

Part I: Woody Trees, Shrubs and Vines
For a Changing Minnesota: Cold Hardy Zones 2 & 3
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This list should by no means be considered exhaustive. If there are cultivated varieties or species that are known to perform well in northern Minnesota, consider them as you put together your plant palette.

Plant names followed by an * represent plants native to the upper Midwest.

Deciduous Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Size
<i>Acer negundo</i> *	Boxelder Maple	Medium
<i>Acer rubrum</i> *	Red Maple	Large
<i>Acer saccharinum</i> *	Silver Maple	Large
<i>Acer saccharum</i> *	Sugar Maple	Large
<i>Acer triflorum</i>	3-Flowered Maple	Small-Med
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye	Medium
<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i>	'Autumn Brilliance' Serviceberry	Small
<i>Betula lenta</i> *	Sweet Birch	Medium
<i>Betula nigra</i> *	River Birch	Medium
<i>Betula papyrifera</i> *	Paper Birch	Medium
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Weeping Cutleaf Birch	Medium
<i>Betula platyphylla</i>	'Dakota Pinnacle' Birch	Medium and narrow
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> *	Blue Beech	Small
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> *	Hackberry	Large
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> *	Pagoda Dogwood	Small
<i>Crataegus species</i>	'Snowbird' Hawthorn	Small
<i>Fraxinus mandshurica</i>	Manchurian Ash	Medium
<i>Larix laricina</i> *	American Larch	Large
<i>Macckia amurensis</i>	Amur Maackia	Small-Med
<i>Malus species</i>	Flowering Crabapples	Small-Med
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> *	Ironwood	Medium
<i>Phellodendron amurensis</i>	Amur Corktree...only purchase and plant male varieties	Medium
<i>Populus balsamifera</i> *	Balsam Poplar	Medium
<i>Populus grandidentata</i> *	Big-toothed Aspen	Large
<i>Populus deltoides</i> *	Eastern Cottonwood...only plant male trees to avoid seed	Large
<i>Prunus maackii</i>	Amur Chokecherry	Small
<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i> *	Pin Cherry	Small-Med
<i>Prunus serotina</i> *	Black Cherry	Large
<i>Quercus alba</i> *	White Oak	Large
<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i> *	Northern Pin Oak	Large

Quercus macrocarpa*	Bur Oak...NOT Burr Oak	Large
Quercus rubra*	Northern Red Oak	Large
Quercus x bimundorum	'Prairie Stature' Oak	Large
Salix species	'Prairie Cascade' Willow	Med-Large
Salix pentandra*	Laurel Willow	Med-Large
Sorbus aucuparia	European Mountain-ash	Small
Sorbus decora*	Showy Mountain-ash	Small
Syringa reticulata	Japanese Tree Lilac	Small
Tilia americana*	Basswood – 'Redmond' and 'Boulevard' are good urban varieties	Large
Tilia x mongolica	'Harvest Gold' Basswood	Large
Ulmus americana*	'Prairie Expedition' American Elm	Large
Ulmus japonica	'Discovery' Elm	Medium

Most deciduous trees perform best in well-drained soils, organic, neutral to acidic, not compacted, full sun to moderate levels of shade. Therefore, just because a tree is cold-hardy to an area doesn't mean it will perform well. Assess the planting site thoroughly and select the best plants for the site carefully.

Evergreen Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Size
Abies balsamea*	Balsam Fir	Large
Juniperus virginiana*	Eastern Red Cedar	Small-Med
Picea abies	Norway Spruce	Large
Picea glauca*	White Spruce	Large
Picea mariana*	Black Spruce	Medium
Picea pungens*	Colorado Spruce	Large
Pinus banksiana*	Jack Pine	Medium
Pinus cembra	Swiss Stone Pine	Small
Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa Pine	Large
Pinus resinosa*	Red/Norway Pine	Large
Pinus strobus*	Eastern White Pine	Large
Thuja occidentalis	Northern White Cedar	Small-Medium
Tsuga canadensis	Hemlock	Medium

Evergreen trees are generally much slower growing than deciduous trees, require regular watering through late autumn to help them establish after planting, and are usually purchased as containerized trees or balled-and-burlapped, which often makes them more expensive than deciduous trees. With the exception of Hemlock, Northern White Cedar, White Pine and Balsam Fir, evergreen trees perform poorly in shaded landscapes.

Small, Medium, Large? It's all relative.

A small tree is one that usually doesn't grow any taller than around 30 feet. A medium tree matures up to 50 feet. A large tree reliably grows up to more than 50 feet.

A small shrub stays less than 3 feet in height. A medium shrub can grow up to around 6 feet in height. A large shrub reliably matures at 6 or more feet in height.

Shrubs (deciduous unless noted)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Size
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> *	Serviceberry	Medium
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> *	Black Chokeberry	Small-Med
<i>Cornus sericea</i> *(aka <i>stolonifera</i>)	Red-twig Dogwood	Small-Med depending on varieties
<i>Dirca palustris</i> *	Leatherwood	Small
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i> *	Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	Small
<i>Forsythia</i> species	'Meadowlark' and 'Northern Gold'	Medium-Large
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Wild Hydrangea	Medium
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	'P.G. Hydrangea'	Large
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> *	Winterberry Holly	Medium
<i>Juniperus communis</i> *	Common Juniper	Small-Medium Evergreen
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> *	Common Ninebark	Large
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Mugo Pine	Medium-Large Evergreen
<i>Prunus tomentosa</i> *	Nanking Cherry	Medium
<i>Rhus glabra</i> *	Smooth Sumac	Large
<i>Rhus typhina</i> *	Staghorn Sumac	Large
<i>Salix discolor</i> *	Pussy Willow	Medium-Large
<i>Syringa patula</i>	'Miss Kim' Lilac	Medium-Large
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> *	Common Lilac	Large
<i>Syringa x prestoniae</i>	'James Macfarlane' and 'Nocturne'	Large
<i>Syringa x meyerii</i>	'Tinkerbelle'	Small-Medium
<i>Viburnum lantana</i> *	Wayfaring Tree	Large
<i>Viburnum lentago</i> *	Nannyberry Viburnum	Large
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i> *	American Cranberrybush	Large
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> *	Blackhaw Viburnum	Large
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	European Cranberrybush	Medium-Large
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> *	Arrowwood Viburnum	Medium

Woody Deciduous Vines

Scientific Name	Common Name	Growth Rate
<i>Celastrus scandens</i> *	American Bittersweet	Moderate. Make sure you get American bittersweet, not Oriental Bittersweet which is very invasive.
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virgins Bower Clematis	Moderate-Fast
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Common Hop Vine	Fast-Moderate
<i>Lonicera x brownie</i>	Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle	Moderate
<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i> *	Woodbine	Fast
<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Riverbank Grape	Too Fast...be careful where you plant this very aggressive vine.

Part II: Woody Trees, Shrubs and Vines For Minnesota's Cold Hardy Zones 4 and 5

Deciduous Trees		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Size
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Hedge Maple	Small
<i>Acer x freemanii</i> 'Sienna Glen'	Freeman Maple	Med to large
<i>Acer rubrum</i> *	Red Maple	Med to Large
<i>Acer saccharinum</i> *	Silver Maple	Large
<i>Acer truncatum</i>	Shangtung Maple	Medium
<i>Aesculus glabra</i> *	Ohio Buckeye	Small to Medium
<i>Amelanchier</i> species	Serviceberry	Small
<i>Betula nigra</i> * 'Dura Heat'	River Birch	Medium
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> *	Blue Beech	Small
<i>Carya ovata</i> *	Shagbark Hickory	Medium
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> *	Hackberry	Large
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Katsura Tree	Medium
<i>Cercis Canadensis</i> *	Redbud MN strain	Small
<i>Cladrastis kentukia</i>	Yellowwood	Medium
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> *	Pagoda Dogwood	Small
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> *	Cockspur Hawthorn	Small
<i>Fraxinus mandshurica</i>	Manchurian Ash	Medium
<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i> *	Blue Ash	Medium
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo	Medium to Large
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var <i>inermis</i> *	Honeylocust variety Northern Acclaim	Medium
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> *	Kentucky Coffeetree	Large
<i>Juglans nigra</i> *	Black Walnut	Large
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Raintree	Small to medium
<i>Larix siberica</i>	Siberian Larch	Large
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Poplar	Large
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Amur Maackia	Small to Medium
<i>Maclura pomifera</i> *	Osage-Orange	Small
<i>Malus</i> species*	Crabapples	Small
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood	Med-Large
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Tupelo	Medium
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> *	Ironwood	Small to Medium
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur Corktree (only males)	Medium
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> *	Sycamore	Large
<i>Populus deltoides</i> *	Cottonwood	Large
<i>Populus grandidentata</i> *	Big-toothed Aspen	Large
<i>Prunus americana</i> *	American Plum	Small
<i>Prunus armeniaca</i> var <i>mandshurica</i>	Manchurian Apricot	Small
<i>Prunus maackii</i>	Amur Chokecherry	Small
<i>Prunus serotina</i> *	Black Cherry	Large

<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Wafer-ash	Small
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	Large
<i>Quercus coccinea</i> *	Scarlet Oak	Large
<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i> *	Northern Pin Oak	Large
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak	Medium
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> *	Bur Oak	Large
<i>Quercus mongolica</i>	Mongolian Oak	Medium
<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Japanese Pagoda-tree	Medium
<i>Sorbus alnifolia</i>	Korean Mountain-ash	Medium
<i>Syringa pekinensis</i>	Peking Tree Lilac	Small
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress	Large
<i>Tilia americana</i> *	Basswood	large
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Linden	Large
<i>Ulmus americana</i> *	'Prairie Expedition' 'Jeffereson'	Large
<i>Ulmus hybrids</i>	'Accolade' 'Triumph' 'Danada Charm' 'Frontier'	Medium to Large
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Zelkova	Medium

Evergreen Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Size
<i>Abies concolor</i>	White Fir	Large
<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	Rocky Mountain Juniper	Small-Med
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> *	Eastern Red Cedar	Small-Med
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	Large
<i>Picea glauca</i> *	White Spruce	Large
<i>Picea pungens</i> *	Colorado Spruce	Large
<i>Pinus banksiana</i> *	Jack Pine	Medium
<i>Pinus cembra</i>	Swiss Stone Pine	Small
<i>Picea omorika</i>	Serbian Spruce	Large
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Ponderosa Pine	Large
<i>Pinus resinosa</i> *	Red/Norway Pine	Large
<i>Pinus strobus</i> *	Eastern White Pine	Large
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scot's Pine	Medium
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Northern White Cedar	Small-Medium
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Hemlock	Medium

Shrubs (deciduous unless noted)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Size
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> *	Serviceberry	Medium
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> *	Black Chokeberry	Small-Med
<i>Cornus sericea</i> *(aka <i>stolonifera</i>)	Red-twig Dogwood	Small-Med depending on varieties
<i>Dirca palustris</i> *	Leatherwood	Small
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i> *	Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	Small

Forsythia species	'Meadowlark' and 'Northern Gold'	Medium-Large
Hydrangea arborescens	Wild Hydrangea	Medium
Hydrangea paniculata	'P.G. Hydrangea'	Large
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oak Leaf Hydrangea	Medium-Large
Ilex verticillata*	Winterberry Holly	Medium
Juniperus communis*	Common Juniper	Small-Medium Evergreen
Kolkwitzia amabilis	Beauty Bush	Large
Kerria japonica	Japanese Kerria	Medium
Physocarpus opulifolius*	Common Ninebark	Large
Pinus mugo	Mugo Pine	Medium-Large Evergreen
Prunus tomentosa*	Nanking Cherry	Medium
Rhodotypos scandens	Jet Bead	Medium
Rhus glabra*	Smooth Sumac	Large
Rhus typhina*	Staghorn Sumac	Large
Salix discolor*	Pussy Willow	Medium-Large
Syringa patula	'Miss Kim' Lilac	Medium-Large
Syringa vulgaris*	Common Lilac	Large
Syringa x prestoniae	'James Macfarlane' and 'Nocturne'	Large
Syringa x meyerii	'Tinkerbelle'	Small-Medium
Viburnum lantana*	Wayfaring Tree	Large
Viburnum lentago*	Nannyberry Viburnum	Large
Viburnum trilobum*	American Cranberrybush	Large
Viburnum prunifolium*	Blackhaw Viburnum	Large
Viburnum opulus	European Cranberrybush	Medium-Large
Viburnum dentatum*	Arrowwood Viburnum	Medium

Woody Deciduous Vines

Scientific Name	Common Name	Growth Rate
Campsis radicans	Trumpet Vine	Fast
Celastrus scandens*	American Bittersweet	Moderate. Make sure you get American bittersweet, not Oriental Bittersweet which is very invasive.
Clematis virginiana	Virgins Bower Clematis	Moderate-Fast
Humulus lupulus	Common Hop Vine	Fast-Moderate
Hydrangea anomala petiolaris	Climbing Hydrangea	Moderate to Fast
Lonicera x brownie	Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle	Moderate
Parthenocissus inserta*	Woodbine	Fast
Vitis riparia	Riverbank Grape	Too Fast...be careful where you plant this very aggressive vine.
Wisteria frutescens	American Wisteria	Moderate to Fast

**This plant list was prepared by Gary Johnson, Urban Forestry Outreach Research and Extension (UFore) Lab,
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