

# Best Choices

These trees are **native** to southwestern Ontario and **grow naturally** in the London area.

They are adapted to the local climate, are hardier and easier to maintain than non-native species and are critical to maintaining local biodiversity and ecosystem health.

## Common Name Scientific Name

### ASPENS, POPLARS & COTTONWOODS

Balsam Poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>
Eastern Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Large-tooth Aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>
Trembling Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>

### BIRCHES

Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>

### CHERRIES & PLUMS

Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Choke Cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>
American Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>
Canadian Plum	<i>Prunus nigra</i>

### CONIFERS / EVERGREENS

Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Eastern White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>

### DOGWOODS

Pagoda Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>
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### ELMS

American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i> ▲
Rock Elm	<i>Ulmus thomasii</i> ▲
Slippery Elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i> ▲

### HAWTHORNS

Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>
Dotted Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus punctata</i>
Downy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus mollis</i>
Fleshy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus succulenta</i>
Pear Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus calpodendron</i>
Round-leaved Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus chryscarpa</i>

### HICKORIES

Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>
Pignut Hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i> ◆
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Shellbark Hickory	<i>Carya laciniosa</i> ◆

### MAPLES

Black Maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i>
Freeman's Maple	<i>Acer x freemanii</i>
Mountain Maple	<i>Acer spicatum</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>

These trees can be planted in and near natural areas as well as in landscape projects. **They should be your first choice.**

## Common Name Scientific Name

### OAKS

Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Chinquapin Oak	<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>

### SERVICEBERRIES

Downy Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>
Smooth Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>

### SUMACS

Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>

### OTHERS

American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> ◆
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Black Willow	<i>Salix nigra</i> ■
Blue Beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> ▲
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Hop Hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i> ◆
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Wild Crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>

### ASHES

Black Ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i> ▲
Pumpkin Ash	<i>Fraxinus profunda</i> ◆▲
Red (or Green) Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> ▲
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i> ▲

## LEGEND

- ◆ Rare in Ontario, but not officially a Species at Risk.
- ▲ Not recommended for landscaping projects because plants in our area are being seriously affected by pests or disease.
- Widely mislabelled and confused with a non-native, invasive species. Only buy from nurseries **specializing** in native plants.
- × Non-native species.

# Use with Caution

These species **do not occur naturally** in the London area.

Some of them are native to Ontario, but not to the London area. Others are non-native species that are not likely to become problem weeds in our local natural areas.

These trees may be used in landscaping, but **should not be used for naturalization projects.**

## Common Name Scientific Name

### BUCKEYES AND HORSECHESTNUTS

Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> ×
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i> ◆

### CATALPAS

Southern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> ×
Northern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i> ×

### CHERRIES, PLUMS, APPLES AND PEARS

Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> ×
Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> ×
Common Apple	<i>Malus pumila</i> ×
Common Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i> ×
Domestic Cherry	<i>Prunus domestica</i> ×
Nanking Cherry	<i>Prunus tomentosa</i> ×
Sour Cherry	<i>Prunus cerasus</i> ×

### CONIFERS / EVERGREENS

Austrian Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i> ×
Balsam Fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>
Black Spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>
European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i> ×
Jack Pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>
Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i> ×
Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>

### MOUNTAIN-ASH

American Mountain-ash	<i>Sorbus americana</i>
Northern Mountain-ash	<i>Sorbus decora</i>

### OTHERS

Clammy Locust	<i>Robinia viscosa</i> ×
English Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i> ×
English Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i> ×
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> ◆
Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i> ×
Laurel Willow	<i>Salix pentandra</i> ×
Lombardy Poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i> ×
London Plane-tree	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> ×
Osage-orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i> ×
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> ◆
Striped Maple	<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> ×
Washington Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> ×

# Avoid

These are **non-native species** that have or may become **invasive problem weeds** in southwestern Ontario.

They grow fast and reproduce readily. When they escape into the wild they out-compete native species and disrupt local ecosystems.

These trees **should not be planted under any circumstances** and **should be removed when possible** to prevent further invasion.

## Common Name Scientific Name

### CONIFERS / EVERGREENS

Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> ×
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### MAPLES

Amur Maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i> ×
Crimson King Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i> "Crimson King" ×
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i> ×
Sycamore Maple	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ×

### PLUMS AND CHERRIES

Perfumed Cherry	<i>Prunus mahaleb</i> ×
Sweet Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i> ×

### WILLOWS

Crack Willow	<i>Salix x fragilis</i> ×
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i> ×

### OTHERS

Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> ×
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> ×
Callery or Bradford Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> ×
English Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ×
European Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ×
European Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> ×
European Mountain-ash	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> ×
European Weeping Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i> ×
Glossy Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i> ×
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> ×
Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i> ×
Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> ×
White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i> ×
White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i> ×

### Warning!

Some of these species **look very similar to native species** so check their scientific names carefully and **buy from a knowledgeable nursery.**

# At Risk

The following species are listed under the **Endangered Species Act.**

If you are hoping to plant one of these species, it is important that you ensure the plant has been grown in an ethical manner from **non-wild sources**, that you plant it somewhere it is likely to survive and that you don't use it for naturalization projects except under licence from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

It is illegal to possess, transport, collect, buy or sell any part of a living or dead member of a listed species if it originates from **wild sources** in Ontario.

## Common Name Scientific Name

American Chestnut	<i>Castanea dentata</i>
Blue Ash	<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i> ▲
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>
Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>
Common Hoptree	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>
Cucumber Tree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>
Dwarf Hackberry	<i>Celtis tenuifolia</i>
Eastern Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>
Red Mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>
Shumard's Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>

For more information about species at risk visit:

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
www.mnr.gov.on.ca

Species at Risk Registry  
www.sararegistry.gc.ca

### Trees Not Listed

There are dozens of trees available in nurseries that are not listed in this brochure. Often these trees are acceptable as specimen plantings in a groomed landscape, but only green listed species should be used in or near natural areas.

### Plan for Success

Different trees have different sun, moisture and soil requirements – **always check their requirements to ensure growing success.**



London needs more trees. Our quality of life, our local environment and even our own human health depends on it.

Join in London's **Million Tree Challenge** to plant one million trees across the city and make the Forest City a healthier place for everyone.

**Be One in a Million.  
We can help!**

**Please Plant Trees**

- ...in your yard
- ...at your work place
- ...at your school
- ...in a nearby park

**Add to the Tree Count**

Please register all the trees you plant at: [www.milliontrees.ca](http://www.milliontrees.ca)

Any tree planted by anyone anywhere in London counts. We won't reach 1 million without your help.

**Spread the Tree Word**

- Become an official Partner
- Tell others about the Challenge
- Plan a community event
- Share the value of trees
- Hold an Employee Action Day



**Every Tree Counts!**



The **Sherwood Fox Arboretum** includes all the planted trees on the campus of Western University. To find out more about the arboretum, call **519.661.2111 x86506**, e-mail [arboretum@uwo.ca](mailto:arboretum@uwo.ca) or visit [www.uwo.ca/biology/arboretum](http://www.uwo.ca/biology/arboretum)



**ReForest London** is a local not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing environmental and human health in the Forest City through the benefits of trees. To learn about more opportunities to help keep the "forest" in the Forest City, visit [www.reforestlondon.ca](http://www.reforestlondon.ca) or call **519.936.9548**.

**ReForest London gratefully acknowledges**



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™

**Why choose native species?**

**Native species:**

- Are adapted to the region, so they handle climate extremes and other stressors better
- Are easier to maintain
- Provide suitable wildlife habitat
- Don't disrupt local ecosystems
- Help maintain local biodiversity

**Scientific names**

It is important to know the scientific name of plants you are considering buying. A scientific name consists of two parts. **The first part is the genus name and may be shared by many species.** For example, *Acer* is the scientific name for Maple. All maples will have this as the first part of their scientific name.

**The second part of the name is the species.** *Acer saccharum* is the native Sugar Maple. It is a good tree choice. *Acer platanoides*, on the other hand, is the non-native and highly invasive Norway Maple. It should be avoided. If you see additional names, this indicates a cultivated variety, known as a cultivar. These are individuals of a species who can be recognized by some unique trait, such as variegated leaves or unusually coloured flowers. For example, *Acer rubrum* "Red Sunset" is a cultivated variety of native Red Maple. Cultivars of native "green list" species should not be used in naturalization projects because they have limited genetic diversity, but they may be used in landscaping.

**Seed source matters!**

Seed source refers to the locality where a seed was collected. Plants have evolved to be specially adapted to local climates and sites — a process of natural selection. Choosing plants from a local seed source will increase your chances of growing a healthy plant suited to our area and helps maintain local biodiversity.

**To find out about why the right seed source matters visit:**

Ontario's Natural Selection  
[www.ontariosnaturalselections.org](http://www.ontariosnaturalselections.org)

Ontario Woodlot Association  
[www.ontariowoodlot.com](http://www.ontariowoodlot.com)

Forest Gene Conservation Association  
[www.fgca.net](http://www.fgca.net)

**Tips for choosing the right tree**

- Decide where you will plant the tree. Note the soil type (sand, clay or loam), drainage patterns, and light conditions. Take note of overhead obstacles.
- Buy native species, avoiding invasive non-native species. Buy local stock from reliable nurseries with knowledgeable staff. Bring this guide to the nursery.
- Ask questions about the origins and suitability of the tree you plan to buy.
- Select trees with a well-developed leader and straight trunk. Branches should be well-spaced and evenly distributed on all sides.
- Look for plants with good foliage colour, flexible branches, plump buds and good growth in previous year.
- The best time to plant most trees is in spring or late fall but with good care you can plant all summer long. Evergreens should be planted in the spring.

**For more information**

ReForest London's website, [www.reforestlondon.ca](http://www.reforestlondon.ca) is a great resource for information such as:

- A list of local nurseries that provide native stock and tips on planting and maintenance
- Ways we can help you get more trees in your own neighbourhood
- A list of trees and shrubs native to the London area
- Instructions on how to plant and care for trees

Visit [www.reforestlondon.ca](http://www.reforestlondon.ca) or call **519-936-9548**

**Million Tree Challenge**

**Every tree counts!** Please register all trees you have planted since 2011 at [www.milliontrees.ca](http://www.milliontrees.ca) to get recognition in London's **Million Tree Challenge** for your family and your neighbourhood, and to move us closer to our community goal of one million trees.

For a list of **shrubs** native to the London area look for our brochure "**Choosing the Right Shrub in London, Ontario**", or visit [www.reforestlondon.ca](http://www.reforestlondon.ca).

**Choosing the Right TREE**  
IN LONDON, ONTARIO



**The Sherwood Fox Arboretum and ReForest London**