

## **Trees *Not* Recommended for the Home Landscape**

### **LATIN NAME**

*Acer saccharinum*

*Catalpa speciosa*

*Celtis occidentalis*

*Fraxinus americana*

*Juglans nigra*

*Maclura pomifera*

*Populus deltoides*

*Prunus serotina*

*Quercus palustris*

*Robinia pseudoacacia*

### **COMMON NAME**

silver maple

northern catalpa

hackberry

white ash

black walnut

osage orange

eastern cottonwood

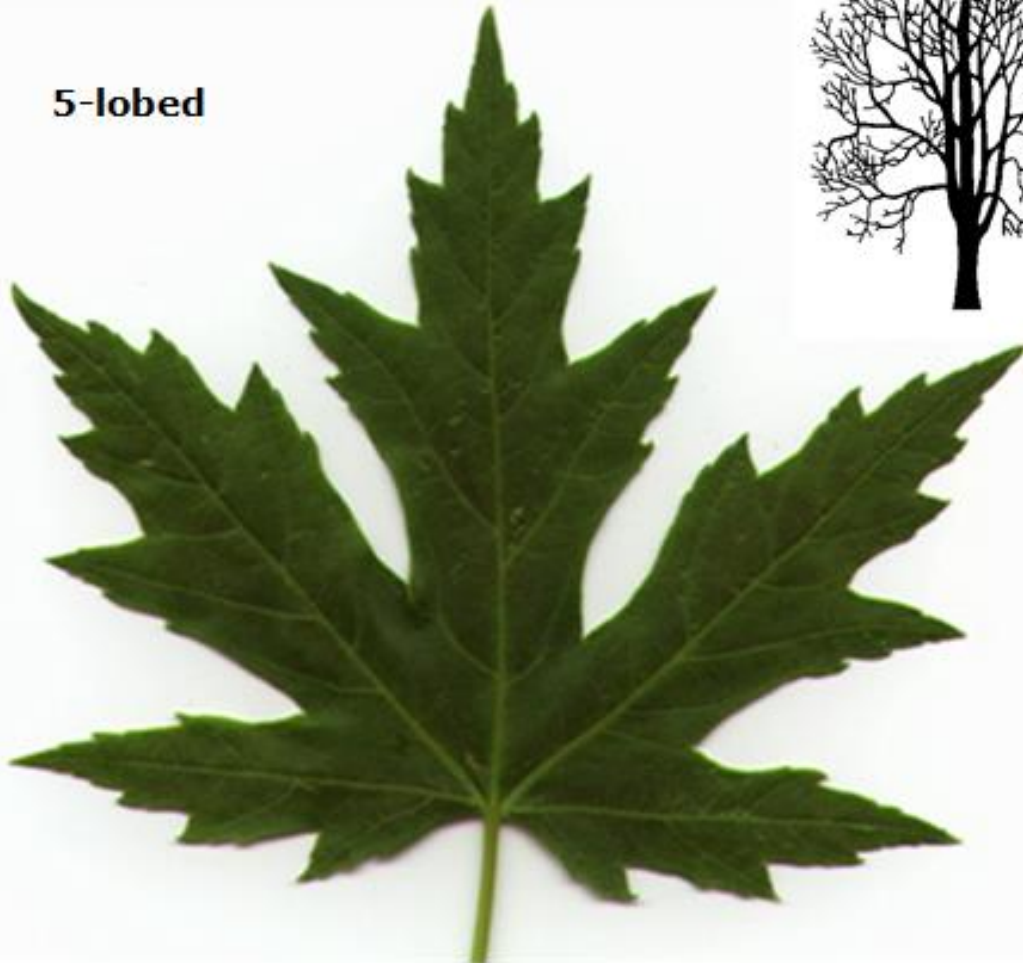
black or wild cherry

pin oak

black locust

The Missouri Department of Conservation considers each of the following trees undesirable for planting near homes because of one or more problems that may include brittle wood and structural weakness, serious insect or disease problems, nuisance fruits or nuts, or general messiness.

**5-lobed**



**two-winged samara**



**silvery  
underside**



# Acer



A'-ser

MO Native: *Acer saccharinum*

Common Name: silver maple



**Height:** 50 to 80 feet

**Spread:** 35 to 70 feet

**Bark:** young trees—light gray & smooth , older trees - scruffy

**Flowers:** monoecious with 3 to 7 stamens, no petals

**Fruit:** two-winged samara

**Leaves:** simple, opposite, deeply 5-lobed with silvery underside

**Disease:** no serious problems

**Insects:** no serious problems

1. Most develop a of curled-up bark around the base of tree about 6 inches from the ground
2. Leaves simple, opposite, deeply 5-lobed with silvery underside
3. Brittle wood is subject to storm damage & should not be planted near buildings, picnic tables, or parking areas

*Acer* is from the Celtic & means "hard," in reference to the wood; *saccharum* refers to the sugar content of the sap.



**5 fuzzy petals form an overall bell shape**



**bean-like seed capsule**



**cordate, pinnately veined, entire margins**



# Catalpa



MO Native: *Catalpa speciosa*

Common Name: northern catalpa



ka-tal'-pa

**Height:** 40 to 70 feet

**Spread:** 20 to 50 feet

**Bark:** gray to reddish brown, separated into irregular shallow fissures & scaly ridges

**Flowers:** very showy, white (yellow & purple spots on insides), 5 fuzzy petals form an overall bell shape

**Fruit:** long (10 to 18 inches) bean-like, hanging stiff capsules, each capsule contains numerous flattened seeds with 2-papery fringed wings

**Leaves:** opposite & whorled, simple, cordate, pinnately veined, entire margins, overall soft & flexible feeling

**Disease:** no serious problems

**Insects:** catalpa sphinx moth, catalpa midge, comstock mealy bug

1. Leaves opposite & whorled, pinnately veined, with entire margins
2. Ornamental bell shape, flowers in terminal clusters
3. Not recommended because of coarse appearance & messy seed pods

Genus name comes from a North American Indian name. Specific epithet means showy.





# **Celtis**



**MO Native:** *Celtis occidentalis*

**Common Name:** hackberry



sel'-tis

**Height:** 40 to 60 feet

**Spread:** 40 to 60 feet

**Bark:** mature gray bark develops corky ridges & warty texture

**Flowers:** monoecious; very small (1/8 inch), light green, with a 4 or 5 lobes calyx

**Fruit:** round fleshy berry-like drupes

**Leaves:** alternate, simple, ovate, serrated margin, long tapered tip

**Disease:** witches' broom, powdery mildew, leaf spot

**Insects:** Nipple gall is so common in the St. Louis area that it is often used as an aid in identifying the tree.

1. Leaves are alternate, simple, ovate, serrated margin
2. Fruit is round fleshy berry-like drupes
3. Not recommended because of coarse appearance & messy seed pods

Greek name or name applied to African lotus / western - Latin "occidere" (to set, as the sun.)





**drooping clusters  
of  
winged samaras**



**apetulous purplish  
flowers**



**odd-pinnate compound leaves with 7 leaflets**



**diamond-shaped ridging**

# **Fraxinus**



**MO Native:** *Fraxinus americana*

**Common Name:** white ash



frak'-si-nus

**Height:** 60 to 80 feet

**Spread:** 60 to 80 feet

**Bark:** gray bark develops distinctive diamond-shaped ridging on mature trees

**Flowers:** primarily dioecious, clusters of apetalous purplish male and female flowers on separate trees

**Fruit:** fertilized female flowers give way to drooping clusters of winged samaras

**Leaves:** odd-pinnate compound leaves with 7 to 13 leaflets

**Disease:** fungal leaf spots, powdery mildew, rust, anthracnose, cankers, rust

**Insects:** emerald ash borer, carpenter worm, oyster shell scale, fall webworms

1. Leaves are odd-pinnate compound with 7 to 13 leaflets
2. Clusters of apetalous purplish male & female flowers on separate trees
3. Planting new ash trees is no longer recommended given the susceptibility of this tree to the emerald ash borer.

*Fraxinus* is the ancient Latin name of the ash, from phraxix (a separation), referring to its use in hedges; *americana* is for its origin.



**alternate, odd-pinnate**



**thick, green husk**



**male flowers  
in drooping hairy catkins**



# **Juglans**

**MO Native:** *Juglans nigra*

**Common name:** black walnut



jU'-glanz

**Height:** 75 to 100 feet

**Spread:** 75 to 100 feet

**Bark:** brown, ridged and furrowed with a rough diamond pattern

**Flowers:** monoecious yellow green flowers, the male flowers in drooping hairy catkins & the female flowers in short terminal spikes

**Fruit:** round with a thick, green husk that contains an irregularly furrowed, hard nut that contains sweet, oily meat—may create a mess in home landscapes

**Leaves:** alternate, odd-pinnate compound leaves with 15-23 oblong to lanceolate leaflets

**Disease:** no serious disease problems

**Insects:** caterpillars

1. Leaves are alternate, odd-pinnate compound leaves, 15-23 leaflets
2. Fruit is round with thick, green husk
3. Produces juglone, a chemical toxin that prevents the growth of many other plants within the tree's root zone

*Juglans* comes from the Latin words *jovis* & *glans* meaning nut of Jove. *Nigra* means black, in reference to the dark bark & nuts.





**alternate, simple**



**dense cluster  
of hundreds of  
small fruits**



**stout, straight, axillary spines**



# **Maclura**



**MO Native:** *Maclura pomifera*

**Common name:** osage orange



ma-klU'-ra

**Height:** 35 to 60 feet

**Spread:** 35 to 60 feet

**Bark:** orange-brown, developing scaly ridges with irregular furrows

**Flowers:** dioecious with non-showy greenish male & female flowers in clusters on separate trees

**Fruit:** inedible grapefruit-sized fruits - 3 to 5 inches in diameter, with a very distinctive citrus smell; the outer surface looks like "brains"; when crushed, a white, milky juice is exuded, maturing in early fall—may create a mess in home landscapes

**Leaves:** alternate, simple, pinnately veined

**Disease:** no serious disease problems

**Insects:** no serious insect problems

1. Leaves are alternate, simple, pinnately veined
2. Inedible, grapefruit-sized fruit is dense cluster of hundreds of small fruits that may create a mess in home landscapes
3. Branches armed with stout, straight, axillary spines

The genus name honors William Maclure, an 18th -19th century geologist. *Pomifera* comes from the Latin word for fruit & means fruit/pome-bearing.



**alternate, simple, deltoid in shape**



**male flowers**



**seeds with silky white hairs**



**resinous  
&  
pine-scented**



**ridged**

# **Populus**

## **Populus deltoides**

**Common name:** eastern cottonwood



pop'-U-lus

**Height:** 50 to 80 feet

**Spread:** 3.5 to 60 feet

**Bark:** mature trees is ridged and dark gray

**Flowers:** dioecious; male and female as pendulous catkins

**Fruit:** dehiscent capsules that split open when ripe (May in St. Louis), broadcasting abundant densely-tufted seeds

**Leaves:** alternate, simple, pinnately veined, triangular (deltoid) in shape, long flat petiole

**Disease:** dieback, cankers, leaf spots, rusts, powdery mildew

**Insects:** borers, caterpillars

1. Leaves are alternate, simple & deltoid in shape, long flat petiole
2. Seed capsules split open when ripe broadcasting abundant densely-tufted seeds that can be a nuisance
3. Buds are resinous & pine-scented

Populus is Latin for a kind of Poplar tree & deltoids mean triangular.



**alternate, simple, narrow oblong-ovate to lanceolate, glossy**



**white flowers in slender pendulous clusters**

**drooping clusters**



**lenticels**

# **Prunus**



**MO Native:** *Prunus serotina*

**Common Name:** black or wild cherry



proo'-nus

**Height:** 50 to 80 feet

**Spread:** 30 to 60 feet

**Bark:** dark grey to black with many lenticels

**Flowers:** fragrant white flowers in slender pendulous clusters (racemes to 6" long)

**Fruit:** drooping clusters of small purple-black cherries—may create a mess in home landscapes

**Leaves:** alternate, simple, narrow oblong-ovate to lanceolate, glossy

**Disease:** leaf spot, wood rots, fireblight

**Insects:** borers, tent caterpillars

1. Leaves are alternate, simple, narrow oblong-ovate to lanceolate & glossy
2. Fragrant white flowers in slender pendulous clusters
3. Susceptible to a large number of diseases & insect pests

*Prunus* is the Latin name of European plum; *serotina* is Latin for "late-flowering."

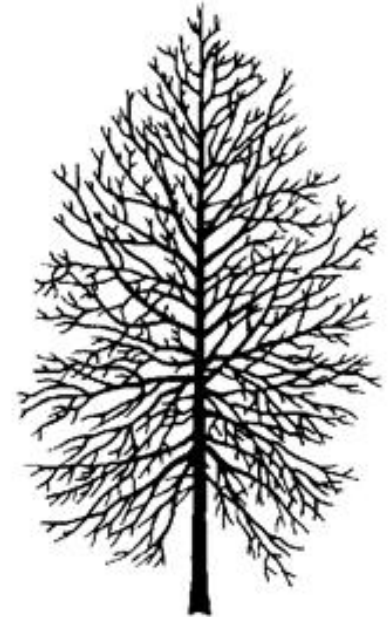


**alternate, simple,  
5 bristle-tipped lobes**



**acorns with shallow,  
saucer-shaped acorn cups**

**upper branches  
are ascending,  
middle branches are  
somewhat horizontal  
and lower  
branches are descending**





# Quercus



MO Native: *Quercus palustris*

Common name: **pin oak**



kwer'-kus

**Height:** 50 to 70 feet

**Spread:** 40 to 60 feet

**Bark:** gray to gray-green with shallow furrows

**Flowers:** monoecious yellowish-green flowers in separate male & female catkins

**Fruit:** rounded acorns (to 1/2" long), with shallow, saucer-shaped acorn cups (can be a nuisance)

**Leaves:** alternate, simple, bristle-tipped lobes with deeply cut sinuses

**Disease:** infrequently attacked by the common diseases of oaks

**Insects:** galls, pin oak sawfly

1. Leaves are alternate, simple, bristle-tipped lobes with deeply cut sinuses
2. Brown leaves persist on the tree into the winter
3. Upper branches are ascending, middle branches are somewhat horizontal & lower branches drooping (cause problems if planted near walks, driveways etc.)

*Quercus*, is the Latin name for oak. *Palustris* means "marsh-loving," indicating that the plant tolerates poorly drained soils, such as *Quercus palustris*, pin oak, which tolerates heavy clay soils.





**alternate, pinnately compound**



**pendant racemes**



**short paired spines**



**seed pods**



# **Robinia**



**MO Native:** *Robinia pseudoacacia*

**Common name:** black locust



rO-bin'-i-a

**Height:** 30 to 50 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 30 feet

**Bark:** gray or light brown, thick & fibrous, heavily ridged & furrowed, resembles a woven rope

**Flowers:** fragrant wisteria-like white flowers in pendant racemes (to 8" long)

**Fruit:** smooth, flat, purple-brown seed pods (to 4-5" long)

**Leaves:** alternate, pinnately compound with 7 to 19 leaflets & dark blue-green leaves, with each leaf having up to 23 lance-shaped to ovate leaflets

**Disease:** verticillium wilt, mold, mildew, canker

**Insects:** locust twig borer, locust leaf miner, locust borer (often fatal)

1. Leaves are alternate, pinnately compound, 7-19 leaflets
2. Smooth, flat, purple-brown seed pods
3. Brittle wood that breaks up easily in storms and fixes nitrogen

Names after Jean Robin, French Herbalist / false acacia, Greek "akakia" (the Egyptian thorn-tree) and "akis" (thorn.)