

2019 Wildlife Habitat Tree and Shrub Program Tree Descriptions

Fruit Trees and Bushes

Smokehouse Apple-

Grown on Bud 9 Rootstock, and is cold hardy. Smokehouse is an Antique variety that originated in Pennsylvania in the 1830s. The fruit is best known for uses in apple sauce, pies and other desserts due to its natural sweetness and juicy nature. The fruit is also excellent raw, and can be eaten right off the tree. The fruit is also well known for its long shelf life that can last until late winter if stored in the correct conditions. Ripens in mid-September. This variety needs pollinators. Semi-dwarf apple trees require 125-200 square feet each and can grow to a mature height of 10-20 feet. Ideal sites are on land with a gentle slope so that cold air can settle into adjacent lower areas. Apples grow best in fertile sandy loam soils, although they will grow in all but the rockiest or heaviest clay soils. (The soil should be slightly acidic to neutral, with a pH between 6 and 7). Requires full sun at least three-fourths of the day. Annual pruning is essential for production of high-quality apples and to maintain the health of trees.

Superior Blueberry-

2 year/12-24" plants. A self-pollinating mid-late season variety. Good disease resistance and cold hardy. High producer of fruit. A compact, round bush up to 4 feet in height (half-high) that also makes it perfect for landscaping. Fall foliage and winter wood are golden yellow, followed by bright-white blooms in spring. Allow 3-4 feet space between plants. Full sun. The soil for good blueberry culture must be highly acidic (pH 4.5-5.2) and can be modified with sulfur formulations. ***Note: Blueberries require a good mulch and should be planted in light-textured soils with high organic matter, good drainage and sufficient moisture. Blueberries must have winter protection.**

Bluegold Blueberry-

2 year/12-24" plants. A self-pollinating mid-late season variety. Good disease resistance and cold hardy. High producer of fruit. A compact, round bush up to 4 feet in height (half-high) that also makes it perfect for landscaping. Fall foliage and winter wood are golden yellow, followed by bright-white blooms in spring. Allow 3-4 feet space between plants. Full sun. The soil for good blueberry culture must be highly acidic (pH 4.5-5.2) and can be modified with sulfur formulations. ***See Above Note**

Chippewa Blueberry-

2 year/12-24" plants. A University of Minnesota blueberry with a medium sized berry with exceptional productivity in cold climates and excellent disease resistance. Mature height of 4-5 ft. (Half-high). Display of white flowers during bloom in May and maroon foliage in October. Allow 3-4 feet space between plants. Full sun. The soil for good blueberry culture must be highly acidic (pH 4.5-5.2) and can be modified with sulfur formulations. ***See Above Note**

Conifers & Tamaracks

Balsam Fir-

Mature height 60'. Prefers cool, moist, shady places out of reach of strong winds. Its soft needles and short-spreading branches, which form a symmetrical shape, make it a popular Christmas tree choice. Needs very little shearing. Cones are oblong, 2 to 4 inches in length. Balsam fir stands make good cover for many birds and small mammals. White-tailed deer, moose and spruce grouse browse on the twigs of balsam fir.

White Spruce-

White Spruce grows throughout the state. They provide good nesting cover and some songbirds utilize the seeds as a food source. Prefers cool moist areas, typically found by streams and lakes. Do not plant on hot, dry, south facing slopes.

Norway Spruce-

Mature height 100'. Full sun. Grows on a wide variety of soils. ½ to 1 inch flat needles. A dense crown with strong distinctive sweeping branches. 4-8" long brown cones. Desirable for Christmas trees, ornamentals, timber and windbreaks. Large cones utilized by red and gray squirrels.

White Pine-

Mature height 80-100'. Full sun. Prefers fertile, well-drained soils, but can tolerate sandy soils. Pyramidal form and soft gray-green foliage. Light, soft wood. Needles 3-5 inches long. Cones are 4 to 6 inches in length. Often used as ornamental and as shelterbelts. Young pine stands provide good thermal cover during winter for deer and birds.

White Cedar-

White Cedar grows in full sun to partial shade. They provide excellent winter browse for deer, snowshoe hare, and porcupines. Usually found in moist areas, but can grow on stony shallow soils.

Tamarack-

Tamaracks are a unique tree to add to your property. Some are called Larches, Tamaracks are conifer that actually loses its needles in the late fall like a deciduous tree. They turn a beautiful golden color. Tamaracks provide habitat and food for a small amount of animals, but they are a great native tree to plant in the lowland/marsh areas on your property. When you plant some, you will be happy you did when October rolls around!

SOLD OUT

Deciduous Trees and Shrubs

Northern Red Oak-

Mature height 60-75' feet. Grows best in full sun. Round shaped shade tree grows best in acidic, drought tolerant, loamy, moist, sandy, well drained, clay soils. Leaves turn red in the fall. Red oak acorns are a food item for blue jays, wild turkeys, squirrels, small rodents, whitetail deer, raccoons, and black bears. Deer browse on the buds and twigs.

Black Cherry-

Mature height 50-70'. Narrow to broadly rounded crown. Dense, dark green foliage. Grows best in rich moist soil with full to partial sun. White flowers, which produce small purplish-black fruits. Extremely valuable as a timber tree. Also known as Rum Cherry. Wood used for furniture, interior furnishing & tools. Provides food for birds and wildlife.

White Oak-

White oak mast (acorns) are candy for a multitude of wildlife. Compared to red oaks, white oak doesn't have as much tannin in the acorns, so they have a much more appealing taste for critters. Deer, squirrels, turkeys, bears, and a multitude more find benefits from white oaks. They grow best in loamy, well drained soils.

Sugar Maple-

Mature height 60-100'. Symmetrical, heavy round crown. Grows best in moist, fertile soils with full to partial shade. It produces winged seeds in the fall. The 3 1/2-5 1/2" dull green leaves turn a brilliant red, orange or yellow color in the fall. This tree is more sensitive to salt and stress than most. Sap used for maple syrup and fuel. Wood used for flooring and furniture.

Burr Oak-

Burr oaks are the masters of the savanna. When most of the Driftless Region was covered in savannas and prairies, burr oaks dominated the woody growth on the landscape. Burr oaks are fire adapted (they have very thick bark). The acorns are similar to white oaks, in the way that they are very desirable to many species for food. Burr oaks grow slowly, but they are an impressive tree when they get large. You will not regret planting some burr oaks! They can grow in a variety areas, but well drained loams are the preference.

Paper Birch-

Paper birch have been an iconic tree of Wisconsin. Now that elk have been reintroduced to the area, you may have a better chance of seeing a couple elk on your property. Elk and deer browse on paper birch and aspens. They typically grow in moist areas (north slopes, depressions in land, lowland areas).

American Cranberry (Highbush)-

Mature height is 15' with equal spread. Grows best in moist, fertile soils with partial to full shade. Upright tall, multi-stemmed shrub with maple-like foliage. Dense, rounded top, native shrub. The leaves are a dull green, turning to maroon in autumn. White lacy flowers producing bright red berries which persist through most of the winter season. Edible fruit. Popular landscape shrub. A late winter emergency food source for songbirds & other wild game.

Red Osier Dogwood-

If you are a deer or grouse hunter, do yourself a favor and plant some dogwood on your property! These shrubs are heavily browsed by a host of wildlife but deer and grouse particularly like them. They typically grow to about 8-10' in height, and grow best in well drained soils.

Common Ninebark-

Ninebark produces some excellent cover for the wildlife on your property. The berries it produces will feed a multitude of critters. They typically grow to be about 10' at maturity. Ninebark is very drought tolerate, one of the only shrubs that is like that. It can also survive full sun to shaded areas.