

# Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators



Pollinators need a diverse mix of blooming flowers all through the growing season for forage (April-October). Native tree and shrub species provide some of the first food sources for pollinators in the spring, whether it's the pollen and nectar from the flowers or the leaves for butterfly and moth caterpillars. The leaves and woody material provide nesting sites, shelter from the elements and predators, and protection throughout winter. The tree and shrub species listed in the chart below are all native to the Midwest and provide many habitat benefits for pollinators.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Moisture*	Height	Bloom Time	Light Needs**	Hardiness Zone	Bees	Butterflies	Moths	Wasps	Flies	Beetles	Other
<b>Trees</b>														
Box Elder	<i>Acer Negundo</i>	yellow/green	W,M	35-50'	April-May	FS	3-9	x						
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red/yellow	M	to 95'	April-May	FS to PS	3-9	X	X		X	X		Sawflies
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	red/yellow	W,M	75-100'	March-April	FS to PS	3-9	X						
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	yellow	M	to 100'	April-June	FS to PS	4-8	X	X		X	X		Sawflies
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	yellow	M	to 35'	May	PSu	4-7a	X						Hummingbirds
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	white	W,M,D	10-25'	April-June	FS to PS	4-8	X	X			X	X	
Paw Paw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	maroon	W,M	15-35'	April-May	FS to S	5-8					X	X	
Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	yellow/green	W,M	60-75'	April-May	FS to PS	3-7		X	X			X	Sawflies
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	brown/green	W,M	30-40'	April-May	FS to PS	4-7		X	X				
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	brown/green	W,M	to 70'	April-May	FS to PS	2-7		X	X				
American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	white/green	W,M	20-40'	April	FS to PS	3-9		X	X				
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	yellow/green	M,D	35-40'	April-May	FS to PS	5-8		X	X			X	
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	yellow/green	W,M,D	60-80'	April-June	FS to PS	4-8		X	X			X	
Northern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	white	M	60-80'	May-July	FS to PS	4-8	X		X				

\* W = Wet; M = Mesic; D = Dry

\*\* FS = Full sun - at least 6 hours of sun per day; PS = Part shade - 3 to 6 hours of sun per day; S = Full shade - less than 3 hours of sun per day; PSu = Part sun

**Sources:** *Bringing Nature Home*, Doug Tallamy; Heather Holm's Native Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators poster from [www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com](http://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com); *Selecting Plants for Pollinators: For the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Continental Province*, [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org); *NRCS Illinois Biology Technical Note No. 23; Attracting Native Pollinators*, The Xerces Society; Missouri Botanical Garden, [www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org); The Morton Arboretum, [www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org); Illinois Wildflowers, [www.illinoiswildflowers.info](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Moisture*	Height	Bloom Time	Light Needs**	Hardiness Zone	Bees	Butterflies	Moths	Wasps	Flies	Beetles	Other
Common Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	brown/green	W,M,D	40-60'	April-May	FS to PS	2-9		X	X			X	
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	pink	M	to 25'	May-June	FS to S	4-8	X	X		X	X	X	
Pagoda Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	white	M	to 25'	May-July	FS to PS	3-7	X			X	X	X	
Round-Leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	white	M,D	5-18'	May-June	FS to PS	2-5	X				X	X	
Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	white	M	to 25'	May-June	FS	4-8	X	X		X	X	X	
Downy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	white	W,M	to 40'	May-June	FS	4-8	X	X		X	X	X	
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	white/yellow	W,M,D	35-60'	April-June	FS to PS	4-9	X		X		X	X	
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	yellow/green	M	60-80'	April-May	FS to PS	3-9			X			X	
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	yellow	M,D	to 45'	May-June	FS to Psu	3-8a	X				X		
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	white	W,M	to 75'	May-June	FS to PS	3-8	X	X					Hummingbirds
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	cream/white	M	15-30'	May	FS to PS	5-9	X		X	X	X		Ants
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	yellow/green	M	45-75'	April-June	FS	3-7		X	X			X	
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	yellow/green	W,M	80-120'	May-June	FS to PS	4-8			X			X	
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	yellow/green	W,M	70-90'	May-June	FS	4-9	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wild Crabapple	<i>Malus ioensis</i>	pink/white	M,D	15-25'	May-June	FS to PS	5-9	X	X	X	X	X	X	Sawflies
Red Mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>	green	M	50-70'	March-April	FS to PS	5-8	X	X				X	
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	green/white	W,M	30-50'	May-June	FS to PS	4-7	X		X			X	
American Hop Hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	red-brown/grn	M	25-40'	April	FS to PS	3-9			X			X	
American Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	yellow/red	W,M	75-100'	April	FS	4-9			X			X	
Eastern Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	red/green	W,M	50-100'	March-May	FS	2-9		X	X			X	Sawflies
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	green/brown	M	60-80'	April	FS to PS	1-7		X	X			X	
American Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	white	M,D	8-20'	May-June	FS to PS	3-8	X	X	X	X	X		
Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	white	M,D	10-35'	May-June	FS	3-8	X	X	X				
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	white	M,D	to 100'	May-June	FS to PS	3b-9a	X		X	X	X	X	Ants
Choke Cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	white	M,D	25-30'	May-June	FS to PS	2-6	X	X	X		X	X	
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	yellow/green	M,D	50-80'	May	FS to PS	5-8		X	X	X		X	
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	yellow/green	M,W	50-60'	April	FS	3-8		X	X	X		X	
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	yellow/green	M,D	80-120'	April	FS to PS	3-8		X	X			X	
Chinquapin Oak	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	yellow/green	M,D	40-90'	April	FS to PS	5-8		X	X	X		X	

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Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	yellow/green	W,M	60-70'	April	FS	4-8		X	X	X		X	
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	yellow/green	M,D	50-75'	May	FS to PS	4-8		X	X	X		X	
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	yellow/green	M,D	60-80'	April-May	FS to PS	4-8		X	X	X		X	Sawflies
Pussy Willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	white/yellow	W,M	12-35'	April-May	FS to PS	4-8	X	X		X	X	X	Sawflies
Black Willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	yellow green	W,M	12-50'	April-June	FS to PS	3-8	X				X	X	Sawflies
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	yellow green	W,M,D	35-60'	March-June	FS to PS	4-9	X	X	X	X	X	X	Sawflies
American Bladdernut	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	white	M	8-20'	May-June	Psu to S	3-8	X			X	X	X	
American Basswood (Linden)	<i>Tilia americana</i>	white/yellow	M	50-100'	July-August	FS to PS	3-8	X		X	X	X	X	Sawflies
American Elm (blight-resistant variety)	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	red/green	W,M,D	60-100'	March-April	FS to PS	4-8	X	X	X			X	
<b>SHRUBS</b>														
Leadplant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	lavendar	M,D	2-4'	June-August	FS	2-9	X	X	X	X	X	X	
False White Indigo	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	white	W,M	12'	May-July	FS - PS	3-8	X	X	X			X	
Black Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	white	W,M	3-6'	May-July	FS - PS	3-8	X	X	X		X		
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	white	M,D	2-6'	July-August	FS - PS	4-8	X	X		X	X	X	Sawflies
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	white	W,M	5-15'	June-August	FS	5-10	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	white	W,M	10-15'	June-July	FS to PS	5-8	X	X		X	X	X	
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	white	M,D	10-18'	May-June	FS to PS	4-8	X	X		X	X	X	
Red Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	white	W,M	6-15'	May-June	FS to PS	3-10	X	X		X	X	X	
American Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	yellow/brown	M,D	4-15'	March-April	FS to PS	4-10			X			X	Sawflies
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	yellow	M,D	2-4'	June-July	FS to PS	3-7	X		X				
Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	yellow	M	15-20'	Oct-Dec	FS to PS	4-8			X	X	X	X	
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	white	W,M	5-20'	June-July	FS to PS	3-7	X		X		X		
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	yellow/green	W,M	to 15'	March-May	FS to S	4-9		X					
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	white	M,D	5-10'	May-August	FS to PS	2-7	X	X				X	
Choke Cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	white	M,D	25-30'	April-June	FS to PS	2-6	X	X	X		X	X	
Aromatic Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatic</i>	lime/yellow	M,D	4-6'	April-May	FS to PS	4-7	X	X					
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	lime/yellow	M,D	6-20'	June-July	FS to PS	2-9	X	X		X	X	X	

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Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus hirta</i>	lime/yellow	M,D	10-35'	June-July	FS to PS	3-8	X	X		X	X	X	
Currant/Gooseberry	<i>Ribes spp.</i>	white/yellow	W,M,D	2-10'	May-July	FS to PS	4-8	X	X	X	X	X		
Prairie Wild Rose	<i>Rosa arkansana</i>	pink	M,D	1-3'	June-August	FS to PS	4-8	X		X	X	X	X	Sawflies
Smooth Wild Rose	<i>Rosa blanda</i>	pink	M,D	3-7'	June	FS to PS	4-8	X				X	X	
Carolina Rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	pink	M,D	3-6'	May-June	FS to PS	4-9	X		X		X	X	
Raspberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	white	M	3-6'	April-July	FS to PS	4-8	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	white	W,M	4-12'	June-August	FS to PS	3-8	X	X	X		X	X	Sawflies
Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	white	W,M	4-18'	May-June	FS to PS	3-8	X		X		X	X	
Meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	white	W	3-7'	July-August	FS	3-8	X	X			X	X	
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	white/pink	D	2-5'	June-July	FS to PS	2-7	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wolfberry	<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	white/pink	D	3-6'	June-August	FS to PS	2-7	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	pink	M,D	2-5'	July-August	FS to PS	2-7	X		X	X	X		
Cranberry, Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>	white/pink	M,D	1-8'	April-June	FS to PS	4-7	X	X	X			X	
Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>	white	M	5-15'	May-July	FS to PS	2-8	X	X	X		X	X	
Nannyberry Viburnum	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	white	M,D	8-30'	May-June	FS to PS	2-8	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black Haw	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	white	M,D	5-15'	April-June	FS to PS	3-9	X	X	X		X	X	Ants
Prickly Ash	<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	green	M, D	4-25'	April-May	FS to PS	3-7	X	X			X		

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Each year, Trees Forever recruits 20 pollinator habitat demonstration sites in Iowa and Illinois (10 in each state) to showcase proper site selection and preparation, appropriate plant species composition, and ongoing maintenance requirements for the establishment of sustainable pollinator-friendly habitat.

If you would like to nominate your yard, farm, a city lot, a parcel you own, school or nature center to participate in the Trees Forever Pollinator Habitat Conservation program, download the application found at: [www.treesforever.org/PollinatorHabitatCons](http://www.treesforever.org/PollinatorHabitatCons). For questions on completing the application, email Debbie Fluegel or call her at 319-373-0650, Ext. 263.

Join Trees Forever on its mission to plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community and promoting stewardship.

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