



# SMALL 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 small native trees (mature height of 15 m or less) that are suitable for urban yards and gardens in Guelph. Another handout in this series covers medium to large native trees.

### SERVICEBERRY (*Amelanchier laevis*)



**HEIGHT:** up to 12 m  
**MOISTURE:** moist to dry soil  
**SHADE:** shade to full sun  
**SOIL:** adaptable to all but waterlogged sites



LEAF



FLOWER



FRUIT

*Blooms in May and June are a food source for pollinators. A variety of bird and small mammal species consume serviceberry fruits.*

### PAGODA DOGWOOD (*Cornus alternifolia*)



**HEIGHT:** up to 10 m  
**MOISTURE:** evenly moist soils  
**SHADE:** partial shade to full sun with plenty of moisture  
**SOIL:** nutrient rich, acidic, well-drained deep soils



LEAF



FLOWER



FRUIT

*An understory tree of deciduous forests. Branches are in tiers, hence the name "pagoda" dogwood.*

### NORTHERN HACKBERRY (*Celtis occidentalis*)



**HEIGHT:** up to 15 m  
**MOISTURE:** wet to dry  
**SHADE:** full sun to partial shade  
**SOIL:** adaptable to all types and wide pH range



LEAF



BARK



FRUIT

*The mature tree has a distinctive warty, ridged bark.*

## IRONWOOD (*Ostrya virginiana*)



**HEIGHT:** up to 12 m  
**MOISTURE:** moist to dry  
**SHADE:** very shade-tolerant but tolerates full sun with ample moisture  
**SOIL:** well-drained



LEAF



FLOWER



FRUIT

*Tolerates dry soils in partial shade when well established.*

## AMERICAN HORNBEAM (*Carpinus caroliniana*)



**HEIGHT:** up to 8 m  
**MOISTURE:** moist, can tolerate seasonal flooding  
**SHADE:** tolerates full shade or full sun given plenty of moisture  
**SOIL:** rich, well-drained



FRUIT



FLOWER



TRUNK

*Common names are Ironwood (wood is very hard) and Musclemwood for its fluted trunk.*

## COMMON HOPTREE (*Ptelea trifoliata*)



**HEIGHT:** up to 8 m  
**MOISTURE:** moist to dry  
**SHADE:** full sun, tolerates partial shade  
**SOIL:** requires well-drained soil



LEAF



FLOWER



FRUIT

*Fruits have been used as a substitute for hops in flavouring beer – hence the name “hoptree”.*

## REDBUD (*Cercis Canadensis*)



**HEIGHT:** up to 15 m  
**MOISTURE:** moist but not wet  
**SHADE:** full sun to partial shade  
**SOIL:** moist, well-drained



LEAF



FLOWER



FRUIT

*Magenta flowers emerge in early spring before the leaves and are followed by bean-like seed pods that remain into winter.*

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

