

Recommended Trees for North Dakota Communities



Top left: Briarwood Court playground, Wahpeton. Top right: Downtown Valley City. Bottom: Sargent County Courthouse, Forman

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*(*included in parentheses following every tree description)*



'Sunburst' honeylocust

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

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

EXAMPLE:

Tilia (Genus) *americana* (Species): American linden (Common name)

Tilia (Genus) *cordata* (Species): Littleleaf linden (Common name)









For example, if your community has 15% American linden and 8% Littleleaf linden (23% total for the Genus), then you may want to stay away from planting lindens.

A Tree Inventory & Plan (TIP)/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 TIP/public tree inventory.

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

SYMBOLS KEY

	= Drought tolerant		= Large trees (45' & up). Boulevard width should be 7 feet or larger. Large trees should be planted more than 35 feet away from other trees.
	= Alkaline tolerant		= Medium trees (30-45'). Boulevard width should be 5 feet or larger. Medium trees should be planted at least 30-40 feet away from other trees.
	= Native to ND		= Small trees (15-30'). Boulevard width should be wider than 4 feet. Small trees should be planted at least 25-30 feet away from other trees.
	= Pollinator friendly		
	= Overhead utility friendly		

ALDER

Alnus hirsuta 'Harbin'

Prairie Horizon Manchurian alder



Zone: 3
Height: 30-40'
Spread: 20-30'
Shape: Upright
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Yellow

NDSU selection for upright growth and attractive foliage. Rapid growing. Decorative purple catkins and clusters of brown cone-like fruit. Drought tolerant. (1,4,6,7,10,12)

BIRCH

Betula platyphylla 'Fargo'

Dakota Pinnacle birch



Zone: 3
Height: 35'
Spread: 10-12'
Shape: Upright, columnar
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Golden yellow

NDSU selection for form and bronze birch borer resistance. Tolerant of heat, drought, and alkaline soils. (1,7,11,12)

Betula platyphylla 'Jefpark' PP25,468

Parkland Pillar birch



Zone: 3
Height: 40'
Spread: 6-7'
Shape: Narrow, upright
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Yellow

Fast growing, suitable for screens or boulevard plantings. Tolerant of drought, heat, and alkaline soils. (7,11)

*see photo on page 14

Betula papyrifera 'Varen' PP15768

Prairie Dream paper birch



Zone: 2
Height: 35-40'
Spread: 20-25'
Shape: Upright, oval
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Bright gold

NDSU selection for snow-white peeling bark. Excellent cold hardiness and resistance to bronze birch borer. Prefers a moist, well-drained site. (1,11,12)

BUCKEYE

Aesculus x arnoldiana 'Autumn Splendor'



Autumn Splendor buckeye



Zone: 3
Height: 30-35'
Spread: 25'
Shape: Rounded
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: 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. (1,6,7,10)

Aesculus x 'Bergeson'

Prairie Torch buckeye



Zone: 3
Height: 30'
Spread: 30'
Shape: Round, upright
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Orange-red

NDSU selection, showy yellow flowers. Fruit are spiny golf ball sized capsules that attract wildlife. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. (11,12)

CATALPA

Catalpa speciosa

Northern catalpa



Zone: 4
Height: 50-60'
Spread: 35-40'
Shape: Upright, oval
Foliage: Green, heart shaped
Fall color: Yellow-green

Fast growing. 2" long, tube-like white flowers appear in 4-8" clusters. Fruit is a long persistent pod. Very tolerant of heat and drought. (4,6,7,10,11)



Catalpa

CHOKECHERRY

Prunus maackii

Amur chokecherry



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

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

Prunus maackii 'Ming'

Ming chokecherry



Zone: 3
Height: 10'
Spread: 5-10'
Shape: Round, upright
Flower: White
Fall color: Yellow

Clusters of white flowers late spring followed by small black fruit. Attracts birds. Exfoliating bark. (10)

COFFEETREE

Gymnocladus dioica

'Espresso-JFS'

Espresso Kentucky coffeetree



Zone: 4
Height: 50-60'
Spread: 35-40'
Shape: Oval to vase
Foliage: Bluish-green
Fall color: Yellow

Seedless cultivar. Drought tolerant. Excellent for tough urban locations. (1,6,7,10,11)

CORK TREE

Phellodendron amurense

'His Majesty'

His Majesty cork tree



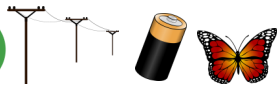
Zone: 3
Height: 40'
Spread: 35'
Shape: Broad vase
Foliage: Medium green
Fall color: Yellow

Fast growing, upright spreading. Generally seedless. (10,11)

CRABAPPLE

Malus 'Dolgo'

Dolgo crabapple



Zone: 3
Height: 30'
Spread: 25-30'
Flower: White
Fruit: Red, edible
Foliage: Green

One of the hardiest and earliest of the crabapples to bloom. Pink buds open to large, fragrant white flowers. Abundant fruits ripen in late summer are edible and excellent for jelly. (7,11)

Malus x adstringens
 'Durleo' PP20,167

Gladiator crabapple



Zone: 2
Height: 20'
Spread: 9'
Flower: Pink
Fruit: Reddish-purple
Foliage: Bronze-purple

Upright, columnar and compact. Ideal for space-challenged sites. (3,6,7)

Malus 'Jarmin' PP 14337

Marilee crabapple



Zone: 4
Height: 25'
Spread: 10'
Flower: White
Foliage: Medium green
Fall Foliage: Orange

Upright, narrow form and virtually fruitless. Good disease resistance. (6,7,10,11)

Malus 'Red Splendor'

Red Splendor crabapple



Zone: 3
Height: 20-25'
Spread: 20'
Flower: Pink
Fruit: Red
Foliage: Glossy green

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

Additional crabapple species

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Flower</u>	<u>Fruit</u>
• Adams (<i>Malus 'Adams'</i>)	4	Pink	Red
• Adirondack (<i>Malus 'Adirondack'</i>)	4	White	Bright red
• Coralburst (<i>Malus 'Coralcole'</i>)	3	Pink	Red-orange
• Emerald Spire (<i>Malus 'Jefgreen' PP23,863</i>)	2	Pink	Red
• Pink Spires (<i>Malus 'Pink Spires'</i>)	2	Light pink	Purple-red
• Prairifire (<i>Malus 'Prairifire'</i>)	4	Red-purple	Maroon, cone shaped
• Red Barron (<i>Malus 'Red Barron'</i>)	4	Dark red to pink	Dark red
• Show Time (<i>Malus 'Shotizam'</i>)	3	Fuschia-red	Red
• Sugar Tyme (<i>Malus 'Sutyzam'</i>)	4	Snowy white	Rich red
• Thunderchild (<i>Malus 'Thunderchild'</i>)	3	Pink	Dark red

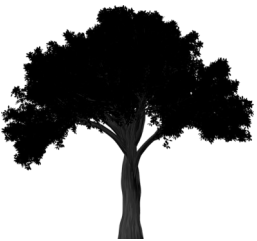
ELM *all elms listed have resistance to Dutch elm disease (DED)

A NOTE ON ELMS: There are many different DED resistant elms available. Please be aware of **MAINTENANCE** needs. All American elm selections require a significant investment in pruning during the first 10-15 years. Elms that have **high** or **very high** maintenance requirements will need the most attention (more species are listed on page 7). Regardless of species chosen, it is recommended to contact NDFS community forestry staff for a pruning workshop once elms are established (2-3 years after planting).

Ulmus americana 'Lewis & Clark'



Prairie Expedition® elm



Zone: 3
Height: 55'
Spread: 60'
Shape: Rounded to spreading vase
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Yellow

NDSU selection, fast growth, **moderate maintenance** during formative years. Tough and extremely cold hardy. High DED resistance. (1,2,6,7,8,10,11,12)

Ulmus davidiana var. *japonica* 'Discovery'



Discovery elm



Zone: 3
Height: 35-40'
Spread: 30'
Shape: Upright, vase
Foliage: Green
Fall color: Yellow

Slow growth rate, **moderate maintenance** during formative years. Similar in shape to the American elm but smaller. Adapts well to a variety of soils. Stress and drought tolerant. (2,6,7,8,10,11)

Ulmus davidiana var. *japonica* 'Burgundy Glow'



Northern Empress elm



Zone: 3
Height: 28'
Spread: 24'
Shape: Rounded open crown
Foliage: Green
Fall color: Burgundy red

NDSU selection. Very hardy small to medium sized elm. Tolerant of higher pH soils. Good drought tolerance. (6,10,12)

Ulmus x 'Morton'



Accolade elm



Zone: 4
Height: 50-60'
Spread: 25-40'
Shape: Upright
Foliage: Deep green
Fall color: Golden yellow

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



American elm

Ulmus 'Cathedral'

Cathedral elm



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

Very fast growth, **very high maintenance** during formative years. Good disease and pest resistance. (2,6,7,8,10,11)

* see photo on page 14

Ulmus 'Morton Glossy'

Triumph elm



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

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

Additional elm species

- ['Princeton' elm](#) (*Ulmus americana* 'Princeton')
- ['St. Croix' elm](#) (*Ulmus americana* 'St. Croix')
- ['Valley Forge' elm](#) (*Ulmus americana* 'Valley Forge')
- ['New Horizon' elm](#) (*Ulmus* 'New Horizon')
- ['Vanguard' elm](#) (*Ulmus* 'Morton Plainsman')

Zone

Maintenance

Growth Rate

4	Very high	Fast
4	Very high	Very fast
4	Very high	Very fast
4	High	Very fast
4	High	Fast

GINKGO

Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold'

Autumn Gold ginkgo



Zone: 4
Height: 50'
Spread: 30'
Shape: Upright broad conical
Foliage: Green
Fall color: Yellow

Fruitless selection. Fan-shaped leaves. Tolerant of urban conditions. (6,7,10,11)



Ginkgo

HACKBERRY

Celtis occidentalis

Hackberry



Zone: 2
Height: 50-75'
Spread: 50'
Shape: Spreading, rounded
Foliage: Bright green
Fall color: Soft yellow

Tall, spreading, native tree. Very adaptable to urban conditions. (1,4,6,7,9,10,11)



Hackberry

HAWTHORN

Crataegus crus-galli
var. *inermis*

Thornless Cockspur hawthorn



Zone: 4
Height: 15-20'
Spread: 15-20'
Shape: Rounded, spreading
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Orange

Abundant white flowers in early summer, followed by small bright red persistent fruit in autumn. Prefers moist conditions, but is drought-tolerant. (1,7,11)

Crataegus x mordenensis
'Snowbird'



Zone: 4
Height: 12-15'
Spread: 20'
Shape: Upright, rounded
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Yellow

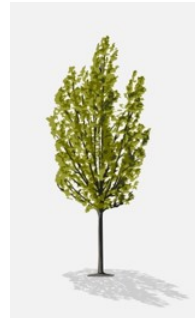
Fragrant double white flowers, minimal fruit production. (1,7,11)

HONEYLOCUST

Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis*
'Harve'



Northern Acclaim honeylocust



Zone: 3
Height: 35-45'
Spread: 30-35'
Shape: Symmetrical, upright
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Yellow

NDSU selection for hardiness. Thornless and seedless, drought resistant. (1,6,7,10,11,12)

Gleditsia triacanthos 'Skycole'



Skyline honeylocust



Zone: 4
Height: 45'
Spread: 35'
Shape: Broadly pyramidal
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Golden yellow

Thornless and essentially fruitless. (7,11)

Gleditsia triacanthos 'Suncole'



Sunburst honeylocust



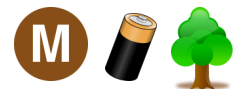
Zone: 4
Height: 40'
Spread: 35'
Shape: Irregularly rounded
Foliage: Bright yellow tip growth
Fall color: Yellow-brown

Bright golden yellow, fine textured foliage. Thornless and seedless. (7,11)

*see photo on page 2

IRONWOOD

Ostrya virginiana



Ironwood/American hophornbeam



Zone: 3
Height: 30-45'
Spread: 25'
Shape: Oval to rounded
Foliage: Bright green
Fall color: Golden yellow

Slow growing. Hop-like fruits in late summer. Full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. (1,4,6,7,9,10,11)

KATSURA

Cercidiphyllum japonicum

Katsura



Zone: 4
Height: 40-60'
Spread: 20-30'
Shape: Pyramidal, broad
Foliage: Bluish-green
Fall color: Yellow

Heart-shaped foliage. Little tolerance for drought when young. Relatively tolerant of alkaline soil. A good selection for a park or garden. (7,10,11)

LILAC

Syringa reticulata

Japanese tree lilac



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

Creamy white flowers in large panicles early summer. Glossy red-brown bark. Tolerates a wide variety of moist, well-drained soils. (1,4,5,6,7,9,10)

Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'

Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac



Zone: 3
Height: 25'
Spread: 15'
Shape: Compact, oval
Foliage: Deep green
Fall color: Yellow

Sturdy, more compact, oval growth habit. Cherry-like bark, large creamy white flower clusters. (1,4,5,6,7,9,10)

LINDEN/BASSWOOD

Tilia americana

American linden



Zone: 3
Height: 75-90'
Spread: 40-50'
Shape: Rounded at maturity
Foliage: Large, dark green
Fall color: Yellow

Tall, spreading, adaptable, native linden. Fragrant yellow flowers and large, dense foliage. (1,4,6,7,10)

Tilia americana 'Bailyard'

Frontyard® linden



Zone: 3
Height: 60-75'
Spread: 40'
Shape: Rounded
Foliage: Green
Fall color: Yellow

Broadly pyramidal when young and nicely rounded with age. Dense foliage offers excellent shade. (1,7,10)

Tilia americana 'Boulevard'

Boulevard linden



Zone: 3
Height: 60'
Spread: 30'
Shape: Pyramidal
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Yellow

Fragrant yellow flowers. Ideal for boulevards and other sites where height is needed but width is limited. (1,7,10,11)

Tilia americana 'Redmond'



Redmond linden



Zone: 3
Height: 40-60'
Spread: 25-30'
Shape: Pyramidal, uniform
Foliage: Glossy, light green
Fall color: Bright yellow

Dense foliage, very hardy. Fragrant clusters of pale yellow flowers. (1,7,10,11)

Tilia cordata



Littleleaf linden



Zone: 4
Height: 35-45'
Spread: 30-35'
Shape: Broad, pyramidal
Foliage: Glossy, dark green
Fall color: Yellow

Glossy dark foliage and fragrant pendulous flowers in early summer. Very adaptable, does well in poor soil. (1,4,7,9,10)



Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'



Greenspire linden



Zone: 4
Height: 40'
Spread: 30-35'
Shape: Oval
Foliage: Leathery, dark green
Fall color: Yellow

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

Tilia x mongolica 'Harvest Gold' PP12,232



Harvest Gold linden



Zone: 2
Height: 30-40'
Spread: 25-30'
Shape: Upright, oval
Foliage: Green
Fall color: Golden yellow

A very hardy selection with upright growth. Glossy, heart shaped leaves and fragrant yellow blooms in early summer. Exfoliating bark. (1,4,7,10,11)

MAACKIA

Maackia amurensis



Amur maackia



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

White flowers bloom mid-summer. Amber to copper colored bark. Adaptable to a range of soils. (1,5,6,7,10,11)

MAPLE

A NOTE ON MAPLES: In North Dakota, maples are often subject to iron and manganese chlorosis on high pH (alkaline) soils, which may cause dieback or death. Maples with iron and manganese chlorosis will exhibit yellow leaves with bright green veins. If there are maples in your community that have leaves that exhibit those symptoms, choose alternative trees.

For more information on iron chlorosis in trees, please visit: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/lawns-gardens-trees/iron-chlorosis-in-trees>

Acer x freemanii 'AF #1' PP15,593

Firefall maple



Zone: 4
Height: 40-60'
Spread: 30-40'
Shape: Upright, oval
Foliage: Medium green
Fall color: Orange to scarlet

Seedless selection with good branch angles. Exceptional cold hardiness, fast growing. (7,10,11)

Acer ginnala 'Jefum'

Royal Crown® amur maple



Zone: 2
Height: 10-20'
Spread: 10-20'
Shape: Round, upright
Foliage: Green
Fall color: Red to deep purple

Multi-stemmed. Tolerant of alkaline soils. (10)

Acer miyabei 'Morton'

State Street maple



Zone: 4
Height: 50'
Spread: 35'
Shape: Upright oval
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Yellow

Excellent drought and cold tolerance. (7,10,11)

Acer tataricum 'GarAnn' PP15,023



Hot Wings maple



Zone: 3
Height: 20-25'
Spread: 18-20'
Shape: Upright, spreading
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Yellow to red

Bright red samaras. Tolerant of alkalinity and dry conditions. (1,5,7,11)



'Hot Wings' maple

OAK

A NOTE ON OAKS: There are two groups of oak- white oak and red oak. The red oak group largely has poor adaptability to environmental conditions in North Dakota. The white oak group has much greater resistance to oak wilt than the red oak group. **Oak wilt is currently NOT found in North Dakota.** All of the trees listed below are in the white oak group. For more information on oak wilt, please visit: <https://www.ndinvasives.org/oak-wilt>

Quercus macrocarpa

Bur oak



Zone: 3
Height: 60-80'
Spread: 40'
Shape: Rounded, open
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: 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. (1,4,6,7,9,10,11)

Quercus macrocarpa 'JFS-KW14'

Cobblestone oak



Zone: 3
Height: 55'
Spread: 25-30'
Shape: Narrow, upright
Foliage: Glossy, dark green
Fall color: Orange-yellow

Unusually corky branches. (1,6,11)

Quercus macrocarpa 'JFS-KW3'
 PP22815

Urban Pinnacle oak



Zone: 3
Height: 55'
Spread: 25-30'
Shape: Narrow, upright
Foliage: Glossy, dark green
Fall color: Orange-yellow

Lobed, dark green glossy foliage. Heat and drought tolerant. (1,6,10,11)

Quercus x bimundorum 'Midwest'

Prairie Stature oak



Zone: 3
Height: 30-40'
Spread: 25-30'
Shape: Pyramidal
Foliage: Glossy, dark green
Fall color: Reddish-purple

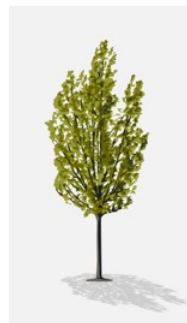
Outstanding NDSU selection. Prefers a moist, well-drained site. Excellent boulevard, feature, or park tree. (1,6,7,10,11,12)



Prairie Stature' oak

Quercus x warei 'Long'

Regal Prince oak



Zone: 4
Height: 40'
Spread: 20-25'
Shape: Upright oval
Foliage: Dark green
Fall color: Yellow-brown

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

SERVICEBERRY

Amelanchier x grandiflora
'Autumn Brilliance'

Autumn Brilliance serviceberry



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

White blossoms in spring, followed by sweet purplish-black fruit. Fall leaves are quite persistent. (1,4,5,7,11)

WALNUT

Juglans nigra

Black walnut



Zone: 4
Height: 35-60'
Spread: 30-50'
Shape: Oval to rounded
Foliage: Green
Fall color: Yellow

Prefers moist, well drained soils. Fruit is a drupe bearing a nut. Good for wildlife. (1,4,6,7,9,11)

WILLOW

Salix pentandra 'Silver Lake'

Prairie Reflection laurel willow



Zone: 2
Height: 35-40'
Spread: 25'
Shape: Rounded
Foliage: Shiny, dark green
Fall color: Golden yellow

NDSU selection, Grows rapidly. Dark green highly glossy foliage. (1,7,12)



'Cathedral' elm



'Parkland Pillar' birch

FAMILY LIST

A Family is a single group of genera that closely or uniformly resemble each other in general appearance and technical character.

Betulaceae (Birch)

Alder

eg: Prairie Horizon

Birch

eg: Dakota Pinnacle

Ironwood

Bignoniaceae (Catalpa)

Northern catalpa

Cannabaceae (Hemp)

Hackberry

Cercidiphyllaceae

Katsura

Fabaceae (Bean/Pea/Legume)

Honeylocust

eg: Northern Acclaim

Kentucky coffeetree

eg: Espresso

Maackia

eg: Amur

Fagaceae (Oak)

Oak

eg: Bur

Ginkgoaceae (Ginkgo)

Ginkgo

eg: Autumn Gold

Juglandaceae (Walnut)

Black walnut

Malvaceae (Mallows)

Linden/Basswood

eg: American

Oleaceae (Olive)

Japanese tree lilac

eg: Ivory Silk

Roseaceae (Rose)

Chokecherry

eg: Amur

Crabapple

eg: Dolgo

Hawthorn

eg: Snowbird

Serviceberry

eg: Autumn Brilliance

Rutaceae (Rue/Citrus)

Cork tree

eg: His Majesty

Salicaceae (Willow)

Willow

eg: Prairie Reflection

Sapindaceae (Soapberry)

Buckeye

eg: Autumn Splendor

Maple

eg: Firefall

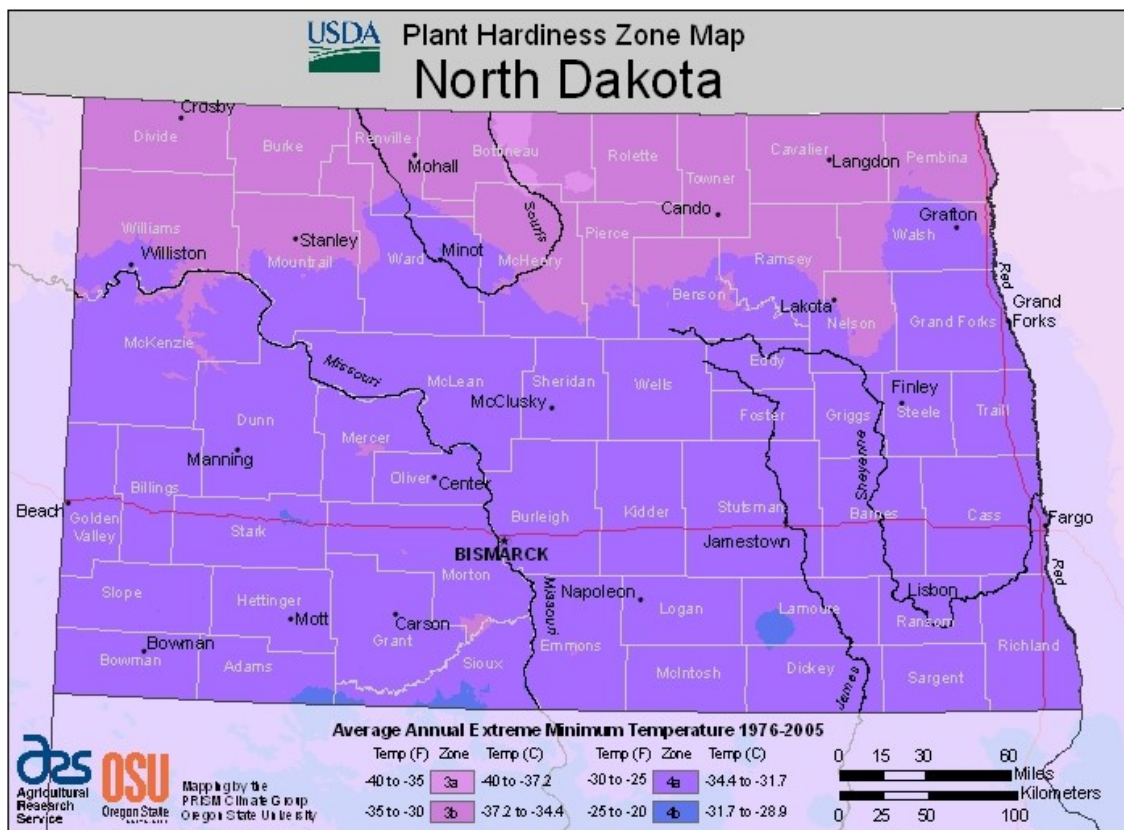
Ulmaceae (Elm)

Elm

eg: Prairie Expedition

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To view online, please visit: <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>

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and the North Dakota Forest Service

Photos: Mary O’Neill, NDFS

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