid-spring; showy, cranberry-red fruit in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife; dark green, glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH, but performs best in a loose, fertile soil; tolerates dry soil and road salt; does not tolerate poorly drained, wet soil; requires full sun; can get fireblight; prone to rabbit and vole injury at base of plant



Spreading cotoneaster,

Cotoneaster divaricatus

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: wide-spreading; stiff, sweeping, arching branches

FALL COLOR: orange-red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small, pink flowers in clusters in late spring; dark red fruit in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; dark green, glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH, but performs best in a loose, fertile soil, tolerates dry soil and road salt; does not tolerate poorly drained, wet soil; requires full sun; can get fireblight; very marginally hardy



Hesse cotoneaster,

Cotoneaster 'Hessei'

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 1–2'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: wide-spreading; stiff, flat branches

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small, pink flowers in clusters in late spring; red fruit in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; tiny, dark green, glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH, but performs best in a loose, fertile soil; tolerates dry soil and road salt; does not tolerate poorly drained, wet soil; requires full sun; can get fireblight; marginally hardy



Rockspray cotoneaster,

Cotoneaster horizontalis

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 2–4'

SPREAD: 5–8'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: wide-spreading; stiff, arching, horizontal branches

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small, pink flowers; showy, bright red fruit in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife; dark green, glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH, but performs best in a loose, fertile soil; tolerates dry soil and road salt; does not tolerate poorly drained, wet soil; requires full sun; can get fireblight; marginally hardy; prone to rabbit and vole injury at base of plant



Leatherwood, *Dirca palustris*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: oval to rounded; dense

FALL COLOR: bright yellow (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small, pale yellow flowers in early spring; aromatic stems when scratched

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, moist, well-drained soil high in organic matter; tolerates wet soil and shade



Rudy Haag winged euonymus,

Euonymus alatus 'Rudy Haag'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–5'

SPREAD: 5–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: rounded; compact; horizontal branches

FALL COLOR: pinkish to bright red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: reddish fruit in fall with orange-red aril (seed coating); winged, corky stems showy in winter

NATIVE HABITAT: China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates road salt; will not tolerate poorly drained soil; plant in full sun for best fall color; prone to rabbit injury at base; very invasive, do not use near natural areas



Turkestan dwarf euonymus,

Euonymus nanus var. *turkestanicus*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 2–3'

SPREAD: 3–4'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: upright; compact; slender branches

FALL COLOR: bright red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: narrow blue-green leaves; pink to rose fruit with orange aril (seed coating)

NATIVE HABITAT: Asia

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; prone to rabbit injury at base of plant; rarely available at nurseries



Bronx forsythia,

Forsythia viridissima 'Bronxensis'

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 2–2½'

SPREAD: 2–3'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: mounded with upright branches; compact; wide-spreading

FALL COLOR: dark burgundy to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: yellow flowers in early spring, but rarely flowers in zone 4; small, narrow leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; pest resistant; marginally hardy



Klein's Autumnal forsythia,

Forsythia viridissima 'Klein's Autumnal'

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 2–3'

SPREAD: 3–4'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: upright; compact

FALL COLOR: dark burgundy to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: yellow flowers in early spring and sporadically in fall; may not flower in colder winters

NATIVE HABITAT: China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; pest resistant; marginally hardy



Dwarf fothergilla,

Fothergilla gardenii

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 2–4'

SPREAD: 2–4'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: rounded; dense; produces a few suckers at base

FALL COLOR: bright yellow-orange to red (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, fragrant, white flowers that resemble a small bottle brush in mid-spring; blue-green leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: southeastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in an acidic to slightly acidic, sandy loam soil high in organic matter; sensitive to drought; tolerates full sun to partial shade; prone to rabbit injury at base



KLEIN'S AUTUMNAL FORSYTHIA



DWARF FOTHERGILLA

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE 

Oakleaf hydrangea,

Hydrangea quercifolia

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 4–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: mounded, upright; suckering

FALL COLOR: reddish-orange to wine (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy clusters of creamy-white flowers form at ends of branches in summer, flowers turn purplish-pink and persist; showy, cinnamon, exfoliating (peeling) bark on stems

NATIVE HABITAT: southeastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, organic, fertile soil; pH adaptable; sensitive to drought; tolerates full sun to partial shade; prone to rabbit injury at base of plant; suckers readily; marginally hardy and often does not flower in zone 4



Virginia sweetspire,

Itea virginica

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 3–4'

SPREAD: 5–6'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, rounded; arching branches

FALL COLOR: scarlet to reddish-purple (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white, slightly fragrant flowers in early summer

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and southern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires an acidic, fertile, loamy, moist, well-drained soil; tolerates wet soil and drought; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates full sun to partial shade; very marginally hardy



Flame azalea,

Rhododendron calendulaceum

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 4–7'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright, spreading

FALL COLOR: yellow to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy flowers range in color from pale yellow to salmon to deep red-orange with an orange blotch in the flower in early summer

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and southern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, loamy, acidic to slightly acidic soil high in organic matter; will not tolerate high pH, poorly drained, compacted soil, drought, or road salt; marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



Hybrid azaleas, *Rhododendron* hybrids

HARDINESS ZONE: varies

HEIGHT: varies

SPREAD: varies

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright, irregular; open

FALL COLOR: yellow, orange, or red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy flowers in range of colors, primarily in mid- to late spring

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, loamy, acidic to slightly acidic soil high in organic matter; will not tolerate high pH, poorly drained, compacted soil, drought, or road salt



WHITE LIGHTS AZALEA

Korean rhododendron,

Rhododendron mucronulatum

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright; open

FALL COLOR: reddish-orange to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, reddish-purple to orchid-pink flowers in early spring

NATIVE HABITAT: China, Korea, and Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, loamy, acidic to slightly acidic soil high in organic matter; will not tolerate high pH, poorly drained, compacted soil, drought, or road salt



Roseshell azalea,

Rhododendron prinophyllum

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 3–5'

SPREAD: 4–5'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright; open

FALL COLOR: yellow to red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, very fragrant, pink to rose-pink flowers with a dark, brownish-red blotch in mid to late spring

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S. and Canada

(continued)

SELECTING WOODY LANDSCAPE PLANTS FOR FALL COLOR —

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, loamy, acidic to slightly acidic soil high in organic matter; will not tolerate high pH, poorly drained, compacted soil, drought, road salt, or heat; susceptible to powdery mildew; rarely available at nurseries



Royal azalea,

Rhododendron schlippenbachii

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright; open

FALL COLOR: reddish to red-orange

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy flowers are large, fragrant, white to pale pink to rose-pink with reddish-brown throat in mid-spring

NATIVE HABITAT: Korea, Manchuria, and Russia

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, loamy, acidic to slightly acidic soil high in organic matter; will not tolerate drought, road salt, or soils with high pH, poor drainage, or compaction; marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



Pinkshell azalea,

Rhododendron vaseyi

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 3–5'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: upright; open

FALL COLOR: deep burgundy

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white, purplish-pink to pale pink flowers with a greenish-yellow throat and red-orange spots in early spring

NATIVE HABITAT: southeastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, loamy, acidic to slightly acidic soil high in organic matter; will not tolerate high pH, poorly drained, compacted soil, drought, or road salt; marginally hardy; rarely available at nurseries



Korean azalea, *Rhododendron*

yedoense var. *poukhanense*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 3–4'

SPREAD: 5–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: spreading; open

FALL COLOR: orange-red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, slightly fragrant, rose to lilac-purple flowers with a reddish blotch in early spring

NATIVE HABITAT: Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires moist, well-drained, fertile, loamy, acidic to slightly acidic soil high in organic matter; will not tolerate high pH, poorly drained or compacted soil, drought, or road salt; marginally hardy



Fragrant sumac, *Rhus aromatica*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 3–6'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: mounded; wide-spreading; suckering

FALL COLOR: orange, red to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small yellow flowers in early spring; female shrubs produce small, red, hairy fruit; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought and road salt; susceptible to verticillium wilt; suckers readily



Calocarpa rose, *Rosa x calocarpa*

HARDINESS ZONE: 5a

HEIGHT: 3–6'

SPREAD: 4–5'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: mounded; dense

FALL COLOR: orange to red to maroon

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, large, single, purplish to pink, fragrant flowers in summer; orange-red hips in fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: hybrid origin

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; resistant to black spot and powdery mildew; marginally hardy



AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE 

Carolina rose, pasture rose,

Rosa carolina

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 3–6'

SPREAD: 6–8'

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: upright; suckering

FALL COLOR: red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, single, pink flowers in late June; red hips in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates wet soil; requires full sun; suckers readily; forms colonies



Shining rose, *Rosa nitida*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 2–3'

SPREAD: 3–4'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: mounding; compact; suckering

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, rose-pink flowers in midsummer; scarlet hips in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; very prickly stems; suckers readily; forms colonies; rarely available at nurseries



VIRGINIA ROSE

Prairie rose, Michigan rose,

Rosa setigera

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 10–15'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: mounded; long, arching branches; wide-spreading; suckering

FALL COLOR: reddish-orange

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, single, pale pink flowers in early July; small, red, persistent hips in fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; resistant to black spot and powdery mildew; suckers readily; forms colonies



Virginia rose, *Rosa virginiana*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 3–6'

SPREAD: 3–6'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright; dense; suckering

FALL COLOR: deep reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, single, rose-pink, fragrant flowers in June; bright red hips turn black in fall; fruit attracts wildlife; glossy, dark green leaves; purple stems in winter

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S. and Canada

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a loamy, fertile, slightly acidic to neutral soil high in organic matter; tolerates sandy soil, drought, and road salt; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; requires full sun; resistant to black spot; suckers readily; forms colonies



TOR BIRCHLEAF SPIREA

Tor birchleaf spirea,

Spiraea betulifolia 'Tor'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 2–3'

SPREAD: 2–4'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: rounded; compact

FALL COLOR: yellow-gold to orange-red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in late spring

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; drought tolerant



Korean spirea, *Spiraea fritschiana*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–5'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: rounded, spreading; compact

FALL COLOR: yellow-orange

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, large, white flowers in late spring; blue-green leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun



Japanese spirea, *Spiraea japonica*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 3–3½'

SPREAD: 4–5'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: broad, mounded; flat-topped

FALL COLOR: variable by cultivar; bronzy-red to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white, pink, rose, or deep pink flowers in summer; some cultivars have yellow to orangish-red new leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Japan, Korea, and China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates heat, drought, and road salt; does not tolerate wet soil; requires full sun; invasive, do not use near natural areas



Bridalwreath spirea,

Spiraea prunifolia

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 5–6'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: upright; suckering; gets leggy with age

FALL COLOR: orange to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, double, white flowers in mid-spring

NATIVE HABITAT: Asia

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun; gets leggy with age; suckers readily



Thunberg spirea, *Spiraea thunbergii*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 3–5'

SPREAD: 4–5'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: mounding, spreading; arching branches

FALL COLOR: orange-yellow

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white or pink flowers in early spring; yellowish-green, willow-like leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Asia

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; requires full sun

Palibin lilac, dwarf Korean lilac,

Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–5'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: broadly mounded; compact; dense; nonsuckering

FALL COLOR: purple to maroon (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: fragrant, showy, pale purple to pinkish flowers in late May; flowers appear in small panicles (clusters) at tips of branches; rarely produces fruit; small leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: northern China

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; will not tolerate wet soil; tolerates heat and road salt; requires full sun; resistant to powdery mildew and lilac borer



Miss Kim lilac, *Syringa pubescens*

subsp. *patula* 'Miss Kim'

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 5–7'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: broadly rounded; compact; dense

FALL COLOR: purple to maroon (late)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, pale violet to lilac, fragrant flower panicles (clusters) in late spring; few fruit produced

NATIVE HABITAT: northern China and Korea

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; will not tolerate wet soil; tolerates heat and road salt; requires full sun; resistant to powdery mildew



Withered viburnum,

Viburnum cassinoides

HARDINESS ZONE: 4a

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: rounded, spreading; compact

FALL COLOR: orange-red to red to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, creamy-white flowers in early summer; fruit changes from green to pink to blue then black from late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife; new leaves emerge bronze then turn green

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern and southern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; tolerates wet soil; rarely available at nurseries



Smooth withered viburnum,

Viburnum nudum

HARDINESS ZONE: 5b

HEIGHT: 4–6'

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: slow to moderate

FORM: rounded, spreading; compact

FALL COLOR: red to reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, creamy-white flowers in early summer; fruit changes from pink to blue then purplish-black from late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife; glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern and southern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a fertile, cool, slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; very marginally hardy

PALIBIN LILAC



Vines

Woodbine, *Parthenocissus inserta*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 20–30'

SPREAD: variable

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: climbs by branched tendrils; lacks adhesive discs

FALL COLOR: red (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: bluish-black berry in fall on bright red stems; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates poor, sandy soil, drought, and road salt; tolerates full sun to shade; does not cling to walls; poisonous fruit



Virginia creeper,

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 40–50'

SPREAD: variable

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: climbs by long tendrils with adhesive discs

FALL COLOR: reddish-purple (early)

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: bluish-black berry in fall on bright red stems; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates poor, sandy soil, drought, and road salt; tolerates full sun to shade; poisonous fruit



Boston ivy,

Parthenocissus tricuspidata

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 40–50'

SPREAD: variable

GROWTH RATE: moderate to fast

FORM: climbs by tendrils with adhesive discs

FALL COLOR: orange to reddish-purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: bluish-black berry in fall on bright red stems; fruit attracts wildlife; bronze new leaves in spring

NATIVE HABITAT: China and Japan

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates air pollution; tolerates full sun to partial shade; does not tolerate heat; requires flat surface to climb, best on walls; difficult to establish; poisonous fruit





Groundcovers

Bunchberry, creeping dogwood,

Cornus canadensis

HARDINESS ZONE: 3a

HEIGHT: 3–8"

SPREAD: 2–3'

GROWTH RATE: slow

FORM: low growing; forms carpet-like mat

FALL COLOR: red to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in summer; scarlet-red fruit forms on ends of stems in late summer to fall; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: Greenland, Canada, Alaska, eastern and central U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: requires acidic, cool, organic, moist, well-drained soil; tolerates partial to full shade; sensitive to road salt; difficult to establish and hard to grow



Eastern sandcherry,

Prunus pumila var. *depressa*

HARDINESS ZONE: 4b

HEIGHT: 6–12"

SPREAD: 4–6'

GROWTH RATE: fast

FORM: low growing; spreading; stoloniferous

FALL COLOR: crimson-red

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: showy, white flowers in spring; black fruit in summer; fruit attracts wildlife

NATIVE HABITAT: northeastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; does not tolerate wet or poorly drained soil; tolerates drought and road salt; rarely available at nurseries



Gro-low sumac,

Rhus aromatica 'Gro-low'

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 2–3'

SPREAD: 5–6'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright; wide-spreading

FALL COLOR: orange, red to purple

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: small, yellow flowers in early spring; may produce small, red fruit in fall; glossy leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: Canada, eastern U.S. and WI

CULTURE AND NOTES: adaptable to most soils and pH; tolerates drought and road salt; susceptible to verticillium wilt



Yellowroot, *Xanthorhiza simplicissima*

HARDINESS ZONE: 3b

HEIGHT: 2–3'

SPREAD: 5–6'

GROWTH RATE: moderate

FORM: upright, spreading, suckers

FALL COLOR: yellow to orangish

ORNAMENTAL FEATURES: bright green leaves resemble celery leaves

NATIVE HABITAT: eastern U.S.

CULTURE AND NOTES: performs best in a neutral to slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil; tolerates wet, clay soil; turns chlorotic (yellow) at high pH; tolerates full sun to partial shade; suckers readily



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Author: Laura G. Jull is associate professor of horticulture, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Extension, Cooperative Extension.

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