

# IPSWICH NATIVE PLANT POLICY

Adopted by Select Board March 6, 2023

Ipswich along with all of New England is facing the challenges of climatic change. Recurring extreme droughts during the summer season, invasive plant and insect species, and increasingly extreme weather conditions are presenting a threat to our regional ecosystems. As a coastal community, Ipswich is in a unique position to not only protect our land but also mitigate storm water run-off that endangers our rivers and streams.

Native trees and native plants are the cornerstone to preserve and protect our ecosystems. In quoting the Native Plant Trust, "Together native plants and animals form a web of mutually beneficial interactions that is greater than the sum of its parts..."

The Shade Tree and Beautification Committee recommends that the town of Ipswich adopt this policy that prioritizes native plantings for all our municipal spaces and encourages Ipswich residents to consider native plants for their gardening and landscaping. Our recommendation is to plant native species wherever possible with the understanding that there will be some exceptions based on individual circumstances.

The Shade Tree and Beautification Committee requests the Select Board adopt this recommendation as town policy. Attached please see our list of native trees and native plants.

Native Trees of the Northeast (partial list) created by Town of Ipswich, MA, Shade Tree and Beautification Committee						
Unless otherwise noted, the listed trees are native to New England.						
The Native Plant Trust is the main source utilized for this list.						
Links for tree descriptions are provided through the botanical tree name.						
<a href="https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search">https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search</a>						
UMass Extension and USDA.gov are additional sources utilized to provide links to information on problematic pests affecting many native trees listed herein.						
<a href="https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets">https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets</a>						
<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/topics/northeastern-us-forest-pests">https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/topics/northeastern-us-forest-pests</a>						
When purchasing trees, please make sure to check the plant tags to ensure you are buying native species.						
Botanical (scientific) tree names	Common name	Height, width	Evergreen or deciduous	Soil moisture	Exposure	Uses and other notes
<a href="#">Abies fir</a>	balsam fir	medium 35-60', 12-18'	evergreen	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Host plant, pollinator, powerhouse plant, provides food and cover for wildlife.
<a href="#">Acer pensylvanicum</a>	striped maple	small 15-25', 7-10'	deciduous	Average	Part shade, shade	Striped green bark, winter interest, fall foliage. Pollinator Powerhouse Plant•Other Pollinators/Wildlife•Host Plant
<a href="#">Acer rubrum</a>	red maple	large 40-75', 20-50'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Suitable street tree. Important pollinator and wildlife tree. Spring bloom, fall foliage.
<a href="#">Acer saccharum</a>	sugar maple	large 60-80', 20-50'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Fall foliage. Other Pollinators/Wildlife•Attracts Songbirds•Pollinator Powerhouse Plant•Host Plant
<a href="#">Acer saccharinum</a>	silver maple	large 60'-75', 30-50'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Suitable for wet areas near rivers and streams. Host Plant•Other Pollinators/Wildlife•Attracts Songbirds•Pollinator Powerhouse Plant.
<a href="#">Acer spicatum</a>	mountain maple	small 12-25', 7-10'	deciduous	Average	Part shade	Fall foliage. Shrub-like understory tree. Wildlife•Host Plant•Pollinator Powerhouse Plant Additional Attributes •Dioecious (fruits only on females)
<a href="#">Amelanchier canadensis</a>	Canada serviceberry	small 10-18', 5-10'	deciduous	Average, dry, moist	Sun, part shade	fall foliage. Attracts Bees • Attracts Songbirds • Pollinator Powerhouse Plant • Pollinators/Wildlife
<a href="#">Amelanchier laevis</a>	allegheny serviceberry	small 15-30', 8-18'	deciduous	Average, dry, moist	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, summer fruit, fall foliage. Host Plant • Attracts Bees • Attracts Songbirds • Pollinator Powerhouse Plant • Other Pollinators/Wildlife.
<a href="#">Benthamidia florida</a>	flowering dogwood	small 12-20', 8-15'	deciduous	Average	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, summer fruit, fall foliage. Host Plant • Attracts Songbirds • Attracts Butterflies • Other Pollinators/Wildlife

<a href="#">Betula alleghaniensis</a>	yellow birch	large 50-70', 15-30'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Fall foliage, curling bark. Attracts songbirds, host plant, pollinator powerhouse plant.
<a href="#">Betula lenta</a>	black birch, cherry birch	medium 40-60', 10-25'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Fall foliage. Attracts songbirds, host plant, pollinator powerhouse plant.
<a href="#">Betula nigra</a>	river birch	medium 25-45', 15-25'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Showy peeling bark. Fall foliage. Attracts songbirds, host plant, pollinator powerhouse plant.
<a href="#">Betula papyifera</a>	paper birch	medium 25-45', 15-25'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Peeling white bark. Fall foliage. Attracts songbirds, host plant, pollinator powerhouse plant.
<a href="#">Betula populifolia</a>	gray birch	medium 20-40', 8-15'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Winter interest. Attracts songbirds, host plant, pollinator powerhouse plant.
<a href="#">Carpinus caroliniana</a>	American hornbeam, muscle wood	small 20-30', 20-35'	deciduous	Average, moist	Part shade, shade	Multi-stem understory tree. Host plant, pollinator plant.
<a href="#">Carya glabra</a>	pignut hickory	large 60-80', 25-35'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Host Plant, pollinators/wildlife, attracts songbirds, pollinator powerhouse plant. Produces nuts enclosed in hard hull.
<a href="#">Carya ovata</a>	shagbark hickory	large 50-100', 20-40'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Host Plant, pollinators/Wildlife, attracts songbirds, pollinator powerhouse plant. Winter interest. Produces nuts enclosed in hard hull. Bark of older trees peels away into vertical strips.
<a href="#">Castanea dentata</a>	American chestnut	large 50-100', 30-50'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	<a href="#">NOTE: Most populations in the U.S. were decimated in the early 1900s by the Chestnut blight.</a>
<a href="#">Celtis occidentalis</a>	hackberry	medium 30-50', 20-50'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Suitable street tree. Attracts songbirds, small blue summer fruit, host plant.
<a href="#">Cercis canadensis</a> *Native to the Northeast	redbud	small 12-25', 10-25'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, heart shaped leaves, fall foliage. Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, other pollinators. Host plant.
<a href="#">Craetagus crus-galli var. inermis</a>	thornless hawthorn	small 20-30', 20-30'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, summer fruit, fall foliage. Powerhouse pollinator plant, attracts birds, host plant.
<a href="#">Fagus grandifolia</a>	American beech	large 50-70', 25-50'	deciduous	Average	Sun, part shade	<a href="#">NOTE: beech bark disease</a> causes mortality and defects in beech trees.
<a href="#">Fraxinus Americana</a>	white ash	large 50-85', 25-50'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	<a href="#">NOTE: emerald ash borer</a> is an invasive wood boring beetle that kills ash trees.
<a href="#">Fraxinus Nigra</a>	black ash	medium 30-50', 15-25'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	<a href="#">NOTE: emerald ash borer</a> is an invasive wood boring beetle that kills ash trees.
<a href="#">Fraxinus pennsylvanica</a>	green ash	large 50-70', 35-50'	deciduous	Average	Sun	<a href="#">NOTE: emerald ash borer</a> is an invasive wood boring beetle that kills ash trees.

<a href="#">Juglans cinerea</a>	butternut	large 40-70', 20-40'	deciduous	Moist, average	Sun, part shade	NOTE: produces juglone which inhibits plant growth of some of species. Produces nuts enclosed in hard hull.
<a href="#">Juglans nigra</a>	black walnut	large 50-90', 30-60'	deciduous	Average	Sun, part shade	NOTE: produces juglone which inhibits plant growth of some of species. Produces nuts enclosed in hard hull.
<a href="#">Juniperus Virginiana</a>	eastern red cedar	small/medium 15-30', 10-15'	evergreen	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Suitable street tree. Bark peels in long vertical strips. Summer fruit. Attracts birds and pollinators. Host plant. NOTE: susceptible to cedar-hawthorn rust.
<a href="#">Larix laricina</a>	American larch, tamarack	large 30-60', 10-18'	deciduous	Average, wet	Sun, part shade	Prefers wet areas. Deciduous needle-leaf. Fall foliage, host plant, pollinator plant.
<a href="#">Liquidambar styraciflua</a>	sweet gum	large 60-90', 25-60'	deciduous	Moist, average	Sun, part shade	Fall foliage. Attracts songbirds. Host plant. Spiny brown seed balls can be problematic.
<a href="#">Liriodendron tulipifera</a>	tulip tree	large 70-120', 30-60'	deciduous	Average	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom. Fast-growing. Unique shaped leaves. Attracts songbirds, bees, other pollinators. Powerhouse pollinator plant. Host plant.
<a href="#">Magnolia virginiana</a>	sweet bay magnolia	small 10-20', 8-15'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, summer fruit, pollinator plant.
<a href="#">Morus rubra</a>	red mulberry	small 15-35', 15-35'	deciduous	Average, dry, wet	Sun, part shade	Host plant, summer fruit. Attracts songbirds, other pollinators/wildlife
<a href="#">Nyssa sylvatica</a>	black gum	medium 30-60', 20-35'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Suitable street tree. Spring bloom, blue summer fruit, fall foliage. Attracts songbirds and pollinators, Host plant.
<a href="#">Ostrya virginiana</a>	American hop hornbeam	small 20-30', 10-18'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Suitable street tree. Spring bloom, seed-pods resemble hops. Attracts songbirds and pollinators. Host plant. Pollinator powerhouse plant.
<a href="#">Oxydendrum arboreum</a>	sour wood	small 15-30', 6-15'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, summer fruit, fall foliage. Attracts songbirds and bees. Host plant.
<a href="#">Picea glauca</a>	white spruce	medium 30-60', 8-16'	evergreen	Average, dry	Sun	Attracts songbirds and other wildlife. Pollinator powerhouse plant.
<a href="#">Picea rubens</a>	red spruce	medium 30-60', 10-18'	evergreen	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Attract songbirds and other wildlife. Powerhouse pollinator plant. Host plant.
<a href="#">Pinus picea</a>	red pine	large 50-80', 15-30'	evergreen	Average, dry	Sun	Provides nesting habitat and food for wildlife.
<a href="#">Pinus strobus</a>	white pine	large 60-90', 25-40'	evergreen	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Attract birds and other wildlife. Pollinator plant.
<a href="#">Populus deltoides</a>	eastern cottonwood	large 60-90', 30-40'	deciduous	Moist	Sun, part shade	Grows along streams and wetlands. Provides food and habitat for many types of wildlife. Fast growing.

<a href="#">Populus grandidentata</a>	big tooth aspen	large 50-80', 40-60'	deciduous	Moist	Sun	Fast growing. Provides habitat and food for birds and other wildlife.
<a href="#">Populus tremuloides</a>	quaking aspen	medium 25-55', 15-25'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Fall foliage. Showy white bark. High maintenance tree in the landscape. Attracts songbirds, pollinators, host plant. Fast-growing.
<a href="#">Platanus occidentalis</a>	American sycamore	large 70-100', 40-60'	deciduous	Moist, average	Sun, part shade	Best planted in a large area away from roads, sidewalks or power lines. Peeling, mottled bark. Attracts songbirds, pollinators. Host plant. Produces hard seed balls.
<a href="#">Prunus americana</a>	American plum	small 4-10', 4-12'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Suckering tree or shrub. Spring bloom, summer fruit, fall foliage. Host plant. Powerhouse pollinator plant.
<a href="#">Prunus serotina</a>	black cherry	medium 30-60', 20-30'	deciduous	Average	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, purple to black summer fruit, fall foliage. Attracts birds and pollinators. Host plant. Supports over 400 species of butterflies and moths.
<a href="#">Quercus alba</a>	white oak	large 60-80', 30-40'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Suitable street tree. Fall foliage. Nuts important to wildlife. Powerhouse host and pollinator plant.
<a href="#">Quercus bicolor</a>	swamp white oak	large 60-80', 30-40'	deciduous	Moist, average	Sun, part shade	Fall foliage. Nuts important to wildlife. Powerhouse host and pollinator plant.
<a href="#">Quercus coccinea</a>	scarlet oak	large 50-70', 25-40'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun, part shade	Suitable street tree. Fall foliage. Nuts are important to wildlife. Powerhouse host and pollinator plant. An oak tree supports more moths and butterflies than any other native tree species
<a href="#">Quercus palustris</a>	pin oak	large 50-80', 25-35'	deciduous	Moist, average	Sun	Low lying branches. Requires more maintenance than other oaks when planted near streets or parking areas. Fall foliage. Nuts are important to wildlife. Powerhouse host and pollinator plant. An oak tree supports more moths and butterflies than any other native tree species.
<a href="#">Quercus rubra</a>	red oak	large 60-80', 30-45'	deciduous	Moist, average	Sun, part shade	Suitable street tree. Fall foliage. Nuts are important to wildlife. Host plant. Powerhouse pollinator plant. An oak tree supports more moths and butterflies than any other native tree species.
<a href="#">Quercus velutina</a>	black oak	large 50-60', 50-60'	deciduous	Average, dry	Sun	Fall foliage. Branches extend to bottom of tree. Nuts important to wildlife. Host plant. Powerhouse pollinator plant. An oak tree supports more moths and butterflies than any other native tree species.
<a href="#">Salix nigra</a>	black willow	medium 30-60', 20-50'	deciduous	Moist or wet	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, fall foliage. Attracts bees and songbirds. Powerhouse pollinator and host plant.
<a href="#">Sassafras albidum</a>	sassafras	medium 20-40', 8-18'	deciduous	Average, dry, moist	Sun, part shade	Fall foliage. Attracts songbirds and bees. Host plant.

<a href="#">Swida alternifolia</a>	pagoda dogwood	small 10-20', 10-15'	deciduous	Average dry	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, blue summer fruit. Attracts songbirds, bees, butterflies. Host plant. Powerhouse pollinator plant.
<a href="#">Thuja occidentalis</a>	eastern arborvitae, northern white cedar	small 20-30', 20-30'	evergreen	Moist, average	Sun, part shade	<a href="#">Provides food and shelter for wildlife. Deer browse. *NOTE: Remember to ask for Thuja occidentalis to avoid purchasing non-native species.</a>
<a href="#">Tilia Americana</a>	American basswood/linden	large 50-70', 30-45'	deciduous	Average	Sun, part shade	Spring bloom, fall foliage. Attracts songbirds and bees. Host plant. Powerhouse pollinator plant.
<a href="#">Tsuga canadensis</a>	eastern hemlock	large 60-80', 25-40'	evergreen	Average, moist	Sun, part shade, shade	<a href="#">NOTE: susceptible to <u>invasive hemlock woolly adelgid</u></a>
<a href="#">Ulmus Americana</a>	American elm	large 60-100', 50-80'	deciduous	Average, moist	Sun, part shade	<a href="#">NOTE: susceptible to <u>Dutch elm disease</u></a>
M. Dixon last updated 2-19-23						

## **Non-Native Trees to Avoid**

### **Addendum to the Native Trees List**

**submitted to the Ipswich Select Board by the Shade Tree and Beautification Committee**

While native plants co-evolved with local birds, bees and other insects over millennia to create finely calibrated webs of relationship, some non native species are outcompeting and crowding out their native counterparts, threatening eco-system health

The State of Massachusetts has concluded that "invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the integrity of natural communities and also a direct threat to the survival of many indigenous species." The Massachusetts' Invasive Plants Advisory Group "engages in efforts to identify the most problematic species and to manage them when and where it is possible." It categorizes the following non-native trees as:

#### **INVASIVE**

##### ***Acer platanoides* (Norway maple)**

A tree occurring in all regions of the state in upland and wetland habitats, and especially common in woodlands with colluvial soils. It grows in full sun to full shade. Escapes from cultivation; can form dense stands; out-competes native vegetation, including sugar maple; dispersed by water, wind and vehicles.

##### ***Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore maple)**

A tree occurring mostly in southeastern counties of Massachusetts, primarily in woodlands and especially near the coast. It grows in full sun to partial shade. Escapes from cultivation inland as well as along the coast; salt-spray tolerant; dispersed by wind, water and vehicles.

##### ***Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of heaven)**

This tree occurs in all regions of the state in upland, wetland, & coastal habitats. Grows in full sun to full shade. Spreads aggressively from root suckers, especially in disturbed areas.

##### ***Robinia pseudoacacia* (Black locust)**

A tree that occurs in all regions of the state in upland habitats. Grows in full sun to full shade. While the species is native to central portions of Eastern North America, it is not indigenous to Massachusetts. It has been planted throughout the state since the 1700's and is now widely naturalized. It behaves as an invasive species in areas with sandy soils.

#### **LIKELY INVASIVE**

##### ***Pinus thunbergii* (Japanese black pine)**

A small evergreen tree that can reach heights of about 6-9 m tall and about 6-11 m wide in cultivation. It occurs in coastal sites, disturbed sites, sand dunes, and dry scrubland. It is seen as an ecological threat to native grasslands and dune systems, including the globally rare sandplain grasslands of coastal Massachusetts and the islands. (Reviewed 2021)

##### ***Pyrus calleryana* (Callery Pear; Bradford Pear)**

A small, deciduous tree native to eastern Asia. Many cultivars have been developed, including Bradford Pear. Callery Pear will grow in a variety of different habitat conditions. (Reviewed 2022)

[Note: Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maine banned this tree in the past several years.]

#### **NOT MEETING THE CRITERIA FOR INVASIVENESS AT THIS TIME [BUT BE FOREWARNED]:**

##### ***Catalpa speciosa* (Northern catalpa)**

A tree that grows in full sun to partial shade. Preliminary data suggest that this species could be invasive in floodplain forests; more data is needed on its ability to out compete native species.

***Morus alba* L. (White mulberry)**

A tree that grows in full sun to partial shade. Reports of naturalized occurrences and invasiveness need verification in MA.

***Populus alba* (White poplar)**

A tree that grows in full sun. Data needed on occurrences in minimally managed areas.

**[NOTE: NOT YET ASSESSED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS INVASIVE PLANTS ADVISORY GROUP BUT BE FOREWARNED]**

***Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse chestnut)**

Reported as invasive in Georgia, Maine, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. A large flowering tree native to parts of southeastern Europe, it spreads via easily rooted seeds in full sun or part shade, eventually forming colonies that crowd out natives. Its seed, bark, flower and leaves contain a poison that, if ingested raw, can cause serious stomach upset and even death, particularly in horses.