

Iowa's Native Trees and Shrubs

What is a Native Tree or Shrub?

A **native** tree or shrub species occurs naturally in Iowa. Most landscape plants are grown in other parts of the country and shipped to Iowa every spring.

Why Plant Natives?

Native trees/shrubs...

- ★ are better adapted to Iowa's extremes in weather and planting sites.
- ★ provide superior habitat for native wildlife.
- ★ evolved with local insect and disease pests, so can resist them better.
- ★ usually are less invasive.
- ★ are a link to Iowa's Heritage.

Look for trees and shrubs native to Iowa the next time you purchase landscape plants.

Iowa's Native Trees & Shrubs

Common Name	Scientific Name	General locations in Iowa
alder, hazel	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	east
alder, speckled	<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	east
ash, green*	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	statewide
aspen, bigtooth	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	north
aspen, quaking*	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	east
birch, paper*	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	northeast
birch, river*	<i>Betula nigra</i>	statewide
birch, yellow*	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	northeast
boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	statewide
buckeye, Ohio *	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	east & central
cedar, eastern red	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	statewide
cherry, black*	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	statewide
cherry, pin	<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>	statewide
chokecherry*	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	statewide
crabapple, prairie	<i>Alus spp.</i>	statewide
cottonwood*	<i>Populus deltoids</i>	statewide
dogwood, gray *	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	statewide
dogwood, pagoda *	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	statewide
dogwood, rough-leaf	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	statewide
dogwood, roundleaf	<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	statewide
dogwood, silky*	<i>Cornus obliqua</i>	statewide
elderberry *	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	statewide
fir, balsam *	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	northeast
ironwood/hophornbeam*	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	statewide
hackberry*	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	statewide
hickory, bitternut	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	statewide

Common Name	Scientific Name	General locations in Iowa
hickory, mockernut	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	southeast
hickory, pignut	<i>Carya glabra</i>	statewide
hickory, shagbark	<i>Carya ovata</i>	statewide
hickory, shellbark	<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	statewide
hoptree	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	statewide
hornbeam*	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	statewide
linden (basswood)	<i>Tilia americana</i>	statewide
locust, honey	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	statewide
maple, black*	<i>Acer nigrum</i>	statewide
maple, mountain	<i>Acer spicatum</i>	northeast
maple, red*	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	northeast
maple, silver*	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	statewide
maple, sugar*	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	statewide
mulberry, red	<i>Morus rubra</i>	statewide
pecan*	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	southeast
pine, white*	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	northeast
plum, Canada	<i>Prunus nigra</i>	statewide
plum, hortulan	<i>Prunus hortulana</i>	statewide
plum, Mexican	<i>Prunus mexicana</i>	statewide
plum, wild*	<i>Prunus americana</i>	statewide
poplar, balsam	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	statewide
oak, black*	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	statewide
oak, blackjack	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	southeast
oak, bur*	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	statewide
oak, chinkapin*	<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>	east
oak, dwarf chinkapin	<i>Quercus prinoides</i>	southeast
oak, northern pin *	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	north
oak, pin *	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	statewide
oak, post	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	southeast
oak, red*	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	statewide
oak, shingle*	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	south
oak, swamp white*	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	east
oak, white*	<i>Quercus alba</i>	statewide
pawpaw, common	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	south
redbud, eastern *	<i>Cercis Canadensis</i>	south
serviceberry, downy	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	statewide
serviceberry, inland	<i>Amelanchier interior</i>	statewide
serviceberry, roundleaf	<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	statewide
serviceberry, saskatoon	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	statewide
sumac, smooth*	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	statewide
sumac, staghorn*	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	statewide
sycamore*	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	south
walnut, black	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	statewide

* available commercially