



Shade Trees for Iowa – Ash Alternatives

This document lists several shade tree selections suitable for the Iowa landscape. Nursery and landscape professionals have eliminated green, white, black, pumpkin, and blue ash from their inventories and designs since they are susceptible to the emerald ash borer, which kills ash trees. This destructive pest has been found in several states in the upper Midwest.

While not all-inclusive, this list does describe many useful species, many which are also pest-resistant. Not all trees appearing on this list will thrive in every landscape situation. Great care must be taken to carefully match trees to sites (including above- and below-ground spatial and environmental constraints) and to complement existing species so that a diverse tree canopy will be maintained. *A healthy and diverse tree population is the best defense against current and future tree pests.*

Deciduous Shade Trees

	Height/Width	Growth Habit
Alder		
Manchurian alder – <i>Alnus hirsuta</i> 'Harbin' (Prairie Horizon®)	40ft/30ft	Upright
Amur maackia – <i>Maackia amurensis</i>	25ft/25ft	Upright spreading
Baldcypresses		
Baldcypress – <i>Taxodium distichum</i> 'Mickelson' (Shawnee Brave®)	55ft/20ft	Narrow pyramid
'JFS-SGPN' (Green Whisper™)	55ft/30ft	Pyramidal
Birches		
Asian white birch – <i>Betula platyphylla</i> 'VerDale' (Prairie Vision)	35ft/30ft	Upright oval
Gray birch – <i>Betula populifolia</i> 'Whitespire Sr'	40ft/25ft	Pyramidal oval
River birch – <i>Betula nigra</i> 'Cully' (Heritage®)	45ft/30ft	Oval
Whitebarked Himalayan birch – <i>Betula utilis</i> 'Madison' (White Satin™)	35ft/20ft	Broadly pyramidal

Deciduous Shade Trees	Height/Width	Growth Habit
Black gum/Black tupelo – <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	35ft/30ft	Pyramidal spreading
Coffeetree		
Kentucky coffeetree – <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>		
‘Espresso’	50ft/30ft	Oval
Cork trees		
Cork tree – <i>Phellodendron</i> species		
‘Longnecker’ (Eye Stopper™)	40ft/35ft	Rounded
‘His Majesty’	40ft/35ft	Vase-shaped
Elms		
American elm – <i>Ulmus americana</i>		
‘Jefferson’	70ft/50ft	Vase-shaped
‘Princeton’	60ft/40ft	Vase-shaped
‘Lewis & Clark’ (Prairie Expedition™)	60ft/50ft	Umbrella-shaped
‘New Harmony’	70ft/70ft	Vase-shaped
‘Valley Forge’	70ft/70ft	Vase-shaped
Asian Elm Cultivars and Hybrids		
‘Morton’ (Accolade™)	70ft/60ft	Vase-shaped
‘Morton Glossy’ (Triumph™)	55ft/45ft	Vase-shaped
‘New Horizon’	70ft/70ft	Upright oval
‘Prospector’	40ft/30ft	Vase-shaped
‘Discovery’	50ft/40ft	Vase-shaped
European and Eurasian Hybrids		
‘Patriot’	50ft/40ft	Stiff vase-shaped
Filbert		
Turkish filbert – <i>Corylus colurna</i>	40ft/30ft	Pyramidal
Ginkgo		
Ginkgo – <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>		
‘Autumn Gold’	45ft/35ft	Broadly pyramidal
‘Halka’	45ft/40ft	Oval
‘Magyar’	60ft/40ft	Upright oval
‘PNI 2720’ (Princeton Sentry®)	40ft/15ft	Narrow pyramidal
‘JFS-UGA2’ (Golden Colonnade®)	45ft/25ft	Narrow oval
‘The President’ (Presidential Gold®)	50ft/40ft	Broadly pyramidal
Hackberries		
Hackberry – <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>		
‘JFS-KSU1’ (Prairie Sentinel™)	45ft/12ft	Columnar
‘Chicagoland’	50ft/40ft	Broadly pyramidal
‘Prairie Pride’	50ft/40ft	Oval

Deciduous Shade Trees	Height/Width	Growth Habit
Honeylocusts		
Honeylocust – <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>		
‘Draves’ (Street Keeper™)	45ft/20ft	Narrow upright
‘Harve’ (Northern Acclaim™)	45ft/35ft	Upright spreading
‘Skycole’ (Skyline®)	50ft/35ft	Pyramidal
Hophornbeam		
American hophornbeam – <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	40ft/25ft	Upright oval
Horsechestnuts		
Common horsechestnut – <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>		
‘Baumannii’	50ft/40ft	Broadly oval
Red horsechestnut – <i>Aeculus x carnea</i>		
‘Briotii’	30ft/35ft	Round
‘Fort McNair’	30ft/30ft	Round
Lindens		
American linden – <i>Tilia Americana</i>		
‘Boulevard’	60ft/30ft	Pyramidal
‘Continental Appeal’	50ft/30ft	Narrow oval
‘Wandell’ (Legend®)	40ft/30ft	Broad pyramidal
‘McKSentry’ (American Sentry®)	45ft/30ft	Pyramidal
‘Lincoln’	35ft/25ft	Pyramidal
‘Redmond’	50ft/35ft	Pyramidal
Hybrid Linden – <i>Tilia x flavescens (americana x cordata)</i>		
‘Glenleven’	50ft/30ft	Pyramidal
Littleleaf linden – <i>Tilia cordata</i>		
‘Baileyi’ (Shamrock®)	40ft/30ft	Pyramidal
‘Corzam’ (Corinthian®)	45ft/15ft	Narrow pyramidal
‘Ronald’ (Norlin™)	40ft/30ft	Pyramidal
Mongolian linden – <i>Tilia mongolica</i>		
‘Harvest Gold’	30-40ft/25-30ft	Upright oval
Silver linden – <i>Tilia tomentosa</i>		
‘PNI 6051’ (Green Mountain®)	45ft/35ft	Broad pyramidal
‘Sterling’	45ft/35ft	Broad pyramidal
Magnolias		
Cucumbertree – <i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	50-80ft/40-60ft	Upright oval

Deciduous Shade Trees

Maples

	Height/Width	Growth Habit
Black maple – <i>Acer nigrum</i>	60ft/60ft	Round spreading
Freeman maple – <i>Acer x freemanii</i>		
‘Jeffersred’ (Autumn Blaze®)	50ft/45ft	Broadly oval
‘DTR 102’ (Autumn Fantasy®)	40ft/30ft	Broadly oval
‘Marmo’	50ft/30ft	Upright oval
‘Bailston’ (Matador™)	40ft/30ft	Upright oval
‘Morgan’ (‘Indian Summer’)	45ft/40ft	Rounded
‘Sienna’ (Sienna Glen®)	45ft/35ft	Pyramidal
‘UMNAF#1’ (Firefall™)	50ft/30ft	Upright oval
Hybrid maple – <i>Acer truncatum</i> x <i>platanoides</i>		
‘Warrenred’ (Pacific Sunset®)	30ft/25ft	Upright spreading
‘JFS-KW202’ (Crimson Sunset™)	35ft/25ft	Upright oval
Miyabe maple – <i>Acer miyabei</i>		
‘Morton’ (State Street™)	45ft/30ft	Upright oval
Red maple – <i>Acer rubrum</i>		
‘Bailcraig’ (Scarlet Jewell™)	50ft/30ft	Upright
‘Franksred’ (Red Sunset®)	45ft/35ft	Upright oval
‘Magnificent Magenta’ (Burgundy Belle®)	50ft/40ft	Oval
‘Frank Jr.’ (Redpointe™)	45ft/30ft	Pyramidal
‘New World’	40ft/20ft	Narrow oval
‘Polara’ (Rubyfrost™)	45ft/40ft	Broadly oval
‘Somerset’	45ft/35ft	Broadly oval
Sugar maple – <i>Acer saccharum</i>		
‘Bailsta’ (Fall Fiesta™)	50ft/50ft	Upright rounded
‘Commemoration’	50ft/35ft	Oval rounded
‘Legacy’	50ft/35ft	Oval
‘Morton’ (Crescendo™)	40ft/30ft	Broadly oval
‘Green Mountain’	45ft/35ft	Broadly oval

Planetrees

London planetree – <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>		
‘Bloodgood’	50ft/40ft	Broadly pyramidal
‘Morton Circle’ (Exclamation™)	55ft/35ft	Upright pyramidal

Deciduous Shade Trees

Oaks

	Height/Width	Growth Habit
Bur oak – <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	50-80ft/40-80ft	Spreading
‘JFS-KW3’ (Urban Pinnacle™)	55ft/25ft	Narrow pyramidal
Chinkapin Oak – <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	45ft/45ft	Round
English/white oak – <i>Quercus bimundorum</i>		
‘Crimschmidt’ (Crimson Spire™)	45ft/15ft	Columnar
‘Midwest’ (Prairie Stature™)	50ft/40ft	Broadly pyramidal
Hybrid oak – <i>Quercus</i> x		
‘Long’ (Regal Prince®)	45ft/18ft	Narrow Oval
Red oak – <i>Quercus rubra</i>	60-75ft/60ft	Spreading
Shingle oak – <i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	50ft/40ft	Broadly oval
Swamp white oak – <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	60ft/60ft	Round
White oak – <i>Quercus alba</i>	50-70ft/40-80ft	Spreading

Sweetgums

Sweetgum – <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>		
‘Clydesform; (Emerald Sentinel®)	30ft/12ft	Narrow pyramid
‘Moraine’	40ft/25ft	Pyramidal

Prepared by Dr. Jeff Iles, professor and extension specialist, Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University. Revised 17 April 2017 by Gabbi Edwards, urban forestry specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Photo: ISU Forestry Extension.

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Small-stature Trees for Iowa – Ash Alternatives

This document lists several small-stature tree selections suitable for the Iowa landscape. Nursery and landscape professionals have eliminated green, white, black, pumpkin, and blue ash from their inventories and designs since they are susceptible to the emerald ash borer, which kills ash trees. This destructive pest has been found in several states in the upper Midwest.

While not all-inclusive, this list does describe many useful species, many of which are also pest-resistant. Not all trees appearing on this list will thrive in every landscape situation. Great care must be taken to carefully match trees to the site (including above- and below-ground spatial and environmental constraints) and to complement existing species so that a diverse tree canopy will be maintained. *A healthy and diverse tree population is the best defense against current and future tree pests.*

Deciduous Small-stature trees	Height/Width	Growth Habit
Amur maackia – <i>Maackia amurensis</i>	20ft/20ft	Upright spreading
American witch-hazel – <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> ‘Harvest Moon’	15-18ft/10-12ft	Vase-shaped
Cherries		
Sargent cherry – <i>Prunus sargentii</i> ‘JFS-KW58’ (Pink Flair®)	25ft/15ft	Upright
‘Hokkaido Normandale’ (Spring Wonder™)	25ft/20ft	Upright spreading
Crabapples – <i>Malus</i> species		
‘Adirondack’	18ft/12ft	Vase-shaped
‘Beeson’ (May’s Delight®)	8ft/8ft	Upright spreading
‘Hub Tures’ (Spring Sensation™)	10ft/12ft	Wide spreading
‘JFS-KW5’ (Royal Raindrops®)	20ft / 15ft	Upright spreading
‘Malusquest’ (Pink Sparkles®)	15ft/12ft	Upright
‘Orange Crush’	15ft/15ft	Round spreading
Dogwoods		
Corneliancherry dogwood – <i>Cornus mas</i>	20ft/20ft	Round spreading
Gray dogwood – <i>Cornus racemosa</i> ‘Jade’ (Snow Mantle™)	15ft/8ft	Upright spreading
Pagoda dogwood – <i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	20ft/20ft	Spreading
Hopbarnbeams		
American hophornbeam – <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	25ft/20ft	Upright spreading

Deciduous Small-stature trees	Height/Width	Growth Habit
Hornbeams		
American hornbeam – <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>		
‘J.N. Strain’	25ft/25ft	Spreading
‘J.N. Upright’ (Firespire™)	20ft/10ft	Upright
Lilacs		
Japanese tree lilac – <i>Syringa reticulata</i>		
‘Bailnce’ (Snowdance™)	18ft/20ft	Round spreading
‘Ivory Silk’	25ft/15ft	Upright
Pekin lilac – <i>Syringa reticulata</i> subsp. <i>pekinensis</i>		
‘Morton’ (China Snow®)	20ft/20ft	Upright spreading
‘SunDak’ (Copper Curls®)	20ft/15ft	Upright spreading
Magnolias		
Loebner magnolia – <i>Magnolia ×loebneri</i>		
‘Merrill’	25ft/25ft	Upright spreading
‘Ruth’ (Spring Welcome®)	20ft/20ft	Round spreading
Maples		
Korean maple – <i>Acer pseudosieboldianum</i>	20ft/20ft	Upright spreading
Korean maple hybrids – <i>Acer pseudosieboldianum ×palmatum</i>		
‘Hasselkus’ (Northern Glow®)	20ft/24ft	Broadly spreading
‘IsINW’ (North Wind®)	15-20ft/15-20ft	Upright spreading
Three-flower maple – <i>Acer triflorum</i>	25ft/25ft	Upright spreading
Pears*		
Ussurian pear – <i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>		
‘MorDak’ (Prairie Gem®)	25ft/20ft	Oval
‘Bailfrost’ (Mountain Frost®)	20ft/15ft	Upright oval
*Invasive potential of species and cultivars listed has yet to be determined		
Redbud		
American redbud – <i>Cercis canadensis</i>		
‘Pink Trim’ (Northern Herald™)	25ft/25ft	Spreading
Serviceberries		
Allegheny serviceberry – <i>Amelanchier laevis</i>		
‘Cumulus’	20ft/15ft	Upright spreading
‘JFS-Arb’ (Spring Flurry®)	28ft/20ft	Upright oval
Apple serviceberry – <i>Amelanchier ×grandiflora</i>		
‘Autumn Brilliance’	20ft/15ft	Upright spreading

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