

2025 Brief Descriptions of Species

Evergreens:

Colorado Blue Spruce – *Picea pungens* (non-native)

The Colorado Blue Spruce will grow to 60 ft tall and 15 ft wide and is very wind firm due to its large spreading root system and tough flexible wood. This tree can live a long life (100 years+) in its native area, outside of that it varies greatly and many times live no longer than 25 years. will do quite well in poor soils that other spruce do not like. It is very drought resistant needing only 15" or less per year of rain and can tolerate hot dry summers better than many other spruce species. They are often grown as ornamental trees in gardens and parks and also grown for the Christmas tree industry

Norway Spruce – *Picea abies*

This hardy spruce is a fairly fast growing evergreen that can reach a mature height of 80'+ and a naturally pyramidal spread of 25-30'. Its dark green needles make it a fine landscape specimen or very effective as screen plantings. Norway spruce will not tolerate excessive moisture for prolonged periods.

White Pine – *Pinus strobus* (native)

The White Pine is a fast growing (2-3 ft per year or more) evergreen that has needles of from 3—6 inches long and are arranged in bundles of five on the stem. In Sep-Oct this pine “sheds “ all of its needles that grew out the previous year. It will grow to 80 feet tall by 40 feet wide or larger under optimum conditions, with a rapid growth rate. Its shape is upright pyramidal when young but becomes irregular with maturity. The White Pine performs best in evenly moist, rich, well-drained, acidic soils in full sun.

Hardwoods/ Shrubs:

~~**American Chestnut** — *Castanea dentata*~~

~~American Chestnut was predominately located in the eastern half of Ohio, where the soils are more acidic. Its nuts were a staple food of the Native Americans and pioneers, while its wood was harvested for the production of furniture, musical instruments, caskets, crates, and tannin. Dimensions of 80 feet tall by 60 feet wide were regularly obtained when it was located in the open. As a member of the Beech Family, it is related to the Oaks and the Beeches, in addition to other Chestnuts.~~

American Hazelnut - *Corylus americana*

one of several related large shrubs known for their tasty nuts that provide food for humans or wildlife, is found throughout Ohio along roadsides, in fields, at the edges of forest, and in fencerows, in dry or moist sites. Also known as American Filbert or Hazel, it develops a broad, rounded, strongly suckering growth habit with age.

~~**Common Paw Paw** — *Asimina triloba*~~

~~Pawpaws flourish in the deep, rich fertile soils of river bottom lands where they grow as understory trees or thicket shrubs. Fruit set in the wild is usually low and may be pollinator or resource limited but under cultivation, tremendous fruit loads have been observed. They are ideally suited for the residential 'edible' landscape due to their lush, tropical appearance, attractive growth form, size, fall color, and delicious fruit. This small tree is easily recognized by its large, tropical-looking foliage and prized for its delicious fruits that mature in late summer. When found in the open, it may reach 25 feet tall and 15 feet wide as an individual tree. Pawpaw strongly — prefers soils of variable pH that are evenly moist but well-drained, deep and rich (high in organic~~

2025 Brief Descriptions of Species (continued)

Hardwoods/ Shrubs: (continued)

Common Persimmon – *Diospyros virginiana*

The Persimmon tree is primarily known for its ripened fruits, when provide food for animals and humans alike in mid to late autumn. Persimmon is quite adaptable to a variety of soil, moisture, and polluted conditions. It prefers moist, well-drained, average soils of various pH's, but easily adapts to poor, rocky, clay, sandy, or even organic soils of dry or moist constitution. Fruit may be produced by 10-year-old trees but optimum fruit-bearing age is 25-50 years.

Red Maple – *Acer rubrum*

Medium to large tree with narrow or rounded, compact crown and red flowers, fruit, leafstalks, and autumn foliage. This popular ornamental tree grows 40-60 ft. in cultivation, occasionally reaching 100 ft. in the wild. Leaves vary from 3- to 5-lobed, with lobes separated by V-shaped angles. Male trees have notable pinkish red flowers in early spring, and females display decorative red samaras soon after. Young, vigorous trees have smooth, silvery gray bark which provides winter interest. Roots in a dense, fibrous network, often preventing other plants from growing near its trunk. Fall foliage is quite variable, ranging from the brilliant red for which the species is known, to yellow or greenish-yellow.

Red Oak – *Quercus rubra* (native)

The Red Oak is a major timber tree of the eastern and Midwestern United States. The tough, heavy wood of Red Oak has a reddish-orange coloration and is an important hardwood for the Ohio timber industry, involved in the production of beams, railroad ties, furniture, flooring, and other usages. Reaching 60 feet tall by 70 feet wide when found in the open under urban landscape conditions, it may grow taller and more massive in the wild. It prefers moist, deep, rich, well-drained soils of slightly acidic pH. It adapts readily to dry soils of acidic, neutral, or slightly alkaline pH

Red Osier Dogwood – *Cornus sericea*

This is a colorful deciduous shrub that is often thicket-forming. It is a great plant for naturalizing an odd area or property boundary. It will reach a mature height of 7-9', with an equal or wider eventual spread. Red Osier Dogwood prefers full sun, but often naturalizes in the light shade of woodland edges. Berries produce food for wildlife and the brilliant red stems offer winter landscape appeal. This is a plant that will often tolerate extended seasonal wetness.

Redbud – *Cornus florida*

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), also known as Eastern Redbud or Judas Tree, is abundant in the southern two-thirds of Ohio, with scattered distribution in the northern one-third of the state. It heralds the arrival of spring with its showy, lavender-pink flowers that typically open in April, long before the foliage. This ornamental tree is rapidly growing and usually multitrunked in the wild, having a vase shape with a rounded crown that reaches about 20 feet tall and 20 feet wide at maturity, when found in the open. However, since it is often located at the edge of woodlands, it commonly has a leaning growth habit, trying to grow into as much sunlight as possible. Redbud prefers deep, moist, organic, well-drained soils, but adapts to many less-than-favorable soils of either acidic or alkaline pH as long as they are not wet

White Flowering Dogwood – *Cornus florida*

Flowering dogwood is a small deciduous tree growing to 30' high and is often wider than it is tall when mature, with a trunk diameter of up to 1'. Flowering dogwood does best in moist, acidic soil in a site with some afternoon shade, but good morning sun. The fruit is a cluster of two to ten drupes, which ripen in the late summer and the early fall to a bright red, or occasionally yellow with a rosy blush. They are an important food source for dozens of species of birds. The leaves turn a rich red-brown in fall.