

Recommended Trees for North Dakota



American elm lined street, Bismarck 2019

LARGE Trees (45' & up)	Pages 3-6
MEDIUM Trees (30-45')	Pages 7-9
SMALL Trees (15-30')	Pages 10-12
References	Page 13

- Trees with **BLUE** highlighted text are links to a website and/or PDF with more information. (Items in blue text below are also links.)
- Numbers which follow tree descriptions indicate references (p.13) for that tree.
- Some of the References on page 13 also have links.

NOTE:

Keep DIVERSITY of species in mind– communities should take steps to choose varieties that do not dominate the landscape currently. Follow this guideline:

- 20% or less of trees from the same Genus
- 10% or less of trees from the same Species

EXAMPLE:

Ulmus (Genus) *americana* (Species) 'Lewis & Clark' (Cultivar)

Common Name: 'Prairie Expedition' American elm

A CTAP/public tree inventory* is an excellent resource for managing community trees. Go to <https://ndcitytrees.org/NorthDakota/> , click 'Explore Cities'. Find your city and click on it. Scroll down and click 'Charts'. This will show you a pie chart of all of the tree species in your community. If any tree species on your list are more than 10%, avoid choosing those species when selecting trees for planting.

**contact NDFS Community Forestry staff if your community does not have a CTAP/public tree inventory.*

For more information on Tree Classification, please visit [The Arbor Day Foundation](#)

Large Trees (45' & up)

ELM *all elms listed have resistance to Dutch elm disease (DED)

PRAIRIE EXPEDITION AMERICAN ELM (*Ulmus americana* 'Lewis & Clark')

Height: 55' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Rounded to spreading vase
Spread: 60' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

NDSU selection, fast growth, moderate maintenance during formative years. High DED resistance. (1,2,6,7,8,10,11)

PRINCETON AMERICAN ELM (*Ulmus americana* 'Princeton')

Height: 60-80' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Upright
Spread: 40-60' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Fast growth, high maintenance during formative years. Adaptable to extremes in pH, moisture, heat and wind. High DED resistance. (1,2,6,7,8,10,11)

VALLEY FORGE AMERICAN ELM (*Ulmus americana* 'Valley Forge')

Height: 60-70' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Upright, arching
Spread: 60-70' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Very fast growth, high maintenance during formative years. Exhibits tolerance to salts, drought, poor soil, and air pollution. High DED resistance. (1,2,6,7,8,10,11)

CATHEDRAL ELM (*Ulmus* 'Cathedral')

Height: 40-50' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Broadly vase-shaped
Spread: 40-60' **Foliage:** Medium to light green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Fast growth, high maintenance during formative years. Moderate resistance to DED. (2,6,8,9,10)

TRIUMPH ELM (*Ulmus* 'Morton Glossy')

Height: 60' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Upright
Spread: 35-40' **Foliage:** Glossy, deep green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Very fast growth, moderate maintenance during formative years. Excellent disease and pest resistance. (2,6,7,8,10,11)

LINDEN/BASSWOOD

AMERICAN LINDEN/BASSWOOD (*Tilia americana*)

Height: 75-90' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Rounded at maturity

Spread: 40-50' **Foliage:** Large, dark green **Fall Foliage:** Pale yellow

Tall, spreading, adaptable, native linden. Fragrant yellow flowers and large, dense foliage. (1,6,7,10)

BOULEVARD LINDEN (*Tilia americana* 'Boulevard')

Height: 60' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Pyramidal

Spread: 30' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Fragrant yellow flowers. Ideal for boulevards and other sites where height is needed but width is limited. (1,7,11)

FRONTYARD LINDEN (*Tilia americana* 'Bailyard')

Height: 60-75' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Rounded

Spread: 40' **Foliage:** Green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Broadly pyramidal when young and nicely rounded with age. Dense foliage offers excellent shade. (1,7)

REDMOND LINDEN (*Tilia americana* 'Redmond')

Height: 40-60' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Pyramidal, uniform

Spread: 25-30' **Foliage:** Glossy, light green **Fall Foliage:** Bright yellow

Dense foliage, very hardy. (1,7,11)

MAPLE

FALL FIESTA SUGAR MAPLE (*Acer saccharum* 'Bailsta')

Height: 50-75' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Upright, rounded

Spread: 50' **Foliage:** Glossy, leathery green **Fall Foliage:** Orange, red

Rapid grower, prefers well-drained soil with slight acidity. (1,7,11)

GREEN MOUNTAIN SUGAR MAPLE (*Acer saccharum* 'Green Mountain')

Height: 50-75' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Upright oval
Spread: 35-40' **Foliage:** Glossy, deep green **Fall Foliage:** Orange-scarlet
Excellent heat tolerance, and performs well in dry, restricted sites. (1,7,11)

NORTHERN FLARE SUGAR MAPLE (*Acer saccharum* 'Sisseton')

Height: 40-50' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Oval to broadly ovate
Spread: 30-40' **Foliage:** Green **Fall Foliage:** Orange-red
Prefers a deep, well-drained, non-droughty soil. Will tolerate higher soil pH levels than the species. (1,4,11)

SIENNA GLEN MAPLE (*Acer x freemanii* 'Sienna')

Height: 50-75' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Pyramidal
Spread: 40' **Foliage:** Green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow, orange, red
MN origin. Tolerant of alkaline, acidic and wet soil conditions. (1,7,11)

WHITE OAK

BUR OAK (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

Height: 60-80' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Rounded, open
Spread: 60-80' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow-brown to purple
Drought tolerant native oak of the white oak family. Tolerates a wide range of soil types and air pollutants. Attractive corky bark. (1,6,7,10,11)

URBAN PINNACLE OAK (*Quercus macrocarpa* 'JFS-KW3' PP22815)

Height: 55' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Narrow, upright
Spread: 25-30' **Foliage:** Glossy, dark green **Fall Foliage:** Orange-yellow
Lobed, dark green, glossy foliage. Heat and drought tolerant. (1,6,9,10,11)

SELECTIONS FOR DIVERSITY

NORTHERN CATALPA (*Catalpa speciosa*)

Height: 50-60' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Upright, oval
Spread: 35-40' **Foliage:** Green, heart shaped **Fall Foliage:** Yellow-green
Fast growing. 2" long, tube-like white flowers appear in 4-8" panicles. Fruit is a long persistent pod. Very tolerant and adaptable. (7,10,11)

HACKBERRY (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Height: 50-75' **Zone:** 2 **Shape:** Spreading, rounded
Spread: 50' **Foliage:** Bright green **Fall Foliage:** Soft yellow
Tall, spreading, native tree. Very adaptable to urban conditions. (1,6,7,10,11)

PRAIRIE SENTINEL HACKBERRY (*Celtis occidentalis* 'JFS-KSUI')

Height: 40-45' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Narrow, columnar
Spread: 10-15' **Foliage:** Bright green **Fall Foliage:** Bright yellow
Perfect for tight spaces. Adaptability to heat, cold, and drought. (9,10,11)

KATSURA (*Cercidiphullum japonicum*)

Height: 40-60' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Pyramidal, broad
Spread: 20-30' **Foliage:** Bluish-green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow to apricot
Heart-shaped foliage. Little tolerance for drought when young. (7,10,11)

AUTUMN GOLD GINKGO (*Ginkgo biloba* 'Autumn Gold')

Height: 50' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Upright broad conical
Spread: 30' **Foliage:** Green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow
Fruitless selection. Fan-shaped leaves. Tolerant of urban conditions. (4,6,7,10,11)

ESPRESSO KENTUCKY COFFEETREE (*Gymnocladus dioicus* 'Espresso-JFS')

Height: 50-60' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Oval to vase
Spread: 35-40' **Foliage:** Bluish-green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow
Seedless cultivar. Drought tolerant. Excellent for tough urban locations. (1,6,7,10,11)

Medium Trees (30-45')

BIRCH

PRAIRIE DREAM PAPER BIRCH (*Betula papyrifera* 'Varen' PP15768)

Height: 35-40' **Zone:** 2 **Shape:** Upright, oval

Spread: 20-25' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Bright gold

NDSU selection for snow-white peeling bark. Excellent cold hardiness and resistance to bronze birch borer. Prefers a moist, well-drained site. (1,9,11)

DAKOTA PINNACLE ASIAN WHITE BIRCH (*Betula platyphylla* 'Fargo')

Height: 35' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Upright, columnar

Spread: 10-12' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Golden yellow

NDSU selection for form and bronze birch borer resistance. Tolerant of heat, drought, and alkaline soils. (1,7,11)

NORTHERN TRIBUTE RIVER BIRCH (*Betula nigra* 'Dickinson')

Height: 35' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Upright, oval

Spread: 30' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

NDSU selection for hardiness. Performs well in alkaline soils and in compacted, dry soils. Seedling selection from western North Dakota. (1,6,10)

BUCKEYE

OHIO BUCKEYE (*Aesculus glabra*)

Height: 30' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Rounded

Spread: 20-40' **Foliage:** Bright green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow-orange to red

Greenish yellow flowers in late spring, followed by large light brown fruit capsules. Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. (1,6,7,9,10)

AUTUMN SPLENDOR OHIO BUCKEYE (*Aesculus x arnoldiana* 'Autumn Splendor')

Height: 30-35' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Rounded

Spread: 25' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Red

Large white blooms in spring, followed by brilliant red fall color. Prefers moist soil and full sun. Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. (1,6,7,9,10)

LINDEN

LITTLELEAF LINDEN (*Tilia cordata*)

Height: 35-45' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Broad, pyramidal

Spread: 30-35' **Foliage:** Glossy, dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Glossy dark foliage and fragrant pendulous flowers in early summer. Very adaptable, does well in poor soil. (1,7,10)

GREENSPIRE LINDEN (*Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire')

Height: 40-50' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Oval

Spread: 30-35' **Foliage:** Leathery, dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Fragrant, creamy-yellow flowers are followed by a small nutlet. Tolerant of urban conditions. (1,4,7,10,11)

HARVEST GOLD LINDEN (*Tilia x mongolica* 'Harvest Gold' PP12,232)

Height: 30-40' **Zone:** 2 **Shape:** Upright, oval

Spread: 25-30' **Foliage:** Green **Fall Foliage:** Golden yellow

A very hardy selection with upright growth. Glossy, heart-shaped flowers and fragrant yellow blooms in early summer. Exfoliating bark. (1,7,9,10,11)

OAK

PRAIRIE STATURE OAK (*Quercus x bimundorum* 'Midwest')

Height: 30-40' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Pyramidal

Spread: 25-30' **Foliage:** Glossy, dark green **Fall Foliage:** Reddish-purple

Outstanding NDSU selection- English x White oak. Prefers a moist, well-drained site. Excellent boulevard, feature or park tree. (1,6,7,9,10,11)

REGAL PRINCE OAK (*Quercus x warei* 'Long')

Height: 40' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Upright oval

Spread: 20-25' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow-brown

Grows faster than other oak, becoming oval with age. Tolerates wet or dry soil conditions. Shade tree or vertical accent. (6,7,9,10,11)

SELECTIONS FOR DIVERSITY

NORTHERN ACCLAIM HONEYLOCUST (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Harve')

Height: 35-45' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Symmetrical & upright

Spread: 30-35' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

NDSU selection for hardiness. Thornless and seedless, drought resistant. (1,6,7,10,11)

PRAIRIE REFLECTION LAUREL WILLOW (*Salix pentandra* 'Silver Lake')

Height: 35-40' **Zone:** 2 **Shape:** Rounded

Spread: 25' **Foliage:** Shiny, dark green **Fall Foliage:** Golden yellow

NDSU selection. Grows rapidly. Dark green, highly glossy foliage. (1,7)

YELLOWWOOD (*Cladrastis kentukea*)

Height: 30-40' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Broad-rounded

Spread: 30-40' **Foliage:** Bright green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Spectacular in spring with creamy white flower panicles that are 8-14" long and loaded with fragrant pea-like flowers. 4" light brown seed pods form in autumn. Grows especially well in high pH soils. (6,7,10,11)

IRONWOOD/AMERICAN HOPHORNBEAM (*Ostrya virginiana*)

Height: 30-45' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Oval to rounded

Spread: 25' **Foliage:** Bright green **Fall Foliage:** Golden yellow

Slow growing. Hop-like fruits in late summer. Tolerant of dry locations. (1,7,10,11)

PRAIRIE HORIZON ALDER (*Alnus hirsuta* 'Harbin')

Height: 30-40' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Upright

Spread: 20-30' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

NDSU selection for upright growth and attractive foliage. Rapid growing. Decorative purple catkins. Drought tolerant. (1,6,7,10)

Small Trees (15-30')

CHOKECHERRY

AMUR CHOKECHERRY (*Prunus maackii*)

Height: 20-30' **Zone:** 2 **Shape:** Rounded
Spread: 25-30' **Flower:** White **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Very hardy, non-suckering. Produces white flowers and black fruit. Striking metallic, golden-brown, exfoliating bark. Good wildlife plant. (1,4,7)

MING CHOKECHERRY (*Prunus maackii* 'Ming')

Height: 15-25' **Zone:** 2 **Shape:** Rounded
Spread: 12-20' **Flower:** White **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Small, bright white, spring blooms mature to black ornamental fruit. Improved resistance to frost cracking. (5,9,10)

CRABAPPLE

ADAMS CRABAPPLE (*Malus* 'Adams')

Height: 25' **Zone:** 4 **Flower:** Single, pink
Spread: 20' **Foliage:** Green **Fall Foliage:** Orange-red

Excellent disease resistance. Rounded form. Persistent carmine-red fruit. (3,6,7,11)

RED SPLENDOR CRABAPPLE (*Malus* 'Red Splendor')

Height: 20-25' **Zone:** 3 **Flower:** Single, pink
Spread: 20' **Foliage:** Glossy, green **Fall Foliage:** Reddish-purple

Shiny, cherry-like, red, extremely persistent fruits. Good wildlife plant. (3,6,7)

SPRING SNOW CRABAPPLE (*Malus* 'Spring Snow')

Height: 25-30' **Zone:** 4 **Flower:** Single, white
Spread: 15' **Foliage:** Shiny, bright green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Fruitless. Pink buds open to fragrant white flowers in spring. (3,6,7,10,11)

PURPLE PRINCE CRABAPPLE (*Malus 'Purple Prince'*)

Height: 20' **Zone:** 4 **Flower:** Single, red
Spread: 20' **Foliage:** Purple-bronze **Fall Foliage:** Purple-red
Spring foliage purple. Abundant maroon fruits. Cherry-like bark. (3,6,7,11)

GLADIATOR CRABAPPLE (*Malus x adstringens 'Durleo' PP20,167*)

Height: 20' **Zone:** 2 **Flower:** Pink
Spread: 9' **Foliage:** Bronze-purple **Fall Foliage:** Bronze-purple
Upright, columnar and compact. Pink flowers followed by small reddish-purple fruit. Ideal for space-challenged sites. (3,6,7,9)

HAWTHORN

THORNLESS COCKSPUR HAWTHORN (*Crataegus crus-galli var. inermis*)

Height: 15-20' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Rounded, spreading
Spread: 15-20' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Orange
Abundant white flowers in June, followed by small bright red persistent fruit in autumn. Prefers moist conditions, but is drought-tolerant. (1,7,11)

SNOWBIRD HAWTHORN (*Crataegus x mordenensis 'Snowbird'*)

Height: 12-15' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Upright, rounded
Spread: 20' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow
Fragrant double white flowers, minimal fruit production. (1,7,11)

MAPLE

TATARIAN MAPLE (*Acer tataricum*)

Height: 20-25' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Oval, irregular
Spread: 18-20' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow to red
Tolerant of alkalinity and dry conditions. Samaras often red and showy. (1,5,7,11)

HOT WINGS MAPLE (*Acer tataricum 'GarAnn' PP15,023*)

Height: 20-25' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Upright, spreading
Spread: 18-20' **Foliage:** Dark green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow to red
Bright red samaras. Tolerant of alkalinity and dry conditions. (1,5,7,11)

SELECTIONS FOR DIVERSITY

AUTUMN BRILLIANCE SERVICEBERRY (*Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance')

Height: 20-25' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Rounded
Spread: 15' **Foliage:** Small, blue-green **Fall Foliage:** Red-orange

White blossoms in spring, followed by showy, sweet purplish-black fruit. Brilliant fall leaves are quite persistent. (1,5,7,11)

PAGODA DOGWOOD (*Cornus alternifolia*)

Height: 15-20' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Rounded
Spread: 20-25' **Foliage:** Green **Fall Foliage:** Red-purple

Fragrant pale yellow flowers late spring, followed by blue-black fruit. Prefers moist, cool, acidic soil and partial shade. (1,4,5,6,7)

AMUR MAACKIA (*Maackia amurensis*)

Height: 20-30' **Zone:** 4 **Shape:** Rounded
Spread: 25-35' **Foliage:** Dark olive green **Fall Foliage:** Insignificant

White flowers blooming mid-summer. Shiny amber to copper colored bark exfoliates with age into loose flakes and curls. Adaptable to a range of soils. (1,5,6,7,10,11)

PRINCESS KAY PLUM (*Prunus nigra* 'Princess Kay')

Height: 15' **Zone:** 2 **Flower:** Showy white
Spread: 8-10' **Foliage:** Green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow-orange

Early double white flowers appearing before foliage. Small yellow-red ornamental fruit in summer. Prefers a moist, well-drained soil. (1,5,7,9)

JAPANESE TREE LILAC (*Syringa reticulata*)

Height: 25' **Zone:** 3 **Shape:** Spreading
Spread: 25' **Foliage:** Deep green **Fall Foliage:** Yellow

Creamy white flowers in large panicles early summer. Glossy red-brown bark. Tolerates a wide variety of moist, well-drained soils. (1,5,6,7,9,10)

REFERENCES:

1. Landscape & Boulevard Trees for North Dakota- Greg Morgenson NDSU 2012
2. [Elm Trees-Dutch Elm Disease Resistant Varieties- U of MN Extension 2019](#)
3. [Choice Flowering Crabapple Cultivars for the Northern Plains- Herman, Chaput, West. NDSU 2011](#)
4. Bachman's 2019 Wholesale Nursery Catalog
5. Small Ornamental Trees for North Dakota Landscapes- Greg Morgenson NDSU 2018
6. [Tough Trees for North Dakota Landscapes- Todd West NDSU 2018](#)
7. Bailey 2020 Plant Catalog
8. [Elms for North Dakota- NDSU Extension \(F1893\) October 2018](#)
9. Bron & Sons Nursery Co. 2020-2021 Reference Guide
10. [Ash Replacement Trees- Todd West NDSU 2019](#)
11. [J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co. Reference Guide](#)

North Dakota Forest Service

February 2020

NDSU

