

SPECIES DESCRIPTION GUIDE 2026

Type	Species	Soil Preference	Drought Tolerance	Sun light	Height (feet)	Characteristics
Shrubs						
	Cherry, Sand	Sand-Loam, Well Drained	Tolerant	Full	1-6	1/2" dark edible fruit, white spring flowers, red fall color
	Cranberry, Highbush	Moist-Well Drained	Moderate	Full-Part	8-12	Edible fruit for pies, jellies, white flowers, red fall color
	Dogwood, Silky	Loamy, Wet-Moist	Poor	Full-Part	4-10	Tolerates wet sites, Rapid growth
	Honeysuckle, Dwarf Bush	Adaptable	Tolerant	Full-Part	3-4	Yellow summer flowers, Red fall color, bank stability
	Indigo, False	Adaptable	Moderate	Full-Part	4-12	Purple flowers, dense thickets, shorelines
	Lilac, Common Purple	Adaptable	Tolerant	Full-Part	8-15	Shrub border/screen planting, Suckers, Fragrant flowers
	Ninebark, Common	Adaptable	Tolerant	Full-Part	4-10	White spring flowers, attracts bees
	Rose, Pasture	Well Drained	Tolerant	Full-Part	2-4	Deep pink summer flowers, bright red hips
Small Deciduous						
	Crabapple, Dolgo	Well Drained	Moderate	Full	20-30	White/pink spring flowers, 1.5" fruit persists through winter
	Maple, Mountain	Loam, Dry-Moist	Tolerant	Part-Shade	10 -25	Red fall foilage, attractive spring flowers
	Serviceberry, Downy	Well Drained	Poor	Full-Part	15-25	Early white flowers, understory, fall color
	Willow, Pussy	Wet - Moist	Poor	Full-Part	4-20	Early spring netar source, wet edges, thickets
Large Deciduous						
	Birch, River	Wet-Well Drained	Tolerant	Full-Part	30-50	Native to Midwest river bottoms, tan/pink peeling bark
	Chestnut, Chinese	Adaptable	Tolerant	Full	40-60	Edible nut, attracts wildlife, disease resistant
	Hickory, Shagbark	Dry-Moist	Tolerant	Full-Part	60-100	Edible nut, attracts wildlife, strong hard wood
	Maple, Red	Moist-Well Drained	Poor	Full-Part	40-70	Red fall foliage, fast growth
	Maple, Sugar	Loamy, Moist-Well Drained	Poor	Full-Part	60-100	Brilliant fall foliage, excellent shade tree, maple syrup
	Oak, Northern Pin	Loamy, Moist-Well Drained	Poor	Full-Part	60-100	Brilliant fall foliage, excellent shade tree, maple syrup
	Oak, Swamp White	Moist-Well Drained	Tolerant	Full	50-60	large crown, acorn producer, attractive shape
Coniferous						
	Arborvitae, Techny	Adaptable	Tolerant	Full-Part	15-20	Rich green year-round color, shapely, yard edges, hedges
	Fir, Balsam	Adaptable	Tolerant	Sun-Shade	50-75	Christmas tree, thermal cover, windbreaks
	Pine, Ponderosa	Well Drained	Tolerant	Full	50-70	windbreaks, wildlife, landscaping, 4-9 inch needles
	Pine, White	Sand-Loam, Moist-Dry	Poor	Full-Part	80-120	3-5 inch soft needles, largest MN conifer
	Spruce, 'Black Hills'	Moist-Well Drained	Tolerant	Full	30-60	Windbreaks, Christmas trees, dense dark green foliage
	Spruce, Norway	Moist-Well Drained	Poor	Full-Part	40-70	long sagging branches, large cones