Trees can add value to your home, help cool your home and neighborhood, break the cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife. Here are just a few of the many benefits of urban trees:

- Strategic placement of trees in urban areas can cool the air by between 20-45 degrees Fahrenheit
- Large urban trees are excellent filters for urban pollutants and fine particulates
- Mature trees regulate water flow and improve water quality
- A single tree can absorb up to 150 kg of CO₂ per year, sequester carbon and consequently mitigate climate change
- Trees provide food such as fruits and nuts to people
- Spending time near trees improves physical and mental health by increasing energy level and speed of recovery, while decreasing blood pressure and stress
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and save energy used for heating by 20-50%
- Trees provide habitat, food and protection to plants and animals, increasing urban biodiversity
- Landscaping with trees can increase your property value up to 20%

Want to calculate the benefits of a tree on your property? Go here: https://mytree.itreetools.org/#/

If you have any questions, please contact the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance Program Coordinator at miarborday@gmail.com or (517) 543-1512 x5

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Michigan Water Stewardship Program
MAEAP
Michigan Arbor Day Alliance
Conifers

**White pine** *Pinus strobus*: NATIVE: Michigan’s State tree! Moderate to fast growing soft pine tree that can reach 80-100 feet tall. It prefers rich, moist to well-drained soils & is shade tolerant. Used for timber, wildlife cover & windbreaks. In general, pines make excellent winter cover and roosting trees for many species of birds. Seeds eaten by a wide variety of birds, squirrels and small mammals.

**Norway spruce** *Picea abies*: NATIVE: Moderately fast growing tree that reaches 60-90’ in height. It prefers moist clay to loam soils and is shade tolerant. Needles are dark and short. Valued for landscaping, windbreaks and wildlife cover. One of the best for Eaton Co.

**Balsam Fir** *Abies balsamea*: NATIVE: Medium size tree; very shade tolerant; slow-growing; moist to dry soils; excellent Christmas tree because of aromatic and long-persistent needles.

**Red Pine** *Pinus resinosa*: NATIVE: Large hard pine, 65-100’ high; fast growing; long-lived; shade-intolerant; prefers well drained, infertile soils.

**Concolor(White)Fir** *Abies concolor*: NATIVE: Medium size (40-70’); Shade-tolerant; slow-growing; long-lived. An important ornamental tree because of its graceful form and bluish-gray foliage. Grows well on most upland soils; hardy.

**White Spruce** *Picea glauca*: NATIVE: Slow growing, shade tolerant, 60-90’ tall. Prefers well drained clay to clay loam soils but tolerates heat, drought and high water. Used for landscaping, windbreaks and wildlife cover.

Shrubs

**Chokeberry, Black** *Aronia melanocarpa*: NATIVE: 3-8’deciduous shrub; full/partial sun. Prefers wet sites. Black fruits eaten by many bird species, small clusters of white flowers in mid-spring. Dark green foliage turns reddish-purple in the fall.

**Dogwood, White Flower** *Cornus florida*: NATIVE: At least 36 species of birds are known to eat the fruit along with wildlife. Grows at a medium rate to apx. 25’. Full sun to partial shade and can grow on a variety of soils. Excellent landscape choice for all seasons.

**Ninebark** *Physocarpus opulifolius*: NATIVE: Up to 10’ tall; tough shrub with white/pink flowers in late spring. Small red fruits in autumns. Flowers are an excellent nectar source and the fruits are favored by birds and wildlife. Full sun, drought tolerant.

**Viburnum, Maple Leaf** *Viburnum acerifolium*: NATIVE; Med. size (5-8’) preferring shade/part shade conditions. White flowers in May, black/blue fruit in fall, excellent pink to burgundy fall color. Moist/well-drained soil. Attracts birds, butterflies and other pollinators. Will sucker and form colonies.

**New Jersey Tea** *Ceanothus americanus*: NATIVE: A low shrub (3’) with tiny white flowers in March/April. The dried leaves of this nitrogen-fixing shrub make an excellent tea. Attracts birds & butterflies, serves as a larval host and nectar source. Prefers loam, well-drained, but extremely adaptable.

**Nannyberry** *Viburnum lentago*: NATIVE: Up to 20’tall; small white flowers in spring. Dark berries on red stems ripen in fall. Shade tolerant, but grows well in open sites. Tolerant of wet & dry soils. Fruits are eaten by many species of birds & wildlife.
**Hackberry, Common** *Celtis occidentalis*: NATIVE: Society of Municipal Arborist “2020 Urban Tree of the Year.” Fast growing, 40-60’, hardy, provides home & food to many creatures, including songbirds (and humans) who snack on the small, berry-like drupes that are high in protein and somewhat sweet. Excellent shade & street tree, they can be messy but tough trees that can grow where others may struggle.

**Birch, Canoe** *Betula papyrifera*: Beautiful shade & ornamental that grows at a med-fast rate to 50-70’. Full sun to partial shade it grows well in loamy, moist, well-drained to clay soils. Yellow fall color, produces catkins in April & May. Pollinators, birds and wildlife find this tree attractive.

**Red Maple** *Acer rubrum*: This fast growing maple grows well on a wide range of soil types. The leaves put on a show in the fall turning red, orange and yellow. The paired single winged seed fruit ripen in late spring/early summer. This tree grows 50-70 ft.

**Hazelnut, American** *Corylus americana*: NATIVE: Small tree/shrub, moderate-fast growth; excellent for naturalizing, woodland gardens & shade areas. Catkins in spring and beautiful colors in the fall, edible nuts mature from Sept.- October, attracting seed-eating birds. Full sun-partial shade, prefers moist, well-drained soil; long-lived.

**Pussy Willow** *Salix discolor*: A short-lived, fast growing tree with spring, silky, furry catkins that open before the leaves appear. Use for mass planting, screen, specimen or windbreak. Up to 25’ but can be easily pruned as a hedge. Tolerates wet sites.

**Dolgo Crabapple** *Malus x ‘Dolgo’*: Excellent pollinator for apple trees. Sprouts apricot-pink buds that open into an explosion of fragrant, white flowers. Blooms last for weeks. Yellow fall foliage; great edible, large, ornamental fruit hangs on thru the winter which provides food for songbirds and wildlife. Use it to naturalize or as an accent. Hardy, and you can easily prune it to keep it any height you desire.

**Chinkapin Oak** *Quercus muehlenbergii*: A med-large size (50-80’) oak that produces 1” sweet acorns that are the preferred food for many wildlife species. Adapts to many different soil types, grows in full sun. Slow-med growth rate.

**Washington Hawthorn** *Crataegus phaenopyrum*: A 25’ tree that produces showy, white flowers in late May or early June; leaves are reddish-purple color, changing to dark green in the summer and then orange, scarlet or purple in the fall. Bright red berries persist into the winter are very attractive to birds & wildlife. An effective barrier due to its thorns. Grows in a pyramidal or egg shape. Easily pruned. It is an important nectar plant for bees. Tolerates many soil types and it is drought-tolerant.

**Persimmon** *Diospyros virginiana*: Med-large tree, 35-60’, slow growth rate. Full sun & tolerant of many soil types. Male & female trees. 4 season interest and attractive to insect pollinators & wildlife. Fragrant white flowers and edible fruit that ripens after frost.

**Black Gum** *Nyssa sylvatica*: NATIVE: Also known as Tupelo or Sour gum. 30-50’. Striking dark green glossy summer foliage takes center stage in fall when the leaves turn bright scarlet. White flowers, showy fruit, attractive bark, slow growth rate. Attractive to birds and wildlife. Can prune, prefers moist, well-drained soils; best in full sun. Drupes appear on female trees only and ripen in late Sept.

**Red Bud** *Cercis Canadensis*: A large shrub or small tree up to 30’. Very showy, pink to light purple clusters of flowers attract bees in early to mid-spring. Tolerant of many soils, plant in part shade, moderate growth rate. Especially beautiful grown among conifers.
**Bitternut Hickory** *Carya cordiformis*: 50-70’ tall, it has large leaves, a 1” nut and yellow fall color. Commonly found in low, wet areas, but can also grow in dry upland sites. Slow growth rate and attractive to game birds, migrant birds, songbirds and wildlife.

**Butternut** *Juglans cinerea*: NATIVE: Also called White Walnut, large 40-60’ height, full sun to shade, prefers moist, well drained soils but tolerates dry/wet sites. Like Walnut trees, it produces a chemical which many plants can’t tolerate. Birds, pollinators, and wildlife are attracted to this tree. The fruit is an oval husk, up to 2” in diameter, containing an edible nut.

**Sycamore** *Platanus occidentalis*: NATIVE: Large, fast-growing, long-lived; flowers in May and interesting fruit in winter. Tolerates flooding, moist soils and poor drainage. Good pollinator tree.

**White Oak** *Quercus alba*: Massive, long-lived stately tree, 50-80’, prefers moist, well-drained soil. Moderate-slow growth rate; fall color is a wine red. Important tree for birds and wildlife, preferred acorn by deer.

**Northern Pecan** *Carya illinoensis*: 70-100’ height and grows at a medium rate of 13-24” per year. Full sun, tolerates a variety of soils. Begins to bear nuts in 6-10 years, producing an average of 70-150# of nuts per year. Prized in the woodworking world for its handsome grain. Hardy, long-lived and favored by birds and wildlife.

**Birch, River** *Betula nigra*: 40-70’; full sun-partial shade; Naturally grows along riverbanks, but is valued as a landscape tree for its relatively rapid growth, tolerance of wetness and some drought, unique curling bark, spreading limbs, and resistance to birch borer. Produces catkins in April/May. Works well for holding stream banks and keeping erosion in check. Appreciated by deer and songbirds.