



NUT TREES FOR NEBRASKA

Beech, American & European - *Fagus grandiflora* & *F. sylvatica* Attractive smooth bark; needs fertile, moist soil; small nuts; 40'x 30'.

Buckeye, Ohio - *Aesculus glabra* Native, tough, adaptable. Buckeye fruit enclosed in spiny husks is great for wildlife but not humans; 30'x 30'.

Buckeye, Yellow - *Aesculus flava* Overlooked shade tree; smooth fruit capsule; nice yellow-orange fall color; 40'x 30'.

Butternut - *Juglans cinerea* Related to walnut; almost native (didn't jump the Missouri River); sweet nuts but prone to a blight disease; 40'x30'.

Chestnut, American - *Castanea dentata* A once dominant tree of eastern US, now prone to disease and short-lived; 65'x40'.

Chestnut, Chinese - *Castanea mollissima* Shorter, rounded and often multi-stemmed; more reliable than American chestnut; often has prolific large nuts enclosed in very spiny capsules; 35'x 30'.

Filbert, Turkish - *Corylus colurna* Underused shade tree, pyramidal in youth becoming rounded; edible nuts if you can find them; good winter interest with catkins and scaly bark; 45'x 35'.

Hazelnut, American - *Corylus americana* A shrubby species native to NE and eastern US; good fruit production on young stems in the sun; edible for humans and wildlife; apricot fall color; grows up to 15'x10'. Several other hybrid species of hazelnut are worth trying.

Hickory, Bitternut - *Carya cordiformis* Our most common native hickory; sulphur-yellow buds; good urban tolerance; makes an outstanding shade tree and deserves to be planted more; nut is bitter even to squirrels; 40'x 30'.

Hickory, Mockernut - *Carya tomentosa* Dark gray bark with furrowed, diamond pattern; "mockernut" refers to nut meat that is hard to extract, thus "mocking" us; beautiful deep yellow fall color; grow for shade and wildlife; 35'x 30'.

Hickory, Shagbark - *Carya ovata* Native to southeast NE; shaggy bark forms on mature trees; handsome, clean foliage turns yellow in fall; prefers moist, fertile soil; transplant when small; 50'x45'.

Hickory, Shellbark - *Carya laciniosa* Very similar to *C. ovata* with shaggy bark but with larger and sweeter nuts that are great for eating; easier to grow from seed; proven reliable in eastern Nebraska; 40'x 35'.

Horsechestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Related to buckeyes; dark green foliage and beautiful creamy flowers; prone to leaf diseases; 35'x 30'. Not edible for humans but great for wildlife.

Oak, Bur - *Quercus macrocarpa* An outstanding Great Plains native; big and majestic; very tough and reliable; Native Americans harvested and ate the acorns; acorns vary greatly in size by geographic location with southern types being quite large; 60'x 75'.

Oak, Chinkapin - *Quercus muehlenbergii* A great native tree that tolerates high pH soils; narrow, chestnut-like leaves; 50'x 40'.

Oak, Dwarf Chinkapin - *Quercus prinoides* southeast NE native; typically shrubby when young but becomes a small tree with time; fire adapted; prolific acorn producer from young age; loves the heat and sun; great for wildlife; 15-20'x 10-15'.

Oak, Gambel - *Quercus gambelii* Rocky Mtn native with variable multi-stem habit; often heavy acorn crop; great for western NE; 20'x 15'.

Oak, Swamp White - *Quercus bicolor* One of the most popular oaks for planting; tough and adaptable; attractive glossy leaves with silvery underside; acorns relatively sweet and edible; 60'x 50'.

Oak, White - *Quercus alba* Native to much of eastern US and reaches into southeast NE; great majestic tree; great red fall color; a durable long lived tree; considered the sweetest native acorn for human consumption; prone to herbicide damage; 65'x50'.

Pecan - *Carya illinoensis* Pecan is a woefully underused tree; it is tough and adaptable and makes a great shade/yard tree with many large specimens across eastern NE; also produces the tastiest nut. Trivia: Pecan is the largest agricultural crop native to the US; 70'x 50'.

Pine, Korean - *Pinus koraiensis* There are several pine species that produce edible seeds often referred to as pine nuts; Korean pine is perhaps the best nut pine for eastern NE with soft, attractive needles and attractive flaky bark; 50'x 30'.

Pine, Limber - *Pinus flexilis* This tough as nails western NE native - produces small, edible nuts that are consumed quickly by birds and rodents; named for its flexible branches that resist heavy snow loads; plant in full sun on well-drained soils; 50'x 30'. 23.

Pine, Pinyon - *Pinus cembroides* var. *edulis* southwest US native with large pine nuts; important food crop to Native Americans; very heat and drought tolerant with stout, short needles; needs well-drained soils; great choice for tough sites in western NE; 25'x 20'. 24.

Pine, Swiss Stone - *Pinus cembra* Similar to Korean pine with relatively large edible nuts; most important pine nut of Europe; soft needles; doing well in locations across the state; deserves to be planted more; 40'x 30'. 25.

Walnut, Black - *Juglans nigra* The quintessential native nut tree that grows well across Nebraska; both loved and hated for its prolific nut production; tough and reliable; good lumber tree; GREAT for wildlife; 60'x 45'. There are several other walnut species and hybrids that have been tried in Nebraska including the English/Carpathian/Persian walnut (*Juglans regia*) and various hybrids. They are all worth trying, though not nearly as reliable or prolific as our underappreciated native black walnut.

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