



MEDIUM-LARGE NATIVE TREES FOR GUELPH YARDS

TREES, ESPECIALLY NATIVE TREES, OFFER MANY BENEFITS:

- Add interest and beauty to any landscape or planted space
- Provide food and shelter for birds, pollinating insects and other wildlife
- Reduce the impact of climate change/extreme weather:
 - Tree canopy slows rate of rainfall and provides shade/cooling
 - Tree roots aid absorption of water into the ground
 - Leaves absorb Carbon Dioxide

To reach Guelph's target of 40% canopy cover, we need to plant as many trees as possible in private yards. Perhaps you would like to add a tree(s) to your yard and help to increase the tree cover in your neighbourhood but are uncertain what you should plant. This handout gives suggestions of medium to large native trees (mature height of 15 m or more) that are suitable for urban yards and gardens in Guelph. Another handout in this series covers small native trees.

AMERICAN SYCAMORE/PLANE TREE (*Platanus occidentalis*)



HEIGHT: up to 35 m
MOISTURE: moist soils, tolerates seasonal flooding
SHADE: can grow in part shade or full sun
SOIL: tolerates heavy clay



LEAF



TRUNK



FRUIT

One of the largest broadleaf trees in eastern North America. Bark flakes off leaving attractive creamy-white patches.

BASSWOOD (*Tilia americana*)



HEIGHT: up to 35 m
MOISTURE: moist soils
SHADE: tolerates shade or full sun
SOIL: rich, well-drained soils



LEAF



BARK



FRUIT

Basswood trees have very nutrient-rich leaves. Mulch the leaves with a lawnmower and leave on your lawn as fertilizer or add to garden beds as mulch.

BLACK CHERRY (*Prunus serotina*)



HEIGHT: up to 25 m
MOISTURE: tolerates a variety of moisture levels but not wet soil
SHADE: grows best in full sun
SOIL: Tolerates a variety of soils



FLOWER



BARK



FRUIT

Black cherry leaves are food for larvae of several moths/butterflies. Many bird and mammal species eat the fruit. Note: wilted leaves contain cyanide and are toxic to all animals, especially ruminants.

KENTUCKY COFFEE (*Gymnocladus dioica*)



HEIGHT: up to 30 m
MOISTURE: moist to moderately dry
SHADE: full sun but tolerates partial shade
SOIL: deep, rich soils



LEAF



BARK



FRUIT

Gymnocladus is Greek for "naked" and derives from the relatively late leaf-out in spring and early leaf drop in the fall. Roasted seeds thought to have been used as a coffee substitute by early settlers despite having toxic properties.

SHAGBARK HICKORY (*Carya ovata*)



HEIGHT: up to 30 m
MOISTURE: grows best in moist soil
SHADE: full sun but can tolerate some shade
SOIL: rich soil



FLOWER



BARK



FRUIT

Shagbark hickory gets its name from its shaggy bark. Trees can live for 200 years. Nuts are a favourite of squirrels.

SUGAR MAPLE (*Acer saccharum*)



HEIGHT: up to 35 m
MOISTURE: Moist well-drained soil
SHADE: can tolerate shade but grows better in full sun
SOIL: deep fertile with some lime content



LEAF



FLOWER



FRUIT

This is a large, strong tree. It is intolerant of salt and will not do well in front yards with exposure to road salt.

TULIP TREE (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)



HEIGHT: up to 30 m.
MOISTURE: needs adequate moisture during the summer
SHADE: needs full sun
SOIL: sand and sandy loam



LEAF



FLOWER



FRUIT

They are fast growing trees with tall, thick, straight trunks. The flowers resemble tulip blooms, hence the name Tulip Tree.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

