

Erie County, NY

SELECTING TREE SPECIES



Introduction

The trees included in this booklet are native in the Erie County region. Planting native trees has numerous benefits over planting non-natives, such as having a better chance at survival, requiring less water, reduce run-off and erosion, providing food and shelter for local wildlife, and promoting biodiversity.

The trees found in this booklet are all trees available from Erie County's tree nursery in Sardinia, NY. The seeds and saplings in this nursery are sourced from Erie County Parks where the trees would not have survived, such as in a pathway trail or where too many trees started growing in one patch. These trees are not planted for the intention of becoming street trees.




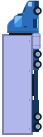






Please note that the lifespan provided is based on if the tree is planted in its best environment. Urban areas may shorten the lifespan of the tree.




Funding for this project provided by the Inflation Reduction Act and the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program. Erie County is an equal opportunity provider.






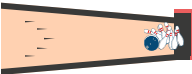


Legend

Height


20 ft:			2-story house	80 ft:			length of a semi-truck
40 ft:			highway light	100 ft:			10 story hotel
60 ft:			electrical pole				

Lifespan One clock = 100 years 

Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

10 – 30 ft:			width of a two-car garage
30 – 50 ft:			school bus
50 – 70 ft:			bowling lane
70+ ft:			length of a tennis court

Sunlight Needs

Full Sun 


Partial Sun 


Shade 

Moisture Needs


Dry 


Moderate 


Moist 


Wet 

Growth Rate

Slow 

Moderate 

Fast 

Very Fast 



American Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

Height

60 – 80 ft



Lifespan

100 – 200 yrs





Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

30 – 60 ft



Sunlight Needs

Full/Partial Sun  / 

Moisture Needs

Moist Soil



Growth Rate

Moderate >>>

Soil Preference

Loamy, fertile, well-drained

Tolerances

Alkaline soil, clay soil, dry soil, occasional wet to occasional drought, shade

Habitat Preference

Dry upland areas, moist and low woods

Aesthetic Value

Fragrant, pale yellow, late spring flowers, heart-shaped leaves

Did You Know?

American basswood is commonly used for solid body electric guitars.



American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

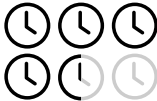
Height

75 – 100 ft



Lifespan

500 – 600 yrs



Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

75 – 100 ft



Sunlight Needs

Full Sun



Moisture Needs

Moist to Wet Soil



Growth Rate

Fast >>>>

Soil Preference

Sandy loams, silty clays

Tolerances

Occasional flooding

Habitat Preference

Low, moist woods;
floodplains; rich
bottomlands

Aesthetic Value

Great shade tree,
interesting bark

Did You Know?

The oldest Sycamore in Buffalo is 308 years old and lives on Franklin Street.



Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Height

60 – 80 ft

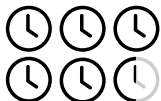


Soil Preference

High organic matter, loamy, well-drained

Lifespan

500 – 600 yrs



Tolerances

Cold and heat, drought

Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

30 – 60 ft



Habitat Preference

Successional vegetation or in forest openings, old fields, and along fencerows. Grows commonly near lowlands

Sunlight Needs

Full Sun



Moisture Needs

Moist Soil



Aesthetic Value

Bark becomes brown to black with a scaly, flaky texture. Has white spring blooms and vibrant autumn colors

Growth Rate

Very Fast >>>>

Did You Know?

As the tree matures, the bark resembles burnt potato chips.



Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

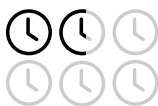
Height

50 – 75 ft



Lifespan

130 – 200 yrs



Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

50 – 70 ft



Sunlight Needs

Full Sun



Moisture Needs

Moist Soil



Growth Rate

Fast >>>>

Soil Preference

Loamy, sandy, highly acidic to slightly alkaline soil, well-drained

Tolerances

Cold, heat, drought, soil compaction

Habitat Preference

Open spaces, woodland edges, forests, pioneer species

Aesthetic Value

Leaves turn a bright yellow in autumn. Impressive stature

Did You Know?

Black walnut trees release chemicals from their roots that may inhibit the growth of other plants.



Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

Height

15 – 25 ft



Soil Preference

Acidic soil, clay, loamy, sandy, well-drained

Lifespan

20 – 50 yrs



Tolerances

Alkaline soil, dry sites, wet sites, occasional drought

Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

15 – 25 ft



Habitat Preference

Open, rocky woods and bluffs, usually on well-drained slopes

Sunlight Needs

Full/Partial Sun



Aesthetic Value

Pretty white springtime flowers; attractive summer foliage; handsome bark and branching habit; gold, orange, green, and red autumn colors

Moisture Needs

Moist to Wet Soil



Growth Rate

Moderate



Did You Know?

The downy serviceberry is a great native alternative to the invasive Callery (Bradford) pear.



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Height

40 – 60 ft



Lifespan

80 – 100 yrs



Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

30 – 50 ft



Sunlight Needs

Full/Partial Sun



Moisture Needs

Moderate to Wet soil



Growth Rate

Fast >>>>

Soil Preference

Acidic soil, clay, loamy, sandy, silty, rich, well-drained

Tolerances

Very wide range of soils (from clay to sandy loam)

Habitat Preference

Stream borders and low swamplands

Aesthetic Value

Red flowers, fruit, and young twigs are very showy. Brilliant red fall foliage

Did You Know?

The red leaf stem and red leaves (in the fall) give the red maple its name.



Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Height

60 – 75 ft



Lifespan

200 – 300 yrs



Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

50 – 75 ft



Sunlight Needs

Full Sun



Moisture Needs

Moist Soil



Growth Rate

Fast >>>>

Soil Preference

Acidic soil, clay, loamy, sandy, drought, well-drained

Tolerances

Alkaline soil, drought, dry soil, air pollution, compacted soil

Habitat Preference

Rich, mesic woods, especially on locally cool and sheltered sites. Also found in well-drained portions of floodplains

Aesthetic Value

Brilliant fall color, leaves turn russet-red to bright red

Did You Know?

Red oak is considered a species of both high abundance and high importance in the Great Lakes Region.



Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

Height

60 – 80 ft



Lifespan

200 – 300 yrs




Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

40 – 50 ft



Sunlight Needs

Full Sun 

Moisture Needs

Moderate Soil



Growth Rate

Moderate >>>>

Soil Preference

Acidic soil, drought, well-drained

Tolerances

Alkaline soil, clay soil, Note: intolerant to road salt

Habitat Preference

Cool forests and ravines

Aesthetic Value

Beautiful fall foliage

Did You Know?

The sugar maple is the state tree for New York State.



Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

Height

50 – 60 ft



Lifespan

300 – 350 yrs



Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

50 – 60 ft



Sunlight Needs

Full Sun to Shade



Moisture Needs

Moist to Wet Soil



Growth Rate

Moderate >>>

Soil Preference

Acidic soil, well-drained

Tolerances

Alkaline soil, clay soil, dry sites, occasional drought, occasional flooding, road salt

Habitat Preference

Low-lying and swampy areas, often moist bottomlands or river banks

Aesthetic Value

Excellent shade tree, dark green leaves that turn golden orange in the fall

Did You Know?

Bicolor in the scientific name refers to the contrast in color between the top and undersides of the leaves.



Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Height

80 – 120 ft



Lifespan

30 – 50 yrs



Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

35 – 50 ft



Sunlight Needs

Full/Partial Sun



Moisture Needs

Moderate Soil



Growth Rate

Fast >>>>

Soil Preference

Acidic, well-drained

Tolerances

Alkaline soil

Habitat Preference

Forest clearings, early successional species

Aesthetic Value

Beautiful showy orange-yellow-green flowers and big shade leaves

Did You Know?

The tulip poplar is not a poplar at all. It is actually a tree in the Magnolia family.



White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

Height

50 – 80 ft



Lifespan

200 – 450 yrs



Tree Canopy Width at Maturity

20 – 40 ft



Sunlight Needs

Full/Partial Sun



Moisture Needs

Moderate Soil



Growth Rate

Moderate to fast



Soil Preference

Rich, acidic, loamy, sandy, well-drained

Tolerances

Heat, wind, cold, dry soil (but not drought), wide range of soil conditions

Habitat Preference

High, dry, sandy and rocky ridges








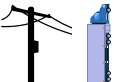



Aesthetic Value

Rich green evergreen foliage. Furrowed gray bark adds interesting dimension to the landscape when tree matures

Did You Know?

The Native American Haudenosaunee people called this tree the "Tree of Peace."








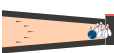

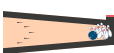
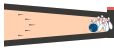
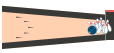
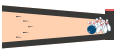
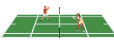
Height Guide

Downy Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>) pg 5	15 – 25 ft	
Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>) pg 6	40 – 60 ft	
Swamp White Oak (<i>Quercus bicolor</i>) pg 9	50 – 60 ft	
Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>) pg 4	50 – 75 ft	
White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>) pg 11	50 – 80 ft	
Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>) pg 7	60 – 75 ft	
American Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>) pg 1	60 – 80 ft	
Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>) pg 3	60 – 80 ft	
Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>) pg 8	60 – 80 ft	
American Sycamore (<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>) pg 2	75 – 100 ft	
Tulip Tree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>) pg 10	80 – 120 ft	

Lifespan Guide

Downy Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>) pg 5	100 to 200 yrs	
Tulip Tree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>) pg 10	30 to 50 yrs	
Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>) pg 6	50 to 100 yrs	
American Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>) pg 1	100 to 200 yrs	
Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>) pg 4	130 to 200 yrs	
Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>) pg 7	100 to 200 yrs	
Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>) pg 8	200 to 300 yrs	
White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>) pg 11	200 to 450 yrs	
Swamp White Oak (<i>Quercus bicolor</i>) pg 9	300 to 350 yrs	
American Sycamore (<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>) pg 2	500 to 600 yrs	
Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>) pg 3	500 to 600 yrs	

Tree Canopy Width at Maturity Guide

Downy Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>) pg 5	15 to 25 ft	
White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>) pg 11	20 to 40 ft	 
Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>) pg 6	30 to 50 ft	
Tulip Tree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>) pg 10	35 to 50 ft	
Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>) pg 8	40 to 50 ft	
American Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>) pg 1	30 to 60 ft	 
Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>) pg 3	30 to 60 ft	 
Swamp White Oak (<i>Quercus bicolor</i>) pg 9	50 to 60 ft	
Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>) pg 4	50 to 70 ft	
Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>) pg 7	50 to 75 ft	
American Sycamore (<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>) pg 2	75 to 100 ft	

Sunlight Needs Guide

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

pg 8

Full Sun
to Shade



Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

pg 9

Full Sun
to Shade



American Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

pg 1

Full/Partial
Sun



Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

pg 5

Full/Partial
Sun



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

pg 6

Full/Partial
Sun



Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

pg 10

Full/Partial
Sun



White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

pg 11

Full/Partial
Sun



American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

pg 2

Full Sun



Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

pg 3

Full Sun



Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

pg 4

Full Sun



Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

pg 7

Full Sun



Moisture Needs Guide

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

pg 8

Moderate
Soil



Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

pg 10

Moderate
Soil



White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

pg 11

Moderate
Soil



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

pg 6

Moderate
to Wet Soil



American Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

pg 1

Moist Soil



Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

pg 3

Moist Soil



Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

pg 4

Moist Soil



Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

pg 7

Moist Soil



American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

pg 2

Moist to
Wet Soil



Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

pg 5

Moist to
Wet Soil



Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

pg 9

Moist to
Wet Soil



Growth Rate Guide

American Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>) pg 1	Moderate	▶▶▶▶
Downy Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>) pg 5	Moderate	▶▶▶▶
Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>) pg 8	Moderate	▶▶▶▶
Swamp White Oak (<i>Quercus bicolor</i>) pg 9	Moderate	▶▶▶▶
White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>) pg 11	Moderate to Fast	▶▶▶▶
American Sycamore (<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>) pg 2	Fast	▶▶▶▶
Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>) pg 4	Fast	▶▶▶▶
Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>) pg 6	Fast	▶▶▶▶
Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>) pg 7	Fast	▶▶▶▶
Tulip Tree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>) pg 10	Fast	▶▶▶▶
Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>) pg 3	Very Fast	▶▶▶▶

Glossary

Acidic Soil: Soil with a pH less than 5 (black coffee has a pH of 5).

Alkaline Soil: Soil with a pH greater than 7 (baking soda has a pH of 8).

Clay: Soil that has fine-grained particles and is heavy. Can hold more total water than most other soil types and drains poorly.



Loam: Soil that is composed of sand (40%), silt (40%), and clay (20%). Retains water yet drains well.



Silt: Soil that has particles that are larger than clay but smaller than sand and is light. Retains moisture well, but is easily compacted.



Organic Matter: Matter composed of compounds that have come from the feces and remains of living things. Compost is an example of organic matter.

Resources

Find Resources on Our Website!

If you would like to learn more about topics such as, tree roots, tree maintenance, and soil testing, you can go to our website at tinyurl.com/treeresources or use this QR code.





**"Time spent amongst trees
is never wasted time."**

- Katrina Mayer

Trees help wildlife, provide shade, and clean the air!



Trees:

-  Clean the air
-  Reduce flooding
-  Provide homes for wildlife
-  Provide shade
-  Reduce home cooling costs
-  Improve quality of life
-  Increase property values
-  Reduce noise
-  Are beautiful

