

Native Trees Presentation Script



Mission

- ReForest London is a non-profit organization dedicated to partnering with our community to enhance environmental and human health in the Forest City, through the benefit of trees.
- ReForest London has three goals:
 - Empowerment
 - Ecosystem Health
 - Education

Million Tree Challenge

- Has anyone ever heard of the Million Tree Challenge before?
- The Million Tree Challenge is the goal of planting 1,000,000 trees in London in 10 years
- It can be any species, planted by anyone, anywhere within the City of London
- If you have planted any trees since 2011, please take the time to register them at milliontrees.ca and to be counted

Our Region

- Carolinian Canada
- From Windsor to Toronto
- Unique area, as species have adapted to live off the environment and animals have learned to live off the species

Quick Facts About Carolinian Canada

- 25% of Canada's population on 0.25% of its area
- More endangered and rare species than any other life zone in Canada
- A great diversity of wildlife of all kinds, including many species not found elsewhere in Canada.
- Forest cover has been reduced from 80% to 11.3%
- Wetlands reduced from 28.3% to 5.1%

Native Species

- Species that occur within our ecosystem without being brought here by human intervention
- Evolved here and are suited to local environment and conditions
- Connected with other native species in the ecosystem by the food chain and other natural processes.

Sugar Maple

- Large tree, can grow up to 35 metres.
- Can live for more for more than 200 years
- Spectacular fall foliage
- Maple Syrup, was a 354 million dollar industry in Canada in 2009
- 40L of sap boiled down produces 1L maple syrup
- Represented on the Canadian flag

Pawpaw

- Small tree, grows up to 9m
- It is the only hardy member of otherwise tropical plants
- Large fleshy fruit are edible when ripe (tastes like banana/guava)
- Red flowers bloom before the leaves emerge in the spring

Tulip Tree

- Very large tree, up to 30m
- Green-yellow flowers in late spring
- Great for wildlife and birds
- Resemblance to tulips is only superficial
- Essential larval host of the rare Eastern Swallowtail butterfly

Redbud

- Small tree, grows up to 8m
- Purple-pinkish flowers that appear in the late spring before the leaves
- In fall it's leaves turn yellow
- George Washington frequently wrote about the redbud in his journals, noting its beauty and his many hours spent growing saplings

Hackberry

- Medium tree, grows up to 15m tall
- Member of the elm family
- Produces seed like fruit that are very attractive to wildlife
- Nectar source for butterflies, particularly the Hackberry Emperor Butterfly

Bur Oak

- Large tree, grows up to 30m tall
- Has acorns that can be eaten
- Can live up to 300 years
- Wood from these trees is often used for cabinetry, barrels, hard wood flooring and fence posts
- Tolerant of city smoke and air pollutants

Non-Native Species

- Species that have been introduced into our ecosystem from elsewhere
- Not likely to become a threat to native species.
- Safe for landscaping but unacceptable for naturalization projects.
- These species are less ideal for use than native species, but are not a danger to them.

Japanese Maple

- Relative of North American maples
- Native to Japan, China, Mongolia and eastern Russia
- Used in landscaping because of its beautiful red leaves
- No threat to native trees.

Jack Pine

- National icon, painted by Tom Thompson
- Native to northern boreal forests, not this far South. Can be found up in cottage country
- Grows 9-22m
- Often thrives in rocky soil and poor growing conditions.

Invasive Species

- Species that have been introduced into our ecosystem from elsewhere
- Has no “enemies” to maintain species levels
- Will become a threat to native species and disrupt local ecosystems
- **Do not plant under any circumstances** and should be removed when possible.

European Buckthorn

- Introduced to North America to use as hedgerows.
- Commonly used as an ornamental shrub
- Smooth, dark green leaves are finely toothed.
- Forms dense thickets that crowds out and shades out native plants.
- Spreads vigorously by seed and acts as a laxative to birds so the seeds pass through them into the rest of the forest

Norway Maple

- Native from Southern Scandinavia to Northern Iran
- Introduced to North America in the 18th C.
- Gained popularity in the 50's and 60's as a pollution resistant street tree.
- Threatening native trees when seeded in natural areas because it hybridizes with native maple trees

Tree of Heaven

- Though its name makes it sound heavenly, Tree-of-Heaven is no angel.
- Native to northeast and central China
- First brought to North America in 1784
- Re-sprouts vigorously when cut making it difficult to eradicate.
- Its aggressive root system can cause damage to pavement, sewers and building foundations – it can grow anywhere!

How do I know if a tree is native?

- Ask an Expert – you can contact ReForest London or the City with questions or for help finding information
- Look it up online using a reputable source (Environment Canada, Parks Canada, Evergreen, ReForest London, etc.)
- Use our “Choosing the Right Tree” Brochure.

How to Plant a Tree

- **PLAN**
 - Location: locate the best place or places to plant trees in your yard
 - Soil Type/Moisture/Light: take note of the soil type (clay, sand, loam) and moisture available in your planting location. Is the spot sunny, shady or both sun and shade?
 - Plant the **right time** of year
 - Season: the best time to plant a tree is early spring or late fall
- **BUY**
 - Buy Native
 - Buy Local
 - Buy Healthy
- **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**
 - By law, you must contact Ontario One-Call (www.on1call.com, 1-800-400-2255) at least one week prior to digging anywhere. This free service will check and mark your site for under-ground utilities. Ensure a safe dig!

Promote Native

- Order trees where they are needed on city property 519-661-5783
- Plant a tree – ReForest London is always a good lead

Value Native

- Take care of the trees you have
- Give trees as gifts
- Let your municipal leaders know your city includes trees