Tree Selection

• So many great trees!
• What are you looking for in a tree?
  – Flowering, Fall Color, Shade, Windbreak, Erosion control, etc.
• No Tree is perfect
  – Avoid unrealistic expectations for a tree
• Start with a good tree
  – Local source
  – Avoid trees from Southern US
• Make sure it is adapted for your hardiness zone

Use Native and Well-Adapted Trees

• More prepared to deal with Nebraska weather
• Have less need for extra watering once established
• Have fewer damaging pests so we can use less pesticides
• Live longer
• Thrive
• Diversity is key

Tree Diversity

• Previous diversity recommendations
  – 10% from one species
  – 20% from one genus
  – 30% from one family
• Dr. John Ball, SDSU suggests only 5% from one genus
  – If 10% are white ash and 10% are green ash, still very vulnerable from EAB
• Avoid problems with total annihilation from next invasive pest
• Chestnut blight, Dutch Elm Disease, EAB, Pine Wilt...
  – All more damaging due to monocultures
• When planting a new tree look around your yard and neighborhood for selection to maintain diversity

Tree Diversity

• If plants evolve with the pest, it is easier for the plant to resist the damage
• Many pests are specific to genus or species
  – If a tree genus is found only on one continent or has few species of that genus, it is more likely to have fewer pest problems
  – Examples of such trees include Gingko, Kentucky coffeetree, Yellowwood, Catalpa, Siberian larch, Meyer’s spruce and cork trees
Overplanted Trees
- Bradford Pear
- Autumn Blaze Maple
- Other Red Maple/Silver Maple crosses
- River birch
- Norway Maple
- American Linden (JB Magnet)
- Honeylocust

Underutilized Small Trees (under 20' tall)
- Red Buckeye
- Shantung Maple
- Dwarf Chinkapin oak
- Hornbeam
- Pawpaw

Underutilized Medium Trees (20-40' tall)
- Ohio buckeye
- Amur corktree
- Turkish filbert
- Hophornbeam
- Horsechestnut
- Sweetgum (SE)

Underutilized Large Trees
- Catalpa
- Hackberry
- Sycamore
- Sweetgum
- Tulip Tree
- Sugar Maple
- Shagbark Hickory
- Gingko
- Kentucky coffeetree
- Oaks
  - Bur, chinkapin, English, white, swamp white
Evergreen Trees

- Pines
  - White, Ponderosa, limber, bristlecone (western NE), Jack (sandy), Bristle
- Firs
  - Concolor, Balsam
- Douglas fir
- Spruce
  - Norway, White, Colorado Blue, Black Hills, Siberian, Serbian, Meyer
- Junipers
  - Eastern Red Cedar, Taylor, Chinese
- Larch (deciduous conifer)
- Bald Cypress (deciduous conifer)

Trees to avoid planting

- All Ash species
  - EAB
- Pin Oak
  - Chlorosis
- Scotch and Austrian Pine
  - Resistant
- Austrees
  - Fast growing, easily disease issues, short-lived
- Royal Paulownia (Empress Tree)
  - Considered invasive in Midwest, fast growing, break easily
- Silver Maples
  - Fast growing, break in storms
- Siberian Elm
  - Weedy, fast growing, break in storms

For More Information

- Missouri Botanical Gardens
  - https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/
  - Plant Finder:
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
  - https://arb.umn.edu/
- google hornbeam site:edu
  - Hornbeam, extension
- Hornbeam, Nebraska extension
- Plant Lists
  - Eastern or Western Nebraska
Thank You!!

- Nicole Stoner
- Nebraska Extension Educator
- nstoner2@unl.edu
- 402-223-1384
- Find me on Facebook: “Like” Nicole Stoner Horticulture
- Follow me on Twitter: @Nikki_Stoner
- Follow my blog: plantsandpests.wordpress.com