

# Tree Species List

Welcome to the Indiana Tree Species List, created by the Indiana DNR's Community & Urban Forestry Team. This list only includes species that are native to Indiana. For more information about why we recommend planting native and how to select the best species for your planting site, please see our Species Selection Guide.

## Growth Information

### SIZE

Size	Mature Height	Minimum Site Width
Small	< 30 ft.	4 ft.
Medium	30-45 ft.	5 ft.
Large	> 45 ft.	6 ft.

Species are sorted into three categories based on their average height at maturity. Bigger trees need more space in all directions, so site size considerations should include site width, soil volume, vertical space, and spacing from buildings and other trees.

### GROWTH RATE

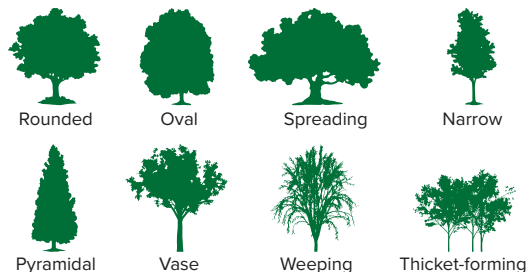
Species are categorized as slow-, moderate-, or fast-growing. Generally, species that grow faster have shorter lifespans and vice versa. Fast-growing species can quickly provide privacy and fill in landscapes rapidly, while slower species produce stronger wood with better defense mechanisms against pests and disease.

### EVERGREEN OR DECIDUOUS

Evergreen trees have foliage that remains green and functional throughout the year. Deciduous trees lose their foliage annually. Evergreens offer year-round privacy and wind protection while deciduous trees provide shade and seasonal interest.

### FORM

Trees vary in height, width, and branching pattern, and it is important to match form to the site and the intended function. Consider visibility requirements and aesthetics when selecting a species.



## Planting Locations

### GOOD FOR PARKS

These trees are suitable for large, open spaces that are well-maintained, such as parks, yards, and commercial and industrial campuses. Trees with heavier litter can be used here, as well as those suitable for right-of-way and median plantings.

### GOOD FOR STREETS

These species are suitable street trees. Street trees are those located in the public right-of-way (ROW), including:

- Treelawn – the grassy strip between the sidewalk and the street
- Non-treelawn – ROW extends into the front yard where no treelawn is present
- Medians and parkways – grassy strips either in the center of roadways or adjacent to them

These areas vary in width, so make selections in conjunction with the size column. These trees are generally low-litter species, and they have a high tolerance to extreme urban conditions like pollution and compacted soils.

Street trees are also exposed to de-icing salts that are applied to sidewalks and roads. Salt tolerance was factored into this category, but you may want to do additional research about salt spray and saline soil if relevant for your community.

### RIPARIAN

These trees are known for thriving along various bodies of water and like to have “wet feet.” Consider planting species from this category in areas that tend to have standing water after heavy rain events.

### NATURAL AREAS ONLY

Trees in this category are best suited for unmaintained natural areas, particularly those that do not get mowed. This includes “messy” trees that produce excessive litter (i.e., leaves, fruits, nuts), species with sharp thorns, and trees that are aggressive or prone to weedy growth. Additionally, trees that are difficult to find in nurseries are marked here.

## Preference

### DRAINAGE

D = Dry  
WD = Well-drained  
M = Moist  
W = Wet

### LIGHT

☉ = Full sun  
● = Partial shade  
● = Full shade

## Trees Not Recommended

The following native species are currently **not recommended** for planting anywhere in Indiana:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Reasoning
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Boxelder (ash-leaved maple)	overplanted
<i>Acer nigrum</i>	Black maple	overplanted
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple	overplanted
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	overplanted
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar maple	overplanted
<i>Castanea dentata</i>	American chestnut	Chestnut blight
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash	Emerald ash borer
<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	Black ash	Emerald ash borer
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green (red) ash	Emerald ash borer
<i>Fraxinus profunda</i>	Pumpkin ash	Emerald ash borer
<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i>	Blue ash	Emerald ash borer
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	White walnut, Butternut	Butternut canker
<i>Ulmus alata</i>	Winged elm	Dutch elm disease
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American (white) elm	Dutch elm disease*
<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	Slippery (red) elm	Dutch elm disease
<i>Ulmus thomasii</i>	Rock elm	Dutch elm disease

\*Contact CUF with questions about DED-resistant cultivars.

## Questions?

Email [urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:urbanforestry@dnr.IN.gov)  
or call 317-234-6568.

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Scientific Name	Common Name(s)	Growth Information				Planting Locations				Preference	
		Size	Growth Rate	Evergreen or Deciduous	Form	Natural Areas Only	Good for Parks	Good for Streets	Riparian	Drainage	Light
<i>Aesculus flava</i> (octandra)	Yellow buckeye	L	Moderate	D	Oval		✓	✓		WD, M	☉●
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio buckeye	M	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓	✓	WD, M	☉●
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy serviceberry	S	Moderate	D	Narrow		✓	✓		WD, M	☉●
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny (smooth) serviceberry	S	Moderate	D	Narrow		✓	✓		WD, M	●
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw	M	Slow	D	Pyramidal		✓		✓	WD, M, W	☉●
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow birch	L	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓			WD, M	☉●●
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch	M	Fast	D	Rounded		✓		✓	WD, M, W	☉
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper birch	L	Fast	D	Rounded		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Betula populifolia</i>	Gray birch	M	Moderate	D	Pyramidal		✓	✓		WD, M	☉
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Hornbeam, blue beech, musclewood	M	Slow	D	Oval		✓	✓		WD, M, W	☉●
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut hickory	L	Slow	D	Oval		✓			WD, M	☉●
<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut hickory	L	Slow	D	Oval		✓			any	☉●
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Northern pecan	L	Moderate	D	Oval		✓			WD, M, W	☉
<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	Shellbark hickory	L	Moderate	D	Oval		✓		✓	W	☉●
<i>Carya ovalis</i>	Red hickory	L	Slow	D	Rounded		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark hickory	L	Moderate	D	Oval		✓			WD, M, W	☉●
<i>Carya pallida</i>	Pale (sand) hickory	L	Slow	D	Narrow		✓			WD, M	●
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut hickory	L	Slow	D	Oval		✓			WD, M	☉●
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Northern Catalpa	L	Fast	D	Oval		✓	✓	✓	WD, M	☉
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry	M	Fast	D	Rounded		✓	✓	✓	WD, M, W	☉●
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	L	Fast	D	Vase		✓	✓	✓	WD, M	☉●
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud	S	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓	✓	WD, M	☉●
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Yellowwood	M	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	☉
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda (alternate-leaved) dogwood	S	Moderate	D	Spreading		✓			WD, M	☉●
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood	S	Slow	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD	●●
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	Cockspur hawthorn	S	Moderate	D	Thicket-forming		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> , var. <i>inermis</i>	Cockspur hawthorn 'thornless'	S	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	☉
<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	Downy hawthorn	S	Moderate	D	Spreading		✓			WD, M	●
<i>Crataegus punctata</i>	Dotted hawthorn	S	Moderate	D	Spreading		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	Green hawthorn	M	Moderate	D	Spreading		✓	✓		WD, M	☉●
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	L	Moderate	D	Oval		✓			WD, M, W	☉

## KEY

### SIZE

S = ≤30ft. mature height, 4ft. minimum site width  
M = 30–45ft. mature height, 5ft. minimum site width  
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### DRAINAGE

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		Size	Growth Rate	Evergreen or Deciduous	Form	Natural Areas Only	Good for Parks	Good for Streets	Riparian	Drainage	Light
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	L	Slow	D	Rounded		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	Water locust	L	Moderate	D	Spreading	✓			✓	W	☉
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honeylocust	L	Fast	D	Rounded		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> , var. <i>inermis</i>	Honeylocust 'thornless'	L	Fast	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	☉
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky coffeetree	L	Moderate	D	Oval		✓			M, W	☉
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> 'seedless'	Kentucky coffeetree 'seedless'	L	Moderate	D	Oval		✓	✓		WD, M, W	☉
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black walnut	L	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓		✓	WD, M	☉
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern red cedar	L	Moderate	E	Pyramidal		✓	✓		any	☉
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack	L	Fast	D	Pyramidal		✓		✓	W	☉
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	L	Fast	D	Pyramidal		✓		✓	WD, M, W	☉
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> 'seedless'	Sweetgum 'seedless'	L	Fast	D	Pyramidal		✓	✓		WD, M, W	☉
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip tree, tulip poplar, yellow poplar	L	Fast	D	Oval		✓	✓		WD, M	☉
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumber magnolia	L	Moderate	D	Pyramidal		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	Umbrella magnolia	S	Moderate	D	Pyramidal		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Malus coronaria</i>	Sweet crabapple	S	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	☉
<i>Malus ioensis</i>	Prairie crabapple	S	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	☉
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red mulberry	L	Moderate	D	Rounded	✓				WD, M	☉
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum, sour gum, tupelo	L	Moderate	D	Pyramidal		✓	✓	✓	any	☉
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American hophornbeam, ironwood	M	Slow	D	Oval		✓	✓		WD, M	☉
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood	M	Slow	D	Pyramidal		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	Jack pine	M	Slow	E	Pyramidal		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern white pine	L	Moderate	E	Pyramidal		✓			WD, M, W	☉
<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	Virginia pine	M	Slow	E	Pyramidal		✓			D, WD	☉
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	L	Fast	D	Rounded		✓	✓	✓	WD, M, W	☉
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern cottonwood	L	Fast	D	Pyramidal	✓			✓	WD, M, W	☉
<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Bigtooth aspen	L	Fast	D	Pyramidal		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Populus heterophylla</i>	Swamp cottonwood	L	Fast	D	Rounded	✓			✓	W	☉
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking aspen	L	Moderate	D	Pyramidal		✓	✓		WD, M, W	☉
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American (wild) plum	S	Fast	D	Thicket-forming		✓			WD, M	☉
<i>Prunus hortulana</i>	Hortulan (wild goose) plum	S	Moderate	D	Thicket-forming	✓				WD, M	☉
<i>Prunus nigra</i>	Canada plum	S	Moderate	D	Vase		✓			WD, M	☉

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<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	Pin cherry	S	Fast	D	Thicket-forming	✓				WD, M	○
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry	L	Fast	D	Pyramidal		✓			WD, M	○●
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak	L	Slow	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	○
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp white oak	L	Slow	D	Rounded		✓	✓	✓	WD, M	○
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet oak	L	Slow	D	Oval		✓			D, WD	○
<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	Northern pin (Hill's) oak	L	Moderate	D	Oval		✓	✓		WD, M	○
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern red oak	L	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓	✓	any	○
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle oak	L	Slow	D	Pyramidal		✓	✓		WD, M	○●
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	Overcup oak	L	Slow	D	Rounded		✓	✓	✓	M, W	○
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur oak	L	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓		D, WD, M	○
<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	Blackjack oak	M	Slow	D	Rounded	✓				D, WD	○
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	Swamp chestnut oak	L	Moderate	D	Oval		✓	✓	✓	WD	○●
<i>Quercus montana</i>	Chestnut oak, rock chestnut oak	L	Slow	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	○●
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Chinquapin oak	L	Slow	D	Oval		✓	✓		D, WD	○
<i>Quercus pagoda</i>	Cherrybark oak	L	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	○●
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak	L	Fast	D	Oval		✓	✓		WD, W	○
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow oak	L	Fast	D	Oval		✓	✓	✓	WD, M, W	○●
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern red oak	L	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	○●
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard oak	L	Moderate	D	Pyramidal		✓	✓	✓	WD, M	○●
<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post oak	L	Slow	D	Rounded		✓	✓		any	○
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black oak	L	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓		D, WD	○●
<i>Quercus x deamii</i>	Deam oak	L	Slow	D	Pyramidal	✓				D, WD	○
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust	M	Fast	D	Oval	✓				WD, M	○●
<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Peachleaf willow	L	Fast	D	Weeping		✓		✓	M, W	○●
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black willow	M	Fast	D	Weeping		✓		✓	M, W	○●
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	L	Moderate	D	Pyramidal		✓			WD, M	○●
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald cypress	L	Slow	D	Pyramidal		✓		✓	W	○●
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Northern (eastern) white cedar, arborvitae	L	Slow	E	Pyramidal		✓			WD, M	○
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American basswood, American linden	L	Moderate	D	Rounded		✓	✓		WD, M	○●
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern hemlock	L	Moderate	E	Pyramidal		✓			WD	○●

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