



Cleveland Museum of  
**NATURAL HISTORY**

# Native Trees for the Urban Landscape

by Judy Semroc

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## The Museum's Natural Areas Program

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Kelleys Island Preserves      | 15. Singer Lake Bog          |
| a. Coleman Tract                 | 16. Taber Preserve           |
| b. The Glade                     | 17. Hubbard Easement         |
| c. Long Point Preserve           | 18. Kickel Easement          |
| d. Scheele Preserve              | 19. Hadlock Preserve         |
| e. Sweet Valley Preserve         | 20. Cash / Hertrick Preserve |
| f. Woodford Woods                | 21. Kingsville Swamp         |
| 2. Fern Lake Bog                 | 22. Berger Preserve          |
| 3. Mentor Marsh                  | 23. Perkins Woods Garden     |
| 4. Medina Sanctuary              | 24. Dickenson Easement       |
| 5. Grand River Terraces          | 25. Mathews Easement         |
| 6. Groves Woods                  | 26. Holden Easements         |
| 7. Koelliker Fen                 | 27. Wendtwood Easement       |
| 8. North Kingsville Sand Barrens | 28. Grimm Easement           |
| 9. Cottonwood Hollow             | 29. Geneva Swamp             |
| 10. McCoy Preserve               | 30. Armstrong Swamp          |
| 11. Cathedral Woods              | 31. Cox Preserve             |
| 12. Chamberlin Forest            | 32. Floyd Preserve           |
| 13. Blakeslee-Barrows Preserve   | 33. Burkholder Preserve      |
| 14. Soubusta Sugarbush           | 34. Sparks Preserve          |

# What are Native Trees?

- NATIVE TREES (or INDIGENOUS TREES) are trees that persisted locally before European colonization.



# Benefits of Native Trees

- They provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Are more tolerant of local soil conditions and weather
- Are typically more tolerant of local plant diseases and fungi
- Connects a fragmented landscape and creates wildlife corridors

# Landscaping Uses for Native Plants

- Street Trees – Hardy, tried-and-true species.
- Specimen Trees – Smaller native tree species.
- Canopy Trees – Tall trees, provide shade.
- Understory Trees – for shady areas.

# Benefits of Urban Forests / Trees

- Increases property values
- Reduces Air Conditioning Bills
- Attracts native wildlife including beneficial insects and birds
- Improves air quality
- Conserves soil and curbs erosion problems
- Decreases need for mowing

# Benefits of Urban Forests / Trees

- Protects urban streams and their associated aquatic life
- Absorb and break down pollutants in the soil (Nitrogen or even toxic metals)

# Street Trees

- Not every tree is suitable for growing as a street tree.
  - Some trees cannot tolerate pollution
  - Some trees are particularly intolerant of salt
  - The root structure of certain trees heaves sidewalks at a very early age.
  - The OSU Extension conducted an extensive (40 year) trial of a number of proposed street trees to determine their suitability.



# Importance of Tree Diversity



-- EXOTIC TREES are plants that do not originate locally and are introduced.

--INVASIVE TREES are those few exotic trees that become problems in our parks and natural areas by out-competing native vegetation and replacing native trees in an ecosystem.



# Invasive Trees to Avoid – Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)



# Invasive Trees to Avoid – Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



**Invasive Trees to  
Avoid – Callery Pear  
(*Pyrus calleryana*)**



# 'Tree-like' Invasive Species to Avoid



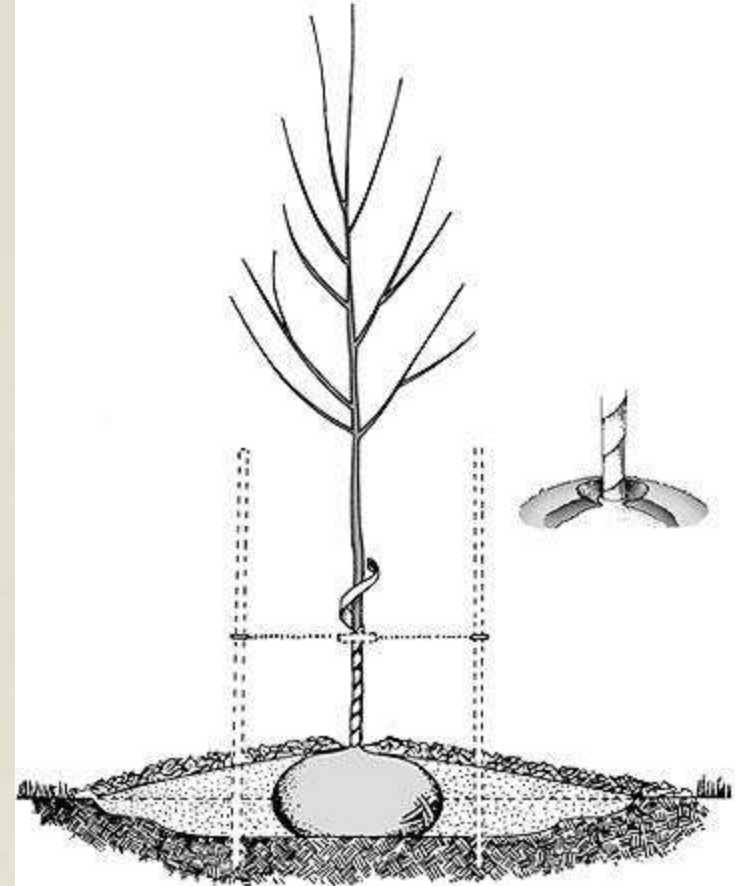
Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)



Japanese Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera Morowii*)

# Proper Tree Planting

1. Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball.
2. If planting in clay, make sure that the root ball is at least halfway above the existing soil grade, and that good soil is spread, creating a slight mound.
3. Remember to loosen the root ball of pot-bound container-grown plants.
4. Water slowly at the base of the tree.





Understory Trees





Ironwood  
(*Carpinus  
caroliniana*)



Redbud  
(*Cercis  
canadensis*)

Photo by Judy Semroc



# Witch Hazel

*(Hamamelis  
virginiana)*



A large, mature flowering dogwood tree is the central focus, its branches heavily laden with numerous small, white, four-petaled flowers. The tree's dark, spreading branches create a dense canopy of white blossoms. In the background, a variety of other trees, including tall evergreens and leafy deciduous trees, form a lush green forest. The foreground shows a grassy area, possibly a lawn or a path, with some lower-lying shrubs and bushes. The overall scene is bright and vibrant, capturing the peak of the dogwood's flowering season.

Flowering Dogwood  
(*Cornus florida*)

Striped  
Maple  
(*Acer  
pensylvanicum*)



A photograph of a Common Serviceberry tree in bloom. The tree is the central focus, covered in numerous small, light-colored flowers. It stands in a grassy field with a dense forest of bare trees in the background. The text "Common Serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea)" is overlaid in yellow at the bottom of the image.

Common Serviceberry  
(*Amelanchier arborea*)

Allegheny Serviceberry  
(*Amelanchier laevis*)



# Specimen Trees and Small Trees for Sunny Areas

Staghorn Sumac  
(*Rhus typhina*)





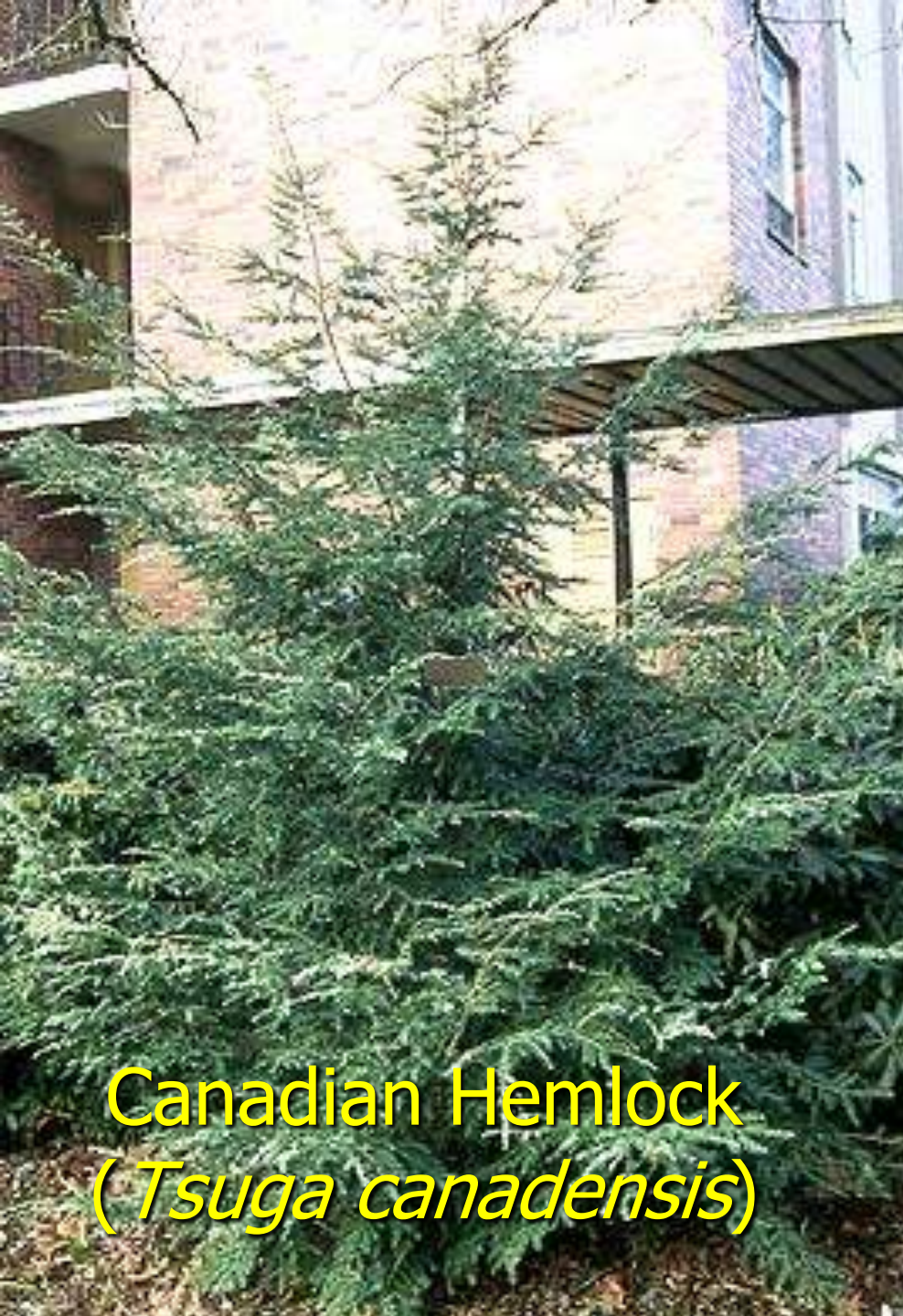
Wafer Ash  
(*Ptelea trifoliata*)

American Gray Birch  
(*Betula populifolia*)



Kentucky  
Coffee  
Tree  
(*Gymnocladus  
dioicus*)





Canadian Hemlock  
(*Tsuga canadensis*)




Eastern White Pine  
(*Pinus strobus*)

Native Evergreen  
Trees

**Honey Locust**  
*(Gleditsia  
triacanthos)*

*-- Excellent  
Street Tree*





American Sycamore  
(*Platanus occidentalis*)



Pawpaw  
(*Asimina  
triloba*)

Basswood or  
Linden  
(*Tilia americana*)



Ohio Buckeye  
(*Aesculus glabra*)







Bur Oak  
(*Quercus macrocarpa*)



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)  
← Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

Blackgum or Tupelo  
(*Nyssa sylvatica*)



# 2012 Native Plant Sale!!

May 18-19, 2012 – Pre-Orders Are Required. Visit <http://www.cmnh.org/site/PlantSale.aspx> for Details!  
Search for 'Native Plant Sale'.





# Photographs By:

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