Recommended Trees for North Dakota

American elm lined street, Bismarck 2019
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/](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](https://www.arborday.org)
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)
**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-KSU’)

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)
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)
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