

Native trees are trees that occur naturally in the region they're in. Which means long ago, we'd have these same trees growing wildly across the state. Because native trees are adapted to the local environmental conditions they're a part of, they are lower maintenance, provide a vital habitat for wildlife, require less water, sustain surrounding landscaping, and preserve biodiversity. Learn about six native trees of Iowa featured by our team of International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists.



White Oak

Quercus alba

Iowa's white oaks can live to be 400 years old. The white oak is a strong, hardy and durable tree that has rounded, dull green leaves and acorns that drop in the fall. It grows best in moist, well-drained soils. The white oak typically grows between 50 and 75 feet tall, with the ability to reach 100 feet, and 40 to 70 feet wide.



Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum

The sugar maple is one of Iowa's largest forest trees, which is used as a shade and ornamental tree. It has showy yellow, red and crimson leaves in the fall, and is the best of all maples for production of maple syrup and sugar. The sugar maple is less tolerant of cold or heat than other maples.



Red Oak

Quercus rubra

From stream terraces to dry ridges and slopes, the red oak prefers soils which are moist, yet well-drained and slightly acidic. The wood of the red oak is hard, strong, and moist but less durable. Its leaves are lobed with pointed tips. It is a slow growing tree, but does grow faster than most oaks, and is fairly easy to transplant.

QUESTIONS? We believe a successful landscape starts with the right tree planted in the right place. From selecting the correct tree, to planting, and everything in between, we can help you through the process. We love to talk all things outdoors! Give us a call at 515.987.0800 to chat with one of our team members.



Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis

With heights reaching over 100 feet, the sycamore tree has unusually light green large leaves, making it an easily identifiable tree. It prefers deep, moist and rich soil, however, it does adapt and grow in drier soils. Because of its fast growing rate, excellent shade potential, aesthetic appearance, and ability to withstand strong winds, sycamores are often planted as a shade or street tree in Iowa.



Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

The bur oak is a very slow growing tree that can adapt to a wide range of sites and soils. It is drought resistant and grows best in moist, well-drained soils, but can adapt well to adverse soil conditions. It has dark green leaves, with its fall color varying from dull yellow, yellow green to yellow brown. The bur oak typically grows between 50 and 75 feet tall, with the ability to reach 100 feet, and 40 to 70 feet wide.



Red Maple

Acer rubrum

The red maple vary in their growth rate. Faster growing maples tending to have weaker wood with susceptibility to wind and ice damage, and slower growing maples have heavier, harder wood which are less susceptible to branch and limb drop. The red maple is one of the most common and widespread deciduous tree of North America.

All photos courtesy of the Arbor Day Foundation

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