

Good Trees for the Morris Area: Replacements for Ash Trees

Morris is in Zone 4 and has alkaline soils

Since 2002, half-inch-long flying insects called Emerald Ash Borers have killed tens of millions of ash trees in 12 states east of Minnesota. Ash borers were discovered in St. Paul and Minneapolis in 2009-2010, and are expected to spread to other parts of Minnesota within the next few years. The mortality rate is nearly 100% when a group of ash trees is infested. The beetles are often spread through the transport of firewood. State officials are asking Minnesotans to avoid moving firewood from one part of the state to another.

Nearly half of all trees in Morris are believed to be ash trees. The loss of these trees will have a major impact on our community.

We can reduce the eventual impact by planting lots of other trees now. The trees listed below are good choices for the Morris area. Please plant a tree or two in your yard today!

Large Trees (over 50 ft.)

~ Aspen, Bigtooth (*Populus grandidentata*)
~ Basswood or American Linden (*Tilia americana*)
Catalpa, Northern (*Catalpa speciosa*)
~ Coffeetree, Kentucky (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)
~ Cottonwood - cottonless (*Populus deltoides*)
~ Elm, American - disease resistant (*Ulmus americana*)
Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)
~ Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
Linden, Littleleaf (*Tilia cordata*)
~ Maple, Freeman such as 'Autumn Blaze' (*Acer x freemanii*)

~ Maple, Silver (*Acer saccharinum*)
~ Oak, Bur (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
~ Oak, Swamp White or Bicolor (*Quercus bicolor*)
* Pine, Ponderosa (*Pinus ponderosa*)
* Pine, Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*)
* Spruce, Norway (*Picea abies*)
~ * Spruce, White (*Picea glauca*)
~ * Tamarack or Larch (*Larix laricina*)
~ Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*)
Willow, White (*Salix alba*)

Medium Trees (26-50 ft.)

Alder, Black or Common (*Alnus glutinosa*)
~ Alder, White (*Alnus incana*)
Apple (*Malus species*)
~ * Arborvitae or Northern Wh. Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)
~ Aspen, Quaking (*Populus tremuloides*)
~ Birch - disease resistant (*Betula species*)
~ Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)
~ Buckeye, Ohio (*Aesculus glabra*)
~ * Cedar, Eastern Red (*Juniperus virginiana*)
~ Cherry, Black (*Prunus serotina*)
~ Cherry, Pin (*Prunus pennsylvanica*)
Chokecherry, Amur (*Prunus maackii*)
Corktree, Amur (*Phellodendron amurense*)

~ Hawthorn (*Crataegus species*)
~ Hickory, Bitternut (*Carya cordiformis*)
~ Hickory, Shagbark (*Carya ovata*)
~ Honeylocust - seedless (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
~ Ironwood or Hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
Maple, Norway (*Acer platanoides*)
~ Mulberry (*Morus species*)
* Pine, Austrian (*Pinus nigra*)
* Pine, Swiss Stone (*Pinus cembra*)
~ * Spruce, Black (*Picea mariana*)
~ * Spruce, Black Hills (*Picea glauca densata*)
* Spruce, Serbian (*Picea omorika*)
~ Willow, Black (*Salix nigra*)

Small Trees (under 25 ft.)

~ Alder, Speckled (*Alnus rugosa*)
Apricot, Manchurian (*Prunus armeniaca mandshurica*)
Crabapple - disease resistant (*Malus species*)
~ Dogwood, Pagoda (*Cornus alternifolia*)
~ Hornbeam/Musclewood/Blue Beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
Lilac, Japanese Tree (*Syringa reticulata*)
Maackia, Amur (*Maackia amurensis*)
Maple, Amur (*Acer ginnala*)

~ Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
Redbud - only 'Minnesota strain' is hardy (*Cercis canadensis*)
~ Serviceberry (*Amelanchier species*)
Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
~ Witchhazel, Common (*Hammamelis virginiana*)

~ native to Minnesota * evergreen

Note: Trees that need acidic soil such as Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) do not do well in west central Minnesota. Two common trees are no longer recommended by experts: Ash because of threat from the Emerald Ash Borer, and Colorado blue spruce which suffers from several fungal diseases. (Mountain ash are also disease-prone.) Also, please avoid planting Buckthorn which is very invasive.

City of Morris Tree Board