

# Trees & Shrubs available this spring

**Bur Oak** Medium to large tree. Commonly grows up to 60-80 feet in height and 2-3 feet in diameter. Some trees reach 5 feet in diameter. Slow growing. They will grow on dry upland sites as well as moist 'bottoms'. Most wide spread of the oaks. They are often seen in pure stands on old pasture sites. A member of the white oak group, it is used to make whiskey barrels, railroad ties, flooring, and furniture. Bur Oaks tolerate alkaline soils. They should be included in any planting.

**Red Oak** Medium to large-sized tree growing 70-90 feet tall and 2-4 feet in diameter. Red Oak grows best on moist sites with black oak and walnut. They are one of the fastest growing oaks. Wood is most desirable of all red oaks and supplies the majority of all red oak lumber. Red Oak self-prunes very well as large clear stems bringing added value. Fall color ranges from vibrant red to brown. They should be included in any planting.

**White Oak** Large tree reaching 80-100 feet tall and 2-3 feet in diameter. They grow well on dry uplands and hillsides. Slow growing. Wood is historically the most valued of all the oaks. Early ships were built almost entirely of white oak. Currently used for whiskey barrels, flooring, furniture and veneer. White Oak are becoming more rare in natural stands. They should be planted in any upland planting.

**Swamp White Oak** Medium-sized tree reaching 50-70 feet tall and 2-3 feet in diameter. Tolerates high moisture, though not long periods of standing water. One of the faster growing species in the white oak group. Wood is used for lumber and veneer. Acorns eaten by a variety of wildlife species.

**Sugar Maple** This shade tree grows to be 60-75' in height with a spread of about 40-50' at full maturity. It grows in deep, well drained, acidic, to slightly alkaline soil. Prefers moist soil conditions but has moderate drought resistance. This maple has an oval, rounded shape with leaves that are 3-5 in. across with 5, or rarely 3, distinctive lobes. Flower colors are green and yellow and they bloom in April and May. Do not plant in confined areas or where salt is a problem. The wood of the Sugar Maple tree has always been highly valued for furniture because of its beauty and extreme hardness. Once mature enough it can be tapped to make maple sugar.

**Black Cherry** Medium-sized tree growing to a height of 75 feet and 1-3 feet in diameter. They prefer rich, moist soils. Wood is a deep, rich red color prized by furniture makers. White flowers appear in May. The fruit is edible but, not until the cherries turn black and are bitter. Cherries are one of the best wildlife food trees. Fruit is eaten by many wildlife species. It attracts many different species of mammals and birds.

**Basswood** It grows on a wide variety of sites but does best on moist upland sites, on sheltered north and east facing slopes along river and stream drainages. Basswood has a very distinct fruit; it is an open cluster of hard nutlets borne on a stem which comes from the center of a narrow elliptical, life-like wing. Basswood is the favorite tree of both honeybees and beekeepers. Its non-showy, fragrant flowers appear in late May or June and attract large numbers of bees which produce a distinctive tasting honey which is sometimes sold separately as "basswood honey." The wood is very light, soft, easily worked, and almost white in color. It is one of the favorite woods for the wood carver.

**Tamarack (American Larch)** A Deciduous conifer (i.e. a conifer that drops its needles in the fall) it ranges in height between 35-65 feet. It grows in wet soils. Needles turn a bright golden color before being shed in the fall. The wood is tough and very rot resistant. Native Americans used it for snow shoes. Song birds eat the seeds and nest in the tree.

**White Pine** A conifer reaching 75 to 100' tall by 30-50' wide. It can reach well over 100' tall. They like moist, sandy soils, but grow well on a variety of soil types. They tend to grow in clay soils better than most pines. White pines prefer well-drained soil and cool, humid climates, but also grow in boggy areas and rocky highlands. The needles are in fascicles (bundles) of five (rarely 3 or 4), with a deciduous sheath. They are flexible, bluish-green, finely serrated, and 2-5 in long. Seed is eaten by squirrels, wood duck, bobwhite, pheasant, and many varieties of woodpeckers. The seed and needles are eaten by spruce grouse and turkey.

**Harbin Pear** The heartiest of pears. It has flowers in spring that are slightly pink when budding and then turn white. The tree grows to a height of about 29-49 ft. and prefers well-drained loam-type soils. The fruit is hard and may be eaten whole or made into jams/jellies. It is sweeter after a frost.

**Elderberry** A shrub that sometimes grows to a small tree to 12 feet. It prefers moist fertile soil. It produces white, fragrant flowers in the spring. Berries are small, purple-black color, and have a pleasant taste. The berries ripen in late July through September. The juice is often used for making excellent wines and jellies. Fruit is eaten by turkey, woodpeckers, and many others. Deer are known to browse the twigs. Can grow in wet to dry mesic areas.

**Ninebark** It gets its name because its exfoliating bark peels off in papery strips revealing layers of reddish to light brown inner bark resembling "9's". Flowers are white in spring and give way to reddish brown fruit. The primary wildlife value of Ninebark is its multi-stemmed arching branches providing cover to small mammals and nesting birds. It grows to a height of 6-10ft. It prefers mesic areas and is drought tolerant.