

West Central Illinois Master Naturalists Illinois Extension



Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

Medium Tree - Full sun/Part sun - Moist well drained soil



Credit: Chris Evans, Univ of Illinois



Credit: Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 35-60'Width: 20-35'

• Light Requirements: Full to part sun

• Soil Requirements: Prefers moist well drained soil

- Flowers:
 - Urn-shaped with tips curved back, greenish-yellow to creamy white, fragrant
- Fruit:
 - Fruiting occurs on female trees
 - Edible
 - Fleshy orange-purple
 - Can be messy
- Bark: Distinctive square to rectangular blocks
- Fall Color: yellow to reddish-purple
- Potential Problems: None
- Tolerant: Alkaline soil, clay soil, Dry sites, Occasional drought
- Growth Habit: Tendency to sucker
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source; browsers, game birds, insect pollinators, small mammals, songbirds







White Oak Quercus alba

Illinois State Tree - Full Sun - Moist well drained soil



Credit: Franklin Bonner, USFS, Bugwood.org



Credit: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

- Height: 50-75'
- Light Requirements: Full sun
- Soil Requirements: Prefers moist well drained soil; slightly acidic

- Flowers:
 - Insignificant with male catkins and small female flowers in leaf axils
- Fruit:
 - Acorn, shiny, oblong, 3/4" long, cap covers 1/4 or less with warty scales
- Fall Color: Purple, red
- Potential Problems: Chlorosis with high pH soil, oak wilt, drought, sensitive to root disturbance (digging) and herbicide drift
- Tolerant: Acidic soil, salt, wind
- Growth Habit: Pyramidal when young, with wide spreading branches at maturity
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for blue jays, woodpeckers, wood ducks, wild turkeys, northern bobwhite quail, squirrels, raccoons, deer. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals. Valuable host plant for pollinators.







Swamp White Oak

Quercus bicolor

Tree - Full sun - Medium to wet soil



Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 50-70'Spread: 50-60'

• Light Requirements: Full sun

• Soil Requirements: Prefers medium to wet soil

Landscape Qualities & Care

• Flowers:

• Insignificant with male catkins and small female flowers

• Fruit:

- September-October; Acorns 3/4 to 2-1/2" long, light brown,
 cup covers 1/2 the nut
- Fall Color: Golden yellow to brown
- Potential Problems: Anthracnose, canker, leaf spot, rust, blight
- Tolerant: short flooding and drought periods; prefers acidic soil
- Growth Habit: Rounded crown but if has space to grow, will produce a broader form
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for blue jays, woodpeckers, wood ducks, wild turkeys, northern bobwhite quail, squirrels, raccoons, deer. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals. Valuable host plant for 518 pollinators.



Credit: Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org







Northern Red Oak

Quercus rubra

Tree - Full sun to part sun - Moist, well drained soil



Credit: Dow Gardens, Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org



Credit: Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 60-75'Spread: 60-75'

• Light Requirements: Full sun to part sun

• Soil Requirements: Prefers moist well drained soil

- Planting site: City parkway, residential and parks, wide median
- Flowers: Inconspicuous
- Fruit: September-October; Acorns 3/4-1" long, medium brown, barrel-shaped, shiny, thin, flat cup covers 1/4 the nut, ripen in autumn of second year
- Fall Color: Russet red to bright red
- Potential Problems: Chlorosis in high pH soils; oak wilt; galls and mites
- Tolerant: Drought periods; clay soil; dry sites; black walnut toxicity
- Growth Habit: Rounded crown
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for blue jays, woodpeckers, wood ducks, wild turkeys, northern bobwhite quail, squirrels, raccoons, deer. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals. Valuable host plant for pollinators.







Black Oak

Quercus velutina

Tree - Full sun to part sun - Dry, acid soil



Credit: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



Credit: Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 50-60'Spread: 40-70'

• Light Requirements: Full sun to part sun

• Soil Requirements: Prefers acid soil, dry soil

- Planting site: City parkway, residential and parks, wide median
- Flowers: Inconspicuous female; male hanging catkins
- Fruit: September-October; Acorns 1/2-3/4" long, with slightly fringed cup
- Fall Color: Yellow or yellow brown
- Potential Problems: Oak wilt; scale; two-lined chestnut borer, galls and mites common but not harmful
- Tolerant: Drought periods; dry sites; black walnut toxicity
- Growth Habit: Irregular or rounded crown
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for blue jays, woodpeckers, wood ducks, wild turkeys, northern bobwhite quail, squirrels, raccoons, deer. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals. Valuable host plant for pollinators.







Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Tree - Full sun - Dry, alkaline to moist well-drained soil



Credit: Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, Bugwood.org



Credit: Johnny N. Dell, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 70-80'Spread: 70-80'

· Light Requirements: Full sun

• Soil Requirements: Dry, alkaline to moist well-drained soil

- Planting site: City parkway, residential and parks, wide median
- Flowers: Inconspicuous female; male hanging catkins
- Fruit: September-October; Acorns large acorns with 2" diameter, with fringed cup
- Fall Color: Yellow brown
- Potential Problems: Oak wilt; leaf galls and kermes scale; anthracnose; leaf scorch; powdery mildew
- Tolerant: Drought periods; dry sites; alkaline soil, clay soil
- Growth Habit: Irregular or rounded crown
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for blue jays, woodpeckers, wood ducks, wild turkeys, northern bobwhite quail, squirrels, raccoons, deer. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals. Valuable host plant for pollinators.







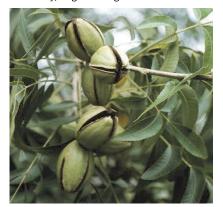
Pecan

Carya illinoinensis

Tree - Full sun - Moist well-drained to wet soil



Credit: T. Davis Sydnor, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org



Credit:Jerry A. Payne, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 70-100'Spread: 40-75'

• Light Requirements: Full sun

• Soil Requirements: Moist well-drained to wet soil

- Planting site: City parkway, residential and parks, wide median
- Flowers:
 - Inconspicuous
- Fruit:
 - Cylindrical, thin-winged husks reveal 2" long edible pecans
- Fall Color: Yellow
- Potential Problems: None
- Tolerant: Sensitive to drought; tolerant of wet sites
- Growth Habit: Oval
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for larger birds, wild turkeys, squirrels, raccoons, deer. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals. Valuable host plant for pollinators.







Black Walnut

Juglans nigra

Tree - Full sun - Medium soil



Credit: Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org



Credit:Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 50-100'Spread: 30-50'

Light Requirements: Full sunSoil Requirements: Medium

- Planting site: City parkway, residential and parks, wide median, black walnut releases a chemical that can be toxic to other plants
- Flowers: Inconspicuous
- Fruit: Yellow-green, rounded husk 2" in diameter, contains edible nut
- Fall Color: Yellow
- Potential Problems: Target of walnut and yellow leaf caterpillars; anthracnose
- Tolerant: Soils with high pH, clay soil, road salt
- · Growth Habit: Round
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for mice, squirrels, raccoons, deer. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals. Valuable host plant for 123 pollinators.







Tulip Tree

Liriodendron tulipifera

Tree - Part/Full sun - Moist, well-drained soil



Credit:Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org



Credit: US Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 70-100'Spread: 35-50'

Light Requirements: Part to Full sunSoil Requirements: Moist, well drained

- Planting site: City parkway, residential and parks, wide median
- Flowers: Showy, tulip-like flowers; yellow/orange; May, June
- Fruit: 2" long cone-shaped aggregate of winged seeds
- Fall Color: Yellow
- Potential Problems: Aphids, scale, verticillium wilt; susceptible to ice damage
- Tolerant: Soils with high pH
- Growth Habit: Somewhat fast growth rate; straight trunk; oval or rounded shape
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for birds, squirrels and small rodents. Leaves eaten by deer and rabbits. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals. Valuable host plant for 19 pollinators bees, flies, beetles. Nectar source for bees.







Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

Small tree - Part/Full sun - Medium soil



Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 15-40'Spread: 15-30'

Light Requirements: Part to Full sunSoil Requirements: Medium, acidic soil

- Planting site: City parkway, residential and parks
- Flowers: Showy, white flowers; March-May
- Fruit: Clusters of bright red berries; July Aug
- Fall Color: Bright red to maroon
- Potential Problems: Anthracnose
- Tolerant: Not tolerant of pollution and salt or wind; mulch helps to regulate temperature fluctuations
- Growth Habit: Broad to round with flat tops
- Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for birds, squirrels, deer and wild turkeys. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals. Valuable host plant for 115 pollinators bees, flies.



Credit: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org







Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis

Small tree - Part shade/Full sun - Medium soil



Credit: Dow Gardens, Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org



Credit: Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 20-30'Spread: 25-35'

• Light Requirements: Part shade to Full sun

• Soil Requirements: Medium

Landscape Qualities & Care

• Planting site: Residential and parks

Flowers: Pink, purple small clusters of pea-like blossoms;
 early May

• Fruit: 2" long pea pod; turn reddish-green to brown

• Fall Color: Yellow to yellow-green

Potential Problems: Suffers in full sun or extreme heat;
 susceptible to borers, canker diseases, verticillium wilt

• Tolerant: Moderately drought tolerant; alkaline soil; clay soil

• Growth Habit: Irregular, multi-stemmed, round

 Beneficial to wildlife as a food source for birds. Leaves eaten by deer. Provides nesting space for birds and mammals.
 Valuable host plant for 19 pollinators. Nectar source for bees.







Small Tree - Part shade/Full sun - Moist, well drained



Credit: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



Credit: T. Davis Sydnor, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

• Height: 20-30' • Spread: 25-35'

• Light Requirements: Part shade to Full sun

• Soil Requirements: Moist, well drained

- Planting site: Residential and parks, under powerlines, wide median
- Flowers: White strap-shaped petals in spring
- Fruit: Edible berry turning from green to red to blue/black
- Fall Color: Red, yellow and orange
- Potential Problems: Drought can cause leaf drop
- Tolerant: Wet and dry sites, acid soil; intolerant of pollution
- Growth Habit: Narrow, multi-stemmed
- Berries are a food source for birds and mammals; early bloom provides early nectar sources for pollinators.







Buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Large shrub - Part shade/Full sun - Medium to wet soil



Credit: Ryan Armbrust, Kansas Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Credit: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 5-12'Spread: 4-8'

• Light Requirements: Part shade to Full sun

• Soil Requirements: Medium to wet soil

Landscape Qualities & Care

• Flowers: White 1" round ball-like clusters

• Fruit: Hard ball-like, reddish

• Fall Color: Yellow

• Potential Problems: Does not like dry soil

• Tolerant: Wet and dry sites, acid soil; intolerant of pollution

 Growth Habit: Arching, irregular, upright; can prune to maintain shape

• Nectar source attracting hummingbirds and many other pollinators - bees, moths, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, caterpillars. Attracts many species of birds.







Fragrant Sumac

Rhus aromatica

Small shrub - Part shade/Full sun - All soil types



Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 3-5'Spread: 5-10'

• Light Requirements: Part shade to Full sun

• Soil Requirements: All soil types

Landscape Qualities & Care

• Flowers: Inconspicuous clusters

• Fruit: Female plants produce fuzzy red berry clusters

• Fall Color: Red, burgundy, purple

• Potential Problems: Susceptible to verticillium wilt

• Tolerant: Road salt, occasional drought

• Growth Habit: Creeping, mounded, multi-stemmed, thicket forming

 Berries persist into winter to attract birds; leaves emit lemon scent when crushed

• Considerations: Can grow through suckers; prune old canes to ground in late winter to encourage new growth



Credit: Missouri Dept of Conservation







Black Chokeberry

Aronia melanocarpa

Small shrub - Part shade/Full sun - Medium to wet soil



Plant Characteristics & Site Selection

Height: 3-6'Spread: 3-6'

• Light Requirements: Part shade to Full sun

• Soil Requirements: Medium to wet

Landscape Qualities & Care

• Flowers: Small clusters of white flowers in spring

• Fruit: Purplish black berry-like fruit

• Fall Color: Deep mahogany red

• Potential Problems: No major issues

• Tolerant: Occasional drought or flooding; road salt

• Growth Habit: Multi-stemmed, thicket forming

• Berries are eaten by many bird species;

Considerations: Can grow through suckers; prune to maintain size



Credit: John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



