THE TREES AROUND US

Our community forests are the trees in our parks and surrounding our homes, businesses and buildings. Both individually and as a whole, these trees make our communities more livable.

Community forests provide clean air and water, reduce noise, reduce crime and increase consumer spending in business districts. In landscape settings, trees can increase property values by 5-25%, and properly placed trees can reduce heating and cooling costs by as much as 30%!

IMPORTANCE OF SPECIES DIVERSITY

Good species diversity is a common measure of community forest health. In fact, forestry experts recommend that no single tree species make up more than 10% of a community’s entire forest resource.

The importance of planting diversely has been reinforced with the loss of elms due to Dutch elm disease, the ongoing loss of Scotch pine due to pine wilt and the approaching threat of emerald ash borer, an exotic insect that attacks and kills all native species of ash trees.

Selecting the right tree for your landscape will leave a lasting legacy in your community forest.

RETree Nebraska’s 12 for 2012

To promote species diversity, ReTree Nebraska has chosen a select group of preferred species that perform well in Nebraska but aren’t widely planted. ReTree Nebraska’s 12 for 2012 helps individuals choose the right tree for their landscape while improving the species diversity and vitality of Nebraska’s community forests.

These “best-in-show” species are available at ReTree-participating nurseries and can be identified by specially designed nursery tags (right).

To find a ReTree-participating nursery near you, visit retreenebraska.org.

CHOOSING NOW, PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Planting a tree or trees is a choice, not something we have to do—that’s the beauty of it!

Planting trees where they have never been planted before or replanting beneath mature trees that someday will be gone is an important part of keeping a healthy community forest.

To learn more about selecting, planting and caring for trees, as well as the benefits of community forests, visit retreenebraska.org.

REPORT YOUR TREE PLANTING!

After you plant, be sure to let us know! Report any tree(s) planted from April 2007 to April 2017 to be counted toward ReTree Nebraska’s goal of planting 1 million trees by 2017.

To report your planting, visit retreenebraska.org and follow the directions for tree reporting. Trees that can be reported include trees planted within city limits on public or private land; trees planted on acreages; trees planted on farmsteads near and/or for the protection of a home; and trees planted near and/or for the protection of rural community buildings, such as schools and churches.
## ReTree Nebraska’s 12 for 2012

(typically more than 40 feet tall at maturity)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Name</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Fruit</th>
<th>Fall Color</th>
<th>Ornamental Bark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baldcypress</strong>, <em>Taxodium distichum</em></td>
<td>50-70+</td>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Catalpa, Northern</strong> <em>Catalpa speciosa</em></td>
<td>40-60</td>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coffeetree, Kentucky</strong> <em>Gymnocladus dioicus</em></td>
<td>50-60+</td>
<td>30-45</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elm, misc. hybrids</strong> <em>Ulmus x spp.</em></td>
<td>40-60+</td>
<td>40-60+</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oak, Chinkapin</strong> <em>Quercus muehlenbergii</em></td>
<td>40-50+</td>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oak, Bur</strong> <em>Quercus macrocarpa</em></td>
<td>50-60</td>
<td>50-70</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oak, English</strong> <em>Quercus robur</em></td>
<td>50-60</td>
<td>40-50</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Small to Medium Deciduous Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Name</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Fruit</th>
<th>Fall Color</th>
<th>Ornamental Bark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maple, Shantung</strong> <em>Acer truncatum</em></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maple, Miyabe</strong> <em>Acer miyabei</em></td>
<td>30-50</td>
<td>34-45</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tree lilac</strong> <em>Syringa reticulata</em> and <em>S. reticulata</em> ssp. <em>pekinensis</em></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15-25</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oak, Gambel</strong> <em>Quercus gambelii</em></td>
<td>25-35</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Evergreen Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Name</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Fruit</th>
<th>Fall Color</th>
<th>Ornamental Bark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concolor fir</strong> <em>Abies concolor</em></td>
<td>30-50+</td>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black Hills spruce</strong> <em>Picea glauca</em> ‘Densata,’ aka <em>Picea glauca</em> var. <em>densata</em></td>
<td>20-40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For even more species recommendations, see ReTree Nebraska’s list of Good Trees for the Good Life, available at retreenebraska.org.
What is ReTree Nebraska?

ReTree Nebraska is a cooperative initiative that challenges Nebraskans to draw upon our state’s rich tree-planting heritage and plant 1 million trees in Nebraska communities by 2017.

But ReTree Nebraska goes beyond just planting trees to improve the overall health, sustainability and livability of our communities by:

- increasing Nebraskans’ knowledge and understanding of the value and importance of trees;
- improving the overall health and species diversity of our state’s community forests; and
- helping communities build sustainable, lasting community forestry programs.

Today we face complex problems—rising energy costs and environmental changes to name just a few. But sometimes complex problems can be solved using simple solutions, and planting a tree—or trees—is one of the most cost-effective solutions available.

ReTree Nebraska is based on the strong belief that we can make things better through the simple acts of planting and caring for trees.

ReTree Nebraska is also based on the belief that everyone can play a part, no matter how big or small. From planting trees in your home landscape to organizing tree plantings in your community to spreading the word about ReTree Nebraska to family and friends, every contribution counts.

Together we can—and will—make a difference!

To find out how you can get involved, or to report a tree planted, visit retreenebraska.org or email us at retreenebraska@unl.edu. [Retreenebraska.org]

What can a million trees do for Nebraska?

Trees save communities and homeowners money!

Consider the following net benefits (benefits-costs) per tree over a 40-year period:

- $600 (yard) and $160 (public) for a small tree;
- $1,360 (yard) and $640 (public) for a medium tree and
- $3,040 (yard) and $2,320 (public) for a large tree.

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