Tree Descriptions

Blue Beech (shrub form) (Carpinus caroliniana)
15-20 ft. h 10-15 ft. w
One of the best mid-sized trees with smooth, gray, fluted bark. The flowers are in the form of catkins and are not highly visible. The fruit hangs in 4-6 inch clusters. Fall color can be red, yellow and orange. This tree is highly adaptable to different soils and pH levels in the soil. In full sun, it will grow in a formal, upright character, but if grown in shade it will have a more loose, informal shape. Many people have used this tree as a screen.

Illinois Pecan (Carya illinoinensis)
60-80 ft. h 30-50 ft. w
Its form is straight and upright, with strong branching. This makes it ideal for parkways and near homes for shading. The tree grows fast for a hickory species and it prefers full sun. As a bonus, you can harvest the nuts if the tree has favorable growing conditions.

Sweetbay Magnolia (Magnolia virginiana)
40 ft. h 30 ft. w
This trees large, high gloss leaves stay somewhat green in winter. Fragrant, white teacup-like flowers bloom from May to June. In the fall, showy cone-like fruits with bright, red seeds area visible throughout the tree. It prefers full sun to part shade and good soil. This is a host plant for butterflies.
Tree Descriptions (cont’d)

Tulip Tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)
60-90 ft. 20-40 ft. w
This tree blooms between May and June with tulip-like, yellow flowers with an orange band. It prefers full-sun to light shade and likes well-drained sites. In the fall, the leaves turn yellow.

Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis)
75 ft. h 50 ft. w
This is one of the fastest growing trees averaging 3-4 ft. per year. It prefers medium to wet soil. The exfoliating bark of this tree appears mottled and it has nondescript flowers that appear in April. The male flowers are yellow and the female flowers are red and develop into fruity balls that gradually disintegrate into downy tufts that disperse into the wind.

Black Cherry (Prunus serotina)
50-60 ft. h 30-40 ft. w
This fast growing tree has highly visible white flowers in the spring. It produces an abundance of fruit that the birds relish. To avoid a mess, do not plant this tree over a patio or sidewalk. The bark of the tree resembles potato chips. This tree requires full sun and good soil.
White Oak (Quercus alba)
50-80 ft. h 50-80 ft. w

White Oak is mildly tolerant of shade and it grows in sand and clay, but not wet sites. This is a slower growing oak and it is the only member of the white oak group whose leaves turn russet in the fall.

Hill Oak (Quercus ellipsoidalis)
40-50 ft. h 40-50 ft. w

This oak can tolerate sandy and heavy clay soils and likes full sun. When it is fully mature, it is smaller than most oaks. In the fall the leaves turn scarlet. This oak can be used as a screen by leaving the lower branches.

Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa)
50-80 ft. h 50-80 ft. w

The Bur Oak is a very adaptable tree. It is tolerant of heavy clay soil, with a high pH level and in open areas. It needs full sun. Its growth rate is slow to moderate and is very asymmetrical in youth, but it becomes more symmetrical as it matures. The Bur Oak’s bark is deeply furrowed and dark, brown and it had massive branches.

‘Dixon Burr Oak’ (Quercus macrocarpa ’Dixon’)
50-80 ft. h 50-80 ft. w

Grow a piece of Westmont History! Named for one of the original settlers to the area in 1839, the Dixon Burr Oak was grown from acorns of the oldest and only remnant Oak grove in Westmont. The grove itself predates European settlement, meaning these trees have adapted to our local conditions and climate over hundreds of thousands of years! For more information on the Dixon Burr Oak, visit westmont.illinois.gov/green. There is a very limited supply, so order yours today.
Chinquapin Oak (Quercus muehlenbergii)
50-80 ft. h  50-60 ft. w
Chinquapin has done well as a street tree because of its tolerance of high pH soils and drought resistance. It is considered a shade tree and ornamental tree. The acorns are not messy on this tree and are highly sought after by wildlife. Fall color varies from orangish-brown to brown. Its growth rate is slow to medium.

Red Oak (Quercus rubra)
50-80 ft. h  40-80 ft. w
This is one of the most shade tolerant oaks. It just needs a few hours of sun a day. The fall color is an outstanding red and it is said to be one of the fastest growing oaks.

Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum)
40-50 ft. h  20-30 ft. w
Bald Cypress is one of only a few deciduous conifers growing in this part of the country. It tolerates water covering its roots for weeks or months. The exfoliating bark is brown-orange and the green needles are soft and turn russet orange in the fall.
**Shrub Descriptions**

**New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus)**
2 ft. h 2 ft. w

One of the few true prairie shrubs left in Illinois. This low growing shrub has white flowers from June to early August. The dried leaves make an excellent tea that was popular during the Revolutionary War. It prefers full sun. It tolerates drought conditions and grows in dry/moist soil.

**Red Chokeberry (Aronia arbutifolia)**
5-7 ft. h 3ft. w

This vase shaped shrub prefers wet-mesic soil and full sun. White flowers bloom in mid-May and it has excellent red-orange foliage in the fall. Vibrant red berries persist through winter and the birds only eat them if they are desperate for food. This is a good plant for massing.

**American Filbert (Corylus americana)**
8-10 ft. h 8-10 ft. w

The Filbert likes at least a day of half-sun and good garden soil. The nut it produces is edible. It has excellent red, yellow and orange fall color. All filberts produce seeds, but you have a better chance if you have 3 or more shrubs. You must pick the seed by September 1 or the animals will pick them for you.
Dwarf Honeysuckle (Diervilla lonicera)
24-30 in h 2 ft. w

This quick growing, low mounding shrub is great for drier sites and well-drained areas in partial shade. The yellow, tube-shaped flowers appear in June. In the fall, the display of red, orange and yellow leaves brighten an understory planting.

Smooth Hydrangea (Hydrangea arboescens)
3-5 ft. h 3-5 ft. w

This is one of the best shade tolerant plants. In June and July, the white corymbs blooms covers the shrub. Typically this plant is found in open woods, shaded wetlands and along woodland streams.

Spicebush (Lindera benzoin)
6-12 ft. h 6-12 ft. w

Another shade tolerant shrub, but it will flower more with additional sunlight. In April, it has small yellow flowers before the leaves come out on it. The leaf and stem have a very aromatic lemon fragrance when crushed. It has an unbelievable yellow fall color. Fruit is 1/2 inch long and they are a beautiful red in the fall. The pioneers used the fruit as a spice, hence its name.
Shrub Descriptions (cont’d)

Northern Gooseberry (Ribes hirtellum)
2-3 ft. h 3-6 ft. w
This shrub prefers moist, well drained soil and full sun. From May-June, Gooseberry blooms with white, dangling flower clusters. After flowering, purple fruit with stripes form on the branches.

Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius)
8-10 ft. h 8-10 ft. w
Ninebark blooms pink to white from May to June in umbrella-like clusters. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and grows in full sun to partial shade. Its common name is in reference to its ornamental, attractive, exfoliating bark that is more visible in the winter months when the leaves have fallen.

Smooth Sumac (Rhus glabra)
10 ft. h 10 ft. w
The Smooth Sumac prefers well-drained soil in full to part shade. It prefers a high and dry site and has a yellowish-green flower in June. It has a large, open irregular spreading habit. In the fall, the leaves turn a vibrant red.
Shrub Descriptions (cont’d)

Wild Gooseberry (Ribes missouriense)
2-3 ft. h 2-3 ft. w
This understory plant grows well in medium shade to full sun. There are thorns on this plant, so be careful if you pick the fruit that is ripe in July. When grown in full sun, the leaves turn a very dark purple in the fall. If grown in partial shade, the purple color is more muted.

Early Wild Rose (Rosa blanda)
4 ft. h 4-6 ft. w
This rose grows in full sun to partial shade and does create a thicket. Early Wild Rose can have a lot of thorns. The flowers are pink with yellow centers that bloom in late May to early June.

American Elderberry (Sambucus canadensis) 8-10 ft. h 6-8 ft. w
A great plant for shrub borders that have half-day sun. The small flowers mass together in 6-12 inch wide flat-topped cymes in June. The purple-black fruit from August to September is relished by birds and humans. If the plant gets too large for an area, it may be cut to the ground in March and it will still
Meadowsweet (Spirea alba)
2-4 ft. h 2-4 ft. w
This shrub is found in wet areas. The cone-shaped flowers bloom in June. If the plant gets overgrown, it can be cut to the ground in March and still bloom on the new wood that year.