The following species are recommended for areas in the eastern half of Nebraska and/or typically receive more than 20” of moisture per year.

Size Range: The size range indicated for each plant is the expected average mature height x spread for Nebraska.

### Evergreen Trees - residential landscapes

1. **Douglasfir, Rocky Mnt - Pseudotsuga menziesii var glauca** (soft blue-green needles; distinctive cones; graceful habit; avoid open, windswept sites; this subspecies is recommended for the Great Plains; 50’ x 30’)
2. **Fir, Canaan - Abies balsamea var. phanerolepis** (common Christmas tree; nice specimens in eastern 1/3 of NE; 45’ x 20’)
3. **Fir, Concolor - Abies concolor** (attractive blue-green, long, upswept needles; most reliable fir for Nebraska; 50’ x 25’)
4. **Hemlock, Eastern - Tsuga canadensis** (refined evergreen for protected spots; tolerates up to ½- 2/3 shade; 25’ x 15’)
5. **Pine, Eastern White - Pinus strobus** (tolerates wetter conditions than most pines; nice soft needles)
6. **Pine, Korean - Pinus koraiensis** (edible nut; soft, attractive needles in groups of five; looks promising; growing well in Lincoln, York and Pierce; needs to be planted more to determine wider use. 40’ x 30’)
7. **Pine, Lacebark - Pinus bungeana** (slow growing but graceful; beautiful mottled bark; tends to grow multi-stem habit; more open habit; growing well in Lincoln, Clarkson, Omaha, Scottsbluff to name a few; 45’ x 20’)
8. **Pine, Swiss Stone - Pinus cembra** (to 40’ tall; seldom seen; edible nut; soft foliage; ‘Chalet’ common selection)
9. **Spruce, Black Hills - Picea glauca var. densata** (nice alternative to blue spruce; tolerates tough sites and conditions)
10. **Spruce, Colorado - Picea pungens** (the old standby; many cultivars with wide color and habit range; somewhat overplanted)
11. **Spruce, Norway - Picea abies** (pendulous [weeping] branch tips; tolerates moist sites; largest of the spruce growing to 70’ x 40’)
12. **Spruce, Oriental - Picea orientalis** (graceful habit; attractive pendulous branches similar to P. omorika; slow growing; 45’ x 20’)
13. **Spruce, Serbian - Picea omorika** (upright habit; weeping, graceful branches; attractive dark cones; slower growing; 35’ x 18’)

### Evergreen Trees - hot, windswept sites

14. **Pine, Bosnian - Pinus heldreichii var. leucoderms** (very cold tolerant; short needles, tufted branch tips; dark green; 45’ x 30’)
15. **Pine, Limber - Pinus flexilis** (native; slow growing; soft needles; very flexible branches; plant on well-drained soils; 50’ x 30’)
16. **Pine, Ponderosa - Pinus ponderosa** (native; best on well-drained soils; attractive cinnamon-brown-black bark; 65’ x 30’)
17. **Pine, Red - Pinus resinosa** (Minnesota native; slow growing; reddish bark; several trees at Halsey, Maskenthine, UNL; 40’ x 30’)
18. **Pine, Southwestern White - Pinus reflexa** (graceful five-needle pine; ‘Vanderwolfs’ a common form; 35’ x 20’)

### Large Deciduous Trees - hot, sunny areas, large open areas; urban landscapes (40’+)

19. **Ash, Manchurian - Fraxinus mandshurica** (from Asia; upright growth; drought tolerant; nice yellow fall color; ‘Mancana’ common cultivar; may be resistant to EAB; 40’ x 30’)
20. **Catalpa, Northern - Catalpa speciosa** (native; tough tree; large, heart-shaped leaves, showy flowers and long seed pods; very adaptable; tolerates confined root space. 50’ x 35’)
21. **Coffee tree, Kentucky - Gymnocladus dioicus** (native; amazingly adaptable; beautiful winter form; female trees have showy pods throughout winter; plant in areas where plant litter is not a problem or mulch to the drip line. 50’ x 40’)
22. **Elm, American - Ulmus americana** (disease resistant varieties include ‘Valley Forge’, ‘New Harmony’, ‘Jefferson’; 50’ x 50’)
23. **Elm, ‘Discovery’ - Ulmus davidiana var. japonica** (very cold tolerant; rounded habit; glossy green; 45’ x 45’)

**New Elm Hybrids** - many disease resistant hybrid elms have been developed and show promise, including:

- ‘Accolade’ - looks like American elm; Morton Arboretum hybrid of U. japonica and U. wilsoniana; 50’ x 40’
- ‘Cathedral’ - tough and adaptable; developed in Wisconsin; U. pumila x U. japonica; 40-50’ x 40-50’
- ‘Frontier’ - smaller, glossy leaves; lacy bark pattern; purple fall color; U. parvifolia x U. carpinifolia; 40’ x 30’
- ‘New Horizon’ - U. japonica x U. pumila; upright habit; strong branch structure; 50’ x 30’
- ‘Pioneer’ - cross between U. glabra and U. carpinifolia; fast growing; dense, rounded shade; 50’ x 50’
- ‘Triumph’ - cross between ‘Vanguard’ and ‘Accolade’; very adaptable; vigorous upright growth habit; 60’ x 40’
- ‘Vanguard’ - an improved Siberian elm hybrid; VERY tough and adaptable; glossy leaves; 50’ x 45’

**Ginkgo - Ginkgo biloba** (very interesting leaf; good yellow fall color; distinctive upright habit; tolerant of poor soils; impressive specimens at Arbor Lodge, Forest Lawn Memorial Arboretum in Omaha; female trees produce malodorous fruit; 45’ x 35’)

Justin Evertson & Bob Henrickson, NSA 2011. For more plant information, visit arboretum.unl.edu or retreenbraska.unl.edu.
Medium Deciduous Trees - urban landscapes; hot, sunny sites (20 to 40’ tall)

61. Aspen, Quaking - *Populus tremuloides* (native selection Prairie Gold; attractive creamy bark & fluttering leaves turn golden-yellow; main trunk short-lived with re-sprouting from roots; best planted in confined area with room to colonize; 30’ x 15’)
62. Cherry, Black - *Prunus serotina* (overlooked se NE native; eye-catching when in flower, similar to chokecherry; fast growing, adaptable; handsome reddish bark; small cherries relished by song birds; State Champion near Barada, NE; 45’ x 35’)
63. Chokecherry - *Prunus virginiana* (tough reliable native; suckers to form thickets; easily kept confined with mowing; ‘Canada Red’ and ‘Shubert’ are purple-leaf forms of this)
65. Filbert, Turkish - *Corylus colurna* (also called Turkish tree hazel; pyramidal shape in youth, eventually rounded; scaly bark; handsome dark green foliage offers no fall color; interesting winter catkins; doing well in Lincoln, North Platte. 45’ x 35’)
66. Lilac, Japanese Tree - *Syringa reticulata* (great ornamental with fragrant white flower clusters in late spring; beautiful cherry-like bark; Pekin Lilac is very similar only harder)
### Medium Deciduous Trees - protected sites, part-shade (20–40' tall)

| 73. | Alder, Black (common) - *Alnus glutinosa* (useful for wet soils and water’s edge; attractive glossy leaves; cone-like fruit; 30’s 20’) |
| 74. | Beech, European - *Fagus sylvatica* (smooth bark; nice habit; avoid windy sites; hardy purple leaf forms exist; several nice specimens in Lincoln and Blair; 35’x 25’) |
| 75. | Beech, American - *Fagus grandiflora* (eastern U.S. native; attractive smooth bark; needs fertile, moist soil; State Champion at Arbor Lodge; beautiful foliage; 40’x 30’) |
| 76. | Birch, Paper - *Betula papyrifera* (native to Niobrara valley; bark exfoliates in papery strips to reveal orange-brown inner bark; wet, well-drained sandy or rocky loams in part, preferably afternoon, shade.) |
| 77. | Birch, Himalayan - *Betula utilis var jacquemontii* (native to the Himalayas; brightest white bark of any birch; borer resistant) |
| 78. | Birch, Japanese White - *Betula platyphylla* (the Asian white birch selection ‘Whitespire’ considered resistant to bronze birch borer; the native paper birch is highly desirable when properly sited; avoid planting in heavy clay and stressed sites) |
| 79. | Birch, River - *Betula nigra* (a beautiful tree with exfoliating cinnamon brown bark; avoid high pH soils; ‘Heritage’ has lighter bark and ‘Little King’ is a nice dwarf form; native to wet areas as far west as Iowa; performs well on upland soils as well) |
| 80. | Birch, Rocky Mountain - *Betula occidentalis* (native to Sioux CO; attractive cherry-like bark; often multistemmed; tough and adaptable, but prefers part shade and even moisture) |
| 81. | Birch, Sweet - *Betula lenta* (eastern U.S. native; one of the best birches; beautiful yellow fall color; reddish-brown bark) |
| 82. | Black Gum - *Nyssa sylvatica* (doing well in Lincoln, Tekamah, Stanton; handsome, blemish-free foliage turns red-purple in fall; slow growing, but strong, horizontal branches; 30’x 25’) |
| 83. | Buckeye, Ohio - *Aesculus glabra* (native; very tough & adaptable; rounded form; interesting ‘buckeye’ fruit; 30’x 30’) |
| 84. | Buckeye, Yellow - *Aesculus flava* (overlooked shade tree with handsome, tropical-looking foliage; smooth fruit capsule; adaptable, easy to grow; nice yellow-orange fall color; 40’x 30’) |
| 85. | Horsechestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum* (sticky, shiny winter buds; beautiful creamy flowers; prone to leaf diseases; 35’x 30’) |
| 86. | Chestnut, Chinese - *Castanea mollissima* (useful for American Chestnut but smaller and more rounded; 35’x 30’) |
| 87. | Katsuratree - *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (beautiful multi-stemmed tree with handsome bark; heart-shaped leaves; 35’x 25’) |
| 88. | Larch, Japanese/ Common - *Larix kaempferi* or *L. decidua* (deciduous conifers; cold hardy; prefer moist soils; 60’x 40’) |
| 89. | Magnolia, Cucumbertree - *Magnolia acuminata* (thick lustrous leaves; cucumber like fruit; 40’x 30’; the green-yellow flowers are not showy, however the hybrid form ‘Elizabeth’ was selected for its very attractive yellow flowers) |
| 90. | Maple, Paperbark - *Acer griseum* (small tree; cinnamon red exfoliating bark is great for the winter landscape; doing well in SE NE) |
| 91. | Maple, Three-flower - *Acer triflorum* (newer selection from Asia; papery bark; 3-leaf maple with nice orange-red fall color; very hard to find at the nursery due to propagation difficulties; worth looking for; nice trees in Bellevue, Lincoln; 20’x 15’) |
| 92. | Persimmon - *Diospyros virginiana* (native to e. G.P.; distinctive blocky bark; tasty fruit; prefers moist, fertile soil; 30’x 20’) |
| 93. | Sweetgum - *Liquidambur styraciflua* (star-like leaves; interesting spiked seed balls; yellow-purple fall color; doing well in southeast NE; ‘Morraine’ selected for upright habit, hardiness; 40’x 35’) |
| 94. | Yellowwood - *Cladrastis kentukea* (unique creamy-white, panicled flowers; attractive smooth bark; 35’x 35’) |

### Small Deciduous Trees - hot, sunny sites (under 20’ tall)

| 95. | Devil’s Walking Stick – *Aralia spinosa* (tough, adaptable tree native to eastern U.S.; attractive, compound foliage; often suckers from base to form a multi-stemmed small tree) |
| 96. | Dogwood, Corneliancherry - *Cornus mas* (tough, reliable; large shrub or small tree; early yellow flowers; red fruit; 15’x 15’) |
| 97. | Euonymus, Winterberry - *Euonymus bungeanus* (very attractive with red fall fruits; tough and adaptable; look for ‘Prairie Radiance’ newer selection out of NDSU and Dale Herman; 20’x 20’) |
| 98. | Evodia, Korean - *Evodia daniellii* -seldom seen; nice elderberry like fruit; great bark; seen at Arbor Lodge. |
| 99. | Goldenrain Tree - * Koelreuteria paniculata* - beautiful in flower and fruit set; tough, adaptable tree; very drought tolerant. |
| 100. | Hawthorn - *Crataegus spp.* (good, tough small tree; nice fruit effect in fall. Some of the better types worth trying include Cockspur Hawthorn, ‘Winter King’ Hawthorn, and Washington Hawthorn) |
| 101. | Hawthorne, Russian – *Crataegus ambiguus* (overlooked Hawthorne with copious bright red fruit clusters in fall; tough, adaptable) |
| 102. | Maple, Shantung - *Acer truncatum* (China native with glossy, star-shaped leaves; rounded form; proving to be tough/reliable; nice trees in Wayne, Lincoln, Omaha, young tree in Scottsbluff; 15’x 15’) |
| 103. | Oak, Dwarf Chinkapin - *Quercus prinoides* (se NE native; variable habit but usually shrubby; prolific acorn producer; sulfur yellow catkins in early spring; best in full sun; gets mildew in shade; this oak loves the heat and sun; 15-20’x 10-15’) |
| 104. | Sassafras - *Sassafras albidum* (interesting mitten like leaves with orange fall color; spicy-aromatic branches; 30’x 20’) |
105. Seven-Son Flower – Heptacodium miconoides (gangly in youth; develops into an attractive small tree; small white flowers in August followed by rose calyx that persist into fall; handsome, exfoliating bark)

Small Deciduous Trees - sites or understory (under 20' tall)

106. Buckeye, Red - Aesculus pavia (large shrub or small tree; attractive red flowers; glossy foliage; 15’x 12’)
107. Dogwood, Pagoda - Cornus alternifolia (beautiful, horizontally layered small tree or large shrub; short-lived; 15’x 15’)
108. Fringe tree - Chionanthus virginicus (large shrub or small tree; wispy, fragrant flowers; attractive blue fruit; 15’x 15’)
109. Fringe tree, Chinese – Chionanthus retusus (fragrant white flowers in May/June; good fall color; showy fruit attracts birds; 15’)
110. Hophornbeam, American - Ostrya virginiana (SE NE north along Missouri and Niobrara River area; native understory tree; shaggy bark; yellow fall color; hop like fruit; slow growth develops strong wood; very resistant to ice storms; 20’x 15’)
111. Hornbeam, American - Carpinus caroliniana (nice sinewy-smooth steel gray bark; low spreading habit; 20’x 20’)
112. Hornbeam, Korean – Carpinus coreana

113. Magnolia, - Magnolia spp. (Loebner Magnolia (Magnolia x loebneri) with very fragrant, early white flowers - ‘Merrill’ and ‘Leonard Messel’ are common cultivars that can grow 15-20’x 15-20’)
114. Pawpaw - Asimina triloba (SE NE native understory tree; large, tropical foliage turns yellow in fall; edible fruit; suckers from roots to form colony; plant and confine in groups; nice trees in Omaha, Lincoln, Falls City, Louisville; 20’x 15’)
115. Redbud - Cercis canadensis (native; attractive purple flowers in early spring; select from hardy seed source; 20’x 15’)
116. Serviceberry (Juneberry) - Amelanchier spp. (serviceberries are multi-season plants with early-spring white flowers, glossy leaves, tasty fruit and nice fall color; many cultivars available including ‘Autumn Brilliance’, ‘Cole’s Select’, ‘Snowcloud’, tree-form serviceberries prefer some protection or part shade; wide size range from 10-20’-10-20’)
117. Witchhazel, Common – Hamamelis virginiana (native; small, thread-like yellow flowers in late fall; very handsome foliage turns yellow/orange in fall; 15’)

Trees for the Collector - uncommon in NE; very promising but need further testing

118. Hickory, Mockernut - Carya tomentosa (dark gray bark with furrowed, diamond pattern; nut meat is hard to extract; trials at UNL and NE nutgrowers show it is reliably hardy to zone 5; beautiful deep yellow fall color; 35’x 30’)
119. Hickory, Shellebark - Carya laciniosa (similar to C. ovata but with tastier nut; big seeds and husks, so plant in open area; 60’ tree in Alvo property; trials at UNL and NE nutgrowers show it is reliably hardy to zone 5; 40’x 35’)
120. Hornbeam, European - Carpinus betulus (smooth gray bark; upright; tight, uniform branching; attractive leaf; 30’x 20’)
121. Maackia, Amur - Maackia amurensis (seldom seen legume; worth a closer look; attractive summer flowers; 25’x 20’)
122. Maple, Korean - Acer pseudosieboldianum (hardier alternative to Japanese maple; patio size tree; red fall color; 20’x 15’)
123. Maple, Trident - Acer buergerianum (scaly bark; brilliant wine red color in fall; prefers protected sites; doing fine in Lincoln area; holds foliage late; tends to grow upright; strong branches, slower growing, 20’x 15’)
124. Mountainash, European - Sorbus aucuparia (nice white flower and bright red fruit but disease prone; nice trees at North Platte Research Center; 25’x 20’)
125. Mountainash, Korean - Sorbus alnifolia (beautiful flowers and fruit; attractive glossy, crisp leaves; orange fall color; 30’x 25’)
126. Oak, Gambel - Quercus gambelii (native to Rocky Mountains; variable multi-stem habit; prefers well-drained soils; 20’x 15’)
127. Oak, Bebbs - Quercus × bebbiana (hybrid between bur oak and white oak; vigorous grower; very hardy; 50’x 50’)
128. Oak, Mongolian - Quercus mongolica (similar in appearance to Bur Oak; performing well in N. Dakota; reportedly good red fall color; 20’ trees at NSA Affiliate sites in Lincoln & Blair; 50’x 45’)
129. Oak, Overcup - Quercus lyrata (refined appearance; prefers consistent moisture; avoid high pH soils; 50’ specimens surround a church in Auburn; Lincoln, Blair Arboretum sites; 60’x 45’)
130. Oak, Post - Quercus stellata (tough, corky bark; medium rounded tree; ideal for hot, dry sites; native to southern KS; 30’x 25’)
131. Oak, Scarlet - Quercus coccinea (similar in habit to pin oak; beautiful scarlet color in fall; avoid high pH soils; 50’x 40’)
132. Oak, Willow - Quercus phellos (very narrow distinctive leaves; 30’ trees in Fairbury, Brownville, Falls City; 45’x 40’)
133. Parrotia - Parrotia persica (lustrous green witch hazel like leaves turn yellow-orange in fall; exfoliating bark; nice specimen at Lincoln Regional Center Arboretum; likes part-shade, protection from winds; 20’x 15’)
134. Pine, Japanese White - Pinus parviflora (graceful open natural habit; attractive large cones; 30’x 20’)
135. Smoketree, American - Cotinus obovatus (blue-green leaves; yellow-orange fall color; plummy, smoke-like flowers; 20’x 15’)
136. Sugarberry - Celtis laevigata (related to hackberry but with smooth bark; marginally hardy here)
137. Zelkova - Zelkova serrata (related to elm; attractive smooth bark; upright habit when young; glossy leaves; 40’x 30’)

DID YOU KNOW? NSA’s horticulture program promotes underutilized species. Find plants at nspaplants.org.

Since 1978, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has been helping to grow sustainable landscapes for healthy homes and communities. Please support the NSA by becoming a member. Benefits include admission privileges at botanical gardens across North America, plant discounts, and publications with plant and garden recommendations. Learn more at arboretum.unl.edu.