

Street and Yard Trees Popular in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Street Trees

The street tree historically used in Sioux Falls was the American Elm, however the Dutch elm disease epidemic in the late 1960s through the early 1970s brought down thousands of trees in the city. Some varieties have been developed that have a resistance to the disease. The following street trees have been approved by the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Forestry Division. For more information go to www.siouxfalls.org/parks/forestry/street-trees.

- **Black Maple** (*Acer nigrum*): 1", 2-winged samara fruit; slow growth rate, 40' tall x 40' wide; round shape; shade to partial shade
- **Freeman Maple** (*Acer x freemanii*): Seedless on many cultivars; fast growth rate, 40' tall x 40' wide; oval shape; partial shade to full sun
- **Miyabe Maple** (*Acer miyabei*): 1", 2-winged samara; medium growth rate, 20' to 40' tall x 30' wide; oval shape; partial shade
- **Norway Maple** (*Acer platanoides*): 1.5" to 2", 2-winged samara; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 45' wide; round shape; partial shade
- **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*): 1", 2-winged samara; slow growth rate, 40' tall x 35' wide; oval shape; shade to partial shade
- **Ironwood** (*Ostrya virginiana*): 1/3" nuts in hop-like fruit; slow growth rate, 20' to 40' tall x 20' wide; round shape; shade to full sun



Eugene Coughran House, 1203 South First Avenue

- **Northern Catalpa** (*Catalpa speciosa*): Long bean-like pods; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 30' wide; oval shape; partial shade to full sun
- **American Yellowwood** (*Cladrastis kentukea*): 2" to 3" seed pods; medium growth rate, 20' to 40' tall x 35' wide; vase shape; partial shade to full sun
- **Black Locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*): 2" to 4" pods; fast growth rate, 40' tall x 30' wide; vase shape; full sun
- **Kentucky Coffeetree** (*Gymnocladus dioica*): Seedless on many cultivars; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 35' wide; oval shape; full sun
- **Thornless Honeylocust** (*Gleditsia triacanthos var. intermis*): Seedless on many cultivars; fast growth rate, 40' tall x 35' wide; round shape; full sun
- **Bur Oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*): 3/4" to 1-1/2" acorn; slow growth rate, 70' to 80' tall x 60' wide; round shape; full sun
- **Heritage Oak** (*Quercus x macdanielli*): 3/4" acorn; slow growth rate, 40' tall x 45' wide; round shape; full sun
- **Northern Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*): 5/8" to 1" acorn; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 45' wide; round shape; full sun
- **Swamp White Oak** (*Quercus bicolor*): 3/4" to 1-1/2" acorn; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 45' wide; round shape; full sun
- **Ginkgo** (*Ginkgo biloba*): seedless on many cultivars; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 30' wide; pyramidal shape; partial shade to full sun



American Linden



Elm Hybrid



Freeman Maple



Ginkgo



Heritage Oak



Kentucky Coffeetree



Norway Maple



Silver Linden



Thornless Honeylocust



Wilson Elm

- **Amur Corktree** (*Phellodendron amurense*): 5/8" to 1" acorn; medium growth rate, 20' to 40' tall x 30' wide; vase shape; full sun
- **American Linden** (*Tilia americana*): 1/3" nut-like drupe; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 30' wide; pyramidal shape; full sun
- **Little Leaf Linden** (*Tilia cordata*): 1/3" nut-like drupe; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 25' wide; pyramidal shape; full sun
- **Silver Linden** (*Tilia tomentosa*): 1/3" nutlet; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 45' wide; oval shape; partial shade to full sun
- **Common Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*): 1/3" drupe; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 35' wide; vase shape; full sun

- **Elm Hybrids** (*Ulmus japonica x wilsoniana*): 1/2" disc-shaped samara; fast growth rate, 40' tall x 50' wide; vase shape; full sun
- **Japanese Elm** (*Ulmus davidiana var. japonica*): 1/2" disc-shaped samara; fast growth rate; vase shape; full sun
- **Wilson Elm** (*Ulmus wilsoniana*): Single samara; fast growth rate, 20' to 40' tall x 25' wide; vase shape; partial shade to full sun

Deciduous Yard Trees

- **Balsam Poplar** (*Populus balsamifera*): Green, egg-shaped capsule; capsules release cottony seed; fast growth rate, 60' to 100' tall x 25' wide; pyramidal shape; part shade, sun
- **Black Walnut** (*Juglans nigra*): Nuts after 12 to 15 years; medium growth rate, 50' to 75' tall x 50' to 75' wide; round shape; full sun
- **Boxelder** (*Acer negundo*): Paired samaras 3/4" to 1-1/4" wing; fast growth rate, 35' to 60' tall x 35' to 60' wide; round to irregular shape; full sun
- **Bur Oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*): 3/4" to 1-1/2" acorns; slow growth rate, 70' to 80' tall x 60' wide; round shape; full sun
- **Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*): 1/3" drupes; medium growth rate, 40' tall x 35' wide; vase shape; full sun
- **Russian Mulberry** (*Morus alba var. tatarica*): Sweet berries; fast growth rate, 30' to 40' tall x 30' to 40' wide; round, bush shape; partial shade

Evergreen Yard Trees

- **Arborvitae** (*Thuja occidentalis*): Slow to medium growth rate, 40' to 60' tall x 10' to 15' wide; pyramidal shape; full sun
- **Colorado Spruce** (*Picea pungens*): Slow growth rate, 40' to 60' tall x 10' to 20' wide; pyramidal shape; partial to full sun
- **European Larch** (*Larix decidua*): Fast growth rate, 60' to 70' tall x 25' to 30' wide; pyramidal shape; full sun
- **Norway Spruce** (*Picea glauca*): Medium to fast growth rate, 40' to 60' tall x 25' to 30' wide; pyramidal shape; full sun
- **Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*): Medium growth rate, 40' to 50' tall x 8' to 20' wide; pyramidal shape; full sun
- **Scotch Pine** (*Pinus sylvestris*): Slow to medium growth rate, 60' tall x 40' wide; pyramidal shape; full sun
- **White Spruce** (*Picea glauca*): Medium growth rate, 40' to 60' tall x 10' to 20' wide; pyramidal shape; full sun



Balsam Poplar



Boxelder



Hackberry



Sandbar Willow



Silver Maple



Sugar Maple

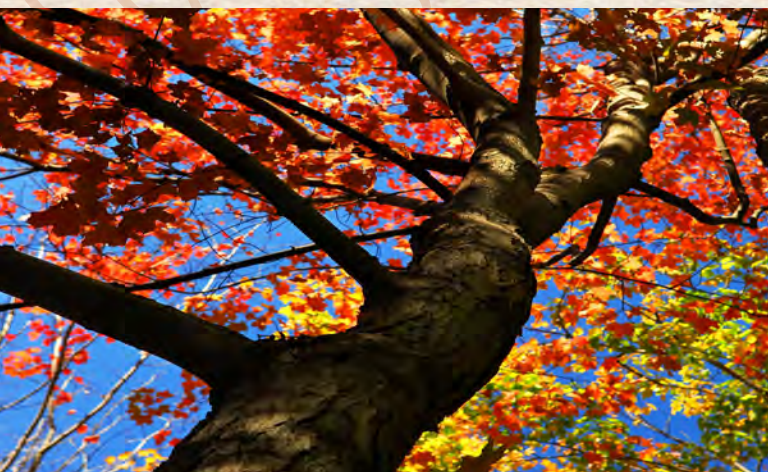
- **Sandbar Willow** (*Salix interior*): Fast growth rate, suckers profusely; 5' to 10' tall x 5' to 10' wide; round shape; full sun
- **Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*): 1" to 2-1/2", 2-winged samara; fast growth rate, 50' to 80' tall x 35' to 50' wide; vase shape; full sun
- **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*): 1", 2-winged samara; slow growth rate, 40' tall x 35' wide; oval shape; shade to partial shade



Colorado Spruce



Norway Spruce





Historic Landscape Materials

The recommendation of landscape plantings is to provide a better understanding of the importance of outdoor beauty and its complement to historic homes and neighborhoods.

The primary landscape feature historically was street trees and some shade trees planted in rows and usually spaced close together (20 to 30 feet). The trees were almost always deciduous such as ash, elm or maple. In some instances large spruce or cedar trees were planted in the front yard. Foundation plantings were not popular at the turn-of-the-century. They were not considered necessary as the lawn area could extend up to the house and in some cases the architectural detail and material of the foundation were designed to be exposed. Later, structures included walkways around the sides which usually had an open area between the house for plantings which might include annual or perennial flowers, or rose bushes.

Fences had more of an aesthetic value and were not used primarily for separation of side or rear property lines. The major separation used was a row of small trees or shrubs planted in groups along the lot line. Many of the backyards were planted with fruit trees and a vegetable garden which might also include a flower garden. Lawn areas were usually turf consisting of bluegrass and clover or a mixture of seed sources. These grasses were a coarser texture and not entirely weed free.

Lawns were often surrounded by flower or shrub borders. Flower beds were also planted near the house and were usually herbaceous perennials. Bulbs and roses were popular as well as herbs of all kinds. Rock walls and steps were constructed of native field stone or quartzite and often in conjunction with a front hedge or fences. In some cases garden urns, birdhouses and other yard ornaments were found, however their use was very limited.

THE PLANT LISTS FOR USE IN HISTORIC LANDSCAPES ARE BASED ON WRITTEN REFERENCE AND DOCUMENTATION OF THEIR USE DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1870 TO 1920 IN SOUTHEASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA. WHILE NOT A COMPLETE INVENTORY OF EVERY TYPE OF SPECIES, IT DOES REPRESENT THE MORE COMMON AND POPULAR TYPES USED. CURRENT BANNED AND NUISANCE SPECIES ARE NOT INCLUDED.

Information in this document was provided by *Identification and Restoration of Historic Landscapes*, by Michael Cooper and Robert Cole, 1982.

The entire report may be found at: www.siouxfalls.org/mayor/boards-commissions/historic-preservation-bd

Research and information also provided by Thomas Schneider, SDSU student.

For additional information on Sioux Falls street trees, please refer to the *Street Tree Guide* provided by Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Forestry Division.

Photos of deciduous yard trees, shrubs, vines, and perennials not otherwise credited were provided courtesy of Monrovia.com

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American Bittersweet

Shrubs and Vines

Shrubs were historically more scattered, and were used for utilitarian purposes. Lilacs were used to help mask the smell of an outhouse, and hedge plants were used to separate lot lines.

- **American Bittersweet** (*Celastrus scandens*): 30' perennial vine; sun to part shade; summer bloom
- **Burning Bush** (*Euonymus atropurpurea*): 6' to 8' tall x 8' to 10' wide; sun; exceptional fall color
- **Clematis Vine**—300 species (*Clamatis virginiana*): 12' to 20' tall x 4' to 6' wide; sun; early summer through early fall bloom
- **Dogwood** (*Cornus stolonifera*): 9' tall x 5' wide; partial to full sun; summer bloom
- **Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera tatarica*): 6' to 15' tall x 6' to 15' wide; shade; spring through summer bloom; attracts hummingbirds
- **Hydrangea** (*Hydrangea paniculata 'grandiflora'*): 4' tall x 4' wide; partial shade to sun; spring through summer bloom
- **Lilac** (*Syringa vulgaria*): 6' to 8' tall x 6' to 8' wide; full to partial sun; spring through summer bloom
- **Mockorange** (*Philadelphus coronaries*): 6' to 8' tall x 6' wide; full sun; spring bloom
- **Spirea** (*Spirea vanhottei*): 3' to 4' tall x 4' wide, partial to full sun; summer bloom
- **Trumpet Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens*): Twining stems, 10' to 20' long; partial to full sun; spring through fall bloom
- **Viburnum** (*Viburnum trilobum*): 4' to 6' tall x 3' to 4' wide; partial to full sun; summer bloom
- **Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*): Groundcover or vine; partial to full sun; June through July bloom

Shrubs, Vines, and Perennials for Historic Landscapes

Historically, shrubs and ornamental plantings were placed in groups set away from the corners of the house. Small clusters or masses of various plantings were used rather than rows of one or two varieties along the house. The massing of shrubs was also used in the angles of porches, steps and bay windows. In some cases where mass plantings were not used, a formal hedge was planted along the front property line which was kept well sheared and maintained. Vines were used in trellises and on front porch posts and railings for added shade and screening. Most porches had detailed lattice work which was not intended to be covered by plantings.



Burning Bush



Clematis



Honeysuckle



Hydrangea



Mockorange



Trumpet Honeysuckle



Viburnum

Perennials

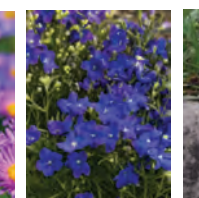
Native Prairie flowers have historically been the most successful due to their limited need for water.

- **Aster**: 12" to 18" tall and wide; full to part sun; summer through fall bloom
- **Blue Delphinium**: 12" to 18" x 18" to 24" wide; full to part sun; late spring through summer bloom
- **Buffalo Bean**: 12" tall; full sun; May through June bloom
- **Columbine**: 30" tall x 30" wide; partial to full sun; late spring through early summer
- **Common Goldenrod**: 24" to 36" tall x 12" to 24" wide; full sun; mid through late summer bloom
- **Day Lily**: 12" tall x 30" wide; partial to full sun; summer bloom

- **Fringed Puccoon**: 6" to 18" tall; partial to full sun; spring through summer bloom
- **Hollyhock**: 3' to 8' tall x 1' to 3' wide; full sun; summer bloom
- **Iris**: 30" tall; full sun; spring bloom
- **Pasque Flower**: 6" to 12" tall x 12" wide; partial to full sun; early through mid spring bloom
- **Meadow Anemone**: 18" to 24" tall x 24" to 36" wide; partial shade; spring through summer bloom
- **Nasturtium**: 16" tall x 8" to 12" wide; partial shade to full sun; midsummer through fall bloom
- **Prairie Buttercup**: 2" to 10" tall; partial shade to sun; April through May bloom



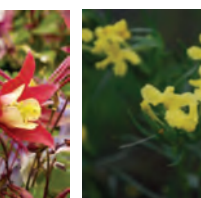
Aster



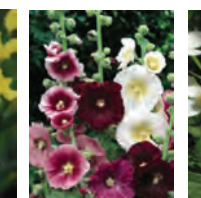
Blue Delphinium



Buffalo Bean



Columbine



Fringed Puccoon



Hollyhock



Meadow Anemone



Nasturtium



Prairie Buttercup