



505 3rd St N, Ste A,
Virginia, MN 55792
218-749-2000

Selecting Trees for a Changing Northwoods Climate

Climate change is occurring in Minnesota’s Northwoods. Already, we are witnessing warmer average temperatures and more extreme rainfall events. These changes affect the types of trees that grow best in our area. Favorites like birch and aspen may no longer thrive, but we can replace them with species that will. Planting climate-resilient trees benefits people and the ecosystem by providing cooling shade and reducing the risk of flooding during large rainfall events.

This guide was created with these climate changes in mind. All of the trees listed here are native to our state and are expected to do well in a warmer, wetter Northwoods. Use this guide to find trees and shrubs that are best-suited for your site and that provide the benefits you want in a tree - shade, fall color, wildlife habitat, flowers, colorful leaves, fruit, etc. We’re certain you’ll find a species in this list that is the perfect fit for your site.

How to Use this Guide

1. Read the information on this page.
2. Determine the lighting, available space, and soil moisture of your site.
3. Consider other factors that are important to you in a tree such as wildlife value, fall color, fruit, etc.
4. Use the chart on the reverse side to learn about climate-resilient trees.
5. Choose your tree! Be sure to use the Latin name when buying trees from a nursery or garden center to ensure you are purchasing the native variety.

Tree Type

There are different types of trees. Coniferous trees have needles which are kept year-round. Deciduous trees have leaves which are lost in the fall. Shrubs are shorter, woodier, and have multiple stems.

Sun and Shade

How much sun is available at your tree planting site? Some trees love full sun (6+ hours), others prefer shade. Pick a tree that will thrive in the sun/shade available at the planting site to encourage the best growth for a strong and healthy tree.

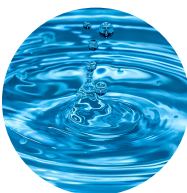


Size and Shape

Consider the full-grown size and shape of a tree when making your choices. This will help ensure the tree has enough room to grow, won’t compete for nutrients with nearby trees, shrubs, or plants, and won’t be too close to homes or structures when full-grown.

Soil and Moisture Requirements

Different trees have different soil preferences and water needs. Pick a tree that does well in the soil and water preferences that your site provides. The tree will be happier and grow better and you’ll spend less time watering and amending the soil!













Wildlife Value

Trees can provide food and shelter for many different types of animals and insects. As a landowner, you can help provide habitat and food for wildlife as they also adjust to climate change.

Find Your Tree!































































































Flip to the Backside For a List of Climate-Resilient Trees

Table Key

Conifer		Full Sun		Good for pollinators	
Deciduous		Part Shade		Good for birds	
Shrub		Shade		Good for butterflies	
				Good for wildlife	

*"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now."*

-Author unknown

Tree Name	Tree Type	Sun/Shade	Size and Shape	Soil and Moisture	Wildlife Value	Fall Color
American Mountain Ash (<i>Sorbus americana</i>)		 	H:20-30' W:10-15' Shape: Rounded	Moist, along swamp edges	  	Yellow
American Plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>)		  	H:15-25' W:15-25' Shape: Broad crown	Moist, well-drained. Tolerates wet	  	Red to Yellow
Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>)		 	H:50-80' W:30-50' Shape: Pyramidal	Moist, well-drained	  	Yellow to Orange
Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)		 	H:50-100' W:30-60' Shape: Pyramidal	Acidic, moist, well-drained	  	Yellow
Black Chokeberry (<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>)		 	H:3-8' W:2-6' Shape: Upright, round	Moist to wet	  	Red
Bur Oak (<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>)		 	H:60-80' W:60-80' Shape: Irregular, rounded	Moist, well-drained	 	Yellow-Brown
Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)		 	H:20-30' W:15-20' Shape: Irregular, thicket-forming	Alkaline, moist but widely adaptable	  	Yellow
Elderberry (<i>Sambucus sp.</i>)		 	H:8-15' W:4-8' Shape: Irregular, rounded	Neutral to acidic, moist, well-drained. Tolerates clay	 	Gold/Yellow
Highbush Cranberry (<i>Viburnum opulus var. americanum</i>)		 	H:8-15' W:8-10' Shape: Round, upright	Moist, well-drained, rich, loamy. Tolerates many soils	  	Yellow/Red Red/Purple
Juneberry/Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>)		  	H:4-25' W:4-15' Shape: Upright	Well-drained, loamy. Tolerates sand/clay	   	Yellow to Red
Northern White Cedar (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>)		  	H:50-60' W:10-15' Shape: Pyramidal	Moist		Brown
Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)		 	H:40-65' W:30-50' Shape: Rounded	Moist, along water		Red, Orange, and Yellow
Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)		 	H:50-75' W:40-65' Shape: Narrow	Rich. Adapts to well-drained shallow soil	 	Red
Red Pine (<i>Pinus resinosa</i>)			H:60-80' W:20-25' Shape: Open, Round	Sandy loam or dry, rocky ridges	 	Evergreen
Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)		  	H:60-100' W:30-60' Shape: Oval	Rich and cool		Red, Orange, and Yellow
White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>)		 	H:50-70' W:50-80' Shape: Round	Slightly acidic, moist, well-drained	 	Brown and Red/Orange
White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)		 	H: 50-80' W: 50-80' Shape: Pyramidal	Acidic, moist, well-drained. Tolerates dry, rocky ridges	 	Evergreen