



# Native Trees & Shrubs of Iowa

## Iowa's Native Trees & Shrubs

### What is a Native Tree or Shrub?

Technically, a tree or shrub is considered native if it is “inherent and original to a geographic area.” According to the Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee, a native plant is one “that occurs naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem and habitat without direct or indirect human action.”

Not all native definitions take into consideration the practical aspects of trying to determine the native seed source of a tree, or finding a native tree species at your local nursery and garden center. When is the last time you saw a hickory tree at your local nursery? In fact, much of the landscape material that is available today, is often grown in other parts of the country and shipped into Iowa every Spring. So how can you landscape with trees and shrubs native to Iowa?

A practical definition of a native tree or shrub species makes native landscaping feasible. So for this discussion today, we are focusing on the tree species being native and using the definition that a “native” tree or shrub species is one that occurs naturally in the state of Iowa.

### Why Plant Natives?

**Using available and underutilized native tree and shrub species** in your landscaping offer several benefits:

- ☼ Native trees/shrubs are better adapted to Iowa's extremes in weather and planting sites,
- ☼ Native trees/shrubs provide superior native wildlife habitat,
- ☼ Native trees/shrubs have the ability to be in balance with natural insect and disease issues,
- ☼ Native trees/shrubs are less invasive and offer better management opportunities,
- ☼ Native trees/shrubs are Iowa's link to our Heritage.

### Common Name

### (Scientific Name)

Balsam Fir*	( <i>Abies balsamea</i> )
Red Mulberry	( <i>Morus rubra</i> )
Boxelder	( <i>Acer negundo</i> )
Ironwood*	( <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> )
Black Maple*	( <i>Acer nigrum</i> )
White Pine*	( <i>Pinus strobus</i> )
Red Maple*	( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )
Sycamore*	( <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> )
Silver Maple*	( <i>Acer saccharinum</i> )
Balsam Poplar	( <i>Populus balsamifera</i> )
Sugar Maple*	( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )
Cottonwood*	( <i>Populus deltoides</i> )
Mountain Maple	( <i>Acer spicatum</i> )
Bigtooth Aspen	( <i>Populus grandidentata</i> )
Ohio Buckeye*	( <i>Aesculus glabra</i> )
Quaking Aspen*	( <i>Populus tremuloides</i> )
Speckled Alder	( <i>Alnus rugosa</i> )
Wild Plum*	( <i>Prunus americana</i> )
Hazel Alder	( <i>Alnus serrulata</i> )
Hortulan Plum	( <i>Prunus hortulana</i> )
Saskatoon Serviceberry	( <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> )
Mexican Plum	( <i>Prunus mexicana</i> )
Downy Serviceberry	( <i>Amelanchier arborea</i> )
Canada Plum	( <i>Prunus nigra</i> )
Inland Serviceberry	( <i>Amelanchier interior</i> )
Pin Cherry	( <i>Prunus pensylvanica</i> )
Roundleaf Serviceberry	( <i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i> )
Black Cherry*	( <i>Prunus serotina</i> )
Common Pawpaw	( <i>Asimina triloba</i> )
Chokecherry*	( <i>Prunus virginiana</i> )
Yellow Birch*	( <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> )
Hoptree	( <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> )
River Birch*	( <i>Betula nigra</i> )
Prairie Crabapple	( <i>Pyrus ioensis</i> )
Paper Birch*	( <i>Betula papyrifera</i> )
White Oak*	( <i>Quercus alba</i> )
Hornbeam*	( <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> )
Swamp White Oak*	( <i>Quercus bicolor</i> )
Bitternut Hickory	( <i>Carya cordiformis</i> )
Red Oak*	( <i>Quercus borealis</i> )
Pignut Hickory	( <i>Carya glabra</i> )
Northern Pin Oak*	( <i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i> )
Pecan*	( <i>Carya illinoensis</i> )
Shingle Oak*	( <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> )
Shellbark Hickory	( <i>Carya laciniosa</i> )
Bur Oak*	( <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> )
Shagbark Hickory	( <i>Carya ovata</i> )
Blackjack Oak	( <i>Quercus marilandica</i> )
Mockernut Hickory	( <i>Carya tomentosa</i> )
Chinkapin Oak*	( <i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i> )
Hackberry*	( <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> )
Pin Oak*	( <i>Quercus palustris</i> )
Eastern Redbud*	( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> )
Dwarf Chinkapin Oak	( <i>Quercus prinoides</i> )
Pagoda Dogwood*	( <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> )
Post Oak	( <i>Quercus stellata</i> )
Rough-Leaf Dogwood	( <i>Cornus drummondii</i> )
Black Oak*	( <i>Quercus velutina</i> )
Silky Dogwood*	( <i>Cornus obliqua</i> )
Smooth Sumac*	( <i>Rhus glabra</i> )
Gray Dogwood*	( <i>Cornus racemosa</i> )
Staghorn Sumac*	( <i>Rhus typhina</i> )
Roundleaf Dogwood	( <i>Cornus rugosa</i> )
Elderberry *	( <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> )

\* Commercially available