



Learn about the trees we're planting this spring. **Imagine Grinnell's 1000+ Trees**

Redmond Linden - Lindens are an important pollinator tree. In the spring they produce attractive yellow flowers that bees and other pollinators visit. Linden leaves can be up to eight inches long and are heart shaped. When mature, lindens can be up to 70 ft tall, they are also very drought resistant. Lindens are a weaker-wooded tree however and can be susceptible to breakage, though they are an icon and well suited tree for lining roads and sidewalks.



Tilia americana



Gymnocladus dioica

Kentucky Coffee Tree - This is an often underused tree, but a great pick as a shade tree due to its large mature size and good canopy cover. It has peculiar scaly bark and can grow to be around 60 - 80 ft tall at maturity. Did you know, it's classified under the bean plant family: Fabaceae, so is technically a legume! Don't try to eat its bean pods though, which grow about six inches long. It's name of "coffee tree" comes from folklore that says early colonial settlers tried to use its bitter bean pods as a coffee substitute.

Bur Oak - Bur oak is the state tree of Iowa. It has unique adaptations to fire because it is a native prairie savanna species. Bur Oaks can live to be over 200 years old and may get as large as 100 ft at maturity. Bur oak branches can be very long and reach out from the trunk horizontally. Their bark is very thick and fire resistant and their acorns have 'caps' that cover almost the whole nut. These trees are experiencing some fungal blight problems lately though, so we have our fingers crossed for the long term health of these beautiful iconic trees.



Quercus macrocarpa



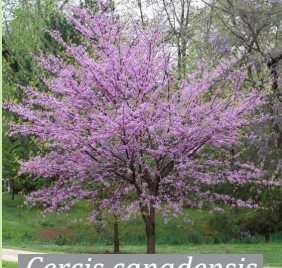
Ginkgo biloba

Ginkgo - An unique non-native tree (native to Asia), the ginkgo tree is the last of its kind; coming from a plant family nearly 300 million years ago, it has no other relatives. It produces characteristic fan shaped leaves and is used as an ornamental shade tree, their lifespan may be up to 300 years. Ginkgo trees are gymnosperms, which essentially means there are both male and female varieties of the tree. Caution, only plant the male tree varieties! This is because the female trees produce a horrible smell when they shed their leaves and seeds so are unsuitable for landscaping or use around people.



Quercus muehlenbergii

Oak, Chinkapin - This oak tree has distinguishing oval-shaped leaves which are a dark shiny green in the summer. The tree can reach up to 50 ft tall at maturity and needs full sun exposure to thrive. It is not very tolerant of drought, so needs watering attention. As with all oaks, it will produce acorns, so be mindful of this when considering your planting location.



Cercis canadensis

Eastern Redbud - This is another classic Iowa tree. Redbuds have beautiful pink and red blooms are among the first colors in the spring. Did you know that their buds are actually edible? Check out the Center for Prairie Studies guide to edible wild foods to learn more. Redbuds are a small tree, ranging in size from 15 - 30 feet tall. These trees are amazing for pollinators, being used by butterflies (Henry's elfin butterfly), as well as various hummingbird and bee species for nectar and pollen.

Maple, Sugar - Maples are a comforting tree to many because it is the tree they know best and is easy to recognize. They grow to around 60 - 80 ft tall. Some people in Grinnell tap their trees for sugar in the early spring as well. Maples make up around 1/3rd of all municipal trees in Iowa and the DNR and State Forestry office recommends we start to phase them out so cities and towns can increase their tree diversity and urban forest health. This is not only because maples can be susceptible to storm damage, but having too many of the same species makes them vulnerable to pathogens.



Acer saccharum



Quercus rubra

Red Oak, Northern - This is a fast growing tree (2 ft/year) and commonly used in landscaping and municipal plantings. At maturity, this tree can reach up to 75 ft tall and its lumber is highly prized for its strength and durability. The Red oak needs full sun exposure and is also a native tree. The bark is very recognizable for its ridges with shiny stripes in the center, which run up the full length of the trunk.

American Hophornbeam - A relation of the birch tree, american hophornbeam is a small to mid sized tree (25-40 feet) that can survive harsh conditions such as drought and poor soil. In fact it prefers acidic, well drained and even rocky soils. It has shaggy red/brown bark when mature. It is an understory tree so prefers a bit of shade, but can survive in full sun areas as well. It is a very slow growing tree.



Ostrya virginiana



Syringa reticulata

Japanese Tree Lilac - A non-native, but beautiful tree, the Japanese tree lilac is a small shrubby tree with large blooms in the spring and summer growing 20- 30 ft tall at maturity. Its blossoms provide food for pollinator species and is a common choice for ornamental edge rows, however many people do not appreciate the scent of the flowers - they have no resemblance to the small of actual lilacs. Japanese tree lilacs require a good bit of pruning to avoid becoming overly shrubby, so be sure you're prepared for that when you plant.

Pagoda Dogwood - A native shrub, the pagoda dogwood has a multilayered shape and produces small white flowers in the spring. It is a good ornamental because its leaves turn a deep red in the fall. Its berries are a prime bird food. Its ranges 15 - 25 ft tall at maturity. They prefer very fertile, moist and slightly acidic soil, as well as good sun exposure with some shade. Make sure your planting location meets these criteria to ensure the health of your pagoda dogwood.



Cornus alternifolia