



TREE/SHRUB SELECTION GUIDE

A good root system must be developed before trees & shrubs reach their indicated growth rates. Most trees & shrubs grow slowly for 1-3 years after planting or transplanting and more rapidly after their root system becomes developed. Generally, trees & shrubs with Rapid to Moderate growth rates reach 5-6 feet tall in 7-9 years. Those with Moderate to Slow growth rates reach 5-6 feet tall in 9-11 years. Soils, weather, animal or other damage, weed and grass competition, and general care will also affect growth rates.

Tree/Shrub Information Chart	Growth Rate			Soils			Soil Moisture				Shade Tolerance			Mature Height In Feet	Common Uses & Characteristics								Origin I = Introduced, N = Native	Deer Damage Potential L = Low, M = Medium, H = High	Notes									
	Rapid 10-15" yr.	Moderate 6-12" yr.	Slow 0-8" yr.	Sand	Loam	Clay	Dry-Moist	Moist	Moist-Wet	Wet	Full sunlight	Partial Shade	Full Shade		Christmas Trees	Erosion Control	Flowering or Fall Color	Lumber/Veneer	Naturalizing	Reforestation	Shade	Wildlife				Windbreaks								
																																		
Species																																		
White Cedar			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X						X				X	X			N	H							Also called Arborvitae.	
White Pine	X			X	X		X	X		X	X				X	X			X		X	X			N	H							Needles soft to touch.	
Larch/Tamarack	X	X			X	X		X	X		X	X				X		X			X				N	L							Loses needles in winter, NRCS approved	
Norway Spruce	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X									X	X			I	L								
Balsam Fir			X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X						X		X	X			N	H							Christmas trees, NRCS approved	
White Spruce		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X									X	X			N	L							NRCS approved	
Yellow Birch		X	X	X	X			X	X		X										X				N	H							Can be tapped edible syrup, NRCS approved	
Flowering Dogwood		X			X	X		X	X		X	X				X		X			X				N	M								
Serviceberry		X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X				X					X				N	H							Purple Berries	
Sugar Maple		X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X				X	X		X	X					N	H							Sap used for syrup	
Black Gum		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X									X	X			N	L							Bee food source	
Black Oak		X		X	X	X	X	X			X										X	X			N	L								
Swamp White Oak		X		X					X	X	X							X			X	X			N	L							NRCS approved	
Hybrid Poplar	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X										X	X			I	L							Firewood, short-lived	
Elderberry		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X	X				X				N	M							Yellow-white flowers	
Hazelnut	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X					X				X				N	M							Small tree, nuts, NRCS approved	
Lilac		X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X					X				I	M							Lavender blooms	
Winterberry		X		X	X		X				X	X									X	X			I	M							NRCS approved	
Ninebark		X		X	X		X	X			X	X				X					X				N	L							Good for pollinators, NRCS approved	
American Chestnut	X			X	X	X	X				X	X					X			X	X			N	L								Edible nuts	
Chinese Chestnut		X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X					X				X	X			I	L							Good pollinator	
Persimmon			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X									X				I	M							Fruit edible after frost	
Plum, American		X		X	X		X	X			X	X									X	X			N	M							NRCS approved	
Paw Paw, Common	X			X	X				X	X		X	X					X			L				N	L							Edible fruit, pollinator, NRCS approved	
Apple, Gala		X		X	X	X	X	X			X															H							Ripens mid-Sept.	
Apple, Granny Smith		X		X	X	X	X	X			X															H							Ripens late Oct.-Nov.	
Apple, Honeycrisp		X		X	X	X	X	X			X															H							Ripens mid-Sept.	
Cherry, Stella		X		X	X		X	X			X															H							Ripens in June	
Peach, Red Haven	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X															H							Ripens in June-July.	
Pear, Bartlett		X		X	X	X	X	X			X															H							Ripens late Aug-early Sept.	
Blackberries, Chester	X			X	X	X	X	X			X															L							Ripens early-mid Aug.	
Raspberries, Prelude	X			X	X	X	X	X			X															L							Ripens mid-June	