

East Otter Tail SWCD

Tree Descriptions & Pictures

Deciduous Trees:



Paper Birch - *Betula papyrifera*

Height: 65-70 feet, matures at 80 years

Paper birch has a fairly rapid growth rate and an upright oval form with a crown spread of 30-50 feet. It has smooth reddish-brown bark that turns thin and papery white with age. Paper birch does best on well drained, cool and moist sites in full sun. It does not tolerate drought, compacted soils, or high temperatures.

Photos from USDA.gov Plant Profile



Red Maple – *Acer rubrum*

Height: 50-70 feet, matures at 70-80 years

Red maple has a moderate to rapid growth rate and an oval to round crown with a spread of 40-60 feet. It prefers slightly acidic sandy loams that are well drained, but will tolerate other conditions. Red maple will grow in partial shade but does best in full sun and is moderately drought tolerant. Leaves are three-lobed and fall color is usually red but can also be yellow or orange.

Photo from Missouri Botanical Garden



Sugar Maple – *Acer saccharum*

Height: 60-80 feet, matures at 75-150+ years

Sugar maple has a slow to moderate growth rate and a dense oval to rounded crown with a spread of 60-80 feet. It prefers moist but well-drained clay and loam soils, and will not grow well in compacted soils. It is very shade tolerant but sensitive to drought and salt. Sugar maple has five-lobed leaves that turn from green to yellow, orange, or scarlet in the fall.

Photo from Missouri Botanical Garden



Silver Maple – *Acer saccharinum*

Height: 60-90+ feet, matures at 50 years

Silver maple has a fast growth rate with a crown spread around 75 feet. Silver maple can tolerate many soil types, although it grows best in moist sandy loams. It does not grow well in tight clay. Silver maple grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade. Leaves are bright green with a silvery underside and turn yellow in the fall.

Photos from USDA.gov Plant Profile, arborday.org

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Bur Oak - *Quercus macrocarpa*

Height: 40-80 feet, matures at 200-300 years
Bur oak is a long-living, slow-growing tree with a round, spreading form. It will do well in a variety of soils and is drought tolerant, but it prefers moist well-drained soils. Bur oak grows best in full sun but will tolerate moderate shade. The leaves have rounded lobes and turn yellow to tan/brown in the fall. It will start to produce acorns at 30-35 years and is an excellent tree for wildlife food and cover.

Photos from arborday.org



Red Oak – *Quercus rubra*

Height: 60-80+ feet, matures at 200-300 years

Red oak has a rapid growth rate with a crown spread of 40-50 feet. It prefers rich, moist, well-drained soils, is moderately drought-tolerant, and will grow in partial shade. Leaves are pointed and glossy green, turning orange to red in the fall. Acorns are oblong to round and pale brown and provide food for wildlife.

Photos from arborday.org



Quaking Aspen – *Populus tremuloides*

Height: 40-65 feet

Aspen has a very rapid growth rate with an oval shape and a crown spread of 20-30 feet. It can grow in most soils and does best in moist sites. It is not shade tolerant. It has thin, white to grey smooth bark and simple, broad, toothed leaves. Aspen has a flattened leaf stalk, causing the leaves to tremble and quake in the wind. It is also a good food source for wildlife in the winter.

Photos from arborday.org, mankatomn.gov



Black Walnut – *Juglans nigra*

Height: 50-70 feet, matures at 150 years

Black walnut has a medium growth rate and an oval crown with a spread of 50-75 feet. It grows best in deeper well-drained soils and needs full sun. It has alternate compound leaves with 14-22 leaflets on each stem. Trees will produce 1-2 inch nuts at 12-15 years. Produces a compound that can inhibit growth of other plants if planted too close.

Photos from arborday.org

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Mountain Ash – *Sorbus Americana*

Height: 10-30 feet

Mountain ash are smaller and sometimes more shrubby in nature with a slow growth rate. The crown is narrow and open with a spread of 15 feet. It prefers full sun or partial shade and can grow in most soils. Compound leaves turn gold in the fall and bright red berries provide food for wildlife throughout the winter. White flower clusters bloom in spring.

Photos from wildflower.org



Black Cherry – *Prunus serotina*

Height: 60-90 feet, lifespan up to 200 years
Black cherry has a rapid growth rate and an oval crown. It likes well-drained upland sites of sandy or loam soils and is somewhat drought tolerant. Young trees can tolerate shade, and older trees have scaly bark. White flowers bloom in late spring and purplish fruit matures in early fall. *Photos from USDA.gov*

Plant Profile, minnesotawildflowers.info

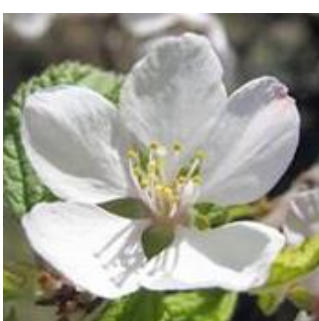


Pin Cherry – *Prunus pensylvanica*

Height: 25-40 feet, short-lived

Pin cherry is a small, sometimes shrubby tree that has a rapid growth rate and a rounded crown. It likes coarse well-drained soil and full sun and is drought-resistant. Bark is smooth and reddish to yellow-orange, and young trees often have a metallic sheen. White flowers bloom in the spring and bright red fruit matures in early fall. Fruit provides food for wildlife. *Photos from*

gobotany.newenglandwild.org



Nanking Cherry – *Prunus tomentosa*

Height: 6-10 feet, short-lived

Nanking cherry is a winter-hardy, shrubby tree that is moderately-fast growing. It has a spreading, twiggy form that becomes more open with age. It can tolerate various soil conditions but requires full sun. Nanking cherry blooms in early spring and produces dark red berries in late summer. It is native to central Asia.

Photos from Becker SWCD, arborday.org

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Chokecherry – *Prunus virginiana*

Height: 12-20 feet

Chokecherry has a rapid growth rate and is short-lived. It prefers moderately well- to well-drained soil with lots of moisture although it can moderately tolerate drought. It can grow in shade but will produce fruit best in full sun. Long clusters of white flowers bloom in early spring and red to dark purple fruit ripens in late summer.

Photos from minnesotawildflowers.info



Black Chokeberry – *Aronia melanocarpa*

Height: 3-8 feet

Black chokeberry has a medium growth rate and grows best in rich well-drained soils and full sunlight, although it can tolerate poorly-drained sites and moderate shade. It is not drought tolerant. Wide pinkish-white flowers bloom in mid-spring and purple to black fruit ripens in late summer, persisting throughout the winter.

Photos from minnesotawildflowers.info, extension.umn.edu



Nannyberry – *Viburnum lentago*

Height: 15-20 feet

Nannyberry is a slow-growing shrub with an open crown. It can grow in a variety of soils but prefers moist sites, and it can grow in full sun or partial shade. White flowers bloom in late spring and dark bluish-black fruit ripens in fall. Leaves are glossy green, turning maroon to red in the fall.

Photos from USDA.gov Plant Profile



Highbush Cranberry – *Viburnum trilobum*

Height: 6-12 feet

Highbush cranberry is a hardy plant with a moderate growth rate and a rounded, dense form. It can grow in most soil types but prefers cool conditions and moist sites. It grows best in full sun but can handle partial shade. White flowers bloom in June and bright red fruit ripens in early fall, persisting throughout the winter. *Photos from extension.umn.edu*

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Elderberry – *Sambucus canadensis*

Height: 10-12 feet

Elderberry is a fast-growing, spreading shrub with a crown of 10 feet. It is very adaptable, although it prefers moist sites and full sun. However it will grow in partial shade and is somewhat drought tolerant. Large 3- to 10-inch wide flowers appear in late June to early July, and small clusters of dark fruit ripen in late summer.

Photos from minnesotawildflowers.info



Juneberry - *Amelanchier alnifolia*

Height: 6-15 feet

Juneberry is a thick-forming shrub/tree that has a moderate growth rate and a crown spread of 5-8 feet. It prefers moist soil and full sun but can tolerate partial shade. It does not tolerate drought well. White flowers bloom in early summer and larger bluish-black fruit ripens in July. Many types of wildlife feed on the berries and twigs.

Photos from extension.umn.edu and juneberries.org



American Plum – *Prunus americana*

Height: 10-20 feet

American plum has a rapid growth rate and is winter hardy and thicket-forming. It can grow in a variety of soil types, likes full sun to partial shade, and is somewhat drought tolerant. White flowers bloom in mid spring and 1-inch wide fruit ripens to yellow or red in September.

Photos from Missouri Botanical Garden



Prairie Red Plum – *Prunus sp.*

Height: 15 feet

Prairie red plum is a hybrid species that is winter hardy with a rapid growth rate. It can grow on a variety of soils but does best on silt loam and in full sun to partial shade. White flowers bloom in mid to late spring and 1.5 inch fruits mature in early fall. Moist sites will produce better fruit but it will not do well in wet areas.

Photos from NRCS Plant Materials Center

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Red Splendor Crabapple – *Malus sp.*

Height: 15-25 feet

Red splendor crab is a spreading, semi-weeping tree with a moderate growth rate. It can adapt to a variety of soils but it prefers heavy loam and well-drained soils. It is moderately drought tolerant and likes full sun. Long-lasting pink flowers bloom in spring and bright fruits will remain throughout the winter.

Photos from Bernheim Arboretum



Common Lilac - *Syringa vulgaris*

Height: 8-15 feet

Common lilac is a medium to large hardy shrub with a moderate growth rate that spreads by suckering. It has a crown spread of 6-12 feet. It will grow in a variety of soils and is drought tolerant but requires full sun. Leaves are dark green with a bluish cast, and showy, fragrant purple or white flowers bloom in late spring. Lilac is attractive to birds and pollinators and is often used for windbreaks.

Photos from Minnesota Landscape Arboretum



Redosier Dogwood – *Cornus sericea*

Height: 7-10 feet

Redosier dogwood has a rapid growth rate with a crown spread of 10 feet and a round shape. It can grow in a variety of soils, although it prefers wet sites and is often observed on swampy land. It grows in full sun or partial shade. Dogwood's red branches stand out in winter and it serves as a good snowcatch.

Photos from USDA.gov Plant Profile and arborday.org



Gray Dogwood – *Cornus racemosa*

Height: 6-12 feet

Gray dogwood has a slow growth rate and a crown spread of 8-12 feet. It can grow in wet or dry soils and prefers full sun or partial shade. Small white flowers bloom in late spring, and white berries grow on red branches that are visible in winter.

Photos from arborday.org

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Hazelnut – *Corylus americana*

Height: 8-15 feet

Hazelnut is a hardy moderate to rapid growing shrub that grows in most soil conditions. It prefers full sun or partial shade and is somewhat drought tolerant. Small brown nuts with a thick shell ripen and leaves change from green to orange, purplish, red, or yellow in the fall.

Photos from friendsofthewildgarden.org

Coniferous Trees:



White Cedar/Arborvitae – *Thuja occidentalis*

Height: 40-50 feet, maturity at 200 years

White cedar has a slow to moderate growth rate and a pyramidal shape, with a crown spread of 10-20 feet. It likes low areas but will grow in dry soils as well. It is moderately drought and shade tolerant. It produces small yellowish brown cones, bark is reddish and flaky, and needles are flat and scaly.

Photos from arborday.org



Balsam Fir – *Abies balsamea*

Height: 40-60 feet

Balsam fir is a slow-growing conifer with a tall, straight trunk. It prefers moist, cool, well-drained soils and is not drought tolerant. Fir grows best in full sun or partial shade but will tolerate shadier conditions. Needles are flat, dark green, and aromatic, and cones are upright and cylindrical.

Photos from minnesotaseasons.com and gobotany.newenglandwild.org



Jack Pine – *Pinus banksiana*

Height: 35-50 feet

Jack pine has a rapid growth rate that slows as it gets older and it has a more open form than most pines. It is extremely cold tolerant. It prefers moist soils but is somewhat drought tolerant and can grow in sandy, poor soil. Jack pine is not shade tolerant. Cones are curled, 1-2 inches in length, and often remain closed until triggered by heat or weathering.

Photos from minnesotawildflowers.info

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Norway/Red Pine – *Pinus resinosa*

Height: 50-80 feet, matures at 200-300 years
Red pine has a moderate to fast growth rate with a crown spread of 20-40 feet. As it gets older, the crown will appear tufted and more open. It prefers light sandy soils but will grow in poor sites, although it is not tolerant of compacted or poorly drained soils. Red pine needs full sun and is moderately tolerant of drought. Needles are 4-6 inches long and in groups of 2.

Photos from minnesotawildflowers.info



White Pine – *Pinus strobus*

Height: 80-100 feet, matures at 200-300 years
White pine has a rapid growth rate with a crown spread of 50-80 feet and forms a broader shape with age. It will do well in a variety of soil types but prefers well-drained, moist soils. It can grow in partial shade but it is not drought tolerant. Bud-capping is recommended to prevent deer browse. Cones are 5 inches long and needles are in bundles of 5. *Photos from minnesotawildflowers.info*



White Spruce – *Picea glauca*

Height: 40-80 feet, matures at 100-200 years
White spruce has a rapid growth rate with a crown spread of 20-30 feet and a dense pyramidal shape. It prefers moist, well-drained sites but will grow in a variety of soils. It is tolerant of shade and moderately tolerant of drought. Needles are short and dusty green to blue-green, and cones are 1-2 ½ inches long and rarely persist through the winter.

Photos from minnesotawildflowers.info



Tamarack – *Larix laricina*

Height: 50-75 feet, matures at 100-200 years

Tamarack has a rapid growth rate and a pyramidal shape. It is mostly found in swamps but will tolerate well-drained upland sites and a variety of soil types. It is intolerant of shade and drought. Tamarack is the only conifer that loses its leaves in the fall, when needles turn yellow and drop. *Photos from Minnesota DNR and americanforest.org*