



West Vincent Township Tree Planting Recommendations September 2021

Tree planting recommendations are provided for general landscaping purposes and in particular in response to the loss of so many Ash trees along the roads and near the power lines. The source of this list is the West Vincent Township 2017 Zoning Ordinance, Appendix C.

This list identifies many species which will grow to be beautiful tall trees so they **are not recommended** near or under the power lines. They will be beneficial on other areas of your property.

The shorter trees and shrubs **are suggested** as they will not normally grow tall enough to encroach on the lines and therefore will also not need to be trimmed by the power company.

For each tree and shrub, information is provided of typical full-grown height, potential spread of its branches, some features of the plant, and insects, birds, and wildlife that may benefit from the introduction of this plant into the environment.

Consider spread especially when planting along roads or driveway; as they grow you may find you need to do significant pruning as branches extend into the road Right of Way or over your driveway. If vegetative growth impinges on the Right of Way, it will need to be need to be trimmed back to ensure sufficient sight distance for safe travel.

LARGE TREES - *DO NOT* plant under wires

Scientific Name	Common Name	Description	Wildlife Users
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	Height: 40'-60' Spread: same Habit is pyramidal in youth and rounded with age. Tolerant of most soils but prefers slightly acid moist conditions. Naturally occurs in a wet area. Excellent fall color.	Buds, flowers, and leaves provide food for many birds and mammals. Chipmunks and squirrels eat seeds, and some songbirds use twigs for nest building.
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	Height: 50'-70' Spread: 40'-50' Has strong spreading branches which form a rounded crown. Tolerant of many soil types. One of the best trees for poor soils and wet conditions. The use of this tree should be limited to areas free of buildings and heavy human use as it is prone to internal decay and subsequent loss of branches. Provides fast shade.	See Red Maple.
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	Height: 60'-70' Spread: 40'-50' Upright oval to rounded habit. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Tolerates some shade.	See Red Maple.
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	Height: 40'-70' Spread: 40'-60' Pyramidal in youth and rounded with age. Often grown multi-stemmed. Best adapted to moist soils. Used in areas that are alternately wet and dry.	Catkins are used by redpolls and pine siskins. Foliage is used by browsers.
<i>Betula lenta</i>	Sweet Birch	Height: 40'-55' Spread: 35'-45' Pyramidal in youth, forming an irregular, rounded, sometimes wide-spreading crown at maturity. Best in deep, rich, moist, slightly acid soils, however, often found on rocky, drier sites. Flowers are catkins, 2"- 3 1/2" long. Yellow leaves in fall are best among birches.	See River Birch.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Description	Wildlife Users
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory	Height: 60'-80' Spread: 40'-60' Straight trunk with an oblong crown. Bark breaks up in thin plates. Difficult to transplant, start as a seedling. Good for the woodland border.	Leaves are used by browsers. Nuts are also consumed by deer, turkey, foxes, wood ducks, and squirrels.
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry	Height: 40'-60' Spread: same In youth weakly pyramidal, in old age, the crown is a broad top of ascending-arching branches. Medium to fast growth. Prefers rich, moist soils, but grows in dry, heavy, or sandy, rocky soils; withstands acid or alkaline conditions; moderately wet or very dry areas; tolerates wind; full sun. Fruit is fleshy, orange to dark purple, ripening from September to October. Leaves are yellow to yellow-green in fall. Useful tree for adverse growing conditions.	Fruit is popular with winter birds, especially cedar waxwing, mockingbird, and robin.
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	Height: 50'-70'+ Spread: same Often has a short trunk with a wide-spreading crown. Likes moist, well-drained soils. Does best in full sun but tolerates shade.	Beechnuts are eaten by birds and mammals and are important food for chipmunks and squirrels.
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Common Honey Locust	Height: 30'-70' Spread: same Usually has a short trunk with an open, oval crown. Fast grower. Withstands a wide range of conditions but prefers rich, moist bottomlands.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	Height: 15'-30' Spread: 18'-25' Dense, pyramidal in youth, opening up with age. Plant in moist, well-drained soil. Full sun or partial shade. Use one male for every three females.	Used extensively by songbirds including thrushes, mockingbirds, catbirds, bluebirds, and thrashers. Foliage provides cover for birds and mammals.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Description	Wildlife Users
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut	Height: 50'-75' Spread: same Well-formed trunk with an oval crown. Prefers rich, moist soils. Often found on bottom lands. Difficult to transplant; should be started as a seedling. Produces toxins that are poisonous to many plants giving it an advantage in open field situations but creating problems for gardeners.	Nuts are eat by woodpeckers, foxes and squirrels.
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	Height: 40'-50' Spread: 8'-20' Densely pyramidal when young and slightly pendulous in old age. Medium rate of growth. Tolerant of adverse conditions. Prefers deep, moist soils. Will tolerate shade only in youth. Handsome reddish-brown bark. Produces small cones. Useful for windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedges.	Twigs and foliage are eaten by browsers. Seeds are eaten most extensively by cedar waxwings. Evergreen foliage provides nesting and roosting cover for sparrows, robins, mockingbirds, juncos, and warblers.
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	American Sweetgum	Height: 60'-75'+ Spread: 40'-50' Pyramidal in youth, rounded crown at maturity. Likes deep, moist, acid soils. Occurs naturally on bottomlands.	Goldfinches and purple finches eat winged seeds.
<i>Liriodendron</i>	Tulip Tree	Height: 70'-90' Spread: 30'-50' Moderate wildlife importance. Long, straight trunk with a narrow canopy. Fast grower. Plant in full sun and well-drained loam. Wood somewhat weak.	Moderate wildlife importance. The purple finch and cardinal are principal users.
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum or Black Tupelo	Height: 30'-50' Spread: 20'-30' Pyramidal in youth and irregularly crowned at maturity. Prefers moist, well-drained, acid soils. Full sun or semi-shade. Deep taproot.	Fruit is relished by many songbirds. Users include wood ducks, robins, woodpeckers, thrashers, flickers, and mockingbirds.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Description	Wildlife Users
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine	Height: 50'-80'+ Spread: 20'-40'+ Pyramidal in youth, crown at maturity has several horizontal and ascending branches. Fast grower. Grows best on fertile, well-drained soils but is very adaptable.	Provides valuable cover and nesting sites for songbirds and mammals. Needles are used as nesting material. Seeds are eaten by quail, chickadees, grosbeaks, nuthatches, and woodpeckers.
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	Height: 100' Spread: 50'-80' Pyramidal in youth, becoming broad and rounded with wide-spreading branches. Transplant as a small tree. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Difficult to obtain from nurseries; sometimes available as a seedling.	Oaks, in general, are of major importance to wildlife. Acorns are at the top of the food preference list for wood ducks, pheasants, grackles, jays, nuthatches, thrushes, woodpeckers, rabbits, foxes, squirrels, and deer.
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak or Swamp Spanish Oak	Height: 60'-70' Spread: 25'-40' Strongly pyramidal with ascending branches. One of the faster growing oaks. Full sun. Tolerates wet soils but is adaptable to many soil types.	See White Oak.
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	Height: 60'-75'+ Spread: 40'-50' Habit is round-topped and symmetrical. Full sun. Prefers loamy, well-drained soils. Fast growing.	See White Oak.
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Linden	Height: 60'-80' Spread: 35'-50' Pyramidal in youth, assuming a rounded shape with age. Full sun or part shade. Prefers deep, moist soils, but is tolerant of heavier soils.	Limited wildlife value.

SMALL TREES - Suitable for planting under wires

Scientific Name	Common Name	Description	Wildlife Users
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud	Height: 20'-30' Spread: 25'-35' Small tree with rounded crown. Likes moist, well drained soils.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White Fringetree	Full sun to light shade. Height: 12'-20' Spread: same Open habit, often wider than high. Prefers moist, fertile soils and full sun.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	Height: 20' Spread: 15'-20' Small tree with flat-topped crown. Place in well-drained soil. Full sun to partial shade. Has character in all four seasons.	Fruit is an important source for songbirds including evening grosbeak, cardinals, robins, and cedar waxwings
<i>Crataegus phonopore</i>	Washington Hawthorne	Height: 25'-30' Spread: 20'-25' Broadly rounded to oval, dense, thorny tree. Plant in well-drained soil in full sun.	Dense thorns make excellent nesting sites for songbirds. Fruit is used by grouse, cedar waxwings, and sparrows.

SHRUBS – Suitable for under wires

Scientific Name	Common Name	Description	Wildlife Users
<i>Amelanchier</i>	Shadbush, Shadblow or Serviceberry	Height: 6'-20', Spread: 10' Erect stems often clumped. Blends well on the forest edge.	Important berry producer during the early summer months. Fruit eaten by crows, bluebirds, cardinals, and tanagers. Foliage used by browsers.
<i>Aronia artificial</i>	Red Chokeberry	Height: 6'-10', Spread: 3'-5" Upright multi-stemmed shrub, somewhat open and rounded. Adaptable to many soil types. Full sun to half shade.	Fruit eaten by grouse, chickadees, and other songbirds
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	See red chokeberry.	See red chokeberry.
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet or Sweet Pepperbush	Height: 5'-8', Spread: 4'-6' Oval, round-topped, erect, dense, leafy shrub. Transplant into moist organic soils. Full sun or shade. Good plant for wet areas and heavy shade.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	Height: 6'-10' Spread: 10'-15' Erect, multi-stemmed shrub with short spreading branches. Suckers profusely and forms large colonies. Very adaptable, withstanding wet or dry soils, but prefers moist, well drained conditions. Full sun or shade.	High wildlife value for fruit and browse. Used by a wide variety of mammals and songbirds, including cardinals, evening grosbeaks, robins, thrush, vireos, and cedar waxwings.

SHRUBS – Suitable for under wires

Scientific Name	Common Name	Description	Wildlife Users
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witch-Hazel	Height: 20'-30' Spread: 20'-25' Small tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Prefers moist soils in full sun or partial shade.	Limited wildlife value.
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry	Height: 6'-8' Spread 8'-10' Upright, multi-branched, rounded shrub. Prefers moist, acid soils.	Berries used by a wide variety of wildlife.
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	Height: 6'-10' Spread: same. Oval, rounded, deciduous shrub holly. Tends to form multi-stemmed clumps. Does well in light and heavy soils. Prefers moist, organic soils. Red fruit is beautiful in winter. A male plant is necessary for fertilization.	Used extensively by many songbirds, particularly thrushes, mockingbirds, robins, bluebirds, and thrashers.
<i>Itea</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	Height: 3'-5' Spread: 6'-8' Erect shrub with clustered branches. Prefers moist, fertile soils. Full sun or shade. Suited for wet areas. Excellent fall color.	Fruit capsules are used by some songbirds.
<i>Ericaceae</i>	Mountain Laurel	Height: 7'-15' Spread: same Large, robust shrub becomes open with age. Requires moist, well drained soils in full sun or shade.	Mammals eat foliage and twigs. Utilized extensively by mammals and birds for winter shelter.

SHRUBS – Suitable for under wires

Scientific Name	Common Name	Description	Wildlife Users
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	Height: 10'-20' Spread: same Multi-stemmed, open shrub. Likes wet, acid soils. Tolerates shade.	Wildlife value is low. Seeds are eaten by some mammals and birds. Foliage is used by several birds for nest building.
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	Height: 10'-20' Spread: same Multi-stemmed, open shrub. Likes wet, acid soils. Tolerates shade.	Wildlife value is low. Seeds are eaten by some mammals and birds. Foliage is used by several birds for nest building.
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Northern Bayberry	Height: 5'-12' Spread: same Tends to sucker to form large colonies. Deciduous to semi-evergreen. Upright, rounded, dense shrub. Adaptable to many soil conditions, including poor soils. Full sun to partial shade.	Fruit is eaten by a variety of birds in small quantities including tree swallows and myrtle warblers.
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Rosebay Rhododendron or Great laurel	Height: 4'-10' Spread: same Rounded, evergreen shrub. Plant in moist, well-drained soil. Prefers partial shade.	Limited wildlife value except as browse for deer and winter cover for songbirds.
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Pinxterbloom Azalea	Height: 4'-6' Spread: 6'-8' Multi-stemmed, stoloniferous shrub. Adapted to dry, sandy, rocky soils. Useful for naturalizing.	Limited wildlife value except as browse for deer and grouse.