



- Did you properly identify your *Big Tree* nomination down to the species level (*see notes below*)?
- Is your *Big Tree* nomination native to the state of Illinois (*Illinois Extension Forestry TFB NRES-1102*)?
- Is your *Big Tree* nomination a single-stem tree or a multi-stem / fused-stem tree (*see notes below*)?
- Did you measure the circumference of your *Big Tree* nomination at 4.5-feet above ground level?
- Did you take multiple high-resolution, non-blurry digital images of your *Big Tree* nomination? Don't forget to submit photos of the trunk, bark, leaves, buds, and fruit; include pictures for scale and beauty (*see notes below*).
- Did you remember to email your high-resolution digital images (.jpg) to the coordinator of the IL Big Tree Register for verification and promotional purposes (*see notes below*)?
- Did you include precise GPS coordinates using "decimal degree" format (*see notes below*)?

**Notice:** The coordinator of the Illinois Big Tree Register will only accept and review properly completed *Big Tree* nominations. Incomplete and incorrectly submitted nominations will be returned to the nominator.

**Tree Identification:** If necessary, please take samples of fresh leaves, twigs, and fruit -- or digital photos of the aforementioned -- to your local University of Illinois Extension office for tree identification assistance. Local forest preserve offices may also be of assistance regarding tree identification and *Big Tree* measurements.

**Univ. of Illinois Extension Office Locator:** <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/where-we-serve>

**Multi-stem trees:** Multi-stem trees result when two or more distinctly separate stems originate at or below 4.5 feet ground level, resulting in multiple stump piths. When this occurs, only the largest independent stem shall be selected and measured for the *Big Tree* nomination process.

**Fused-stem trees:** Fused-stem trees result from the intimate union of two or more separate stems, with a shared multi-pith root mass, joined together at or near the base of the tree. Essentially, the combined effect of fused-stem trees leads to grossly inflated circumference measurements. Therefore, all fused-stem trees are classified as multi-stem trees: Only the largest independent stem shall be selected and measured for the *Big Tree* nomination process.

**GPS coordinates:** GPS coordinates must be submitted using decimal degree format (Ex: 40.102826°, -88.224161°). Use of GPS coordinates has become common place via many of today's modern technologies such as smartphones, hand-held GPS units; Google Earth / Maps; and other web-based mapping tools. Precise GPS coordinates are needed to locate and certify all our Big Trees. All nominations will be returned if GPS coordinates are omitted. How do I convert my GPS coordinates to decimal degrees: <https://www.pgc.umn.edu/apps/convert/>

**Photos:** High-resolution, non-blurry digital photos are required for three primary reasons: (1) Species identification, (2) Eligibility requirements and proper circumference measurements for single-stem and multi-stem trees, and (3) Enjoyment of the tree's splendor by others. Detailed photographs are also required to reduce inspector travel and on-site verification. The University of Illinois reserves the right to use any photograph submitted to the Big Tree program.

**Big Tree Submissions:** Please submit your *Big Tree* nomination using the following approved methods: (1) e-mail, or (2) US mail. E-mail is the preferred method of correspondence. All digital photos must be submitted via e-mail. Please feel free to utilize your local University of Illinois Extension office for assistance in submitting a *Big Tree* nomination.

**US Mailing Address:**

Illinois Big Tree Register  
W-521 Turner Hall (MC-047)  
1102 S. Goodwin Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801

**E-mail Address:**

vozzo2@illinois.edu



# Illinois Big Tree Register Nomination Form

updated: Jan. 2025

## Big Tree Nominator(s):

Name(s)

Address

City

State  Zip

Phone Number

Email Address

## Big Tree Owner(s):

Name(s)

Address

City

State  Zip

Phone Number

Email Address

## Big Tree Info & Measurements:

Common Name

Scientific Name

Single Stem or Multi-Stem?

Tree Type / Description

Circumference (inches)

Total Height (feet)

Ave. Crown Spread (feet)

## Big Tree Location Information:

County Where Tree is Located

Located on Public or Private Property?

Latitude (decimal degree format)

Longitude (decimal degree format)

Tree Measurement Date

Additional Tree Location Details:

## Inspector's Use Only:

Inspection Date  Overall Health of Tree

Name  Phone  Email

Comments

**US Mailing Address:**  
 Illinois Big Tree Register  
 W-521 Turner Hall (MC-047)  
 1102 S. Goodwin Ave.  
 Urbana, IL 61801  
 Email: [vozzo2@illinois.edu](mailto:vozzo2@illinois.edu)

All big tree nominations must include GPS coordinates (*decimal degrees*) and high-resolution digital photographs (*jpg*) in order to verify the following (a) Tree location, (b) Eligibility requirements, and (c) Species identification. GPS units, digital cameras, smartphones, and Google Earth can assist you with these new requirements. All big tree nominations are subject to these new eligibility requirements.

**Office Use Only**

Champion:  \_\_\_\_\_

Co-champion:  \_\_\_\_\_

Contender:  \_\_\_\_\_

Cert. sent:  \_\_\_\_\_

Verified:  \_\_\_\_\_

