

2025 Marshall SWCD Tree Guide

Tree/Shrub Species	Growth Rate	Mature Height	Soil pH	Tolerance	Comments
Elderberry	Medium-Fast	5-10'	5.0-7.5	w-sh-s	Elderberry grows in well-drained, acid or alkaline soils with full sun to part shade. It forms colonies through root suckers.
Redosier Dogwood	Fast	7-10'	5.0-7.5	W-d-SH-S	Coarse, spreading shrub with red branches. Great snow fence for wet areas. Flowers, berries, browse and cover for wildlife.
Nannyberry	Medium	10-15'	5.0-7.5	d-sh	Adapted to a variety of soils. Full sun to partial shade. Food for wildlife, good cover.
Lilac	Medium-Fast	6-10'	5.5-8.0	D-S	Medium-large, suckering shrub with attractive, fragrant flowers. Great snow fence for dry sites. Dense wildlife cover.
Cranberrybush	Medium-Fast	10-14'	5.0-7.5	W-d-sh	Large, upright shrub. Add to multi-row windbreaks for wildlife value. White flowers in spring and red berries in fall.
Black Chokeberry	Slow-Medium	3-8'	6.0-8.0	W-d-sh-S	Compact, suckering shrub for wet sites. Dense growth creates good snow fences and wildlife cover. Berries for jellies and birds.
Flame Willow	Fast	15-20'	4.5-8.0	W-d-s	Huge, attractive shrub glows orange in winter sun. Windbreak workhorse for wet sites. Early season pollen source for bees.
Apricot	Fast	10-15'	6.0-7.5	d-sh	Small, suckering tree flushes showy, pink/white flowers before leaves in spring. 1.5" fruit is good for drying and preserves.
Common Chokecherry	Medium-Fast	10-20'	5.0-8.0	w-D-S-SH	Suckering tree with fragrant flowers and black berries. Excellent wildlife habitat. Tasty fruit for jelly and wine. Very adaptable.
American Plum	Medium	10-20'	5.5-7.5	d-sh	Native tall shrub to small tree which is thorny, winter-hardy, and thicket- forming. Edible fruit used to make preserves and jellies.
Red Splendor Crabapple	Medium	10-20'	5.0-7.0	w-d-s	Prefers well-drained, moist soils. Moderately drought tolerant. Persistent fruit for nesting/migrating/overwintering birds.
Green Ash	Medium	30-40'	6.0-8.0	d-sh	Hardy, native, fast growing medium tree. Prefers full sun. Moderate to high drought tolerance.
Mountain Ash	Medium	25'-35'	4.5-7.5	d	Requires additional water during droughts. Does not withstand ponding or water-logged soils. Prefers Full Sun.
Paper Birch	Medium	30-40'	5.0-7.5	d	Does best on well-drained, moist sites. Does not tolerate drought. Prefers Full Sun.
Basswood (Am. Linden)	Medium-Fast	50-60'	5.5-7.5	w-SH	Large, fast-growing shade/windbreak tree. Huge nectar source for bees. Shade-tolerant replacement tree for aging windbreaks.
Siouxland/Hybrid Cottonwood (Poplar)	Fast	70-80'	4.5-8.0	W-d-s	Seedless selection from NDSU has narrower crown than native cottonwood - better function for windbreaks.
Hackberry	Medium	30-50'	6.0-8.0	W-D-S	Can grow in a variety of soils. Tasty, nutritious fruit is loved by wildlife.
Bur Oak	Slow-Medium	50-80'	5.5-8.0	D-sh-s	Extremely durable tree. Provides wildlife habitat and nutritious mast for deer and turkeys. An investment for your land.
Hybrid Willow	Fast	40-60"	5.5-7.5	w	Full sun required. Prefers moist sites, will not tolerate drought. Clay to sandy loam soils preferred.
White Pine	Medium	50-70'		w-d	Prefers to be grown in acidic, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun.
Scotch Pine	Medium	20-40'	5.0-7.5		Does not tolerate flooding. Not very drought resistant, but requires a well-drained site. Prefers Full Sun.
Colorado Blue Spruce	Medium	30-50'	6.0-7.5	d	Performs best on moist, well-drained loams. Does not tolerate flooding. Full Sun, does not tolerate shade.
Black Hills Spruce	Medium-Fast	30-40'	4.0-7.5	d-s	Reliable evergreen for the Valley. Dense growth provides excellent winter wildlife habitat. Less needle cast than blue spruce.
White Spruce	Medium	40-50'		sh-s	Prefers moist, well-drained soil in full sun. It will tolerate some alkaline and clay soil. Tolerates some light shade.

STORING YOUR TREES UNTIL PLANTING

For bare root trees: Store in a cool, shady area and check roots daily for moisture. Plant as soon as possible. If you're unable to plant right away, pack moist (not dripping) newspaper or leaves around the roots and keep them wrapped in a plastic bag. Do not just stick in a bucket of water. Thoroughly water roots before planting. **The biggest risk to bare root trees is the roots drying out.**

For container trees: Check soil moisture. Lift the pot to feel its weight and poke a finger into the soil ~1" down. If the pot is light or the soil feels dry, soak it completely so that water thoroughly saturates the root ball and the pot feels heavy (try to keep foliage dry). **Water pots thoroughly a day or two before planting.**

Tolerance Key:

W/w - Tolerates flooding / wetter sites
D/d - Tolerates drought / drier sites
SH/sh - Tolerates shade / partial shade
S/s - Tolerates salty soil

Log onto www.marshallswcd.org for information on each variety