

Seneca County Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Planting Program Descriptions

CONIFERS

Cedar, White - Grows up to 50 feet. Flowers open in March & April. Leaves are dark green and yellowish beneath; when crushed give off a smell of apples. Cones ripen from yellowish-green the following Autumn, about 1/2 inch-long with 8-10 scales.

Spruce, Black Hills - Grows to be 30'-60' in height. The Black Hills Spruce grows in acid, moist, gravelly or sandy loam, fine clay soils. Prefers moist, well drained soil, but will tolerate dry, well drained sites.

Fir, Balsam - It is a small to medium-sized tree used primarily for pulp and light frame and construction, and it is one of the most popular Christmas trees. Wildlife relies extensively on this tree for food and shelter. Balsam fir prefers moist, cool, well-drained, acidic soil, but will tolerate some salt.

Spruce, Colorado Blue - Height 100'. Grows in acidic, alkaline, drought tolerant, loamy, moist, rich, sandy, well drained, wet, wide range, clay soils. The needles surround the branch at nearly right angles and are usually silvery to blue-green, but occasionally the blue is absent.

Fir, Concolor - A citrus smell is present when the needle is broken. White bloom may be distributed evenly or may occur in distinct bands on both surfaces. The Concolor Fir grows in acidic, drought tolerant, loamy, moist, sandy, well drained soils.

Spruce, Norway - Grows to be 40-60' in height. It grows in acidic, drought tolerant, loamy, moist, sandy, well drained, clay soils. This tree grows at a medium to fast growth rate.

Fir, Douglas - Height 40-60'. Flowers open in late March and April. Leaves are densely set, needle-like with blunt tips and have a strong fruity fragrance. High quality timber. The DF grows in acidic, alkaline, loamy, moist, sandy, well drained, wide range, clay soils.

Spruce, White - Grows to be 40-60' in height. The White Spruce grows in acidic, drought tolerant, loamy, moist sandy, well drained, clay soils. This tree grows at a medium growth rate. When crushed a pungent odor is apparent. Needle tips are pointed, but not sharp.

Fir, Fraser - A narrow, pyramidal tree with glossy, dark green needles. The undersides of the needles have two white rows. Not suited for hot, dry sites as it prefers moist, well-drained sites.



DECIDUOUS TREES

American Beech - Grows to be 50-70 feet in height. This tree grows in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, silty loam, well drained, clay soils. This tree grows at a slow to medium growth rate.

Red, Sugar - Grows to 60-70 feet. This tree grows at a slow to medium growth rate. Prefers well-drained soils. Brilliant fall leaf colors and pleasing growth habit.

American Mountainash - Grows 10-30 feet. This tree grows in acidic, loamy, sandy, well drained, wet, clay soils. This tree grows at a slow growth rate.

Oak, Red - Grows 50-75 feet. This tree grows at a fast growth rate. Grows in acidic, drought tolerant, loamy, and moist, sandy, well drained, clay soils.

Catalpa - Grows to 40'-60'. Large, showy white flowers grace the Catalpa in late Spring. Its crown is rounded & upright w/large, heart-shaped, medium green leaves. Sun or partial shade.

Oak, Sawtooth - 40-60 feet high tree with dense, wide-spreading branches. This tree grows at a medium to fast growth rate. The SO grows in acidic, drought tolerant, loamy, moist, sandy, well drained, clay soils.

Birch, Native - Grows up to 50 feet. Has white bark that will appear after 3 to 4 years. This tree will grow well in moist soils.

Oak, White - 60 feet high, slow growing tree. This tree is great feed for wildlife, and is also a great timber tree. White Oak grows well in moist soil types.

Cherry, Black - Grows up to 50 feet. Will have profuse white flowers in the spring and brilliant gold leaf color in the Fall. Fruit from this tree is good for making wine and jelly and is also a great food for wildlife.

Sassafras - 30-60 feet aromatic tree or thicket-forming shrub. The fruit is an elliptical shiny, bluish-black berry that is devoured by birds. The leaf color ranges from green to yellow in the summer, to deep orange, scarlet and then purple in the fall. Sassafras grows in moist, particularly sandy soils in the sun, however light shade is preferred.

Dogwood White Flowering - Grows to be 25 feet in height. Grows in acidic, loamy, moist, rich sandy, well drained, clay soils. This tree grows at a medium growth rate.

Sycamore - 75-100 feet tree with a massive trunk. The bark of a Sycamore is mottled. This tree is fast growing and prefers moist soils.

Maple, Red - 40-60' in height. This tree grows at a medium to fast growth rate. The Red Maple grows in acidic, loamy, moist, rich, sandy, silty loam, well drained, wet, clay soils. Red Maple is a strong wood. In the fall its leaf color will range from green to flaming orange. It is very tolerant of soils, but prefers acid soils.

Tulip Tree - 70-90 feet. This tree grows at a fast growth rate. Grows in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well drained, clay soils. Flowers May-June with greenish-yellow petals. Full sun, well drained loam.

FAST GROWING SHADE PAC - **Tag Alder** – Grows 15 to 20 feet, bright yellow catkins in spring; .5 cone shaped fruit persists through the winter. **Thornless Honey Locust** – This tree grows at a fast rate. Tolerant of a wide range of soils including acid, alkaline, moist, dry, salt. Has fragrant spring flowers. **Basswood**, **Silver Maple**—50-70 foot fast growing upright tree, with strong spreading branches. It matches rugged conditions with growth and durability. Silver Maple is an excellent source of shade. **Tulip Tree**

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

American Cranberry - 6-12' multi-stemmed shrub. In May this plant has white flowers. September through February it has bright red fruit. The fruit of American Cranberry is used in jelly and is great for attracting birds.

American Bittersweet - 20' vigorous climbing vine. Its yellow-orange fruit is collected for dried flower arrangements. American Bittersweet is great for poor soils and full sun. This plant should be planted in an area by itself because it can take over surrounding vegetation.

Blackberry - This plant produces large black fruit that is firm, fleshy, and sweet. Blackberry will produce over a long period of time. It is a very hardy and heavy producer. The root systems of this plant have great soil holding capacity.

Blueberry Highbush (early/mid) - Slow growing, upright, multi-stemmed shrub with spreading branches that form a rounded, dense, compact outline. It is hardy from zones 3 to 7 and at maturity can be from 6 to 12 feet high with a spread of 8 to 12 feet.

Blueberries will be more productive if cross-pollination takes place. This means two or more varieties should be planted.

Burning Bush - 15-20 foot broad and mounded shrub. It has a dark green leaves that turns a brilliant red in the fall. Burning Bush is a very adaptable plant and tolerates shade. This plant prefers well-drained soil and it will withstand heavy pruning.

Butterfly Bush - 5-12' multi-stemmed shrub. This bush will have fragrant flowers July through the fall. Butterfly bush attracts butterflies. It should be heavily pruned in the spring and it tolerates most soils.

Buttonbush - 3-6' rounded ganging shrub. This native plant is great for wet areas. Has an interesting white flower. in late summer.

Current - Growing to 1-1.5 m tall, occasionally 2 m, with five-lobed leaves arranged spirally on the stems. The flowers are inconspicuous yellow-green, maturing into bright red translucent edible berries.

Dogwood Redoiser - 7-9' slender, upright shrub. It has a red stem and white drupe fruit in mid-August. Redoiser Dogwood is best in wet or swampy conditions. It is also a great structure for holding soil on sloped areas.

Elderberry - 5-12' multi-stemmed shrub. In mid-June it has white flowers and in mid-August it has purple fruit. Elderberry tolerates soils and roadside conditions.

Forsythia - 8-10' upright and wide shrub. It has yellow flowers in April for 2-3 weeks. Full sunlight is needed for maximum flower. Forsythia prefers loose soil, but does well in any type.

Lilac - 8-12' leggy, upright shrub. In mid-May it has fragrant flowers.

Ninebark (Butterfly Pac ONLY!) - 5-9' spreading shrub. May-June it has white flowers and in mid-September it has a red fruit. It has a beautiful exfoliating bark. Ninebark tolerates full sun and dry conditions.

Red Chokeberry - Is a common upright, open shrub with white flower clusters in spring and red fruits in fall and winter.

Red Raspberry - 3 to 5 foot dark green foliage on an upright bush, producing bright berries. Bloom time late spring, fruit begins to ripen in mid summer. Full sun required.

Rose of Sharon - 8-12' erect shrub or small tree with numerous upright branches. This plant flowers July through September. Althea will tolerate moist soils, full sun, and is pH adaptable.

Sand Cherry - 4-6 feet high and wide shrub. It has attractive gray, green leaves, showy white flowers, and a sweet black fruit in the summer. Sand Cherry tolerates hot, dry conditions.

Spicebush - 6-17' high shrub with similar spread, producing flowers March-April. A tea can be made from the leaves and twigs. This shrub grows best in well-drained, moist soils in full sun or ½ shade.

Strawberry Bush - Grows 6-12' Bright green leaves become dark red in the fall. Red fruit opens to orange seed. Thrives in low sandy thickets and swamps. Native to New York!!! **POISONESS TO HUMANS!**

Willow Stream-Co - 8-10' round dense shrub. This plant is used to stabilize stream banks and in making baskets. Stream-Co Willow is great for wet areas.

Witch-Hazel - 20-30' wide spreading shrub. It has yellow fragrant flowers that last in to late October. This native plant will grow in wet shady areas as well as in the open sun.

GROUNDCOVERS

Daylily—Christmas Carol - 30" high perennial. Strong red flowers are highlighted with a yellow banded green eye in the throat. Blooms—Early. Carefree, pest resistant and free of daylily rust disease-outstanding. They even grow under Black Walnut trees and along salted driveways.

English Ivy - 6"-1' climber, shiny dark leaf evergreen. Adaptable range of sun to shade and dry to moist soils. Ideal groundcover for rocks, stumps and under trees.

Pachysandra - 1' trailing evergreen. Spikes of snowy flowers bloom in April. At it's best in shade and acid soil. Good cover under trees & shrubs.

Hosta - 22" high, spreading plant. It has a blue-green leaf color and a funnel-shaped, lavender flower that appears in July. Hosta will tolerate sun and grows best in well-drained soils. This plant has an extensive root system, which makes it excellent for erosion control. It is also disease resistant.

Myrtle - 1' evergreen vine. Grows almost anywhere, ranging from deep shade to full sun in dry to moist soil types. Green foliage is enhanced in May by a purple bloom.

Wildflower Seed Packets
Original, Sunny, and Shady—see our website for descriptions of each.

FERN PAC - Christmas – 1-2' height full evergreen dark green in color requires shade to partial shade. Prefers neutral to acid soils. **Cinnamon** – 2-5' height non-evergreen fern. First foliage appears as Cinnamon sticks. Later producing leaves that are deep waxy green. Prefers acid soil, up in late April dormant in September. **Maidenhair** – 18" tall, delicate fern. Lacy, soft leaf grows rapidly. Cannot tolerate dry soils and prefers neutral and moist soils. Dies back in September. **New York** – 18' semi-evergreen hardy fern. It likes dryer soils. New York fern has yellow-green leaves that spread rapidly. This is a good groundcover and requires shade to partial sun. **Ostrich** – 3-6' rich green fern. Light shade to partial sun preference. Applications along ponds and low wet areas are ideal.

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