

10 Native Trees for Small Yards

- 1. *Acer pensylvanica* (striped maple)** 15' to 30' tall; prefers partial shade and will tolerate deep shade. The common name refers to the white lengthwise stripes along its trunk. Showy yellow flowers appear in early spring and develop into winged samaras. The goosefoot shaped leaves turn a bright yellow in fall. For more information visit <https://wildadironacks.org/trees-of-the-adironacks-striped-maple-acer-pensylvanicum.html>
- 2. *Amelanchier* ssp. (serviceberry)** available as a multi-stem shrub form or single-trunk tree form. The species has a light, airy quality. White flowers in spring are followed by edible fruits in summer and colorful foliage in fall. Plant in full sun or partial shade. Depending on species, *Amelanchier* will grow between 10' and 25' tall and wide. For more information visit <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/serviceberry-amelanchier-spp/>
- 3. *Betulus populifolia* (gray birch)** habit is narrow and columnar either single or multi-trunk. Like all birches, it is fast growing (30-50' tall) and short-lived (<50 yrs). A woodland species, it is adaptable to a range of garden conditions including shade and drought. Gray birch is a larval host of more than 100 butterflies and moths. For more information visit <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/betula/populifolia/>
- 4. *Carpinus carolinianum* (American hornbeam)** 20-35' high and wide prefers deep, rich, moist soils and partial shade. Fall color can range from yellow to orange and red. Commonly called musclewood due to the smooth muscled appearance the trunk and branches of mature trees. For more information visit <https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/plants/musclewood.html>
- 5. *Cercis canadensis* (Eastern redbud)** 25-30' high and 25-35' wide. Plant in full sun or part shade. In spring, showy, deep-pink flowers emerge from the stems and branches before the tree leaves out. There are many cultivars available including some with dark leaves, with a weeping habit, or with white flowers. Flowers develop into short, pendulous brown seed pods. Redbuds attract birds, pollinators, butterflies and moths. For more information visit <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/cercis-canadensis>
- 6. *Chionanthus virginicus* (American fringetree; old man's beard)** 12-20' tall and wide; multi-stemmed rounded open habit; can be trained into a single trunk tree. Fragrant white fluffy blossoms appear in the late spring. In late summer, female trees will bear clusters of blue fruit. Leaves turn yellow in fall. For more information visit <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/fringetree-slow-to-bloom-but-worth-the-wait/>
- 7. *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood)** 15-30' high and wide; spring flowers are small and green, surrounded by wide-spreading bracts. The flowers develop into red fruits that are eaten by birds and mammals. Fall foliage is dark red. Prefers eastern exposure or dappled shade. 'Cherokee Brave' and 'Appalachian Spring' are two cultivars with good disease resistance. For more information visit https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=cofl2
- 8. *Ilex opaca* (American holly)** 15-30' tall and 10-20' wide; full sun to part shade. American holly is best known for its bright red fruit on female plants and spiny, evergreen leaves. Needs acidic, well-drained soil and protection from harsh winter winds. For more information visit <https://plantdatabase.uconn.edu/detail.php?pid=219>
- 9. *Magnolia virginiana* (sweetbay magnolia)** typically 15-25' tall with a spreading open habit 10-20' wide. Tolerates wet, swampy conditions in full or part sun. Requires acidic soil. The leaves are slow to emerge in spring and are late to drop in autumn. Fragrant cream-colored flowers blossom in late spring and then sporadically in summer. For more information visit <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/magnolia-virginiana/>
- 10. *Oxydendron arboreum* (sourwood)** 20-30' tall and 10-20' wide; prefers woody-acidic soil in part shade. A slow growing ornamental tree, sourwood has lily-of-the-valley like flowers in summer and fantastic fall color. The flowers are attractive to butterflies and other insects. Sensitive to pollution, soil compaction, and root disturbance. For more information visit <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/oxydendrum-arboreum/>

