

Natural. Valued. Protected.



What trees grow best
where you live?

Ontario's Tree Atlas

Trees make Ontario beautiful

There are dozens of species of trees found in our province, from the tall and mighty eastern white pine to the blossom-covered pin cherry.

But trees do more than just look beautiful. They shade our homes, provide food and habitat for birds and animals, and help to fight climate change. When we plant trees, we're helping to build a greener and cleaner Ontario. Trees prevent soil erosion, which can also help protect the quality of our water.

Trees are an important part of our biodiversity. A healthy natural environment supports many different kinds of plants and animals. Trees provide shelter, food and habitat for a huge variety of mammals, birds, insects, plants and even helpful bacteria.

The best kinds of trees to plant are native species. These are trees that have been growing in Ontario for centuries – they're part of the history of our province. Native tree species are adapted to our environment. They belong here and they contribute to the interconnected web of life that sustains us. Introduced species (that have not been in Ontario for a long time) do not support local ecology in the same way as native trees and can sometimes harm other trees, plants or animals.

The trees listed here are the most common trees likely to be found in Ontario.



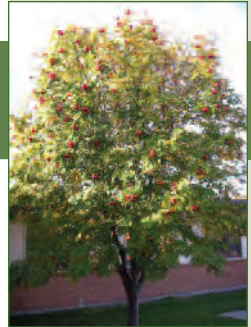
American Mountain-ash

The American mountain-ash is a small tree, up to 10 metres tall. It grows across Ontario, south of Hudson Bay. Its leaves have 13 to 17 leaflets which are 5 to 10 centimetres long, with toothed edges.

In May and June, the tree is covered in clusters of white flowers. Later in the summer, bunches of bright orange-red berries appear, 4 to 6 millimetres in diameter.

The American mountain-ash prefers moist ground but can also grow in rocky and dry soil, but it will be more stunted on rocky sites.

Size:	10 metres tall
Moisture:	Prefers moist ground, but can survive in dry conditions
Shade:	Can tolerate some shade
Soil:	Grows in a variety of soils



Balsam Fir

The balsam fir is one of the most recognizable trees in Ontario. It's tall and narrow and tapers to a skinny point at the top.

It looks a bit like a church steeple. When the tree is young, its bark is covered in sap blisters. The sticky sap is always on the tree, so be careful not to brush up against it.

The balsam fir grows in a variety of climates and temperatures and is found across Ontario. Its cones are barrel shaped and greyish brown and are 4 to 10 centimetres long. Its needles are 2 to 4 centimetres long and dark and shiny green, with two white bands underneath.

When the balsam fir grows in a group of other trees, the branches at the bottom of the tree die and dry out. When in the open, the tree gets more sunlight and the lower branches stay green all the way to the ground.

- Size:** Up to 30 metres tall, trunk 60 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Tolerates different moisture levels
- Shade:** Tolerates shade
- Soil:** Grows in a variety of soils



Bitternut Hickory

The bitternut hickory is found in southern Ontario. It grows best on low, moist ground or in rich soil in higher ground. It grows well even in shade, so is usually found in groups of other trees.

The bitternut hickory is a member of the group of trees called 'pecan hickories'. It produces round and bitter inedible nuts that are about 2 to 3.5 centimetres long. Its dark green leaves are 15 to 25 centimetres long and are made up of 7 to 11 long, pointed leaflets on a central stalk.

- Size:** 15 to 20 metres tall, trunk 30 to 80 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Needs a lot of moisture
- Shade:** Tolerates partial shade, but prefers full sun
- Soil:** Prefers rich soil



Black Cherry

Black cherry is an important forest tree for wildlife because of its fruit.

It can grow up to 22 metres tall when it grows in southern Ontario. Farther north, where temperatures are cooler and the growing season is shorter, it's smaller and more like a shrub.

Its leaves are 5 to 15 centimetres long and are narrow and pointed at the end. They are shiny bright green on top and paler underneath. Bark on older black cherry trees is dark gray and very flaky.

Bunches of small white flowers grow on the black cherry tree in the spring after the first leaves have fully developed. The tree produces fruit in August or early September. The dark red cherries are 8-10mm across, and grow in clusters. They are edible, but are very bitter.

Size: 22 metres tall, trunk 60 centimetres in diameter

Moisture: Tolerates different moisture levels

Shade: Intolerant – needs full sun

Soil: Grows in a variety of soils



Black Spruce

The black spruce is called a transcontinental species – it's found from one end of Canada to the other, and all across Ontario. It has short dark bluish-green needles, which are blunt on the end.

When grown on high and dry ground, black spruce trees are taller and thicker. When it grows in wetlands, the tree is much smaller. Trees grown in wetlands can reach 200 years of age.

Black spruce cones are egg shaped, 2 to 3 centimetres long, and are dark brown. They are found at the top of the tree and may stay on the tree for up to 30 years.

Size: Between 20 and 30 metres tall, trunk usually between 23 and 26 centimetres in diameter

Moisture: Tolerates different moisture levels

Shade: Tolerates partial shade

Soil: Grows in a variety of soils



Bur Oak

The bur oak is a medium to large tree, growing up to 30 metres in height. It is the most common oak in Ontario.

The bur oak's large leaves are 15 to 25 centimetres long, and are shiny green on top, and pale and hairy underneath. Its acorns, which are 1.5 to 3 centimetres long, have a deep cup covering 2/3 of the acorn. This cup has a bristle fringe around the upper edge.

Depending on where it grows, the bur oak can be different shapes. It's usually tall with a straight trunk but if grown in shallow soil, it can be smaller with a twisted trunk and gnarled branches.

- Size:** 15 to 30 metres tall, trunk 60 to 120 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Tolerates a wide variety of moisture conditions
- Shade:** Prefers full sun, but can tolerate moderate shade
- Soil:** Can grow in a variety of soils



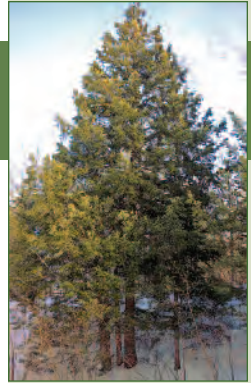
Eastern Hemlock

The eastern hemlock grows in southern Ontario. It prefers moist and cool areas and grows in a range of different soil types.

Its shape is conical, with a wide trunk that tapers into a thin top. Skinny flexible branches grow straight out from the trunk and then droop at the ends. The eastern hemlock's bark is scaly when the tree is young and cracks deeply as the tree gets older.

Its needles are 1 to 2 centimetres long and are shiny green on top and paler underneath. The cones of the eastern hemlock are oval shaped, and are 12 to 20 millimetres long. In the late fall and winter, the seeds fall out of the cones and onto the ground.

- Size:** 30 metres tall, trunk 100 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Needs a lot of moisture
- Shade:** Very shade tolerant
- Soil:** Grows in many soil types



Eastern White Cedar

The eastern white cedar is a small, hardy, slow-growing tree. It usually lives for about 200 years, but can occasionally live much longer. It grows throughout Ontario and is usually found in swampy areas where the rock underneath is limestone.

Cones from the eastern white cedar are 7 to 12 millimetres long and grow in clumps of 5 or 6 pairs. Small scaly leaves cover the tree's fan-shaped twigs and are a yellowish-green colour.

The bark of the eastern white cedar is thin and shiny when the tree is young, but separates into flat narrow strips as the tree gets older. White-tailed deer eat the twigs of the eastern white cedar during the winter.

- Size:** 15 metres tall, trunk 30 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Prefers moist soil
- Shade:** Tolerates some shade
- Soil:** Grows in a variety of soils, but does not tolerate road salt



Eastern White Pine

Found in most of Ontario, the eastern white pine can grow to be more than 40 metres tall. It grows quickly and best with full sunlight. Young trees can tolerate some shade.

It has skinny needles that are 6 to 12 centimetres long. It's easy to recognize the eastern white pine because its needles grow in bunches of five.

The eastern white pine's cones are 8 to 20 cm long and they hang down from the branches. Good seed crops aren't produced until trees are 20 or 30 years old, and then only every 3 to 5 years. Its bark is dark greyish brown with broad thick ridges that are 2 to 5 centimetres thick.

If it grows somewhere that it's exposed to a lot of wind, the eastern white pine can become a bit lopsided, with small, short branches on the side that faces the wind.

- Size:** 20 to 35 metres tall, trunk 60 to 140 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Tolerates different moisture levels
- Shade:** Tolerates partial shade when younger
- Soil:** Grows in any soil type; prefers sand or sandy loam



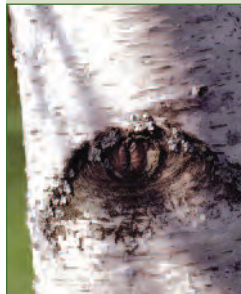
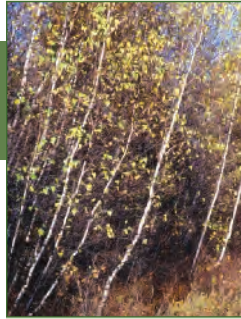
Gray Birch

Gray birch are small trees that live for about 50 years. Unlike other birch trees, the bark of the gray birch doesn't peel off easily. The bark is dark reddish brown when the tree is younger, and turns into a chalky white colour when older.

It grows well in sandy or gravelly soil, on abandoned pastures and in areas recently clear-cut or burnt. Its leaves are a triangle shape with a long pointy tip and are 4 to 7 centimetres long.

Gray birches usually grow in a clump, with the tree trunks curved and leaning outwards. Its branches are skinny and can bend into an 's' shape when older.

- Size:** 12 metres tall, trunk 15 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Can tolerate any moisture level
- Shade:** Needs full sun
- Soil:** Prefers sandy and gravelly soil, but can grow in many types of soil



Jack Pine

The jack pine is found across Ontario and is the most common of any pine trees in the north. It's a smaller tree that can grow almost anywhere – in sandy or shallow soil, and even on permafrost and rock.

Cones from the jack pine can vary in shape and size but are usually skinny and curved and are 2.5 to 8 centimetres long. They are yellowish brown and stay tightly closed unless they experience high temperatures. Its light green needles grow in bundles of 2, are slightly curved or twisted and are 2 to 4 centimetres long

The jack pine is the most widely distributed tree in Canada. When it grows in rocky shallow soil, it's gnarled and lopsided – a view made famous by Canadian painter Tom Thompson.

- Size:** Up to 24 metres tall, trunk is up to 60 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Can tolerate a range of moisture levels but prefers dry soil
- Shade:** Needs full sun
- Soil:** Grows in almost any soil, but prefers sandy to coarse loamy soils



Peachleaf Willow

A native of Canada's prairies, the peachleaf willow can grow up to 20 metres tall. It's found in southern Ontario, and has long pointed leaves that are 5 to 14 centimetres long, and are dark green on the top and pale green underneath.

The trunk of the peachleaf willow can be more than 40 cm in diameter. It usually grows in a clump with other peachleaf willows, in moist soil close to rivers and lakes and in swamps.

The peachleaf willow's blossoms, called catkins, grow on leafy shoots that hang down from branches. They appear in the spring at the same time as the willow's leaves. Many animals feed on twigs and buds from willow trees, and its flowers are a source of nectar and pollen for bees.

Size:	Up to 20 metres tall, trunk is 40 cm in diameter
Moisture:	Needs a lot of moisture
Shade:	Needs full sun
Soil:	Grows in a variety of soils



Pin Cherry

The pin cherry can be found across Ontario, except for the very far north. It needs bright sun to survive, so it usually grows in the open away from other trees that might create shade.

It's a small tree, growing up to 12 metres in height and 25 centimetres in diameter. The fruit of the pin cherry is bright red and is 6 to 8 millimetres across, and it ripens from late July to early September. They are edible but very sour.

In the spring, the pin cherry tree is covered in white blossoms about 5 millimetres long that grow in bunches. In nature, the seeds of the pin cherry can lie dormant in the ground for many decades, sprouting in great numbers after some kind of disturbance like a wind storm or fire removes the forest cover.

Size:	12 metres high, trunk is 25 cm in diameter
Moisture:	Can tolerate different moisture levels
Shade:	Needs full sun
Soil:	Grows in a variety of soils



Red Maple

The red maple is found in central and southern Ontario, in the Great Lakes/St Lawrence region. It's a medium-sized tree that can grow up to 25 metres tall, with a trunk that's 60 centimetres in diameter.

The red maple's leaves are 5 to 15 centimetres long and light green on top and paler underneath. Its bark is smooth and light gray when the tree is young, turning greyish-brown, scaly and ridged as the tree gets older.

The seeds of the red maple are contained in 'keys' that float down from the tree's branches in the early summer.

- Size:** 25 metres tall, trunk 60 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Grows best in moist soil, but can tolerate different moisture levels
- Shade:** Tolerates some shade.
- Soil:** Grows in a variety of soils



Red Oak

The red oak can be found east of Lake Superior, and across central and southern Ontario. It is usually 20 to 30 metres tall, with a thick trunk sometimes more than 120 centimetres in diameter.

The red oak's leaves are dark green and are 10 to 20 centimetres long. They have sharp, pointed lobes (usually 7 to 9) with bristly tips.

Acorns from the red oak are 2 to 3 centimetres long and are round with a scaly cap that covers less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the acorn. The bark of the red oak is smooth and dark gray when the tree is young, but deep ridges develop as the tree gets older.

- Size:** 20 to 30 metres tall, trunk between 30 and 90 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Can tolerate a variety of moisture levels
- Shade:** Prefers full sun, but can tolerate some shade
- Soil:** Grows in a variety of soils



Red Pine

The red pine is found across most of Ontario, from Lake Nipigon across to Quebec, and south to the Great Lakes. It's called 'red' pine because its bark is reddish to pink in colour.

The red pine can grow to be 35 metres tall, with a trunk 75 centimetres in diameter. Its shiny dark green needles grow in bunches of two and are between 10 and 16 centimetres long. The trunk of the red pine is usually slender and straight.

Wood from the red pine has been used to make poles and pilings and as structural timber because of its strength.

Size:	20 to 30 metres tall, trunk 30 to 75 centimetres in diameter
Moisture:	Tolerates a variety of moisture levels
Shade:	Prefers full sun
Soil:	Can tolerate poor, rocky, and sandy soil



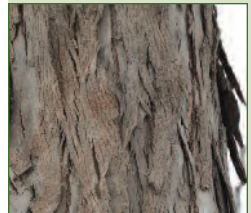
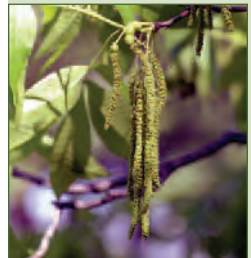
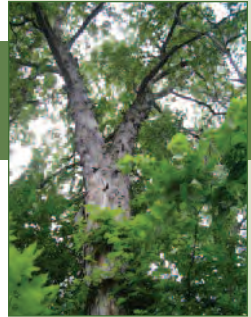
Shagbark Hickory

The shagbark hickory grows only in southern Ontario along the St Lawrence River and into Quebec. It can live for 200 years, grows to be 25 metres tall, and prefers rich, moist soil.

The leaves of the shagbark are 15 to 25 centimetres long, made up of 5 leaflets on a central stalk. They are green on top, and paler and hairy underneath. The tree's bark separates into long plates as it gets older, which loosen from the trunk and give the tree a 'shaggy' look – that's how it gets its name.

Nuts from the shagbark hickory are edible and are 3 to 4.5 centimetres long. They are sweet tasting and are a favourite food of squirrels.

Size:	20 to 30 metres tall, trunk is 30 to 80 centimetres in diameter
Moisture:	Prefers moist soil
Shade:	Prefers sun, but can tolerate some shade
Soil:	Prefers rich soil



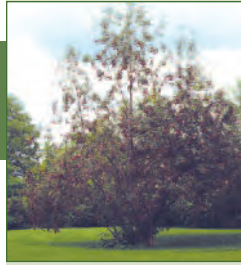
Showy Mountain-ash

The showy mountain-ash is found across almost all of Ontario, except for the southwestern tip of the province. It can get up to 10 metres tall.

Its blue-green leaves have 13 to 17 leaflets which are 3 to 8 centimetres long.

Clusters of small white flowers bloom on the tree between May and July. In August and September, the showy mountain-ash is covered in bunches of shiny red berries that are 4 to 6 millimetres across, and often stay on the tree through the winter.

Size:	Up to 15 metres tall
Moisture:	Can tolerate different moisture levels
Shade:	Can tolerate some shade
Soil:	Can grow in a variety of soils including rocky and poor soil



Silver Maple

The silver maple grows in central and southern Ontario. It's a large tree that can grow to be 35 metres tall with a trunk that's more than 100 centimetres in diameter.

Its light green leaves are 15 to 20 centimetres long, with 5 or 7 lobes. The silver maple is very similar to the red maple – except that its leaves turn pale yellow or brown, not red, in the fall. Its seeds are found in 'keys' that fall down from the tree in the late spring.

Bark on the silver maple's trunk is smooth and gray when the tree is young and then becomes dark reddish brown and breaks into strips that peel off at either end and make the trunk look 'shaggy'. Sometimes, the trunks of silver maples are hollow, creating space for animals and birds to live in.

Size:	Up to 35 metres tall, trunk 100 centimetres in diameter
Moisture:	Prefers moist soil
Shade:	Slightly shade tolerant but prefers full sun
Soil:	Prefers rich soil



Sugar Maple

The sugar maple is found in central and southern Ontario. It's a large tree that can grow up to 35 metres tall, and can live for more than 200 years.

The sugar maple's yellowish-green leaves are 8 to 20 centimetres long, and have five lobes. The shape of the leaf is well known – it's found on the Canadian flag and is the national tree of Canada. In the fall the sugar maple's leaves turn yellow, brilliant orange or red.

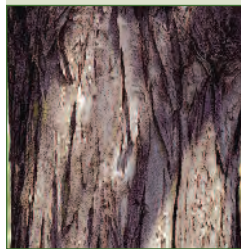
The sugar maple's bark is smooth and gray and becomes darker and splits into ridges that curl out as the tree gets older. Seeds from the sugar maple are contained in 'keys' which are 30 to 35 millimetres long. Seed is produced every year, with an abundant crop every 7 years.

Size: 35 metres tall, 90 centimetres in diameter

Moisture: Prefers moist soil

Shade: Can tolerate shade but grows better when it gets full sun

Soil: Prefers deep and rich soil



Tamarack

The tamarack is found everywhere in Ontario but is most common in the north. Most conifer trees keep their needles year round but tamaracks are deciduous conifers – its needles fall off in the autumn and new ones grow in the spring.

Tamarack trees grow to be about 20 metres tall. Its bark starts out smooth and gray when the tree is young, and turns reddish brown and scaly as the tree grows. Its needles grow in tufts of 10 to 20 (sometimes many more) and are 2 to 3 centimetres long. They are soft and flexible bluish green except in the fall when they turn yellow before falling off.

The tamarack's seeds grow inside light brown cones which are 1 to 2 centimetres long. Trees don't produce seeds until they are 10 years old.

Size: 20 metres tall, 60 centimetres in diameter

Moisture: Can grow in a variety of moisture levels

Shade: Intolerant of shade – needs full sun

Soil: Can grow in a variety of soils



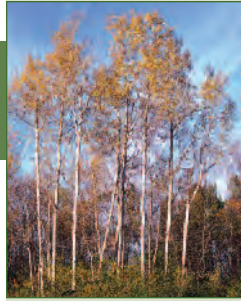
Trembling Aspen

The trembling aspen is found across all of Ontario, except for along the northern shores of Hudson Bay. It can grow to be 20 metres high and normally lives for 70 to 100 years, but it can grow much taller and live much longer under ideal conditions.

The trembling aspen's trunk is long and cylindrical. Usually there aren't any branches on the lower part of the trunk. Its bark is smooth and is very pale green or white when the tree is young. It becomes darker and furrowed as the tree grows.

Its leaves are egg shaped to roundish and 2 to 8 centimetres long. They are deep green on top and paler underneath and are on long flattened stalks, which make them tremble in the breeze – that's how the trembling aspen got its name.

- Size:** Usually 20 metres tall, 25 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Can tolerate a variety of moisture levels, but prefers moist sites
- Shade:** Intolerant – needs full sun
- Soil:** Can grow in a variety of soil types



Tulip Tree

The tulip tree grows in only a few parts of Ontario – on the south shore of Lake Huron, the north shore of Lake Erie, and in the Niagara Peninsula. It's a large, fast-growing tree, up to 35 metres tall with a trunk up to 160 centimetres in diameter.

As its name suggest, the tulip tree produces beautiful yellow-green flowers that are about 5 centimetres long. They have 6 petals and are shaped like tulip flowers and bloom in the spring.

Its leaves are 7 to 12 centimetres long and are straight across the top, with 4 lobes beneath. They are light green and turn yellow in the fall. The tulip tree's bark is smooth and dark green when the tree is young then turns brown and ridged.

- Size:** 25 to 30 metres tall, thick straight trunks 50 to 100 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Needs a lot of moisture during the summer
- Shade:** Needs full sun
- Soil:** Prefers sand and sandy loam



White Birch

The white birch is found everywhere in Ontario except for along the shore of Hudson Bay. It's a medium sized tree that can be 25 metres tall.

The tree's trunk is covered in thin smooth white bark which peels off in large sheets. Bark from the white birch is very strong and pliable – it can be used to make canoes. Buds, leaves and seeds from the white birch are a great source of food for birds and animals.

Leaves from the white birch tree are egg-shaped or triangular in shape and are 5 to 10 centimetres long. They are dull green on top and lighter green and slightly hairy underneath.

- Size:** 25 metres tall, trunk is 60 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Can tolerate a variety of moisture levels
- Shade:** Intolerant – needs full sun
- Soil:** Can tolerate a variety of soils



White Oak

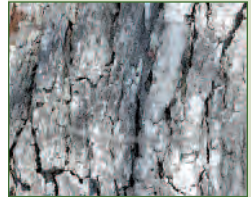
The white oak is a large tree that can live for several hundred years. It's found in southern Ontario and can grow to be more than 35 metres tall.

Acorns from the white oak are 1.2 to 2.5 centimetres long. It takes 2 years for acorns to be fully grown, and they drop off in the fall once they are ripe. Birds, squirrels and other animals eat acorns from the white oak.

Its leaves are 10 to 20 centimetres long and have 7 to 9 lobes. They are bright green on top and are a paler green underneath. They turn red-purple in the fall before falling off.

The white oak's bark is whitish to pale gray, usually with long scales.

- Size:** 20 to 30 metres tall, trunk 50 to 120 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Can tolerate a variety of moisture levels
- Shade:** Prefers full sun
- Soil:** Can tolerate a variety of soils



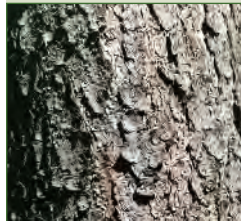
White Spruce

The white spruce is a common tree in the north, but it can grow in southern Ontario. It grows well in the far north and can be found along the arctic tree line.

The white spruce usually grows to be 24 metres tall, but under ideal conditions can grow to more than 30 metres tall. It usually lives between 250 and 350 years, but trees up to 1,000 years old have been seen. Its needles are about 2 centimetres long and bluish green or green in colour, with a whitish powdery, waxy layer. Cones from the white spruce are 5 to 7 centimetres long and are light brown.

Wood from the white spruce is used to make wood pulp and lumber. They are also grown as Christmas trees.

- Size:** 24 metres tall, trunk 60 centimetres in diameter
- Moisture:** Tolerates a range of moisture levels
- Shade:** Tolerates shade
- Soil:** Can grow in almost any soil type



The Ministry of Natural Resources encourages you to plant native trees. It's alright to plant trees in this section, but it may be very difficult to find them in many commercial nurseries.



Swamp White Oak

The swamp white oak is found in southern Ontario. It's a rare tree and is uncommon in the rest of Canada.

It grows to be about 22 metres tall, with a trunk that's 90 centimetres in diameter. The leaves of the swamp white oak are 12 to 17 centimetres long and are wedge-shaped. They are shiny green on top and pale greyish-green underneath.

The swamp white oak's acorns are 2 to 3 centimetres long and grow on stems that can be up to 10 centimetres long. The cup of the acorn is covered in scales.

As its name suggests, the swamp white oak grows in damp soil and along the edges of swamps.



Black Maple

The black maple is found across southern Ontario. It is similar to the sugar maple, but prefers wet soil and floodplains. It can grow to be 35 metres tall with a trunk that's 90 centimetres in diameter.

Its leaves are 8 to 20 centimetres long and have three lobes. They are dark green on top and yellowish-green underneath. They turn brownish-yellow in the fall, unlike the sugar maple's leaves which turn brilliant red.



American Basswood

The basswood is a large tree that can grow to be more than 35 metres tall. It is found in central and southern Ontario and can live for more than 200 years.

In July, yellow flowers that are about 1 centimetre wide bloom on the basswood tree. It also produces little berries that are 8 to 12 millimetres wide and grow in bunches. The basswood's seeds are contained in the berries, and are spread by wind and animals.

Its leaves are heart-shaped and are 12 to 15 centimetres long and have sharp teeth along the edge. They are dull green on top and lighter underneath.



Chinquapin Oak

The chinquapin oak is rare in Ontario – it's only found in the south-west of the province and near the Thousand Islands.

It's a medium sized tree that can grow to be 30 metres tall with a trunk that's 60 centimetres in diameter. It can grow in dry, rocky, and sandy soil.

Its leaves are 10 to 18 centimetres long and have a toothed edge. They are shiny green on top and greyish green underneath. The chinquapin's acorns are 12 to 35 millimetres long and are half-covered by a scaly cup.

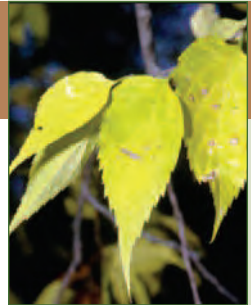


Common Hackberry

The hackberry is a smaller tree, growing up to 15 metres tall. Its purplish-red berries are edible, and are 6 to 8 millimetres across.

It's uncommon in Ontario, but can be found along the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario and farther north along the St Lawrence.

Its pointed leaves are 6 to 9 centimetres long and are a deep bluish-green. They turn yellow in the fall. The hackberry's bark is ridged and grey or light yellowish-brown.



Ironwood

The ironwood is found in central and southern Ontario. It has very hard wood which is used to make tool handles.

It can grow to be up to 15 metres tall with bark that is greyish-brown that separates into strips that peel away from the tree. Its leaves are 7 to 12 centimetres long and are oval shaped with a pointed end. They are a dark yellowish-green, turning dull yellow in the fall.

The ironwood's seeds grow inside bunches of thin, papery pods that fall from the tree during the winter.



Ohio Buckeye

The Ohio buckeye is native to the United States but can be found in southwestern Ontario. It's a smaller tree that grows to be about 15 metres tall.

Its bark is grey but turns dark brown as the tree gets older. Its oval, pointed leaves are 6 to 15 centimetres and grow in a star shape on a central stalk and are yellowish-green. They turn yellow or orange in the fall.

The Ohio buckeye's leaves, twigs and bark smell bad when they are broken or crushed.



Sassafras

The sassafras is rare in Ontario – it can be found in the south of the province. It grows to be about 20 metres tall, but is smaller and like a shrub, if it's in a dry and sandy spot.

Its 10 to 15 centimetre-long leaves are special, because they grow in three different shapes – oval with no lobe, one lobe, or two lobes. They are dark green and turn yellow or red in the fall. When the leaves are crushed, they smell like cinnamon.

Bark on the sassafras is dark brown with deep grooves. In the spring, small yellow flowers grow on the tree. Later in the summer, it produces 10 to 15 millimetre-long dark blue berries with a big seed inside.



Trees not recommended for planting

The Ministry of Natural Resources encourages you to plant native trees. Some of the trees in the list are considered to be invasive species, which means they take over and crowd out native trees, making it difficult for native trees to grow. Other trees in this section may be prone to disease and we're not recommending you plant them at this time because it may cause the spread of disease and will not likely survive to maturity.



Northern Catalpa

The northern catalpa is not native to Canada. It usually grows in much warmer climates, but is planted farther north because of its lovely big white flowers, which bloom in mid-summer.

Its leaves are large and heart-shaped and are 10 to 30 centimetres long. Its seeds grow in very long skinny pods that are 35 to 60 centimetres long and look like beans.

The northern catalpa can grow to be more than 30 metres tall and its bark is dark brown.

Not recommended because: Native species adapted to our local environment are always preferred to introduced species which often contribute little to our ecology and the web of life that sustains us.



Horsechestnut

The horsechestnut is native to Europe, but is planted in Canada because it's a hardy tree that grows well in urban environments and also produces beautiful big bunches of white flowers in the spring.

Its leaves are rounded at one end and are pointed at the other. They are 10 to 25 centimetres long and grow attached to a central stalk in a fan-shape.

The horsechestnut grows to be 25 metres tall, with a trunk that's 50 centimetres in diameter. Its bark is dark grey or dark brown and gets very scaly and cracked when the tree is older. Its nuts grow in bright green shells that are covered in pointy thorns.

Not recommended because: Native species adapted to our local environment are always preferred to introduced species which often contribute little to our ecology and the web of life that sustains us.



Little Leaf Linden

The little-leaf linden is native to Europe. It can grow in Canada because it's a hardy tree, and it grows well in cities. It's found in central and southern Ontario and can grow to be 35 metres tall.

Its dull green leaves are heart shaped and are 4 to 8 centimetres long.

Small yellow flowers bloom on the little leaf linden in July. Its bark is greenish brown and gets darker in colour as the tree gets older.

Not recommended because: Native species adapted to our local environment are always preferred to introduced species which often contribute little to our ecology and the web of life that sustains us.



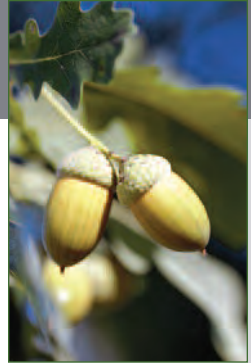
English Oak

The english oak is native to Europe, but was transplanted to Canada and the United States in colonial times and grows in central and southern Ontario.

It's a large tree that can grow to be 35 metres tall and can live for hundreds of years. The leaves of the English oak are 5 to 12 millimetres long and have between 5 and 7 lobes and 2 smaller lobes that stick out at the bottom of the leaf. They are dark green on top and bluish underneath.

Acorns from the english oak are 15 to 40 millimetres long and grow in bunches of 2 to 5 on a stalk.

Not recommended because: Native species adapted to our local environment are always preferred to introduced species which often contribute little to our ecology and the web of life that sustains us.



Norway Maple

The Norway maple is native to Europe. It was brought over to Canada and now grows in southern and central Ontario. It was commonly planted on city streets.

Its bark is very dark grey with ridges that connect and form a pattern. Its leaves have 5 to 7 lobes and are 8 to 20 centimetres long. They are dark green and turn lighter green or yellow in the fall.

It can grow to be up to 35 metres tall and can live for hundreds of years.

Not recommended because: Norway maple and its many cultivars (cross-bred trees) are commonly sold at nurseries, but are considered to be invasive species that can dominate our native ecosystems, crowding out native species and reducing biodiversity in adjoining natural areas.



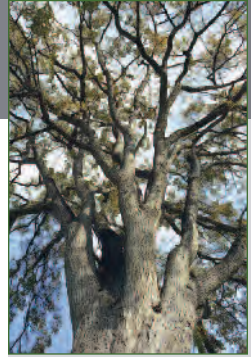
White Elm

The white elm used to be common in Ontario, but Dutch-elm disease has killed older trees. Some younger trees have survived the disease.

It's a large tree that can grow to be up to 35 metres tall, with a thick trunk that's 175 centimetres in diameter. Its bark is dark greyish-brown with deep ridges that connect. The white elm's leaves are oval with a pointed end and are dark green and 10 to 15 centimetres long.

The white elm has an easily recognizable shape with no branches until halfway up the trunk and then lots of branches that fan out, giving the tree an umbrella shape.

Not recommended because: The white elm is susceptible to Dutch-elm disease and will not likely last to maturity.



Black Locust

The black locust is a hardy tree, so even though it's not native to Canada, it can grow here. It's found in southern and central Ontario.

The black locust grows to be 25 metres tall and can live for 90 years. In the summer, it's covered in bunches of white flowers that are 14 centimetres long. Small green oval-shaped leaflets grow on stalks that are 20 to 30 centimetres long.

Its seeds grow in pods that are 7 to 10 centimetres long and are eaten by birds and small mammals. Its bark is dark brown and becomes scaled and cracked as the tree ages.

Not recommended because: Native species adapted to our local environment are always preferred to introduced species which often contribute little to our ecology and the web of life that sustains us.

