

Friends of Manchester Trees

Native Tree and Shrub Recommendation List –2025

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Salt Tolerant | Size & Shape | Notable Features and Habitat Value |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---|--|
| Large Canopy Trees | | | | |
| <i>Acer nigrum</i> | Black Maple | No | 60-80' | Full to part sun; Long lived with high wildlife value. Autumn foliage turns clear yellow-orange. |
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> | Red Maple | No | 40-60' H; 30-50' W. Broadly columnar | Red maples are aptly named for <i>red</i> buds in winter, flowers in spring, leafstalks in summer, and brilliant foliage in the fall. Seeds, sap, and buds are food for wildlife. Larval host for Imperial Butterflies |
| <i>Acer saccharum</i> | Sugar Maple | No | 60-75' H; 40-50' W. Oval to rounded | One of America's most-loved trees. Amazing fall color in shades of yellow, orange, or red. Distinctive shaggy bark as it ages. |
| <i>Betula lenta</i> | Black Birch; Sweet Birch | Yes | 70'; Pyramidal shape. | Gray bark that forms attractive plates with age. Host to Mourning Cloak Butterfly. Reliable golden yellow fall foliage. Fast grower. Full sun to part shade. |
| <i>Carya glabra</i> | Pignut Hickory | | 100' | Majestic, long-lived forest canopy tree that turns butter-yellow in autumn. Drought tolerant, once established. Host plant for the luna moth. |
| <i>Carya ovata</i> | Shagbark Hickory | | 70-90' | Instantly recognizable by long strips of peeling bark. Long-lived canopy tree with nutritious nuts. Compound leaves turn golden yellow in autumn. |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | Tuliptree | No | 60-90' H X 30-50' W. Broad, upright | Large, stately native. Pale yellow/green tulip-like flowers in spring; nectar for hummingbirds, nesting site for small birds. |
| <i>Morus rubra</i> | Red Mulberry | Yes | 30-60' H X 40 W | Medium-sized, shade tolerant tree producing blackberry-like fruit in summer and yellow foliage in the fall. Not to be confused with White Mulberry, which is invasive. |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> | Black Tupelo | yes | 30-50' H X 20-30 W. Oval, pyramidal | Full to part sun. Long taproot precludes moving established trees. Great pollinator and nesting site for small birds. Spectacular scarlet fall color. Looks great massed together in the back of a border. |
| <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> | Sourwood | | 30-50' | Full sun, part shade, a mature sourwood is stunning in spring with fragrant, white bell-shaped blossoms and in fall, with fiery red foliage. Grows best in acidic, moist soils. |

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| <i>Quercus alba</i> | White Oak | Yes | 60-120' H. Broad | Long-lived, slow growing native. Strong, beautiful. Acorns provide food for rodents and birds. Leaves have rounded lobes. Host for several hairstreak butterflies and many moths. |
| <i>Quercus rubra</i> | Red Oak | Yes | 60-75' H; Rounded. | Acorns are food preference for blue jays. Fast growing; offers good shade and works well as a street tree. Full sun. Red, maroon, and orange in the fall. |
| <i>Quercus montana</i> | Chestnut Oak | Yes | 50 – 70' | Handsome specimen tree has oval leaves that are shallowly lobed and glossy green. Bark has deep vertical rounded furrows. Host plant for several butterflies and moths. |
| <i>Quercus palustris</i> | Pin Oak | Somewhat | 60-70' H X 25-40' W. Pyramidal. | Fast grower, with distinctive branching pattern. Also known as 'swamp oak,' due to tolerance for wet conditions. |
| <i>Quercus stellata</i> | Post Oak | Yes. | 30-50' | Smaller street or specimen tree with dark green, leathery leaves, with squared middle lobes. Very tough and grows well near the ocean in poor soils. |
| <i>Liquidamber styrassaflua</i> | Sweet Gum | Somewhat | 60-70' T X 45' W. Pyramidal, becoming more rounded | Deep, glossy green star-shaped leaves turn brilliant purple-red in fall and persist. Medium to fast growing. Sweetgum seeds attract goldfinches, mourning doves, and bobwhites. |
| <i>Tilia americana</i> | Basswood, American Linden | No | 50-80' H X 30-50' W. Pyramidal to ovate | Full sun to part shade. Casts deep shade from its large, glossy, heart-shaped leaves. Foliage is host to easter tiger swallowtail and mourning cloak. Summer creamy white flowers are very fragrant. Good drought tolerance one established. |
| <i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Princeton' | American Elm | Yes | 60-80' H X 30-50' W. Vase shaped, broad rounded. | 'Princeton' has reported excellent resistance to Dutch Elm disease. |
| <i>Cladotris Kentuckea</i> | Yellowwood | Yes | 30-50' Tall X 40' Wide; broadly spreading, sometimes multi-trunked | Panicles of 1.25" white, slightly fragrant flowers bloom from May to June. Yellow fall foliage. |

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| Small Flowering Trees | | | | |
| <i>Amelanchier laevis</i> or <i>Amelanchier arborea</i> | Allegheny Serviceberry Common Serviceberry | No | 10 -25' H; Single or multi-stem, with upright branches | Two similar species of Amelanchier. Small understory tree. Long-petaled, white blossoms, opening before leaves emerge. Enduring fall foliage is orange to rusty-red. Tolerates shade to part shade. Important food plant for more than 40 species of birds and other wildlife. |
| <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Redbud | No | 20-30' H X 15-35' W. Broad, multi-stem with rounded crown. | Purple-pink spring flowers; early season nectar for butterflies. Grows 12 – 24" per year. Nice fall color as well. |
| <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> | Fringe Tree | Very | 12 – 20' H & W. Broad, multi-stem | Delicate fringed white flowers (Botanical Name comes from the Greek for 'snow flower') in spring; Larval & nectar host for butterflies, olive-like berries for wildlife. |
| <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> | Pagoda or Alternate Leaf Dogwood | | 15-30' H X 25' W Distinctive tiered/layered horizontal branching. | The unique horizontal branching pattern has a distinct tiered habit, often catching snow in the winter. Clusters of white flowers appear in spring; dark green foliage turns a beautiful burgundy red in fall, and blue-black berries attract many birds. |
| <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> | Sweet Bay | Yes | 10- 20' H X W. Oval to pyramidal | Best grown where sheltered from winter winds. Shiny dark green leaves, Small fragrant white flowers; scarlet seed fruit attract birds and nesting. |
| Small to Medium Trees | | | | |
| <i>Acer pensylvanicum</i> | Striped Bark Maple; Moosewood | | 15-25' | Shade tolerant, understory tree. Pale yellow fall foliage; greenish barked streaked with vertical lines of white. |
| <i>Betula populifolia</i> | Gray Birch | Moderate | 20 – 30' Slender, single or multi-stem. Fast growing. | Shade intolerant. Fast growing and short-lived. When mature, grey birches have white bark (non-peeling). Larval host for Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly, seeds for birds. Great in masses at the edge of woodlands. |
| <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> | American Hornbeam; Musclewood; Ironwood | | 40' | Part sun to part shade. Sinewy, fluted trunks and stem. Yellow fall color and pendant, winged seeds. Good for woodland gardens. |
| <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> | Hop-hornbeam | | 20-30' | Small, understory tree grows best in rich, moist woodland conditions, but can withstand drought and heavy clay soils. Songbirds eat their nutlets. Fruits resemble a cluster of hops. |

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| <i>Small to Medium Trees (cont.)</i> | | | | |
| <i>Quercus ilicifolia</i> | Scrub Oak | | 15-20' | Known for gnarled form and thick leathery leaves. It is drought tolerant and thrives in full sun. Primary host for many of the rare and threatened butterfly and moth species in southern New England. Red fall foliage. |
| <i>Sassafras albidum</i> | Sassafras | | 20-50' | Thicket forming. Small to medium sized tree with tan bark that fades to vivid green as the scalloped twigs branch out. It will spread through rhizomes and root sprout. Fall foliage ranges from vermillion red to fiery orange and clear yellows. |
| <i>Sorbus americana</i> | Mountain Ash | | 25' | Prefers moist acidic soil and does not tolerate hot and humid conditions. It has compound leaves and white flowers that resemble elderberry. |
| <i>Native Conifers/Evergreens</i> | | | | |
| <i>Ilex opaca</i> | American Holly | | 40-60' H | Slow growing, stately, and bedecked with prickly green evergreen foliage and red fruit. Grows best in moist, acidic, well-drained soil. Prefers full sun, but will tolerate some shade. |
| <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> | Eastern Red Cedar | Yes | 30-35' H x 8-25'W | Full to part sun. The best drought resistance of any conifer native to the eastern U.S. Berries are an important food source for many birds and large and small mammals. Provide protective cover for nesting, roosting, and winter shelter. Excellent as a specimen planting and useful in masses for windbreaks and screening. https://www.mass.gov/info-details/coastal-landscaping-in-massachusetts-trees#eastern-red-cedar- |
| <i>Larix laricina</i> | American Larch | | 50-75', Upright | Only conifer in NE to drop its needles in the fall. Graceful tree prefers consistently moist, acidic soil. Superb choice for edges of wetlands or back of a wet meadow. |

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| <i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i> | Atlantic White Cedar | Moderate | 30-50' H x 30-40' | Short, horizontal branches and blue-green, scale-like leaves that spread out in a fan-like appearance. At maturity, the branches are only present in the upper portion of the tree. Not tolerant of shade, needs to be protected from high winds. https://www.mass.gov/info-details/coastal-landscaping-in-massachusetts-trees#atlantic-white-cedar- |
| <i>Picea glauca</i> | White Spruce | | 60-80+’ H | Cold tolerant, cone-shaped conifer that may struggle in hotter regions of the NE. Needles are dense and provide shelter for songbirds and small mammals |
| <i>Pinus strobus</i> | Eastern White Pine | Somewhat | 50 - 80' H x 20-40' W pyramidal in its early years, it matures to a broad oval habit with an irregular crown | Rapid-growing and long-lived. Bluish green needles are soft to the touch and appear in bundles of five. An excellent specimen tree for lawns or parks. May be planted as a hedge and sheared regularly to control growth. https://extension.umaine.edu/signs-of-the-seasons/indicator-species/pine-fact-sheet/ |
| <i>Pinus rigida</i> | Pitch Pine | Yes | 40-70' H x 15-25' Irregular globular form | Grows in dry, rocky, or sandy soils. Often used for reforestation or stabilization where few other trees will grow. Twisting, gnarled, drooping branches; and scaly, reddish-brown bark which eventually becomes black. Yellow-green needles, in clusters of three, eventually turn dark-green. https://www.mass.gov/info-details/coastal-landscaping-in-massachusetts-trees#pitch-pine- |
| <i>Pinus virginiana</i> | Virginia Pine | | 40’ H | Smaller than White Pine, performs best in dry acidic soils. Drought tolerant and thrives in poor soils. Seeds are eaten by a wide variety of songbirds. |