

Select Small to Medium Ornamental Trees for Illinois

The following trees have been selected based on their size, relative pest tolerance, and ornamental value. Some non-native trees have been included because they have proven to be effective in the landscape. Other criteria such as site characteristics, required maintenance, cost and availability, and desired ornamental features should be considered before selecting a species for planting.

- **Miyabe maple** *Acer miyabei*
 - Height: 30-40 feet
 - Adaptable and pest free
 - Vibrant yellow fall color

- **Three-flower maple** *Acer triflorum*
 - Height: 20 to 30 feet
 - Excellent small maple for the landscape with exfoliating bark and potentially nice fall color
 - Few pest problems

- **American hornbeam** *Carpinus caroliniana*
 - Native
 - Height: 20 to 30 feet
 - Shade tolerant
 - Slow growing

- **Eastern redbud** *Cercis canadensis*
 - Native
 - Height: 20 to 25 feet
 - Rosy-pink flowers in the spring; white flowering forms available
 - Susceptible to cankers and Verticillium wilt

- **Flowering dogwood** *Cornus florida*
 - Native
 - Height: approximately 20 feet
 - Flowers have four white showy bracts (also available in pinks and reds)
 - Slow to establish
 - Susceptible to dogwood anthracnose

- **Kousa dogwood** *Cornus kousa*
 - Height: 20 to 30 feet
 - Similar flowers to the Flowering Dogwood, but appearing 2-3 weeks later
 - Increased resistant to dogwood anthracnose and slightly more cold hardy
- **Stellar series dogwood** *Cornus florida x Cornus kousa*
 - Hybrids produced by crossing the Flowering dogwood and the Kousa dogwood
 - Tend to be more vigorous with good disease resistance
- **Chinese Fringetree** *Chionanthus retusus*
 - Height: 15 to 20 feet
 - Showy white flowers in the spring
 - Exfoliating bark for multi-season interest
- **Green hawthorn** *Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King'
 - Native
 - Height: 25 to 25 feet
 - Adaptable and pest free
 - One of the best hawthorns for landscape use with white flowers and few thorns
- **Carolina silverbell** *Halesia carolina*
 - Native
 - Height: 30 to 40 feet
 - White flowers
 - Can be difficult to transplant and establish
- **Crabapple** *Malus spp.*
 - Mainly grown for their spring flowers, some also offer ornamental fruits
 - Many cultivars with varying habits, flower colors, fruit colors, and fruit sizes
 - Select cultivars with good resistance to apple scab, cedar rusts, and fire blight
- **American hophornbeam** *Ostrya virginiana*
 - Native
 - Height: 25 to 40 feet
 - Adaptable, no serious pest problems
- **Persian parrotia** *Parrotia persica*
 - Height: 20 to 40 feet
 - Great ornamental tree with good fall color
 - Few pest problems
- **Japanese tree lilac** *Syringa reticulata*
 - Height: 20 to 30 feet
 - White flowers contrasted by dark green foliage
 - Excellent specimen and street tree