



# Downers Grove Public Works Native Tree and Shrub Sale



**Pre-order dates: 9:00 AM, May 9 thru noon May 24**

**Pick-up date: Thursday, June 8, 2:00 - 6:00 PM**

**Pick-up location: Downers Grove Public Works  
5101 Walnut Ave., Downers Grove**

## Tree Descriptions



### **Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)**

**40-50 ft. h 20-30 ft. w**

Bald Cypress is one of only a few deciduous conifers growing in this part of the country. It tolerates water covering its roots for weeks or months once established. The exfoliating bark is brown-orange and the green needles are soft and turn russet orange in the fall.



### **Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)**

**40-70 ft. h 20-65 ft. w**

Black Oak tends to be found on well-drained sites such as sand or gravel. The leaves are very similar to Red Oak. Fall color can be red but usually is a tan-brown. Leaves do not persist through winter. Ultimate size is slightly smaller than Red Oak in the Chicago region.

## Tree Descriptions (cont'd)



### **Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)**

**50-80 ft. h 50-80 ft. w**

The Bur Oak is a very adaptable tree. It is tolerant of heavy clay soil, with a high pH level and in open areas. It needs full sun. Its growth rate is slow to moderate and is very asymmetrical in youth, but it becomes more symmetrical as it matures. The Bur Oak's bark is deeply furrowed and dark, brown and it had massive branches.



### **Northern Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)**

**40-50 ft. h 30-40 ft. w**

In late May, the Catalpa puts on a display of large, bell-shaped white flowers whose throats are streaked with yellow and has purple spots. The flowers develop into long, slender green seed pods (12-22"). In the fall, the pods turn dark brown and split open to release the seeds. The Catalpa prefers full sun and adapts to most sites and soil conditions.



### **Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)**

**15 ft. h 10-15 ft. w**

The Pagoda likes a few hours of sun in the morning, with protection from the western sun exposure and moist soil. The tree has horizontal branching and white flowers in the spring. In the fall, the Pagoda has blue-black fruit and the leaves have a maroon-red color. This is a good understory tree.

## Tree Descriptions (cont'd)



### **Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)**

**60-70 ft. h 45 ft. w**

Pin Oaks prefer wet areas once established. The form of Pin Oak is quite nice, with its lower limbs hanging low and a tightly branched crown. The red, yellow and orange fall colors can be stunning; but if the tree is not placed properly, it goes straight to a light brown. If you're looking for an oak for a wet yard or by a pond, you can use this oak.



### **Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)**

**50-80 ft. h 40-80 ft. w**

This is one of the most shade tolerant oaks. It just needs a few hours of sun a day. The fall color is an outstanding red and it is said to be one of the fastest growing oaks.



### **Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)**

**15 ft. h 10 ft. w**

Redbuds are outstanding understory trees that profusely, produces a rose-purple flower in the spring on bare branches. The tree forms a flattened bean-like pod that turns brown in the summer and that may remain through the winter. The tree prefers drier soil. In the fall, the heart-shaped leaves turn a yellowish to a yellow-brown.

## Tree Descriptions (cont'd)



### **River Birch (*Betula nigra*)**

**30-40 ft. h 20-30 ft. w**

This fast growing birch has cinnamon-brown exfoliating bark. It prefers full to partial shade. This tree can be planted near a downspout and tolerates saturated soils. It can survive standing water for a month and is useful for erosion control. It can be a single or multi-stem tree.



### **Sour Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)**

**30-40 ft. h 25-35 ft. w**

The Sour Gum's showiest in the fall when the leaves turn a glossy, orange to red color. They grow on the slower side of moderate and are pyramidal in shape with horizontal branching. It prefers moist well drained soil and needs plenty of sun. The flowers are not showy, but they are a great source for nectar. The trees are dioecious (separate male and female trees) and only the females produce flowers.



### **Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)**

**50-80 ft. h 50-80 ft. w**

Swamp White Oak is a good all around deciduous tree that tolerates wet soil and dry conditions. The top of the leaves are a shiny green while the underside is a silvery, white. In the fall, they turn yellow to brown. This oak prefers full sun.

## Shrub Descriptions



### **Black Chokecherry** **(*Aronia melanocarpa*)**

**6-10 ft. h 4-10 ft. w**

The common name “chokeberry” accurately describes the taste of the berries. Even the birds don’t eat them until late fall! Blooms white in late April/early May. Fruit turns black in August. Fall color is a vibrant red-orange. Its primary habitat is in the swamp, but it will do great in good garden soil. Does best in full to half-day sun.



### **Coralberry** **(*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)**

**2-4 ft. h 3-4 ft. w**

Coralberry is part of the oak savanna where it creates low, dense thickets in dry areas that are in full sun or light shade. This plant is native further south. The white flowers are flushed with pink and bloom in early spring, but they are not particularly showy. However, the pea size fruit form large clusters of bright purple and persist through winter. Birds eat the fruit before spring. In the plant world there are very few plants like Coralberry that can grow 3 feet tall and handle dry spots in shade.



### **Early Wild Rose (*Rosa blanda*)**

**4 ft. h 4-6 ft. w**

This rose grows in full sun to partial shade and does create a thicket. Early Wild Rose can have a lot of thorns. The flowers are pink with yellow centers that bloom in late May to early June.

## Shrub Descriptions (cont'd)



### **Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)**

**8-10 ft. h 6-8 ft. w**

A great plant for shrub borders that have half-day sun. The small flowers mass together in 6-12 inch wide flat-topped cymes in June. The purple-black fruit from August to September is relished by birds and humans. If the plant gets too large for an area, it may be cut to the ground in March and it will still flower that same year.



### **Meadowsweet (*Spirea alba*)**

**2-4 ft. h 2-4 ft. w**

This shrub is found in wet areas. The cone-shaped flowers bloom in June. If the plant gets overgrown, it can be cut to the ground in March and still bloom on the new wood that year.



### **Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)**

**8-10 ft. h 8-10 ft. w**

Ninebark blooms pink to white from May to June in umbrella-like clusters. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and grows in full sun to partial shade. Its common name is in reference to its ornamental, attractive, exfoliating bark that is more visible in the winter months when the leaves have fallen.

## Shrub Descriptions (cont'd)



### **Oak-leaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)**

**6 ft. h 4 ft. w**

This broad-rounded, suckering, multi-stem deciduous shrub likes full sun to part-shade. It produces beautiful, pyramidal, panicles of white flowers in late June and July. It prefers moist soil and it should be in a sheltered area buffered from winter winds. In the fall, the oak-like leaves turn red-orange. The exfoliating bark on the older branches provides winter interest.



### **Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)**

**5-7 ft. h 3 ft. w**

This vase shaped shrub prefers wet-mesic soil and full sun. White flowers bloom in mid-May and it has excellent red-orange foliage in the fall. Vibrant red berries persist through winter and the birds only eat them if they are desperate for food. This is a good plant for massing.



### **Smooth Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arboescens*) \***

**3-5 ft. h 3-5 ft. w**

This is one of the best shade tolerant plants. In June and July, the white corymbs blooms covers the shrub. Typically this plant is found in open woods, shaded wetlands and along woodland streams.

\*Found in southern Illinois zone, successfully grown in our region

## Shrub Descriptions (cont'd)



### **Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpurea*)**

**8-12 ft. h 8-10 ft. w**

Wahoo grows well in full sun, better in light shade, but in either case it does need some protection from the wind. It seems to be adapted to heavy clay soils. Another common name is “native burning bush” for its spectacular red fall color. Single or multi-stemmed, these plants can reach 15-20 feet in height. The bright red fall color and the rosy, Christmas ornament-like fruit make this a great plant in any yard!



### **Wild Black Currant (*Ribes americanum*)**

**3 ft. h 3 ft. w**

If you are looking for a shrub that grows to 3 feet and does well in dry shade, this one works. The fruit that ripens in July is edible. In the fall, their leaves turn a very nice red and orange, but put plants in full sun the fall color turns into a deeper purple color that looks almost black.

## Vine Description



### **Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)**

**30 ft.**

The iconic woody vine of Illinois. It grows up to 30 feet in length either up a vertical surface, along the ground, or climbing on itself, forming these wonderful, curly tornados. It is best known for its bright fruit on the ends of the stems on female plants. You'll need one male for every three to five females to get good fruit set. The bright yellow fall color and orange/red fruit are spectacular in the yard or in arrangements.