

# ReTree Nebraska's 12 for 2012



## THE TREES AROUND US

Our community forests are the trees in our parks and surrounding our homes, businesses and buildings. Both individually and as a whole, these trees make our communities more livable.

Community forests provide clean air and water, reduce noise, reduce crime and increase consumer spending in business districts. In landscape settings, trees can increase property values by 5-25%, and properly placed trees can reduce heating and cooling costs by as much as 30%!

## IMPORTANCE OF SPECIES DIVERSITY

Good species diversity is a common measure of community forest health. In fact, forestry experts recommend that no single tree species make up more than 10% of a community's entire forest resource.

The importance of planting diversely has been reinforced with the loss of elms due to Dutch elm disease, the ongoing loss of Scotch pine due to pine wilt and the approaching threat of emerald ash borer, an exotic insect that attacks and kills all native species of ash trees.

Selecting the right tree for your landscape will leave a lasting legacy in your community forest.

## RE TREE NEBRASKA'S 12 FOR 2012

To promote species diversity, ReTree Nebraska has chosen a select group of preferred species that perform well in Nebraska but aren't widely planted. ReTree Nebraska's 12 for 2012 helps individuals choose the right tree for their landscape while improving the species diversity and vitality of Nebraska's community forests.

These "best-in-show" species are available at ReTree-participating nurseries and can be identified by specially designed nursery tags (right).

To find a ReTree-participating nursery near you, visit [retreenebraska.org](http://retreenebraska.org).

## CHOOSING NOW, PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Planting a tree or trees is a choice, not something we have to do—that's the beauty of it!

Planting trees where they have never been planted before or replanting beneath mature trees that someday will be gone is an important part of keeping a healthy community forest.

To learn more about selecting, planting and caring for trees, as well as the benefits of community forests, visit [retreenebraska.org](http://retreenebraska.org).



## REPORT YOUR TREE PLANTING!

After you plant, be sure to let us know! Report any tree(s) planted from April 2007 to April 2017 to be counted toward ReTree Nebraska's goal of planting 1 million trees by 2017.

To report your planting, visit [retreenebraska.org](http://retreenebraska.org) and follow the directions for tree reporting. Trees that can be reported include trees planted within city limits on public or private land; trees planted on acreages; trees planted on farmsteads near and/or for the protection of a home; and trees planted near and/or for the protection of rural community buildings, such as schools and churches.

**RE TREE NEBRASKA: ONE TOWN, ONE TREE, ONE SHOVEL AT A TIME**

# ReTree Nebraska's 12 for 2012

MATURE HEIGHT (ft.)  
MATURE SPREAD (ft.)  
FLOWERS  
FRUIT  
FALL COLOR  
ORNAMENTAL BARK

## LARGE DECIDUOUS TREES

G=Good

F=Fair

N/A=Not significant

(typically more than 40 feet tall at maturity)

### Baldcypress, (*Taxodium distictum*)

A graceful, deciduous conifer. Great for wet areas or in compacted soils; drought tolerant. Primarily for eastern half of Nebraska.

50-70+ 20-30 F G G F

### Catalpa, Northern (*Catalpa speciosa*)

Large tropical leaves; attractive, fragrant flowers in spring. Easy to grow.

40-60 30-40 G F N/A F

### Coffeetree, Kentucky (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)

Great for clay soils; highly ornamental in winter. Seedless cultivars available.

50-60+ 30-45 N/A F F F

### Elm, misc. hybrids (*Ulmus x spp.*)

Many disease-resistant elms are available including proven cultivars, such as 'Accolade,' 'Discover,' 'New Horizon,' 'Triumph' and 'Vanguard'. DED resistant American elms include 'Princeton,' 'New Harmony,' and 'Valley Forge.' Easy to grow; good street trees.

40-60+ 40-60+ N/A N/A F F

### Oak, Chinkapin (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

Distinctive serrated leaves; thinner canopy than most oaks. Good on high-pH soils.

40-50+ 30-40 F F F F

### Oak, Bur (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

One of the best trees for Nebraska. Easy to grow and long-lived.

50-60 50-70 F F N/A F

### Oak, English (*Quercus robur*)

Matures into a large, round-topped tree with handsome leaves and distinctive long acorns. Can grow in western Nebraska when carefully sited. (2011 addition for eastern NE.)

50-60 40-50 N/A G F G

## SMALL TO MEDIUM DECIDUOUS TREES

### Maple, Shantung (*Acer truncatum*)

Glossy, distinctive leaves; rounded form. Proving to be tough and reliable.

15 15 G F G F

### Maple, Miyabe (*Acer miyabei*)

Dark green summer foliage. Commonly available cultivar State Street™ Miyabe maple.

30-50 34-45 F F G G

**Tree lilac** (*Syringa reticulata* and *S. reticulata* ssp. *pekinensis*) Japanese tree lilac and Pekin lilac are small trees that can be grown either as a single or multi-trunk tree. Good alternative for crabapple. 'Ivory Silk' Japanese lilac is commonly available cultivar. Copper Curls® Pekin Lilac has extremely showy coppery-orange exfoliating bark. (2012 addition)

25 15-25 G F N/A G

**Oak, Gambel** (*Quercus gambelii*) Shrubby growth habit with glossy green foliage turning golden yellow in fall; tolerates dry conditions and alkaline soil. (2011 addition for western NE.)

25-35 25 N/A G F G

## EVERGREEN TREES

### Concolor fir (*Abies concolor*)

Attractive blue-green, long, upswept needles. Most reliable fir for Nebraska.

30-50+ 15-30 N/A G N/A F

### Black Hills spruce (*Picea glauca* 'Densata,' aka *Picea glauca* var. *densata*)

Superior landscape tree species to *Picea glauca*. Dark needles and is pyramidal in form with a conical top and straight leader; denser when young than most spruce but becomes more sweeping with age.

20-40 20 N/A G N/A F



**BALDCYPRESS**



**KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE**



**MIYABE MAPLE**



**ELM HYBRIDS**



**NORTHERN CATALPA**



**CHINKAPIN OAK**



**ENGLISH OAK**



**BUR OAK**



**SHANTUNG MAPLE**



**GAMBEL OAK**



**COPPER CURLS® PEKIN LILAC**



2012 SPECIES

Photo courtesy of NDSU

**CONCOLOR FIR**



**BLACK HILLS SPRUCE**



Photo courtesy of Todd Falter

For even more species recommendations, see ReTree Nebraska's list of Good Trees for the Good Life, available at [retree-nebraska.org](http://retree-nebraska.org).

# What is ReTree Nebraska?

ReTree Nebraska is a cooperative initiative that challenges Nebraskans to draw upon our state's rich tree-planting heritage and plant 1 million trees in Nebraska communities by 2017.

But ReTree Nebraska goes beyond just planting trees to improve the overall health, sustainability and livability of our communities by:

- increasing Nebraskans' knowledge and understanding of the value and importance of trees;
- improving the overall health and species diversity of our state's community forests; and
- helping communities build sustainable, lasting community forestry programs.

Today we face complex problems—rising energy costs and

environmental changes to name just a few. But sometimes complex problems can be solved using simple solutions, and planting a tree—or trees—is one of the most cost-effective solutions available.

ReTree Nebraska is based on the strong belief that we can make things better through the simple acts of planting and caring for trees.

ReTree Nebraska is also based on the belief that everyone can play a part, no matter how big or small. From planting trees in your home landscape to organizing tree plantings in your community to spreading the word about ReTree Nebraska to family and friends, every contribution counts.

Together we can—and will—make a difference!

To find out how you can get involved, or to report a tree planted, visit [retreenebraska.org](http://retreenebraska.org) or email us at



## What can a million trees do for Nebraska?

Trees save communities and homeowners money!

Consider the following net benefits (benefits-costs) per tree over a 40-year period:

\$600 (yard) and \$160 (public) for a small tree;

\$1,360 (yard) and \$640 (public) for a medium tree and \$3,040 (yard) and \$2,320 (public) for a large tree.

**ReTree Nebraska is a cooperative effort of the Nebraska Forest Service, Nebraska Community Forestry Council, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc., University of Nebraska—Lincoln Department of Agronomy & Horticulture, University of Nebraska Rural Initiative and Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.**

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