What is considered a small tree in the landscape?

❖ Generally, a small ornamental tree is considered to be from approximately 8-10 in height on the small end and 25-30 in height on the upper size end and growing with one stem or to a roughly equal multi-stemmed form.

❖ Taller growing shrubs may occasionally be pruned into small trees. Larger growing trees may have cultivars selected to grow in a small tree form and express other ornamental characteristics.

What are our first trees which come to mind as small ornamentals?

Probably these ---

Crabapples- Many to choose from, an entirely different discussion.

Amur maples- Common and adaptable.

Purple leafed chokecherries- too many associated problems, black knot, suckering, etc. Will not be discussed.

Crabapples: Refer to regional publications and nursery information for disease resistance, flower color, fruit characteristics, plant form, rootstock.

❖ Choice Flowering Crabapple Cultivars For The Northern Plains - Herman, Chaput, and West, NDSU

❖ J. Frank Schmidt Nursery Crabapple Chart

❖ Myriad Internet References

Amur Maple, Acer ginnala

15-20' Ht. and spread

Amur (Ginnala) Maple

Acer ginnala
Small and Compact Ornamental Trees

Amur Maple cultivars:
- Ruby Slippers
- Red Wing
- Embers
- Royal Crown
- Red November™
- Flame
- Campfire®

Tatarian Maple
- *Acer tataricum* 16-24' ht.

Tatarian Maple cultivars- selected for form, red samaras, higher pH tolerance:
- Pattern Perfect®, Ventura
- Hot Wings®, Rugged Charm®

A few other small maple species and cultivars
- Apollo® sugar maple
- Korean maple
- North Wind® hybrid Korean maple

Apollo® Sugar Maple
- Compact growing columnar form to 25’to 30’ height, 12’ width

Korean palmate maple
- Silky expanding spring foliage, foliage is retained through winter months and falls in the early spring. Tends to grow in a multi-stemmed form.
- Hardy to -35f to -40f
Small and Compact Ornamental Trees

Korean Maple- *Acer pseudosieboldianum*

Northern Spotlight®
Korean maple  20’x16’

Korean Maple, additional seed sources have performed well in eastern ND.

North Wind® hybrid Korean maple
20’ x 15’
Iseli Nursery Introduction

Spring Flowering small tree forms
- Northern Pears Pearl Bush- *Exochorda serratifolia*
- Royal Star Magnolia
- Merrill Magnolia
- Princess Kay Plum
- Serviceberry cultivars
- Amur cherry
- Pagoda dogwood

Northern Pears Pearl Bush  9’-12’ in height
Mid to late May flowering, can be trained in a small multi-stemmed tree form

Royal Star Magnolia  6’-9’ in height
Early May flowering
Small and Compact Ornamental Trees

**Merrill Magnolia**  
15-20' in height, upright form  
Additional cultivar- Spring Welcome®, NDSU Tree Program release  

**Perils of Hardy Magnolias** - very early bloom and also potential winter flower bud damage  
Late spring freeze on expanded flowers.  
Flowering below snowline after very cold winter temperatures.

**Princess Kay Flowering Plum**  
15’ x 10’  
Double white Flowers

**Serviceberry** - Amelanchier canadensis, laevis, and grandiflora  
20’-28’ in ht. Multi-stemmed  
Cultivars: Cumulus™, Autumn Brilliance®, Robin Hill, Lustre®, and others. Many have an orange to red fall foliage coloration.

**Amur Cherry**  
25’ x 25’  
• Grown for coppery exfoliating bark, plant out of winter sun due to bark splitting

**Goldspur® Amur cherry**  
15’ht x 10’ width  
Short bud internodes create a dense foliage appearance.

Other cultivars of Amur cherry:  
Klondike® 25’ x 20’  
Ming® 25’ x 20’
Small and Compact Ornamental Trees

**Pagoda Dogwood** 16’x16’
Tree form dogwood with a single to multi-stem growth.

**Prairie Gem® Flowering Pear** 25’ x 25’
Mid to late May flowering with white flowers

**Japanese Tree lilacs: 15’-20**
Mid to late June flowering with large white showy flower panicles. Soils and pH adaptable.

**Japanese Tree Lilac Cultivars**
- Ivory Silk®
- Snowcap™
- Ivory Pillar™
- Snowdance™
- Snow Storm™
- Golden Eclipse

**Peking Tree Lilac** 20’-25’ ht. and spread
Mid to late June flowering, white showy flower panicles
- Copper Curls®, Selected for exfoliating coppery colored bark for winter interest. Hardest cultivar for our area.
- Additional cultivars: Beijing Gold®, Summer Charm®, China Snow®

**Amur maackia – Maackia amurensis** 25’ x 20’
Amur maackia  
Mid July flowering when no other trees are in bloom
Nurseries offer as seedling grown or as cultivars:
MaacNificent®
Starburst
Summertime™

Prairie Radiance® Winterberry Euonymus
10-15’ in height, 10-12’ in spread

American Fringe Tree – Chionanthus virginicus
Grows as a tall shrub or small multi-stemmed tree
In it’s native range. Has been fully hardy to date, early to mid June Flowering

American Fringe Tree - Consider for trial in your area as a small specimen plant in protected plant beds.

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All photos Greg Morgenson, NDSU, except where noted