



## SELECTION GUIDE

### TREES FOR DAMP GROUND

Where to plant: These trees thrive in areas with plenty of water - near ponds, creeks or sloughs. They are the best choice for low spots where the ground stays damp, near a creek, or in areas that stay muddy for a few days after a heavy rain. They are excellent for drinking up extra water and keeping your soil from washing away.

- Acute Willow
  - What to expect: A tall, upright tree that grows in a tight, bushy shape. This is a top choice if you want to grow a privacy screen or a windbreak very quickly.
  - Maturity: It will reach 25 to 35 feet tall. You will see a solid screen in 5 to 7 years, and it reaches its full size in 15 to 20 years.
- Golden Willow
  - What to expect: This tree is famous for its bright yellow bark that adds a splash of color to the winter landscape. It grows wide and thick, which makes it very effective at blocking heavy winds.
  - Maturity: It grows to about 30 to 35 feet tall. It is a fast grower that reaches its full size in 15 to 20 years.
- Laurel Leaf Willow
  - What to expect: This tree has very shiny, dark green leaves that look like they have been polished. It is very tough against Saskatchewan winters and keeps its green leaves longer into the fall than most other trees.
  - Maturity: It grows to a height of 25 to 35 feet. You can expect it to reach its full size in about 20 years.
- Balsam Poplar
  - What to expect: This tree provides a wonderful sweet scent in the spring. It loves damp soil, but it prefers ground that eventually lets the water soak in rather than sitting in a deep puddle for weeks.
  - Maturity: On the prairies, it reaches 40 to 50 feet tall. It grows very quickly and reaches its full size in 25 to 30 years.
- Red Osier Dogwood
  - What to expect: This is a thick, multi-stemmed bush rather than a single tree. It has bright red stems that stand out beautifully in the snow and provides a great home for small birds.
  - Maturity: It grows to be about 6 to 9 feet tall. It grows very fast and will reach its full size in only 4 to 6 years.

### TOUGH TREES FOR OPEN PRAIRIE

Where to plant: These are the survivors. They are perfect for open fields or windy areas where the soil might get dry in the summer. Once they get their roots deep into the ground, they are very good at finding water during long, dry Saskatchewan spells.

- Green Ash
  - What to expect: A reliable classic for prairie farmyards. Even though it likes water, it grows a very deep root that acts like a straw to find moisture deep underground during dry years.
  - Maturity: It grows to be 35 to 45 feet tall. It is a steady, reliable grower that reaches its full size in 25 to 30 years.
- Manitoba Maple
  - What to expect: One of the toughest trees for our climate. It grows in almost any soil and can handle harsh weather with ease. It provides excellent shade and wind protection very quickly.
  - Maturity: It reaches 30 to 40 feet tall. It is one of our fastest-growing trees, reaching full size in 15 to 20 years.
- Trembling Aspen
  - What to expect: Famous for its smooth white bark and leaves that rustle in the breeze. A unique feature of this tree is that it creates its own grove; as it grows, the roots naturally send up new shoots nearby. This means one tree can eventually grow into a beautiful cluster or "bluff" of several trees on its own.
  - Maturity: It grows to be 35 to 45 feet tall. You can expect a mature tree in 20 to 25 years.

### EVERGREENS FOR YEAR-ROUND PROTECTION

Where to plant: These trees prefer ground that is not constantly muddy—soil that lets the water soak away after a day of rain. They stay green all year, providing the best protection from cold winter winds and a warm home for birds.

- White Spruce
  - What to expect: Saskatchewan's official tree. This is the classic evergreen that keeps its needles all year. It is the best tree for blocking winter wind and providing shelter for wildlife.
  - Maturity: It reaches 40 to 55 feet tall. It grows slowly for the first few years while it builds its roots, then reaches full size in 30 to 40 years.
- Blue Spruce
  - What to expect: Famous for its beautiful silver-blue color. It grows very thick and stiff, which makes it a great wind blocker. Deer usually do not like to nibble on this tree as much as they do others.
  - Maturity: It grows to be 35 to 45 feet tall. It grows at a medium pace and reaches full size in 30 to 40 years.
- Scots Pine
  - What to expect: A very hardy pine tree that can handle dry, sandy soil better than spruce. As it gets older, the bark on the top branches turns a very pretty orange color.
  - Maturity: It reaches 35 to 45 feet tall. It grows a bit faster than the spruce trees, reaching full size in 25 to 30 years.

### EDIBLE NATIVE SHRUBS

Where to plant: This shrub prefers "balanced" ground—soil that is healthy and lets water soak in well. It does not like to have its roots sitting in a puddle for long periods.

- Smoky Saskatoons
  - What to expect: This is a favorite for prairie gardens. It has pretty white flowers in the spring, followed by sweet purple berries in the summer that are perfect for pies, jam, or eating fresh.
  - Maturity: It grows to be 10 to 12 feet tall. You can expect your first berry harvest in just 3 to 4 years, with the bush reaching full size shortly after.