

Deciduous Trees

Red Maple



Scientific name: *Acer rubrum*

Height: 20-25 m tall

Soil: Grows best in moist soil, but can tolerate different moisture levels. Grows in a variety of soils (sandy to clay soils).

Light Requirements: Full sun to partial shade.

Fruit/Flowers: Has pairs of winged keys (1.5-2.5 cm long) that float down from the tree's branches in early summer. Reddish short-stalked flowers in late winter.

Growth Characteristics: Grows quickly, lives 75-100 years, leaves turn red in fall. The red maple is a tall, straight tree in the forest, but in the open it tends to divide its main stem several times, often making it susceptible to breaking later in life. This is a good, fast-growing shade tree, but pruning and maintenance may be needed to keep its form strong if it is shading your house. Its roots are shallow, but they can spread widely, so make sure you plant your red maple where it will have room to grow.

Other Notes: Easy to recognize the red maple in the autumn when its leaves turn a beautiful bright red.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/red-maple>

White Oak



Scientific name: *Quercus alba*

Height: Up to 35 m and can live for several hundred years.

Soil: Can tolerate a variety of soils and moisture levels.

Light Requirements: Prefers full sun.

Fruit: Produces acorns which are a good food source for birds, squirrels and other animals.

Notes: The white oak is an adaptable tree that will grow almost anywhere. With its deep rooting system, it should not be planted close to septic tanks or drainage tiles.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/white-oak>

Coniferous Trees

Tamarack



Scientific name: *Larix laricina*

Height: 20 m tall.

Soil: Can grow in a variety of soils and moisture levels.

Light Requirements: Intolerant of shade – needs full sun.

Fruit/Flower: Tamarack's seeds grow inside light brown cones which are 1-2 cm long. Trees don't produce seeds until they are 10 years old.

Growth Characteristics: Bark starts out smooth and gray when the tree is young, and turns reddish-brown and scaly as the tree ages. Its needles grow in tufts of 10 to 20 (or more) and are 2-3 cm long. The Tamarack is a deciduous conifer, meaning it drops its needles in autumn and grows new ones in the spring.

Other Notes: Easy to recognize in the autumn when its needles turn brilliant yellow before falling off.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/tamarack>

White Pine



Scientific name: *Pinus strobus*

Height: 20-35 m tall.

Soil: Tolerates different moisture levels. Grows in any soil type; prefers sand or sandy loam.

Light Requirements: Grows quickly and best with full sun. Young trees can tolerate some shade.

Growth Characteristics: Cones are 8-20 cm long and hang down from the branches. Good seed crops aren't produced until trees are 20-30 years old, and then only every 3-5 years. Needles are skinny, long (6-12 cm), straight and flexible. Easy to recognize because its needles grow in bunches of five.

Other Notes: The eastern white pine is the provincial tree of Ontario! If you plant it in direct sun, it will grow quickly and is ideal for blocking an unsightly view or for creating shade for your house.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/eastern-white-pine>

Shrubs

Black Chokeberry



Scientific name:

Height: 2 m tall.

Soil: Moist to average soils. It prefers acidic soils.

Light Requirements: Prefers full or partial sun.

Fruit/Flowers: Small clusters of white flowers in spring are followed by glossy black fruit. The dark green foliage turns reddish-purple in the fall. This shrub has edible, purplish-black berry-like fruit (pomes), which are enjoyed by a number of bird species.

Growth Characteristics: The alternate, simple leaves are 1 to 3 inches long. The dark green foliage turns a deep mahogany-red in fall.

[Black chokeberry | The Morton Arboretum](#)

Bebb's Willow



Scientific name: *Salix bebbiana*

Height: 3 m tall.

Soil: Adapted to a wide variety of soil textures. It prefers moist sites and is drought tolerant. This species tolerates moderate alkaline soils but not extremely alkaline conditions.

Light Requirements: It is shade intolerant and grows best in full sunlight.

Fruit/Flowers: Flowers borne on catkins 2-4 cm long.

Growth Characteristics: Large multi-stemmed shrub or small tree, with spreading branches, elliptical shaped leaves 2.5-9 cm long.

Other Notes: Bebb's Willow is a fast growing but short-lived species that occurs most commonly under shade of trees where the sites are poor. It is frequently found in swamps, lakes, borders of streams, open woods and forests. Bebb's Willow is a relatively good soil stabilizer and is valuable for revegetating streambanks and other disturbed sites. Snowshoe hares, deer, elk and moose browse Bebb's Willow. The buds, shoots, and catkins are eaten by birds, beavers and small mammals.

<http://www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/herbarium/trees/salbeb01.htm>

Shrubs

Smooth Arrowwood



Scientific name: *Viburnum recognitum*

Height: Up to 5 m tall.

Soil: Tolerant to most soils. Prefers loam soils.

Light Requirements: Partial sun.

Fruit/Flowers: Compound cymes (flat-headed panicles) of small flowers about 3-4" across develop from the upper stems. Each flower is replaced by a small fruit about 1/3" long that becomes dark blue-violet when it is ripe

Growth Characteristics: Individual branches are often exceptionally long and straight. The bark of larger branches is light brown to grey with tiny lenticels and occasional vertical ridges, while smaller branches are light brown, rather smooth, and hairless. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract a variety of pollinators.

<http://www.northernontarioflora.ca/description.cfm?speciesid=1005371>

Red Osier Dogwood



Scientific name: *Cornus sericea* / *Cornus stolonifera*

Height: 2-3 m tall, often forming dense thickets.

Soil: Can tolerate wet conditions. Sand, loam, clay.

Light Requirements: Sun to part shade.

Fruit/Flowers: Clusters of small creamy-white flowers in late May-early June. Small white-pale blue fruit in June.

Growth Characteristics: Excellent for erosion control. Excellent cover for wildlife and very attractive all year. Red branches striking in winter.

Habitat: Damp woods, shores, thickets, and moist to wet roadsides. *Cornus sericea* is a common north temperate-boreal species, distributed throughout Ontario.

Other Notes: Fast growth rate. Drought and soil compaction tolerant, salt sensitive, suckering plant.

<http://northernontarioflora.ca/description.cfm?speciesid=1000329>

Shrubs

Meadowsweet



Scientific name: *Spiraea alba*

Height: 0.3-1.2 m tall.

Light Requirements: Prefers partial shade.

Fruit/Flowers: Up to 15 cm long. Round pinkish to white petals. Flowers bloom in mid-summer.

Habitat: Shorelines, marshes, wet meadows, ditches, and low, wet ground. White meadowsweet is native to north-temperate and boreal North America, extending from southwestern Quebec to Alberta.

Similar Species: Steeplebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*)

<http://northernontarioflora.ca/description.cfm?speciesid=1003177>

Ninebark



Scientific name: *Physocarpus opulifolius*

Height: 1-3 m tall.

Soil: Tolerates a wide variety of moisture conditions and soil types. Sandy, loam, clay.

Light Requirements: Full sun.

Fruit/Flowers: Corymbs of white flowers in late spring-early summer. Dried reddish-brown capsules cling to plant throughout the winter. Bark shreds and peels revealing different colours.

Growth Characteristics: Medium to fast growth rate.

Habitat: Rocky, sandy, or gravelly soils, in thickets, and often on gravel bars, shores and streambanks. Ninebark is an eastern north-temperate to boreal species that occurs throughout eastern North America.

Other Notes: Spring flowers are also attractive nectar sources for butterflies and other pollinators.

<http://northernontarioflora.ca/description.cfm?speciesid=1000787>

Shrubs

Fragrant Sumac



Scientific name: *Rhus aromatica*

Height: 0.6-1.2 m tall.

Soil: Tolerates sandy and rocky soils. Drought tolerant.

Light Requirements: Shade tolerant but colours better in sun.

Fruit/Flowers: Flowers are quite small, greenish-yellow, in small round clusters; appearing in late spring to early summer. Fruit are a round cluster of reddish-brown, fuzzy drupes, each 7 cm across. Ripen in med to late summer.

Growth Characteristics: A low shrub with spreading or ascending branches and aromatic foliage, often forming extensive mounds or low thickets. Excellent for erosion control. Leaves turn orange, red, purple and yellow in autumn.

Habitat: Dry sandy or rocky places, sand dunes, limestone flats and crevices, open pastures and clearings, lakeshores.

<http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=447>