



# Balsam Fir

## *Abies balsamea*

This native fir is an easy-to-grow tree, known for its blue-green foliage and evergreen aroma. The narrow, pyramid shape makes it a natural choice for windbreaks. It requires almost no care when used as a hedge or screen, only occasional waterings. And single trees soften house corners.

### **Mature Size:**

A large evergreen tree reaching 50 to 75 feet high and 20-25 feet wide. Older trees develop an oval habit with lateral branches that start relatively low to the ground.

### **Growth Speed:** Moderate Growth Rate

This tree grows at a slow rate, increasing at about one foot each year. They will reach their mature size anywhere from 15 to 30 years.

### **Sun Preference**

It does well in full or partial sunlight. Newly started trees prefer sheltered area for the first year of growth.

### **Soil Preference**

Prefers a dry, loose, sandy soil with a low pH in full sun. Water consistently and slowly.

### **Attributes**

- Grows in a pyramidal shape.
- Develops blisters of resin (balsam) along the trunk.
- Long, dark, 1 inch needles in pairs, with blunt tips.

### **Wildlife Value**

The seeds and buds are food for birds including grouse, squirrels, mice and voles. Moose and white-tailed deer use the balsam fir for food, cover and shelter. The bark is browsed by black bears. Beavers occasionally use the wood for dam building.



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# American Arborvitae, Northern White Cedar

## *Thuja occidentalis*

This native evergreen is a hard-working, versatile specimen. The narrow, pyramid shape makes it a natural choice for windbreaks. It requires almost no care when used as a hedge or screen. Pairs of these hardy trees make great accents for doors and garden gates. And single trees soften house corners.

### **Mature Size:**

The American arborvitae grows to a height of 40–60' and a spread of 10–15' at maturity.

### **Growth Speed:** Slow to Medium Growth Rate

This tree grows at a slow to medium rate, with height increases of anywhere from less than 12" to 24" per year.

### **Sun Preference:**

Full sun is the ideal condition for this tree, meaning it should get at least six hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

### **Soil Preference:**

The American arborvitae grows well in acidic, loamy, moist, rich, sandy, silty loam, well-drained, wet and clay soils.

### **Attributes:**

- Grows in a pyramidal shape.
- Adapts well to shearing and shaping.
- Releases a pleasing aroma when leaves are squeezed.
- Can be planted 3' apart for a low-maintenance hedge.

### **Wildlife Value:**

Providing shelter in the winter and nesting sites for grackles, robins and house finches in the summer, this evergreen is also browsed by deer, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares and an occasional moose. The seeds are eaten by red squirrels and birds such as pine siskins.



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# Eastern White Pine

*Pinus strobus*

Eastern white pine forests originally covered much of north-central and north-eastern North America. Only one percent of the old-growth forests remain after the extensive logging operations of the 18th century to early 20th century. Mature trees are often 200–250 years old, and some live to over 400 years. The Native American Haudenosaunee denominated it the “Tree of Peace”.

## **Mature Size:**

The eastern white pine grows to a height of 50–80’ and a spread of 20–40’ at maturity.

## **Growth Speed:** Fast Growth Rate

This tree grows at a fast rate, with height increases of more than 24” per year.

## **Sun Preference:**

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree. It prefers a minimum of four hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

## **Soil Preference:**

The eastern white pine grows in acidic, moist, well-drained and dry soils. While it does best in moist soil, the tree can have been known to tolerate everything from dry, rocky ridges to bogs.

## **Attributes:**

- Grows in an oval, pyramidal shape. Transplants easily.
- Is sensitive to air pollution, road salt and soil compaction.

## **Wildlife Value:**

Eastern white pine seeds are favored by black bears, rabbits, red squirrels and many birds, especially red crossbills. While potentially damaging to the trees, the bark is eaten by mammals such as beavers, snowshoe hares, porcupines, rabbits and mice. White pines provide nesting sites as well for many birds including woodpeckers, common grackles, mourning doves, chickadees and nuthatches.



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# Red Pine

*Pinus resinosa*

This native evergreen is a hard-working, versatile specimen. The narrow, pyramid shape makes it a natural choice for windbreaks. It requires almost no care when used as a hedge or screen. Pairs of these hardy trees make great accents for doors and garden gates. And single trees soften house corners.

## **Mature Size:**

A large evergreen tree reaching 50 to 80 feet high with varying width. Older trees develop an oval habit with lateral branches that start relatively low to the ground.

## **Growth Speed:** Moderate Growth Rate

This tree grows at a moderate rate, with height increases of anywhere from less than 12” to 24” per year.

## **Sun Preference**

It is intolerant of shade, but does well in windy sites

## **Soil Preference**

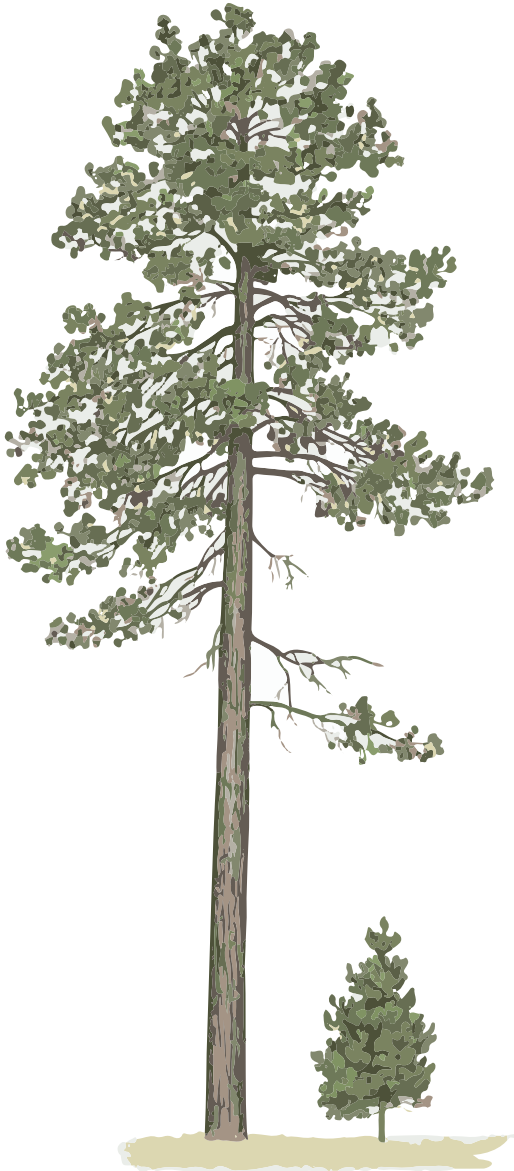
Prefers a dry, loose, sandy soil with a low pH in full sun. Trees are extremely cold tolerant.

## **Attributes**

- Grows in a pyramidal shape.
- The red pine is susceptible to salt.
- Long, 5 to 6 inch needles in pairs, twisted and serrated.

## **Wildlife Value**

Red pine is an attractive tree that is used in recreational areas because of its colorful bark. This species provides cover for many species of mammals and birds. Deer, cottontails, and snowshoe hares browse seedlings. Songbirds, mice and chipmunks feed on the seed.



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# White Spruce

## *Picea glauca*

A straight, tall tree easily recognized by its needles. Cones always hang down. Beautiful year-round color.

### **Mature Size:**

The white spruce grows to a height of 40–60' and a spread of 10–20' at maturity.

### **Growth Speed:** Medium Growth Rate

This tree grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13–24" per year.

### **Sun Preference:**

Full sun is the ideal condition for this tree, meaning it should get at least six hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

### **Soil Preference:**

The white spruce grows in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. It has some drought tolerance.

### **Attributes:**

- Transplants readily.
- Can withstand wind, heat, cold, drought, crowding and some shade.
- Works well in cities and rural windbreaks.

### **Wildlife Value:**

Besides providing nesting sites and shelter, white spruces provide food for many kinds of wildlife. Crossbills, evening grosbeaks and red-breasted nuthatches prefer the seeds. The foliage is eaten by grouse, rabbits and deer. Red squirrels cut open cones to eat the seeds, and they feast upon young, tender spruce shoots. The bark is enjoyed by both porcupines and black bears, sometimes to the detriment of the trees.



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# Blue/Woodland Phlox

## *Phlox divaricata*

The perfect phlox for shady areas, Woodland Blue Phlox blooms for nearly a month in late spring and early summer. The fragrant flowers come in shades of pale lavender to blue, and occasionally pastel pink or white. A Wisconsin native, *Phlox divaricata* grows best in light to medium shade and rich, moist, well-drained soils, but it is adaptable and tolerates both dry and clay soils. Once established, it is drought tolerant. Include it in native woodland gardens, naturalized areas, shaded rock gardens or an informal low border.



**Common Name:** Blue Phlox

**Type:** *Phlox divaricata*

**Family:** Polemoniaceae

**Native Range:** Eastern North America

**Zone:** 3 to 8

**Height:** 1.00 to 2.00 feet

**Spread:** Far

**Bloom Time:** May to June

**Bloom Description:** Blue

**Sun:** Partial Shade

**Water:** Medium

**Maintenance:** Medium

**Flower:** Showy, Fragrant

**Attracts:** Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds

**Tolerate:** Clay Soil

**Garden locations**

Best in light to medium shade and rich, moist, well-drained soils, but it is adaptable and tolerates both dry and clay soils. Once established, it is drought tolerant.



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# Common ironweed

## *Vernonia fasciculata*

*Vernonia fasciculata*, is a Wisconsin native plant named for its tough stem, Ironweed has excellent upright form in the garden. The intense purple bloom color stands out in the late summer landscape, attracting many butterflies and other pollinators. While this tall stately plant occurs naturally in moist soils and tolerates brief flooding, it grows equally well in average garden soils. The plant height may be reduced by cutting-back the stems in late spring. Ironweed can be an aggressive spreader by seed and may not be suitable for smaller settings, but is very effective in background borders, cottage gardens, rain gardens and wildflower meadows.



**Common Name:** Ironweed

**Type:** *Vernonia fasciculata*

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Native Range:** Southeast US

**Zone:** 3 to 7

**Height:** 4.00 to 6.00 feet

**Spread:** Far

**Bloom Time:** July to September

**Bloom Description:** Purple

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium

**Maintenance:** Low

**Flower:** Showy

**Attracts:** Butterflies

**Tolerate:** Drought, Clay Soil

**Garden locations**

Grows best in the full sun; in pine woods, in mixed hardwood forests, in sandhills, and roadside banks.



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# Dogtooth Daisy

## *Helenium autumnale*

A prolific bloomer, the bright yellow flowers put on quite a show in August and September. The numerous daisy-like flowers have distinctive tooth-like indentations at the ends of each petal. *Helenium autumnale*, a Wisconsin native plant, is excellent for damp soils in full sun or light shade, and also does well in medium garden soil. Also commonly called Sneezeweed, it doesn't cause problems for most allergy sufferers, as pollination for this plant is achieved by the activity of pollinating insects, and not the wind.

**Common Name:** dogtooth daisy

**Type:** *Helenium autumnale*

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Native Range:** Central North America

**Zone:** 3 to 9

**Height:** 4.00 to 5.00 feet

**Spread:** 1.00 to 1.50 feet

**Bloom Time:** August to September

**Bloom Description:** Yellow

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium

**Maintenance:** Medium

**Flower:** Showy

**Attracts:** Butterflies, Songbirds

**Tolerate:** Drought, Clay Soil

**Garden locations**

Grows excellently for damp soils in full sun or light shade, and does well in medium garden soil.



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# Prairie Blazing Star

## *Liatris pycnostachya*

*Liatris pycnostachya*, commonly called Prairie Blazing Star, is a Wisconsin native plant which typically occurs in moist soils with plenty of sunlight. It is an iconic prairie flower with a spectacular spike of tightly bunched lavender flowers. The lavender tufted flowers begin blooming at the top and work their way down the single stem. Good plant growth requires both sun and adequate moisture. Dry conditions can cause leaf loss and too little sun may cause twisted growth. Blooming July through August it is excellent in perennial borders, prairie gardens or naturalized areas. It is a host plant for the rare Glorious Flower Moth (*Schinia gloriosa*).



**Common Name:** prairie blazing star

**Type:** *Liatris pycnostachya*

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Native Range:** Central North America

**Zone:** 3 to 9

**Height:** 3.00 to 5.00 feet

**Spread:** 0.60 to 1.00 feet

**Bloom Time:** July to August

**Bloom Description:** Lavendar, Pink, Purple

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium

**Maintenance:** Low

**Flower:** Showy

**Attracts:** Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds

**Tolerate:** poor soils, drought and heat conditions

**Garden locations:**

Perfect for home gardens in the back of the border or in groups for cottage gardens, rock gardens, naturalized areas and pollinator gardens.



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