

Recommended Native Trees & Shrubs for Naturalization Projects in the Upper Thames River Watershed

The following woody plants are native to southern Ontario and grow naturally in the Upper Thames River watershed (Middlesex, Oxford, and Perth Counties). These species are adapted to the local climate and are hardier than non-native species.

Some species have very specific sun and soil moisture requirements; use the details below to guide your choices.



Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

(R): Listed as rare in Ontario. Do not plant in large numbers.
 (C): Carolinian species, rarely found north of London.
 (S): Spreads rapidly.

- Soil Moisture:
- Wet (swamp, wetland habitats);
 - Moist (intermediate between wet and dry);
 - Dry.

TREES

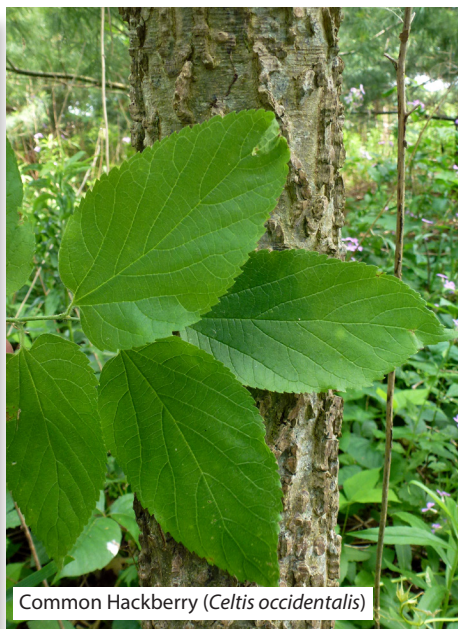
Scientific Name	Common Name	Light Level	Soil Moisture	Notes
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	Part Shade	Wet to Moist	Poisonous to horses
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	Sun	Wet to Moist	Can interfere with drainage tiles
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	Part Shade to Shade	Moist	Excellent shade tree
<i>Acer nigrum</i>	Black Maple	Shade	Moist	
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Serviceberry, Saskatoon	Part Shade	Moist to Dry	Small tree, berries for wildlife
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw (R, C)	Shade	Wet to Moist	Edible fruit
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Birch	Part Shade	Wet to Moist	
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper Birch, White Birch	Sun	Wet to Dry	Short lived
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Blue-beech	Shade	Moist	Small tree
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory	Part Shade	Moist	Nut tree
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory	Full to Part Shade	Moist	Nut tree
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry	Part Shade	Moist	Berries for wildlife
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	Part Shade	Moist	Small tree, berries for wildlife
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Eastern Flowering Dogwood	Part Shade	Moist	Small tree, showy flowers

TREES

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light Level	Soil Moisture	Notes
<i>Fraxinus spp.</i>	Ash species	Native ash currently not recommended due to Emerald Ash Borer		
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky Coffee-tree (R, C)	Part Shade	Moist	Large seed pods
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut (R)	Sun	Moist to Dry	Large nuts
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut	Sun	Moist	Large nut, allelopathic
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar (S)	Sun	Moist to Dry	Small tree, good in hedges
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack	Part Shade	Variety	Drops needles in fall
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree (C)	Sun	Wet to Moist	Showy flower
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum (R, C)	Part Shade	Wet	
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Eastern Hop-hornbeam, Ironwood	Shade	Moist	Small tree
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore (C)	Part Shade	Wet to Moist	Seed balls for wildlife
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine	Sun	Moist to Dry	Evergreen
<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	Balsam Poplar	Sun	Wet to Moist	
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern Cottonwood	Sun	Moist	Very large tree
<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Large-toothed Aspen	Sun	Moist to Dry	
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Trembling Aspen (S)	Sun	Moist to Dry	
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American Plum	Sun	Moist	Small tree, edible fruit
<i>Prunus nigra</i>	Canada Plum	Sun	Moist	Small tree, edible fruit
<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	Pin Cherry	Sun	Moist to Dry	Berries for wildlife
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	Sun	Moist to Dry	Berries for wildlife
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	Full to Part Shade	Moist	Nuts for wildlife
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	Part Shade	Wet to Moist	Nuts for wildlife
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	Sun to Part Shade	Moist	Hosts beneficial insects
<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>	Chinquapin Oak	Part Shade	Dry	Nuts for wildlife
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak	Sun to Part Shade	Moist to Dry	Colourful fall foliage
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak	Sun	Dry	Colourful fall foliage
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras (C)	Part Shade	Moist	Unique leaves
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Eastern White Cedar	Part Shade	Wet to Dry	Can be pruned to a hedge
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood	Part Shade	Moist	Flowers attract bees
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern Hemlock	Shade	Moist and cool	
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	White Elm	Part Shade	Wet to Dry	
<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	Slippery Elm	Sun	Moist	



Blue-beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*)



Common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)



Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)



Eastern Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)



Smooth Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)

SHRUBS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light Level	Soil Moisture	Notes
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Smooth Serviceberry	Part Shade	Moist	Berries for wildlife
<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	Serviceberries	Part Shade	Moist	Berries for wildlife
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	Sun	Wet to Moist	Berries for wildlife
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Eastern Buttonbush	Part Shade	Wet	Flowers attract butterflies
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	Part Shade	Moist	Graceful form
<i>Cornus obliqua</i>	Silky Dogwood	Sun	Wet	Red branches
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Grey Dogwood	Sun	Moist	Flowers for pollinators
<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	Round-leaved Dogwood	Part Shade	Moist to Dry	Flower for pollinators
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	Sun	Wet to Moist	Red branches
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American Hazelnut	Part Shade	Dry	Nuts
<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Beaked Hazelnut	Part Shade	Moist	Nuts
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American Witch-hazel	Part Shade	Moist to Dry	Late fall flower
<i>Ilex mucronata</i>	Mountain Holly	Part Shade	Wet	
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Common Winterberry	Part Shade	Wet	Orange berries
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	Sun	Dry	Low evergreen
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Northern Spicebush	Shade	Wet to Moist	Aromatic foliage
<i>Lonicera canadensis</i>	Canada Fly Honeysuckle	Shade	Wet to Mesic	
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Eastern Ninebark	Part Shade	Moist	Seeds in capsules
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	Part Shade to Shade	Moist	Berries for wildlife
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	Sun	Dry	Fragrant foliage
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac	Sun	Moist to Dry	Fall foliage red
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	Sun	Moist to Dry	Attractive berries
<i>Ribes americanum</i>	American Black Currant	Shade	Wet to Moist	Edible fruit
<i>Ribes cynosbati</i>	Eastern Prickly Gooseberry	Part Shade	Moist	Edible fruit
<i>Rosa blanda</i>	Smooth Rose	Sun	Moist to Dry	Prickly stem
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina Rose	Sun	Dry	Showy flower
<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose	Sun	Wet	Rosehips for birds
<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Peach-leaved Willow	Sun	Wet to Moist	Can interfere with drainage tiles
<i>Salix bebbiana</i>	Bebb's Willow	Sun	Wet to Moist	Early nectar for bees
<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy Willow	Part Shade	Wet to Moist	Interesting male catkins
<i>Salix eriocephala</i>	Cottony Willow	Sun	Wet to Moist	
<i>Salix interior</i>	Sandbar Willow	Sun	Wet to Moist	
<i>Salix lucida</i>	Shining Willow	Sun	Wet to Moist	

SHRUBS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Light Level	Soil Moisture	Notes
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Common Elderberry	Part Shade	Wet to Moist	Edible berries
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red Elderberry	Shade	Moist	
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	White Meadowsweet	Sun	Wet to Moist	Attractive flower
<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	American Bladdernut	Part Shade	Moist to Dry	Unique nut
<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	Canada Yew	Shade	Moist	Toxic to horses, evergreen
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-leaved Viburnum	Shade	Moist	Showy flower
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	Part Shade	Moist	Showy flower
<i>Viburnum rafinesqueanum</i>	Downy Arrowwood	Part Shade	Dry	Fruit for wildlife
<i>Viburnum opulus var. americanum</i>	Highbush Cranberry	Part Shade	Moist	Red fall foliage
<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	Common Prickly-ash	Shade	Moist	Butterfly larvae host

Notes

- In the wild, trees and shrubs often grow in specific situations such as woodland edges or dry, rocky outcrops because of competition with other species, but most species prefer or do very well on moist, fertile soils.
- Most native trees and shrubs are beneficial for wildlife. Their flowers are visited by pollinators and their fruits, seeds, and nuts are eaten by birds and wildlife. Their bark and leaves shelter insects that attract birds.
- Non-native species or cultivated varieties of native trees and shrubs from commercial nurseries are often acceptable as single plantings in urban gardens, but not for naturalization or reforestation projects.

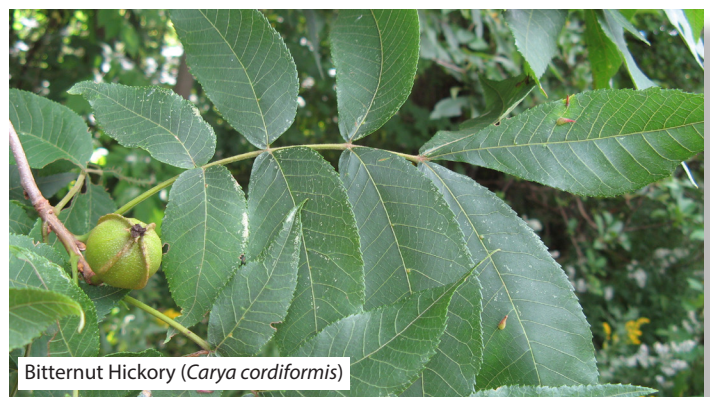
Information Sources

- *Shrubs of Ontario* by Soper and Heimburger, 1985, Royal Ontario Museum publication.
- *Trees in Canada* by John Laird Farrar, 1995, Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited and the Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada.
- www.ontariotrees.com

Additional Information www.thamesriver.on.ca

- Recommended native wildflowers and grasses
- Recommended tallgrass prairie plants
- Nurseries that sell native plants
- UTRCA forestry program and planting instructions
- Communities for Nature program
- Gardening with native plants
- Invasive non-native plant

List compiled by Upper Thames River Conservation Authority staff, updated 2021.



Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)



Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus var. americanum*)