

Recommended Trees & Shrubs for Eastern Nebraska



10 Native Trees for Eastern Nebraska

Thinking about planting a tree in your yard? Consider one of the following species, all of which are native or near-native to Nebraska and will have positive ecological impact on your environment.

1. **Bur oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*; 60' tall, 75' spread)—Tough, reliable and long-lived with a wide spread offering ample shade.
2. **Chinkapin oak** (*Quercus muehlenbergii*; 50' tall, 40' spread)—Becomes rounded with age; tolerant of high pH soils.
3. **Black oak** (*Quercus velutina*; 50' tall, 45' spread)—A drought-tolerant red oak offering great spring and fall color.
4. **Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*; 65' tall, 50' spread)—A very resilient tree that matures with a rounded crown that makes it one of the best shade trees for the region.
5. **Bitternut hickory** (*Carya cordiformis*; 50' tall, 30' spread)—This underutilized tree offers a pleasing shape and good fall color.
6. **Black cherry** (*Prunus serotina*; 45' tall, 35' spread)—A fast-growing tree with spring flowers giving way to tasty fruits that are enjoyed by birds and people.
7. **Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*; 80' tall, 70' spread)—This tall tree thrives in wet sites, and its unique mottled bark with white, tan and greenish patterns helps it stand out.
8. **American linden** (*Tilia americana*; 60' tall, 40' spread)—Upright growth habit and fragrant blooms.
9. **Kentucky coffeetree** (*Gymnocladus dioica*; 50' tall, 40' spread)—This easy-to-grow tree has a coarse texture that becomes beautiful with age and offers interesting winter structure.
10. **Ponderosa pine** (*Pinus ponderosa*; 65' tall, 30' spread)—Our most common native pine tree, the Ponderosa is both heat and drought tolerant. It thrives in well-drained soils.



5 Native Shrubs for Eastern Nebraska

Limited on space? Consider one of these native shrubs.

1. **Dwarf chinkapin oak** (*Quercus prinoides*; 6-15' tall and wide)—Can become a small, multi-stem tree in time.
2. **American hazelnut** (*Corylus americana*; 6-8' tall)—Beautiful bronze fall color and edible nuts.
3. **Blackhaw viburnum** (*Viburnum prunifolium*; 10-15' tall and wide)—White spring flowers and great fall color; can be grown as a small tree.
4. **Saskatoon serviceberry** (*Amelanchier alnifolia*; 5-15' tall, 5-10' wide)—Thicket forming with very tasty blueberry-like fruits in June.
5. **Shining sumac** (*Rhus copallinum*; 7-15' tall, 10-20' wide)—Thicket forming with fantastic red fall color.



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1. **Bur oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*)—See reverse for details.
2. **Chinkapin oak** (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)—See reverse for details.
3. **Gambel oak** (*Quercus gambelii*; 20' tall, 15' spread)—A Colorado and Wyoming native with great drought tolerance, Gambel oak becomes a small, multi-trunk tree with maturity.
4. **Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*)—See reverse for details.
5. **Honeylocust, thornless** (*Gleditsia triacanthos*; 55' tall, 40' spread)—One of our toughest native trees, honeylocust offers small leaflets that allow for dappled shade.
6. **Ohio buckeye** (*Aesculus glabra*; 30' tall and wide)—Very tough and adaptable with a rounded form and interesting fruit.
7. **American linden** (*Tilia americana*)—See reverse for details.
8. **Kentucky coffeetree** (*Gymnocladus dioica*)—See reverse for details.
9. **Ponderosa pine** (*Pinus ponderosa*)— See reverse for details.
10. **Limber pine** (*Pinus flexilis*; 50' tall, 30' spread)—Slow growing with soft needles; very drought tolerant when established.



Honeylocust
Gleditsia triacanthos



Fragrant sumac
Rhus aromatica

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1. **Fragrant sumac** (*Rhus aromatica*; 5-8' tall and wide)—Yellow spring flowers, good fall color and fragrant foliage; resilient and easy to grow.
2. **Mountain mahogany** (*Cercocarpus montanus*; 5-8' tall, 4-6' wide)—Heat and drought tolerant; upright plant with curved, feather-like seeds in the fall.
3. **Golden currant (also called clove currant)** (*Ribes aureum*; 5' tall, 5' wide)—Clove-scented yellow flowers in early spring are followed by edible fruits.
4. **Western sandcherry** (*Prunus besseyi*; 3' tall, 3' wide)—Low growing, sometimes sprawling; very tasty fruits.
5. **Silver buffaloberry** (*Shepherdia argentea*; 10-15' tall, 10-12' wide)—Very resilient, with silver foliage, fragrant flowers and edible fruits.