

Planting Guide

Muskegon Conservation District

4735 Holton Road

Twin Lake, MI 49457

[Muskegon Conservation District - \(muskegoncd.org\)](http://muskegoncd.org)



Fruit Trees & Plants

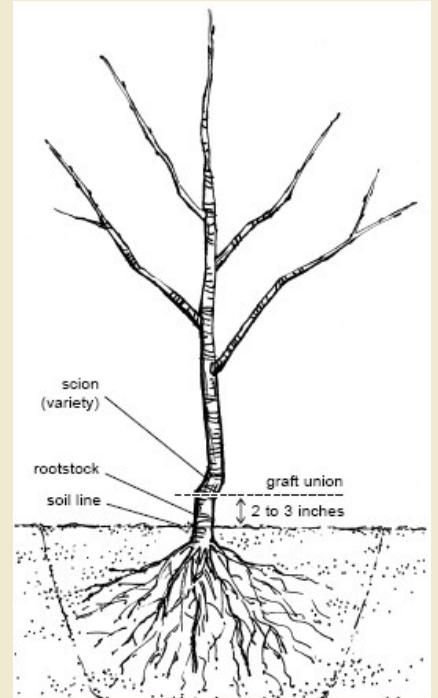
In general, fruit trees and small fruit require full sun, nutrient rich soil, and must be planted in an area that will allow adequate drainage. Most do well in sandy loam to loamy soils with a slightly acid to neutral pH (6.0-7.0) Fruit trees require 12-15' spacing in between one another. Please visit the following links for more information regarding soil testing, fertilizers, and long term care for fruit trees and plants.

[Planting fruit trees - MSU Extension](#) [Considerations for growing backyard tree fruit - MSU Extension](#) [Considerations for growing backyard small fruit - MSU Extension](#)

Union (graft or initial union) - crook above the straight rootstock and below the straight trunk. Where a nursery grafts a bud onto rootstock.

Apple

- Best months to plant are late March, April, and early May.
- Apple trees love full sunshine, higher ground, and nutrient rich soil. Avoid planting near woods or streams and in frozen or water saturated soils.
- When planting, dig the hole deep and wide enough so the root system has plenty of room to spread and to avoid damaging the roots. Planting too deep however, could harm the tree later in life. A good rule of thumb is to have the initial union 3-4" above the soil line. Thoroughly water the tree before and after planting. When backfilling, tamp the soil down in order to release air bubbles.
- Require a pollinizer in the area. Planting two different apple varieties will provide for pollination, or a flowering crabapple in your yard or neighborhood.



Apricot

- Best months to plant are March, April, and early May.
- Apricot trees love full sunshine and nutrient rich soil. Avoid planting near woods or streams. Be sure to plant in an area that allows for adequate soil drainage.
- When planting make sure to dig the hole deep and wide enough so the root system has plenty of room to spread and to avoid damaging the roots. Be sure the initial union is above ground, near the soil line. Thoroughly water the tree before and after planting.
- When backfilling, tamp the soil down in order to release air bubbles.

Cherry

- Best months to plant are mid-May to mid-June, after the last frost.
- Cherry trees love full sunshine and nutrient rich soil. Plant in an area that allows for adequate soil drainage.
- Thoroughly water the tree before and after planting.
- When planting, dig the hole deep and wide enough so the root system has plenty of room to spread.
- When backfilling, tamp the soil down in order to release air bubbles.

Peach

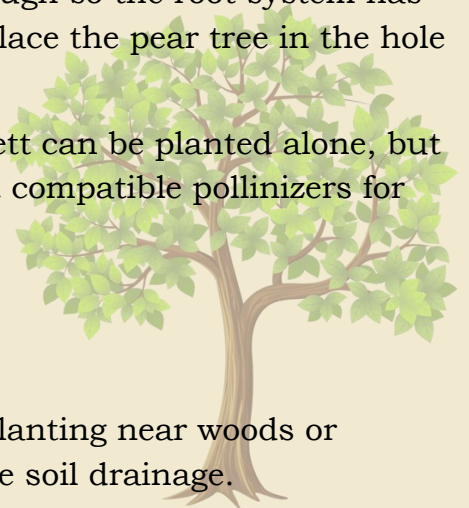
- Best months to plant are April and May.
- Peach trees love sunshine, nutrient rich soil, and higher ground that will drain well.
- When planting the Peach tree, dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root system and plant 2-4” deeper than they were in the nursery row or pot.
- It is important to keep tree watered, especially for the first two years.
- When backfilling, tamp the soil down in order to release air bubbles.

Pear

- Best months to plant are late March through April.
- Pear trees love full sunshine, higher ground, and nutrient rich soil. Avoid planting near woods or streams. Plant in an area with adequate soil drainage.
- Thoroughly water the tree before and after planting.
- When planting make sure to dig the hole deep and wide enough so the root system has plenty of room to spread and to avoid damaging the roots. Place the pear tree in the hole at the same depth as it was planted in the container.
- Anjou pears require a different variety of pear nearby. Bartlett can be planted alone, but it can also act as a pollinizer for Anjou. Seckel pears are not compatible pollinizers for Bartlett pears.

Plum

- Best months to plant are late March through early May.
- Plum trees love full sunshine and nutrient rich soil. Avoid planting near woods or streams. Be sure to plant in an area that allows for adequate soil drainage.
- Thoroughly water the tree before and after planting.
- When planting make sure to dig the hole deep and wide enough so the root system has plenty of room to spread and to avoid damaging the roots.



Blackberry

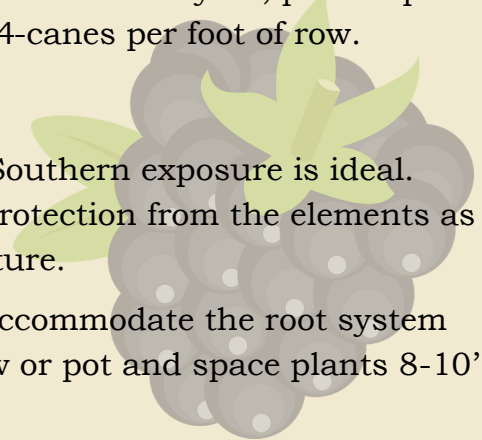
- Plant in early spring after final frost.
- Does not need a trellis because plants are erect and self supporting. Furnish ample moisture during the growing period. After first fruiting season, prune to the ground to allow room for new canes. Additional pruning should be done each spring to keep plants from becoming tangled and to improve their ability to bear. Successful growing depends on pruning the plant to 5-6 canes, along with training new canes to stand erect.
- Plant in any well drained soil. Dig a hole large enough to encompass the roots without bending or circling. Set the plant in place so the crown is about 1-2" below the soil surface. Keep roots moist until planting. Plants should be set out at least 2' apart in rows 7' apart. Space plants 4-6' apart and can grow up to 6' high.
- Produces fruit on second year canes, therefore in the fall of the 2nd year, prune spent canes at ground level and thin others to approximately 4-canes per foot of row.

Fig

- It is important to choose a sunny, warm spot to plant. Southern exposure is ideal. Planting alongside a brick or stone structure provides protection from the elements as well as extra warmth. Planting at least 5-10' from structure.
- When planting the Fig tree, dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root system and plant 2-4" deeper than they were in the nursery row or pot and space plants 8-10' apart, can grow up to 15-30'.
- Do not over-water or over-fertilize. Fig trees do well in dry weather, and the fruit will be tastier if they are not over-watered. Using too much fertilizer can also lead to weaker fruit crops. Water every couple weeks during a dry spell. If your tree's leaves begin to turn yellow, it probably needs more water.
- Protect them during harsh winter months by covering the base of the tree with leaves or hay, and wrapping the branches with blankets, carpet padding or another warm protective layer. Finish with a plastic bag, bubble wrap, burlap or a tarp secured with rope. If your tree is in a container, bring it inside before the first frost and wait until the ground is warm to move it back outside.

Raspberry

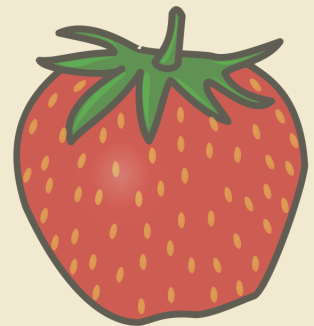
- Plant as soon as soil may be worked in the spring. Plants require 1" of water per week during the growing season and regular, shallow cultivation. It is best to plant immediately upon receipt. If you are unable to plant immediately, refrigerate and plant as soon as possible. Do not add water. Keep in original packing to retain proper moisture, until you can plant.



- Do not plant too deep! For bareroot plants, use a hoe to make a trench 2” deep. Spread roots along the bottom of the trench and cover immediately. Take care while planting to keep roots at the 2” level. This will promote suckers to develop from the roots. Fertilize your plants once a year in the spring before the plants bloom with a natural or organic basic garden fertilizer.
- We recommend using a trellis to support your raspberry canes. A trellis keeps the fruit off the ground, makes picking much easier, and maintains good aeration to help with disease control. Use a T-bar trellis for red and purple raspberries that supports 2 wires 12” apart 3-4’ above the ground. Use a four-wire trellis system for black raspberries. Four wires are attached to fence posts vertically and the raspberry canes are wrapped around the wires.
- Raspberry roots and crowns live for a very long time, but the canes die after two years. For summer bearing raspberries, prune out the canes after harvesting the fruit. Thin the remaining new growth to 6-8 strong, healthy canes per running foot of row. For fall bearing raspberries, cut all the canes to the ground in early spring before new growth starts. For purple and black raspberries, in early spring cut out the small canes at the base leaving 4-5 of the strongest canes per clump. Then cut back the side branches so they are only 12” long. In May, cut back the tip of each cane 3 to 4” to encourage side branches to grow.

Strawberry

- Soak plants in water a few minutes before planting. Can be planted in any well-drained soil. Dig a hole large enough to encompass the roots without bending or circling. Set the plant in place so the crown (part of the plant where the root meets the stem) is level with the soil surface and water thoroughly. Apply fertilizer after growth begins.
- Runners should be removed during the first flush of flowers so plants can direct energy into establishing a strong root system. For winter protection, cover plants with straw or leaves after the temperature has fallen to about 20 degrees. Remove covering in the spring once growth begins. The bed should be replaced after two years as quality and yield begin to decrease.
- Grow in average, medium wet, well-drained soil in full sun. Prefers organically rich sandy loams. Strawberries are a high maintenance fruit crop that can be grown all over the United states.

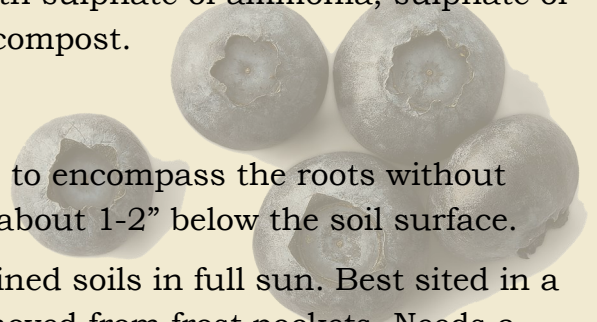


Blueberry

- Set plants out as early as possible in the spring. Prune branches back about 1/2 their length at planting time with no further pruning required the next three years. Prune annually thereafter during the dormant period.
- Blueberries prefer an acidic soil. In alkaline soil, add aluminum sulphate for best results. Dig a hole large enough to encompass the roots without bending or circling. Set the plant so the crown is about 1-2 inches below the soil surface. Add generous amounts of peat but no fertilizer when planting. Cover the soil to the original soil surface and water thoroughly.
- Prepare the ground well before planting. Blueberries can also be grown in large pots and containers if ericaceous compost is used. Prune in the winter months, cutting out dead or damaged branches. In the spring, feed with sulphate of ammonia, sulphate of potash, bonemeal and top-dress with ericaceous compost.

Grapes

- Plant in well drained soil. Dig a hole large enough to encompass the roots without bending or circling. Set the plant so the crown is about 1-2" below the soil surface.
- Best grown in deep, loamy, medium wet, well-drained soils in full sun. Best sited in a location sheltered from winter winds and well removed from frost pockets. Needs a support system, training, and regular pruning to maximize fruit production.
- Vines are allowed to run as they will the first year and the posting or staking is done the second or third year when you will prune heavily, leaving only 2 or 3 buds on the strongest stem. As it grows, you will keep only the most vigorous sprout to form the main stem. Shallow cultivation and mulching are beneficial.



Rhubarb

- Plant in early spring in any well-drained, fertile soil, in the sun. Space plants about 3' apart. If planted too closely, they will be scrawny and more susceptible to disease. For best results do not harvest the first year and few the second year and following harvests will be bountiful for years to come. When harvesting, do not remove more than half of the stalks at any time so the roots will maintain their strength for next season. To harvest, twist the stalk while pulling sideways and trim off the tops. Eat only the stalk, not the leaf.
- Plant in the spring, after the ground warms to about 50 degrees.
- When planting, set the crowns just below ground level and fertilize the area liberally with manure or garden fertilizer. Keep the soil moist and free of weeds during growing season and remove the flower spikes as they appear.

Loganberries

- Bare-rooted loganberries are best planted during their dormant season in November-December before the ground becomes frozen, but you can also plant them before the end of April in non-soggy soil and in full sun.
- Dig a hole larger and deeper than the root mass so you can spread the roots out, keeping the crown of the roots level with the soil surface. Fill in with soil or soil mixed with compost and tamp down firmly. Water well immediately after and will do best with regular watering, particularly at fruit ripening times. Prune existing canes to about 9”.
- Space about 3-4’ apart and adding a support system would be beneficial.
- Fruit develops on one-year old canes (shoots). Tie the shoots to wires to keep them easy to crop and harvest in late summer-early autumn.
- An easy method of training the fruit is a sort of alternating cordon method; train this years’ canes to one side, then the following years on the other side. After fruiting, cut the first side at ground level. This way the fruiting sides alternate each year.
- Loganberries are self-fertile so you would only need one plant. Each flower makes one berry.

Vegetables

When planting vegetables, you want to consider what temperature and soil type each plant thrives in. Some vegetables do better early in the season while others will thrive in the warmer months. Keeping your vegetable garden organized and weed free will be beneficial when it is time to harvest. Following the links provided for more information regarding how to grow and maintain a successful vegetable garden.

[Planting a smart vegetable garden \(msu.edu\)](http://msu.edu)

Asparagus

- Plant in early spring in a sunny location of sandy loam with good drainage. Every season, when cuttings are over, apply a fertilizer to supply nitrogen for good regrowth of the plants. WATER PLANTS WELL AFTER PLANTING. After harvest, asparagus must be completely dormant before mowing. Mow late winter or early spring.



Grasses and Wildflowers

Planting native grasses and wildflowers is an easy way to ornament your home and benefit the surrounding ecosystem. Native grasses and wildflowers will bring in a diversity of pollinators as well as providing an appealing environment for many bird and mammal species. As with any planting, you want to consider the site conditions and continual care the plant will need in order to thrive. Below are a couple links regarding grass and wildflower planting.

[Grass Planting \(state.mi.us\)](http://state.mi.us)

[Establishing Wildflower Habitat to Support Pollinators of Michigan Fruit Crops \(msu.edu\)](http://msu.edu)

Monarch Wildflower mix

- Easy to grow mix that will thrive in sunny or partly sunny locations.
- Mixture includes annuals and perennials for first year results and long-term blooms.
- One ounce covers 125 square feet.
- Can be planted in both the spring or fall and will thrive in Michigan soil.
- When planting, simply scatter the seeds evenly throughout the soil and lightly compress the seeds. Water the seeds, so that the soil is moist, until the seedlings are about 4-6" tall.

Shady Wildflower Mix

- Low maintenance mix that will thrive in areas receiving less than four hours of sun.
- Mixture includes annuals and perennials for first year results and long-term blooms.
- One ounce covers 200 square feet.
- When planting, evenly scatter the mix over the soil, keeping in mind that the seeds will do best when in direct contact with the soil. Raking the soil beforehand may be beneficial. Plant in late spring.
- Water as needed, for the first two weeks, in order to keep the soil moist.

Sunny Wildflower Mix

- Low maintenance mix that loves full sunshine.
- Mixture includes annuals and perennials for first year results and long-term blooms.
- One ounce covers 200 square feet.
- When planting remove weed and vegetation from area and scatter evenly over soil. Lightly covering the seeds with soil will help prevent seeds from drying out. Keep soil moist for the first 4-6 weeks of planting. Plant in late spring.



Warm Season Grass Mix

- Great mix of grasses for rural areas where there is a desire to convert a small field or open area into a more naturalized wildlife area.
- This mixture includes big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass, and switch grass.
- Plant a drilled rate of 12 lbs. per acre or broadcast at 18lbs per acre.
- The seeds are light and fluffy, therefore can sometimes be difficult to broadcast plant. Please follow the link below for more information regarding Warm Season Grass planting,

[Landowner's Guide: Warm Season Grasses \(state.mi.us\)](http://state.mi.us)

Deer Brassica Blend

- Ideal food plot mixture providing deer with turnips, rape, clover, and radish. Plants reach maturity at various times throughout the year.
- This mixture thrives in full or partly sunny areas and would benefit being in well drained soil.
- Plant just below the surface of the soil.
- During the summer months, this mixture will encourage weight gain and antler growth.
- Plant at a drilled rate of 10 lbs. per acre or broadcast at 15 lbs. Per acre in the spring or fall.

Game Bird Mix

- Mix for individuals raising pheasant and quail, or those that wish to attract these birds.
- Mixture includes short millets and sorghums that provide a thick cover and excellent stainability for the winter. Contains wild game sorghum, early dwarf white sorghum, dwarf pearl millet, golden Gorman millet, Siberian millet and wild proso millet.
- Matures in 80 to 90 days.
- Plant at a drilled rate of 8 lbs. per acre or broadcast rate of 10 lbs. per acre.
- This mix thrives in open, sunny areas on a clean, smooth, and firm seedbed.
- Plant in the late spring just below the surface of the soil.



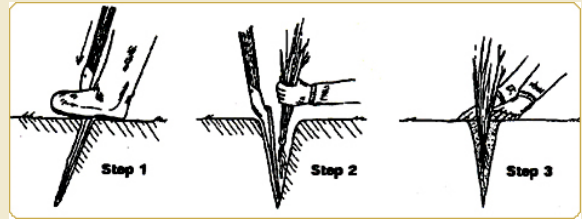
Dune Species

Dune plant species are great for stabilization and erosion. Different species of plants have adapted to survive in sand dune zones. The location of where you plant these species will determine their success. Follow the links below to get a better understanding of sand dunes and best management practices.

[Understanding Sand Dunes \(muskegoncd.org\)](http://muskegoncd.org)

Beach Grass

- Great for erosion control on sand and would thrive in the sunny Foredune zone.
- Space plants 6-12” apart and grasses take about one month to assimilate to their new location and begin new growth.
- For faster erosion control use the 6” spacing.
- Plant during the dormant months. Create a small hole approximately 6” in depth with tool or hand.
- The “W” planting formation is more beneficial for erosion control.



Square



“W”



Cottonwood

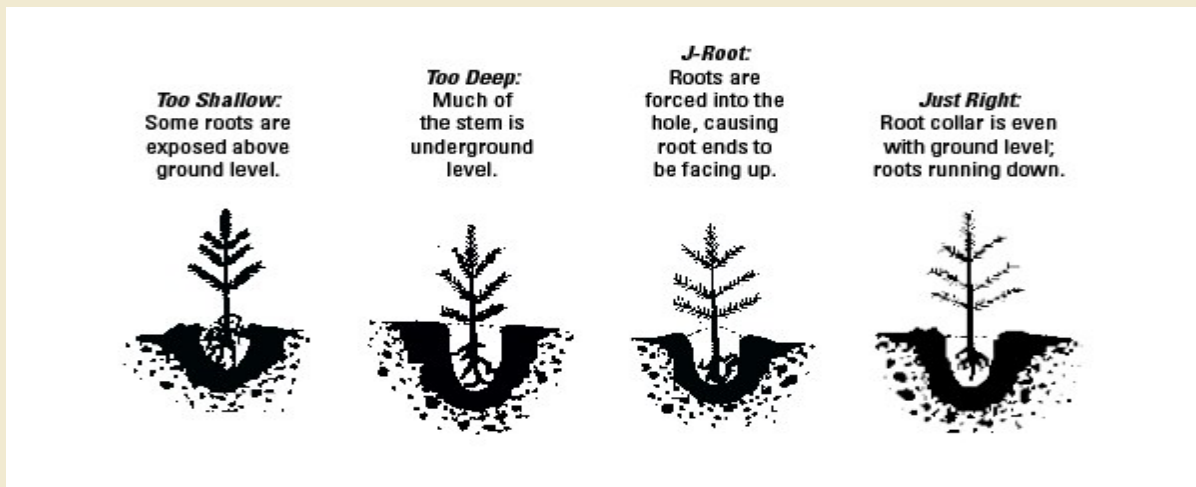
- Best months to plant are March through May and in full sun.
- Fast growing tree that loves moist, well-drained, fine sandy loams or silt loams. Tolerant of drier sites and resistant to flood damage.
- Tree reaches 80-100’ in height and 3-4’ in diameter.
- Follow the link below for more information regarding cottonwood tree planting and care. [Common cottonwood – Populus deltoides - Plant & Pest Diagnostics \(msu.edu\)](http://msu.edu)

Eastern Sand Cherry

- Plant during the dormant months in full sun.
- Eastern Sand Cherry is a deciduous shrub from the rose family. Will grow 2-6’ tall and thrives in sandy locations such as shorelines and dunes. This shrub forms dense colonies by sprouting from the root system. Small clusters of flowers produce small cherries in the spring.
- When planting, dig a hole deep enough so that the taproot is not stressed.
- Water thoroughly after planting.

How to plant your Seedlings

It is important to keep the roots moist and the trees undamaged until the seedlings are planted. Seedlings should be planted as soon as possible. Bundled seedlings can be stored for several days in a cool, shady place if protected from freezing. We recommend planting seedlings with a dibble bar, hoe, or shovel. Plant by pressing the dibble bar into the ground and pulling it towards you. Depth of the hole should be large enough to accommodate the roots of the tree seedling so that the roots are not bent upwards. Place seedling in the hole and refill. Pack the soil around the seedling with your foot. Seedlings should be straight and upright. Water thoroughly at planting and every week for several weeks until well established. 2-3" of mulch around the tree will help maintain moisture.



Spacing of Seedlings

Spacing requirements change depending on the purpose of planting. Here is a list of some suggested spacing for different types of planting.

<u>Plantations</u>	<u>Spacing</u>	<u>Trees per Acre</u>
Hardwoods	10' x 10'	436
	10' x 12'	363
	12'x12'	302
Pines	8' x 10'	544
Spruce	7' x 10'	622
Shrubs for wildlife	8' x 8'	680

<u>Windbreaks</u>	<u>Spacng</u>	<u>Trees per 1000' Row</u>
Shrubs	5' x 10'	200
Hardwoods & Conifers	8' x 10'	125
	10' x10'	100

Conifers/Evergreens

There are many benefits to planting conifers at your home. If appropriately planted and cared for, they can provide wind protection in the winter months and shade throughout the summer. They also create a prominent habitat for wildlife and can assist with erosion control. Follow the link below to become more familiar with Michigan Evergreens.

[Pine, spruce or fir: Getting to know Michigan evergreen trees - MSU Extension](#)



Arborvitae, Green Giant

- This fast growing evergreen is great for creating wildlife habitat/shelter and can get up to 10-12' tall. Likes moist, but well drained sites and is shade tolerant.
- Its natural conical form boasts dense, rich green foliage that darkens or bronzes slightly in the winter,
- Best time to plant is late spring, after the last frost.

White Cedar

- Medium size slow growing evergreen that provides important winter food for deer and is often planted as an ornamental. Grows 30-50' tall.
- Very shade tolerant and slow growing, prefers calcareous soils and high water tables. The tree does best on low stream banks and in rich, moist, and fertile soil.
- Best time to plant is late spring, after the last frost.

Concolor Fir

- A symmetrical slow growing tree with full branches and soft needles. Makes an excellent Christmas tree with a citrus scent. This Fir also provides excellent wildlife cover and beautiful landscaping.
- Prefers full sun or partial shade and tolerates most soil types. If planting in clay, extra drainage measures may be needed. Can Grow 30-50' tall.
- Water thoroughly the first year. Best time to plant is late spring, after the last frost.

Douglas Fir

- Straight and conical, these also make beautiful Christmas trees. Great for windbreaks and wildlife habitat,
- Make sure to plant in well drained, moist soil. Grows well in most upland soils except those with high lime content. Prefers full sun but will tolerate partial shade as well.
- Can grow up to 40-70' tall. Best time to plant is in late spring, after the last frost.

Red Pine

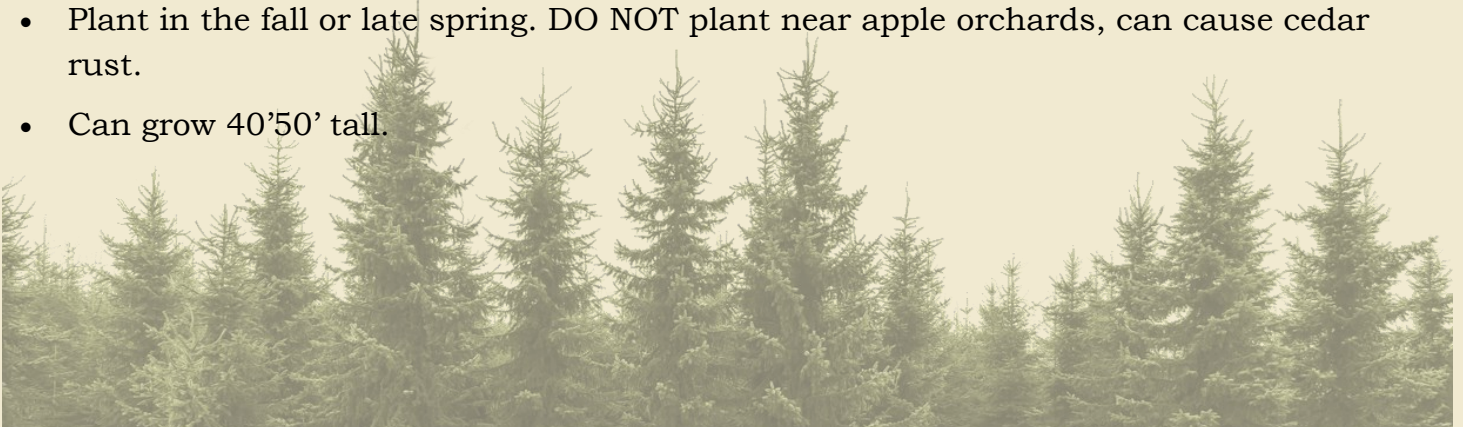
- This moderate to fast growing Pine is commonly planted for timber use and wind breaks. Grows straight and has platy, reddish bark. Needles are dark green and 4-6" long in bundles of two.
- Grows best in well-drained sandy to loamy soils. Prefers full sun but can tolerate partial shade.
- Can grow up to 50-80' tall and it is recommended to plant in late spring after the last frost.

White Pine

- Michigan's state tree! This pine is long lived and is moderate to fast growth. Soft needles are bluish-green and grow in bundles of five.
- Prefers rich, moist to well-drained sandy soils and partial sun.
- This pine is also used for timber, windbreaks, and wildlife cover and habitat.
- Can grow up to 80-100' and it is recommended to plant in late spring after the last frost.

Red Cedar

- This easy to grow conifer is an excellent choice for wildlife food and cover. Waxy blue berries on female tree ripen in autumn and are flavored by many birds.
- Tolerates drought and poor soils. Prefers full sun. The fibrous root system supports erosion control, making it an excellent tree to plant near drainages.
- Plant in the fall or late spring. DO NOT plant near apple orchards, can cause cedar rust.
- Can grow 40'50' tall.



Blue Spruce

- Most adaptable of the Spruces. These trees grow well on any upland soil.
- Blue Spruce have blue-green to silvery needles and are often used for landscaping, Christmas trees and windbreaks.
- Plant in the late spring after the last frost. Can grow 30-60' tall and prefer full sun.

Norway Spruce

- This fast growing coniferous evergreen is yet another commonly used for Christmas trees. Growing 13-24" a year this tree is great for landscaping and windbreaks. Its downward hanging branches also provide excellent habitat for wildlife.
- Prefers well drained, acidic soils and full sun. The most disease resistant species of spruce tree.
- Best time to plant is late spring after the last frost.

White Spruce

- Our native spruce. Large, pyramidal evergreen with branches full to the ground. Long lived evergreen that is commonly used for landscaping, windbreaks, and wildlife cover.
- This Spruce is shade tolerant and slow growing. Prefers well-drained clay to clay-loam soils but is highly adaptable.
- Tolerates heat, drought, and high water and can grow 60-90' tall.
- Best time to plant is early spring.

Tamarack

- This rapidly growing unusual conifer loses its needles in the fall when deciduous trees lose their leaves.
- They grow in areas where other trees may fail. Prefers wet soils in swamps, bogs and along lake edges.
- Birds and small mammals use Tamarack for cover, for nesting and for food.
- Tree can grow 40-60' tall and is tolerant to shade.



Hardwoods/Deciduous Trees

Northern hardwoods are the most common forest types in Michigan. Hardwood forests can provide timber, wildlife habitat, aesthetic values, and help with erosion control. The diversity of a hardwood forest creates essential habitats and food sources for a variety of animal species. In general, Hardwoods prefer full sun but can tolerate some shade and like to be planted in weed free soils. Follow the links below to find out more about Michigan's hardwood forests.

[Forest Type of Michigan: Northern Hardwood \(E3202-2\) - MSU Extension](#)

[Northern hardwoods - MSU Extension](#)

Quaking Aspen

- This fast growing, colony forming tree provides quick cover for wildlife such as grouse and turkey. Easily identified by its smooth, light-colored bark, with intervals of darker knots and horizontal scars.
- One Quaking Aspen can easily spread into a stand (colony). Colonizer tree that sends out many genetically identical trees in the immediate vicinity.
- Prefers full sun, well-drained fertile soil, and to be planted in the late spring after the last frost. Can grow 20-50' tall.

River Birch

- Fast growing shade tree, usually multi-stemmed, and is commonly grown in landscapes. Bronze bark peels back to reveal hues of red and peach.
- Although it is drought tolerant, it is well suited for growing in constantly damp, but well drained, soils where most trees fail to thrive. Prefers full sun and can grow 40-70' tall.
- Best time to plant is spring or fall, when the soil is moist and temperatures are cool.

Black Cherry

- This wild and fast growing tree has hanging clusters of white flowers that develop into black fruits. Valuable tree for wildlife, including birds and butterflies.
- Tree commonly used for fine wood-working. Can attain a trunk diameter of 2-3' and can grow 60-80' tall.
- Prefers sandy loamy, well drained soils and needs full sun to thrive.



Red Maple

- This hardy and beautiful medium sized tree is noted for its red buds, twigs and fall color. One of the most prevalent trees in the eastern U.S. Good for landscaping, wildlife and also protects young trees from deer.
- Will grow in poorly-drained to well-drained sites. Shade tolerant and fast growing. Will thrive with partial sun and can grow 40-60' tall.

Silver Maple

- Large, fast-growing graceful tree that is used for shade, rain gardens, and maple syrup production. Has exquisitely shaped leaves that often have a silver underside.
- Its hardiness makes it adaptable to a wide range of climates but often found near water and prefers moist soils and full to partial sun. Can grow 50-80' tall.

Sugar Maple

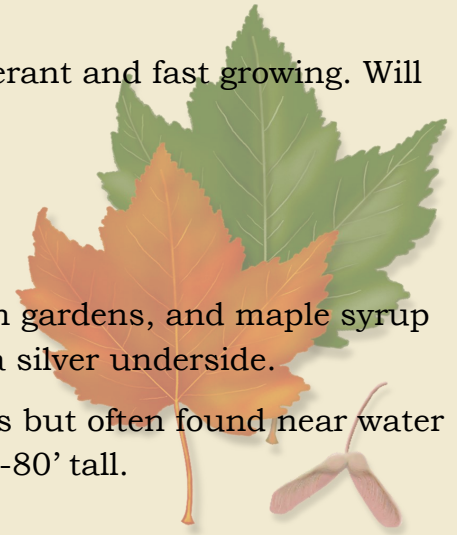
- This large tree has stunning fall colors and is used for timber, landscaping, and maple syrup production.
- Slow and medium growing and does best in moist, well-drained soils.
- Moderately shade tolerant and can grow 80-100' tall.

American Mountain Ash

- Relatively small, deciduous, understory tree or shrub. Has fruit that is favorable to ruffed grouse, red-headed woodpecker, robin, bluebird, sharp-tailed grouse, blue grouse, waxwings, jays, and oriole. Berries are also eaten by numerous small mammals such as squirrels and rodents, as well as deer.
- Requires moist, rich, acidic, well-drained soils in full sun but tolerate partial shade. Intolerant of hot humid summers.
- Can grow 10-30' tall.

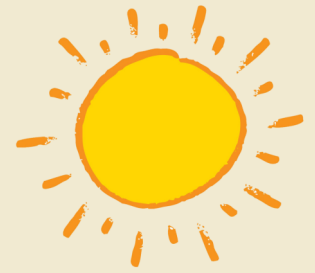
Northern Red Oak

- Long living and fast growing oak that provides imponent shade.
- When planting, be sure the location provides plenty of sun and room for the tree to grow. Prefers well-drained soils and is valued for timber, wildlife, and landscaping.
- Can grow 60-90' tall.



Swamp White Oak

- Another long living oak that is known for its straight upright growth and compact shape.
- Prefers low, wet, poorly drained soils such as deciduous swamps and moist flats. Intermediate in shade tolerance. Low maintenance tree but does need plenty of room to grow.
- Can grow 50-80' tall.



Black Walnut

- Self fertile and fast growing in early years. Will produce nuts in 8 to 10 years.
- When choosing a planting location, be sure to give this tree ample space as the roots of the Black Walnut can be toxic to many plants. Prefers deep, fertile, moist but well-drained soils and is shade intolerant.
- Can grow 60-90' tall.

Small Trees and Shrubs

A strong foundation of small trees and shrubs are important to Michigan landscapes. They can provide natural beauty and enhance the habitat for wildlife. In general, small trees and shrubs need a bit more care for the first year or two after planting. Watering them once or twice a month will help them get more established. Be sure to dig a hole deep enough for the root system to spread out. Follow the links for more information regarding choosing what to plant and long term care.

[Smart trees and shrubs suitable for Michigan landscapes - Gardening in Michigan \(msu.edu\)](#)

[Don't forget about newly planted trees and shrubs - MSU Extension](#)

Chinese Chestnut

- A beautiful shade/nut tree that attains a canopy spread of 40-60' at maturity and is valuable for wildlife, including birds, butterflies, and humans.
- Prefers moist loamy, well-drained soils. Planting more than one tree facilitates cross-pollination and produces a more abundant crop.
- Likes full sun and can grow 40-60' tall.



Sargent Crabapple

- Compact, densely branched shrub. Has pink buds that produce white flowers in mid-May and dark red fruit in the fall.
- Typically planted for windbreaks, wildlife food/cover, and living fences. They can also be used as a pollinator for apple fruit trees that bloom early to mid-season.
- Prefers sandy sites but does well on most soils.
- Does best in full sun and can grow 6-8' tall.

Highbush Cranberry

- Produces lacy, flat top clusters of white flowers followed by red fruit, which birds eat in the winter.
- Prefers moist sites and will tolerate some shade.
- Excellent wildlife plant that can grow 8-12' tall.

Red-Osier Dogwood.

- Shrub that has red to purple-red twigs that create an attractive winter interest. Produces white flowers and white berries and is usually used for landscaping, stream bank restoration, and wildlife wood/cover.
- Be sure to plant in moist to wet sites with at least partial sun. Great to plant along ponds and riverbanks.
- Can grow 8-10' tall.

White Flowering Dogwood

- Small tree that produces white flowers in the spring and red berries in the fall. Provides an excellent source of food for much wildlife.
- Prefers loamy, moist, and well-drained soil and will tolerate full sun to partial shade.
- Plant in the late spring when the soil is moist.
- Can grow 20-40' tall.

Common Elderberry

- Small easy to care for shrub that features feather-like compound leaves that provide outstanding nesting cover for songbirds. Clusters of white flowers emerge in early to mid-summer. The berries are dark blue and ripen in late summer.
- Moderately fast growing shrub that can reach 12' tall.
- Prefers moist, well-drained soil and full sun but is tolerant of shade.



American Hazelnut

- Small, erect shrub with interesting, zigzag branches and a low, rounded crown. Excellent species for wildlife food/habitat, windbreak plantings and beautification.
- Prolific producer of edible nuts.
- Very winter hardy and has a broad climatic adaptation.
- Prefers well-drained loam soil and is tolerant of full shade.
- Can grow 6-12' tall.



Nannyberry

- Small fast growing tree that has white flowers in late May to June followed by blue fruit in September. Berries are readily eaten by wildlife.
- Can be used as a tall hedge or pruned to a single-trunked tree.
- Prefers full sun but is shade tolerant. Grows best in wet soil but will grow on drier sites.
- Can grow 15-20' tall.

American Plum

- Small tree with white blossoms that cover the bare branches in spring. Edible fruit have red skin and yellow flesh.
- Can form colonies, making it useful for erosion control. Also used for wildlife food and cover, landscaping, and host plant for several species of butterflies.
- Prefers loamy, well-drained soils and does best in a location with full sun, but can tolerate some shade.
- Can grow 15-25' tall.

Eastern Redbud

- This slow growing tree has heart shaped leaves and flowers that appear in April and May that have dark pink petals.
- Great for wildlife and commonly used in landscaping.
- Moderately shade tolerant that grows well in most soils.
- Can grow 15-30' tall.

Allegheny Serviceberry

- A small, multi-trunk tree with white flowers that appear early in the spring, followed by edible dark purplish berries which can be used in jams, jellies and pies. Excellent tree for wildlife
- Can grow in sun or shade but prefers more shade and moist, well drained sandy soils.
- You can prune to shape it like a small tree, or you can let it grow naturally and it will resemble more of a large shrub.
- Can grow 15-40' tall.

Juneberry Serviceberry

- A small to medium suckering shrub that bears white flowers followed by edible fruit in June and July. Great shrub for wildlife.
- Is frost hardy and generally grown in landscapes.
- Prefers loamy, well-drained soil and full to partial sun.
- Can grow 6-20' tall.

Aromatic (fragrant) Sumac

- Low growing plant that spreads up tot 10 feet wide. Blue-green glossy leaves turn purple, orange, and yellow in the fall time. Produces small yellow flowers in the spring that turn into red edible berries. Great plant for birds and small critters.
- Is drought tolerant and does best in well-drained soils. Incorporating compost or mulch into the soil around the plant will be beneficial.
- Prefers partial sun and can grow 2-3' tall.

Holly Winterberry

- Deciduous holly that will form a dense thicket in wet soils and a tight shrub in dry soils. Leaves are glossy green.
- Produces red berries that persist on branches into winter.
- Prefers partial sun, can be planted spring through fall and can grow 3-12' tall. Does best in moist, well-drained soils.

Witchhazel

- A must have shrub for fragrance and color. Yellow, ribbon-like blooms appear in late fall to early winter when most plants have gone dormant.
- Prefers well-drained, loam soils and is tolerant to shade.
- A valuable specimen for wildlife and winter interest in the garden.
- Can grow 15-25' tall.

