

# Howard County Soil & Water District 2024 Tree & Plant Sale

## \* \* \* Trees: Evergreens \* \* \*



### **Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*)

Mature Height: 50 – 80 feet

Mature Width: 20 - 40 feet

Light: Sun/partial shade.

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained with acidic pH. Avoid compacted clay.

Needles: Bundles of 5, 3-6" long; remain for 2-3 years before dropping in fall.

Cones: 6-8" long & slender, remaining on tree for 2 years.

Fast-growing and long-lived, this is the largest conifer native to eastern North America. It needs room but can be used as an ornamental specimen, a windbreak, or in reforestation. Avoid open, windy sites, but is very cold tolerant. Use pine needle mulch over the root zone to lower soil pH.



### **Norway Spruce** (*Picea abies*)

Mature Height: 40 – 60 feet

Mature Width: 25 – 30 feet

Light: Sun.

Soil: Moist, well-drained, acidic. Does not tolerate poor drainage.

Needles: 4-sided, stiff, ½-1" long.

Cones: 4-6" long, cylindrical, green turning light brown as they ripen.

Native to Europe, this large, pyramidal-shaped, medium- to fast-growing tree is used as an ornamental, in windbreaks, or as a screen. It provides habitat for birds, moths, and small animals.



### **Blue Spruce** (*Picea pungens*)

Mature Height: 50 – 75 feet

Mature Width: 10 – 20 feet

Light: Sun.

Soil: Well-drained. Requires normal moisture with moderate tolerance to flooding and drought.

Needles: stiff, prickly, 1-1½" in length with silvery, blue-green color year-round.

Cones: light brown, 3-4" that hang downward on the branches & cluster in the upper crown.

This native of the western US is slow to medium in growth (less than 12" to 24" per year), but long-lived. It grows in a columnar, pyramidal shape and withstands wind better than most spruces due to a wide-spreading and moderately deep root system.



### **American Arborvitae** (*Thuja occidentalis*) aka northern or eastern white cedar

Mature Height: 40 – 60 feet

Mature Width: 10 – 15 feet

Light: Sun.

Soil: Grows well in a variety of soils, including well-drained, wet and dry clay soils.

Leaves (not needles): tiny, scale-like, on branchlets in a fan-like spray. Bright green in summer, going to rich yellow-brown-green in winter. Cones: small, light brown, oblong.

Grows in a pyramidal shape at a slow to medium rate. Provides shelter for birds. Used in early canoes and medicines and was the first North American tree to be introduced to Europe.

## \* \* \* Trees: Deciduous \* \* \*



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

Mature Height: 60 – 75 feet

Mature Width: 45 feet

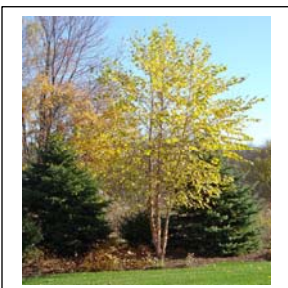
Light: Sun.

Soil: Moist, acidic, well-drained. Tolerates compacted soil, salt & pollution.

Leaves: Turn russet to bright red in fall.

Acorns: Round & ¾-1 inch long.

This native grows as much as 2 feet per year with a broad, rounded form at maturity. Its acorns are the food preference for blue jays, wild turkeys, squirrels, whitetail deer, and a variety of other wildlife.



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

Mature Height: 40 - 70 feet

Mature Width: 40 - 60 feet

Light: Sun/partial shade.

Soil: Moist, sandy, well-drained, wet and clay soils. Tolerates moderate flooding and some drought.

Leaves: 2-3" long and somewhat triangular.

Once mature, it produces a cinnamon-colored bark that curls & peels. Can grow as either a single- or multi-trunk tree. Is the most borer-resistant birch. Should not be planted in very alkaline soil. Works well for keeping erosion in check. The small but plentiful seeds are enjoyed by a wide range of songbirds. Is known as a "self-pruner," shedding branches throughout the year.



### **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*)

Mature Height: 60 – 75 feet

Mature Width: 40 – 50 feet

Light: Sun but tolerates some shade.

Soil: Moderately moist, acidic, well-drained. Tolerates some drought. Should not be planted in a confined area or where salt is a problem. Needs room for its roots to spread.

Leaves: Dark green summer color changes to outstanding display in fall, ranging from brilliant yellow to burnt-orange.

Outstanding native shade or specimen tree.





**Marsh Milkweed** (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Height: 3 - 5 feet

Bloom Color: Pink

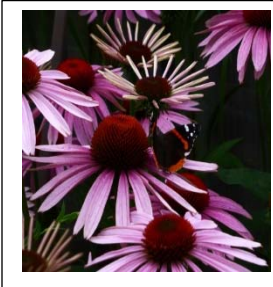
Habitat: Rain Garden; Bird food

Light: Sun

Bloom Time: July

Family: Milkweed

Also known as Swamp Milkweed because of its preference for a wet habitat, it is the larval host of the monarch butterfly. It is an extremely popular nectar source with many species of bees, wasps, ants, beetles, flies, moths, monarch, swallowtail, and other species of butterflies. Hummingbirds also visit on occasion. Flowers have a strong vanilla-like odor. It has a tall, branching habit, erect flower umbels, and narrow leaves.



**Purple Coneflower** (*Asclepias purpurea*)

Height: 3 – 4 feet

Bloom Color: Light Purple

Habitat: Pollinator; Rain Garden; Bird food

Light: Sun

Bloom Time: July

Family: Aster

Attracts many types of butterflies, including monarchs, red admirals, sulphurs, fritillaries, and swallowtails. Both short- and long-tongued bees, including small carpenter, sweat, long-horned, digger and mining bees, visit for nectar and pollen. Goldfinch feed on its seeds in the late summer and fall.



**Riddell's Goldenrod** (*Solidago riddellii*)

Height: 2 – 3 feet

Bloom Color: Yellow

Habitat: Rain Garden

Light: Sun

Bloom Time: September-October

Family: Aster

Many insects visit for nectar and pollen, including honey & bumble bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and butterflies. Eastern Goldfinch, Indigo Bunting, Slate-colored Junco, and Tree Sparrow feed on the seeds. Goldenrod pollen has been falsely accused of causing human allergies. The pollen is too heavy to be air-borne, but since it frequently grows in close proximity to other plant species, like ragweed, with air-borne pollen, it has been blamed also.



**Short's Aster** (*Symphyotrichum shortii*)

Height: 2 – 3 ½ feet

Bloom Color: Pale Purple

Habitat: Pollinator

Light: Part sun to light shade

Bloom Time: August-October

Family: Aster

A woodland native, this aster provides nectar for fall-foraging butterflies, bees, and parasitic wasps. The centers start out yellow then turn brick red after pollination. Branching along the upper half of the plant, it tends to lean sideways from the weight of the numerous daisy-like flowers. It prefers partial shade, moderately wet to dry soil with decaying organic matter like would be found in its native habitat.



**Wild Senna** (*Senna hebecarpa*)

Height: Up to 6 feet

Bloom Color: Yellow

Habitat: Pollinator

Light: Sun

Bloom Time: July-August

Family: Pea

Although in bloom only a short time, flowers are visited by many pollinators including butterflies, solitary bees, and bumble bees. Larval host to sulphur butterflies. Abundant seedpods enjoyed by birds and plant is an important food source for game birds such as quail. Considered threatened or endangered in the northeastern US. Excellent backdrop for shorter perennials. Adds structure to the wildflower garden.

**Grass descriptions on page 4.**

## \* \* \* Native Grasses \* \* \*



### **Little Bluestem** (*Schizachyrium scoparius*)

Height: 2 – 3 feet

Light: Sun

Bloom Color: -

Bloom Time: August-September

Habitat: Pollinator; Rain garden; Bird food

Family: Grass

This warm-season, clump-forming prairie grass has blue-tinted leaves that turn purplish-bronze in the fall. It remains upright through the winter, providing visual interest. The caterpillars of various skippers feed on the foliage. Skippers look like a cross between a small moth and a small butterfly. The native field sparrow, tree sparrow, slate-colored junco and other small songbirds eat the seeds, especially in the winter.



### **Indian Grass** (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Height: 3 – 5 feet

Light: Sun

Bloom Color: Light brown with yellow stamens

Bloom Time: August-September

Habitat: Ornamental; Bird food

Family: Grass

This is a warm-season grass that was one of the dominant grasses of the tallgrass prairie that once covered large parts of the Midwest. It forms upright clumps with blue-green leaves. Stiff stems are topped with feathery flower panicles that also provide winter interest. Tolerant of drought, dry soil, black walnut & air pollution. Use in meadows or naturalized areas, as vertical accent for borders, or for erosion control on slopes.



### **Prairie Dropseed** (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)

Height: 1 – 3 feet

Light: Sun

Bloom Color: -

Bloom Time: August - October

Habitat: Pollinator; Rain garden; Bird food

Family: Grass

This warm-season, clump-forming grass is a true prairie grass. It forms an arching mound of fine-textured green leaves then sends up slender stems topped by open flower panicles in late summer. These graceful stems move and dance with the passing breeze. Fall color is golden with orange hues fading to light bronze in winter. The seeds are eaten by sparrows and other songbirds from late summer into winter, including the Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, and Slate-Colored Junco.