

2017 Portage Tree Sale Plant Descriptions

Blackberry -'Triple Crown'- Exceptionally cold-tolerant. This variety is a great all-around blackberry — firm but not tart. It produces large, high-quality fruit that ripens in mid- July to August. The plant is semi-erect, thornless and bears large, flavorful fruit. Best grown in moist, organically rich, slightly acidic, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade.

Blueberries '**Blue Ray**'- Perhaps the best midseason ripening cultivar for u-pick growers. Fruits are large, some of them an inch in diameter. Flavors of sweetness with a desirable hint of acidity make it a fine flavored fruit.

'**Blue Crop**'- This midseason variety has medium size fruit with high sugar content and a heavy yield. *Height: 5' - 6'*. '**Duke**'- This is the most widely planted early ripening northern variety of blueberry. The plant produces a heavy, consistent yield with a, firm, light blue, high quality berry.

Bush Cherries - '**Carmin Jewel**' - A naturally dwarfed shrub form of cherry with large purplish-red fruit. Tart cherries are very sweet, great off the bush or in pies. Glossy green foliage give the shrub a highly ornamental look. Extreme cold hardiness. '**Romeo**' - Naturally dwarf cherry shrub with high gloss, deep crimson fruit that does not split. Has large flower petals, glossy green foliage and colorful fruit. Good for canning, baking, and fresh eating.

Buttonbush – '**Sugar Shack**'- *Cephalanthus occidentalis* – This native cultivar has been improved to provide more ornamental impact and a smaller mature size of 3 – 4 ft height and width. The fragrant, creamy white summer flowers look like powder puffs. This cultivar has very showy red fruit and red-tipped glossy foliage. Buttonbush thrives in wet, swampy, low lying areas and around bogs and ponds.

Fothergilla – '**Mount Airy**' - *Fothergilla gardenii* – This vigorous, upright shrub has fragrant white "bottle brush" type flowers in early spring and a spectacular blend of red, orange, and yellow fall colors. Reaches a height of 5' with a 4' spread. Plant in well-drained, evenly moist, rich, acidic soil in partial sun to partial shade.

Inkberry – *Ilex compacta* – This small evergreen shrub makes an excellent hedge or border plant. It can reach heights of 4 to 6 feet or can easily be pruned down to 2 feet. The abundance of black berries produced, provides much needed food for birds throughout the winter. Plant in full to partial sun.

Prickly Pear – *Opuntia humifusa* – This native Ohio cactus produces large bright yellow blooms from June to July, which pollinators enjoy. Just like other cacti, Prickly Pear prefers to be planted in full sun, in sandy, dry conditions. It's easy to transplant and within a couple years you will have a thick creeping mat of cactus.

Summersweet - '**Ruby Spice**' – *Clethra alnifolia* – This deer resistant shrub reaches a height of 4-6 feet. It has dark green foliage that turns yellow in the fall. The fragrant bottlebrush rose pink flowers appear in mid-summer and are a great attractant for butterflies. Prefers moist soil in full to partial sun.

Canadian Hemlock – *Tsuga Canadensis* - Canadian (Eastern) Hemlock achieves its best growth in evenly moist, acidic, organic, rich, well-drained soils in partial shade to partial sun. Canadian Hemlock does not tolerate wet soils, nor prolonged drought. Strongly windswept areas and air polluted sites should be avoided. Canadian hemlock can reach a height of 70 feet with a 35 foot spread.

Concolor Fir – *Abies concolor* - Concolor Fir is considered to be the best of the firs for tolerating the growing conditions of the Midwest. The silvery blue needles are soft to the touch and gloriously fragrant. It has a solid, pyramidal growth habit, reaching 40 to 70 feet in height. This fir is also an excellent Christmas tree. This tree is best grown in rich, medium moisture, slightly acidic, sandy/gravelly, well-drained soils in full sun. Concolor fir can tolerate part shade. Trees generally grow poorly in heavy clay soils with poor drainage.

Eastern Red Cedar – *Juniperus virginiana* - This dense pyramidal native evergreen grows up to 40' and has a spread of 8-20'. The medium green needles are flat and scale-like. Exfoliating handsome grayish to reddish brown bark is considered part of its ornamental interest. It should grow in almost any type of soil. Due to its fast, dense growth, this tree is a good choice for an evergreen screen or hedge, space 4' apart.

Eastern White Pine – *Pinus strobes* - This is one of the fastest growing evergreens. Adaptable to many conditions, it has long, soft needles and grows 75-100 feet. Good tree for specimens, naturalizing, windbreak or dense screen. White pines are not picky about lighting conditions - growing in full sun to full shade conditions. White pines are well suited to poor soils and drier sites, but grow best on sandy or loamy, well drained, acidic soils.

Norway Spruce – *Picea abies* - This fast growing spruce reach 80 feet in height and is valuable as a windbreak and wildlife shelter. Norway Spruce prefers moist but well-drained, acidic soils that may be organic, sandy, or loamy. However, it is perhaps the most adaptable common evergreen tree to harsh conditions, including poor, clay, rocky, dry soils of acidic, neutral, or alkaline pH. Its only requirement is to not be sited in wet soils, where it will quickly die. It grows in full to partial sun.

Western Arborvitae – *Thuja plicata* – Also known as **Western Red Cedar**, this Pacific Northwest native is gaining popularity for its adaptable performance in Ohio. This large, pyramidal tree is not only attractive, it also resists deer browsing much more than American Arborvitae. The small, ½ inch diameter, cones are green in summer, maturing to brown. In contrast to pines, western arborvitae holds its lower foliage with age. This tree prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soils, but is quite tolerant of adverse conditions. Western Arborvitae performs well in shade, partial sun, and full sun exposures. Natural habitat is moist to wet soils.

White Spruce – *Picea glauca* - Growing up to 50', the stiff needles are light bluish-green, usually less than 1 inch in length. This spruce thrives in well drained or moist soil. It is unique because it can endure heat and drought better than others. Extremely hardy and will live where many other varieties could not survive.

American Larch (Tamarack) – *Larix laricina* - This deciduous conifer reaches heights of 30-65 feet. It is native to our wetland areas and prefers acidic, wet soils and full sun exposure. It has short, soft clusters of needles and bears tiny cones. The wood is heavy, durable and decay-resistant.

Black Gum - *Nyssa sylvatica* - A native tree of great ornamental and wildlife value that grows to 40 feet tall with a 30 foot spread. This handsome pyramidal tree has lustrous dark green leaves that turn a brilliant red in fall. Female trees produce a small blue fruit that birds relish. Grows on dry upland sites as well as wet sites, in full sun or part-shade.

Black Willow – *Salix nigra* – This medium to large, fast growing tree will reach heights of 30 – 60 feet tall. It grows in consistently moist to wet soils in full sun or partial shade. It's tolerant of flooding and siltation, and its root system is good for stabilizing soils.

Bur Oak – *Quercus macrocarpa* - Growing to a height of 75', this massive and majestic tree is found across Ohio. It is found in both continuously moist as well as very dry sites. It is one of the most picturesque of the Oaks of the Midwest, especially in winter. Its fiddle-shaped leathery leaves, huge fringed acorns, thick and sometimes corky twigs, and deeply ridged bark add to its bold texture. Acorns are quite large (sometimes 1 inch or more) and are a major food source for deer and other wildlife. Wood is heavy, hard, strong and durable.

Hop Tree – *Ptelea trifoliata* - This small tree reaches heights of 15 – 20 feet and grows in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils. It prefers part shade to full shade, but will tolerate full sun. The sweet nectar of this plant attracts many different species of butterflies.

Little Leaf Linden – *Tilia cordata* - As its name implies, this tree has small leaves, which make it a favorite of homeowners who dislike fall raking! Reaching a height of 50-60 feet, it is one of the best medium-sized ornamental trees. Its creamy yellow flowers bloom in July and are fragrant – a favorite of pollinators.

Pawpaw – *Asimina triloba* - Back by popular demand! This unique native shrub is easily recognized by its large, tropical-looking foliage, and prized for its delicious banana-like fruits that mature in late summer. It can reach 8-20 feet tall and up to 15 feet wide. Its long leaves turn gold to brown in the fall. Two plants are recommended for pollination. They grow best in slightly acid (pH 5.5-7.0), deep, fertile, and well-drained soils. Good drainage is essential to success. They will grow in heavy soils but will not survive water-logged conditions.

River Birch – *Betula nigra* - is widely planted throughout Ohio and the eastern United States as an ornamental shade tree, prized for its flaky, orange, ornamental bark and rippling foliage in the breeze. River Birch prefers moist to wet, rich, deep, acidic soils. It grows in full sun to partial sun and is resistant to bronze birch borer. This Ohio native is highly adaptable and flourishes in almost any landscape!

Striped Maple – *Acer pensylvanicum* – This small understory tree is most noted for its conspicuous vertical white stripes on greenish brown bark. Grows in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in partial shade, but can tolerate full shade quite well. In ideal conditions, this tree can reach 15 – 25 feet tall.

Sugar Maple – *Acer saccharum* - The sugar maple sap is the source of the popular maple syrup produced in Ohio. Sugar Maple thrives when it is planted or transplanted into rich, moderately deep soils having even moisture coupled with good drainage. Growing up to 70' tall, its leaves have brilliant tones of yellow, orange and red in the fall.

Swamp White Oak – *Quercus bicolor* - Our Ohio native oak that has the greatest potential for early acorn production is the Swamp White Oak. And the good news is that the name is quite misleading. Swamp White Oak grows well on upland sites. They prefer an acid soil and full sun, and for a tree with “swamp” in their common name, they are surprisingly drought tolerant. This hardy native oak grows 50-60 feet in height. They will thrive when planted along streams & rivers; they are an excellent choice for wetland plantings. Its fall color is yellow-bronze. A great choice for attracting wildlife.

Sycamore – *Platanus occidentalis* – A large native trees, the sycamore can reach a height of 70-100 feet. Fast growing, this massive shade tree has beautiful, gray exfoliating bark. American Sycamore prefers deep, moist, rich soils that are either well-drained or moderately drained, as it is often found naturally along the edges of bodies of water, and in wet areas of fields or woodlands. It tolerates much drier and poorer soils, and is fairly tolerant of city and industrial air pollution. Sycamore grows in full sun to partial sun.

Tuliptree (Tulip Poplar) - *Liriodendron tulipifera* - The Tulip Poplar is a fast-growing, tall North American hardwood tree that can reach a height of over 150 feet! Hummingbirds and honey bees enjoy its nectar, while Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers enjoy its sap. Tulip Poplars produce seeds, which are favorites of Northern Cardinals. They have attractive spring flowers and great fall color!

Beautyberry - *Callicarpa americana* - American beautyberry is a large understory shrub. In the fall & early winter the branches are laden with magenta purple berry clusters that look spectacular as the leaves drop. Select a site with light shade & very well-drained soil. If left to mature naturally, it will develop into a tall, woody shrub suitable for screening. In late winter, it can be cut to 12 inches above the base to encourage more compact growth.

New Jersey Tea - *Ceanothus americanus* - This is a dense, deciduous shrub growing to a height of 3 ft. It is ideally suited for the edge of the woods or along the back of a border. The base is woody, while the upper portion of the plant is made up of herbaceous, spreading branches. Its growth habit is full and its leaves are bright green throughout the summer. Billowing clusters of tiny, fragrant white flowers appear on long stems in late spring and early summer. *Ceanothus* makes a lovely and fragrant cut flower! Grow in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun or part shade. It is not tolerant of wet soils. The thick roots of *Ceanothus* go deep and help the plant withstand drought, but make established shrubs difficult to transplant.

Redosier Dogwood – *Cornus sericea* - An open form, multi-stemmed shrub reaching heights of 7–10 ft. Bright red stems offer winter interest in any landscape. A great plant for field windbreaks, riparian plantings & urban settings. Fruit and twigs are used by wildlife. Very tolerant of pruning to maintain size and promote new growth, which offers the best red color. Very adaptable to a variety of soil and light conditions.

Shining Sumac (Winged Sumac) - *Rhus copallina* - Winged Sumac is well-suited to natural & informal landscapes where the underground runners spread to provide dense, shrubby cover for birds and wildlife. This species is the best of the sumacs for ornamental planting because of its lustrous dark green foliage which turns a brilliant orange-red to purple in fall. Great for disturbed sites. The tiny, greenish-yellow flowers are followed by showy red clusters of berries which persist into the winter and attract wildlife. Tolerates dry soils, prefers full sun, but will tolerate partial shade.

Winterberry – *Ilex verticillata* - Native to eastern U.S., this shrub has a height and spread of 6-12 feet. Considered one of the best shrubs for fall and winter color. Female plants produce bright red berries in early fall among yellow late fall foliage. It will tolerate wet soil conditions.

American Plum – *Prunus americana* - Also known as wild plum, this native tree has white, pungently sweet blossoms in early spring before the foliage breaks bud. Its fruits are sweet when fully ripe, and make excellent jelly or jam due to their high pectin and acid content. It reaches 20-25 feet as an individual specimen and is highly adaptable to different soil conditions. Plant in full sun for optimal fruiting.

'Dolgo' Crabapple – *Malus x dolgo* - There were several patron requests for a crabapple with larger fruits for preserves. The 'Dolgo' Crabapple, growing to a height of 30 feet, has one of the largest fruits and is among the first edible crabapples to ripen in Ohio, usually in August. 'Dolgo' crabapples, about the size of small plums, are a tasty addition to apple ciders and make delicious crabapple butter and pickled crabapple treats. 'Dolgo' also has blood-red flesh that makes an attractive sauce. And if that's not enough, this crabapple still offers a showy, white flower in spring.

Eastern Redbud – *Cercis canadensis* - A beautiful native tree that reaches 20-30 feet and has dark green heart shaped leaves. Appropriately named, the redbud has flowers that are reddish purple in bud and open to a rosy pink with purplish tinge in early spring. Redbud prefers deep, moist, organic, well-drained soils, but adapts to many less-than-favorable soils. It grows most rapidly and flowers most prolifically in full sun if adequate moisture is available during the heat of summer. A great hardy landscape addition!

Red Buckeye – *Aesculus pavia* - A cousin to our native state tree, the red buckeye is a small tree that grows to 12-35 feet. If you are looking for an outstanding spring show, this tree delivers with its red blooms! Grows best in moist, well-drained soil under shaded or sunny conditions.

Shadblow Serviceberry – *Amelanchier canadensis* - This small native ornamental tree is an all-season beauty that will reach a height of 15-20 feet. White, fragrant flowers appear in early spring before the leaves emerge. The flowers give way to green berries that will turn red to dark purple in early summer. The edible berries are used in jams, jellies and pies. This serviceberry will grow in a wide range of soil types, with average to well drained soils, in full to partial sun.

John Kelsey Hazelnuts - These hybrid hazelnut plants are seedlings from 'Jefferson' and 'Geneva' collected from John Kelsey's cultivar research site. 'Jefferson' and 'Geneva' are pollen compatible and both hybrids are resistant to Eastern Filbert Blight. The parent plants are late-blooming (best for northern climates) and are considered to be among the best hazelnut hybrids currently available. Additional hazelnut growing information is available at our office.