

**Latodami Environmental Education Center**  
**575 Brown Road, Wexford, PA 15090**  
**724-935-2170**

**CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SELECTING TREES AND SHRUBS FOR YOUR HOME**

**\* Site Location**

- Proximity to permanent man-made structures (your home, neighbour's homes, sheds, pool, driveways, sidewalks, roads, stone/concrete walls).
- Proximity to property lines and to utilities (utilities above and below ground, "PA One Call", "Call before you dig" = 1-800-242-1776).
- Proximity to other natural features (existing trees, shrubs, flower/vegetable garden).
- Sun and wind exposure.
- Soil structure and ph.
- Water source (slope-run off, pond/stream/seep, garden hose, natural precipitation, road (salt and other pollution)).

**\* Purpose**

- Shade for summer, sun for winter (deciduous, best planted on south, southwest, west exposure).
- Esthetics (size, shape, flowers, scent, fruit, leaves, fall colour, stem or bark colour).
- Privacy screen (evergreen; large or small), barrier (evergreen or deciduous shrub)
- Wind or snow screen (evergreen or deciduous shrub).
- Property value.
- Edible (you and or wildlife).

**\* Maintenance**

- Pruning or Cutting Back – unless you enjoy high maintenance trees and shrubs; those that require this, are best avoided.
- Hedges and Barriers – choose plants that maintain a small, rounded shape naturally; avoid forcing trees to be a hedge.

**\* Native or Non-native**

- Native – better suited to regional growing conditions; sun, temperature, precipitation, disease and insects, wildlife value (Pittsburgh region is now considered zone 6a or 6b).
- Non-native – as long as non-invasive – check for zone appropriateness, exposure, soil and water requirements.
- Extremely invasive tree and shrub species that are still sold and planted for landscape in PA: Barberries; Japanese Honeysuckles; Euonymus; Privets; Norway Maples; Callery/Bradford Pears; Autumn/Russian Olives; Scots Pine; Ornamental Grasses; Asiatic Bittersweet; Purple Loosestrife; Amur Maple; Golden Raintree; European Buckthorn; and others.
- Invasive list - [http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_010314.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010314.pdf)

**\* Fall Out**

- Leaf or Needle (sycamore, white pine, tamarack).
- Flower (magnolias).
- Fruit or Seed (magnolia, ginkgo, chestnut, any orchard fruit tree, mulberry, hickories, walnuts, sycamore, pines, spruces, tamarack).
- Bark (sycamore).

**\* Life Span**

- Age – some plants are very long-lived (100-500 years), others are short-lived (20-75 years) and may need replaced; plan for the future.

**\* Size and Spread**

- Select all trees and shrubs realizing their size and spread at maturity, whether that be 25 years (sumac) or 400 years (oak).
- Know your plant’s ultimate size and spread, and keep that in mind when planting in proximity of man-made structures, utilities and other landscape. Do not plant trees that mature at over 20 feet under utility poles.
- Suburban landscapes best accommodate trees less than 30 feet at maturity. Mature height should reduce the nearer to structures or utilities they are planted.

**\* Suggested Plant Species**

- Dwarf and weeping varieties or cultivars are a great way to have trees in your landscape that would otherwise be ill suited due to their large mature size. Consider dwarf: spruce, hemlock, birch, beech, cherry, apple, pine, and juniper.
- Other species, which are native or non-invasive and generally mature up to 50 feet, are listed below. Be aware of fruits, cones or other “fall out” that may be a nuisance for your situation.
- Consider planting with small shrubs or larger, long-lived, flowering perennials near homes and utilities, such as: Butterfly Weed, Rose Mallow, Shrubby St. John’s Wort, Virginia Mallow, native or cultivated Roses, Hydrangea, Azalea.

Birch, Grey – 30 feet	Red Bud – 35 feet	Red Cedar – 35 feet
Hackberry – 40	Crabapple species – 30	Holly species – 10 to 50
Mountain Ash – 45	Black Chokeberry – 12	Flowering Dogwood – 30
Hawthorn species – 25	Persimmon – 50	Serviceberry species – 15 to 40
Elderberry – 13	Spicebush – 12	Coralberry – 6
Highbush Cranberry – 12	Viburnum species – 10 to 15	Sumac species – 10 to 18
Sweetbay Magnolia – 20	Red Buckeye – 20	Alberta Spruce - 12
Japanese Maple species – 8 to 20	Fringetree – 12 to 25	Alder species – 10 to 30
Apple varieties – 15 to 40	Bladdernut – 10	Ohio Buckeye – 40
Choke Cherry – 15 to 25	Pin Cherry – 40	Chinquapin – 15 to 30
Hop-Hornbeam – 50	Hoptree – 20	Hornbeam – 30
Umbrella Magnolia – 40	Striped Maple – 40	Mountain Maple – 30
Red Mulberry – 50	Dwarf Chestnut Oak – 2 to 18	Post Oak – 55
Blackjack Oak – 40	Scrub Oak – 18	Osage Orange – 55
Paw Paw – 30	Pear Varieties – 45	Persimmon – 55
Pitch Pine – 55	Table Mountain Pine – 35	Virginia Pine – 55
Allegheny Plum – 12	American Plum – 30	Trembling Aspen – 40
Prickly Ash - 25	Carolina Silverbell - 40	Sourwood – 40
Black Spruce – 30	Staghorn Sumac – 25	Smooth Sumac – 12
Carolina Willow – 30	Peach-leaf Willow – 30	Shining Willow – 20
Witch Hazel – 25	Sweet Pepperbush - 6	New Jersey Tea – 4
Bearberry - 8	Buttonbush - 8	Sweetfern – 4
Dogwood, Shrubby species - 10	Hazelnut - 8	Hydrangea, natives – 3 to 6
Mountain Laurel - 12	Ninebark - 9	Azalea, native species – 3 to 8
Rhododendron - 15	Meadowsweet & Steeplebush - 4	Blueberry, Low Bush – 1 ½
Blueberry, High Bush – 10	Virginia Sweet-spire – 10	Beautyberry – 5
Northern Bayberry – 10	Sweetgale Waxmyrtle - 6	Black Gum – 55
Boxwood – 2 to 10	Katsura - 50	Labrador Tea - 3

\* **Salt Tolerant Trees** – Moderate to high tolerance. Some of those listed below are not necessarily good for small landscapes due to large mature size.

Ash, Green and White	River Birch	Black Gum
Boxelder	Ohio Buckeye	N. Catalpa
Cottonwood	Eastern Redcedar	American Elm
Ginkgo	Cockspur Hawthorn	Honey Locust
Horse Chestnut	Black Locust	Silver Maple
Red Mulberry	Pear species	Ponderosa Pine
Quaking Aspen	Colorado Spruce	Sumac species
Tamarack	Willow species	Yew species

\* **PA Natives with High Wildlife Value** - Some of those listed below are not necessarily good for small landscapes due to large mature size.

<b>GOOD</b>	<b>BETTER</b>	<b>BEST</b>
Smooth & Speckled Alder	Quaking & Large Tooth Aspen	Blackberries
Carolina Buckthorn	American Beech	Blueberries
American Chestnut	Blackgum	Black, Choke & Pin Cherry
Balsam & Frazier Fir	Gooseberries & Currants	Dogwood native species
American Hazelnut	American & Lowland Hackberry	American Elderberry & Red-berried
Eastern Hemlock	Hawthorn species	Oak native species
Hickory native species	Holly native species	Red, Pitch, White & Virginia Pine
Common Persimmon	Black, Sugar, Red & Silver Maple	Serviceberry natives
Spruce - Red, White, Black	Eastern Redcedar	Staghorn, Smooth & Winged Sumac
Viburnum native species	Snowberry & Coralberry	
Willow native species	Red Mulberry	
Birch native species		

\* **More Information**

- PDF on PA native plants: [lancastercountyplanning.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/156](http://lancastercountyplanning.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/156)
- Where to buy PA natives: [iconservpa.org/plantsmart/nativeplants/buynatives/index.htm](http://iconservpa.org/plantsmart/nativeplants/buynatives/index.htm)
- Invasive species information: [dcnr.state.pa.us/conservationscience/invasivespecies/index.htm](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/conservationscience/invasivespecies/index.htm)
- Link to multiple sites for tree planting information: [treevitalize.net/TreeCare/PlantingNew.aspx](http://treevitalize.net/TreeCare/PlantingNew.aspx)
- Tree selection factors: [treevitalize.net/TreeCare/SelectingTrees.aspx](http://treevitalize.net/TreeCare/SelectingTrees.aspx)
- Short listing of PA natives: [plantnative.org/rpl-nypanj.htm](http://plantnative.org/rpl-nypanj.htm)
- PA One Call, homeowner information: [pa1call.org/pa811/Public/POCS\\_Content/Groups/Homeowner](http://pa1call.org/pa811/Public/POCS_Content/Groups/Homeowner)

# TREE FORMS



ROUND



SPREADING



PYRAMIDAL



OVAL



CONICAL



VASE



COLUMNAR



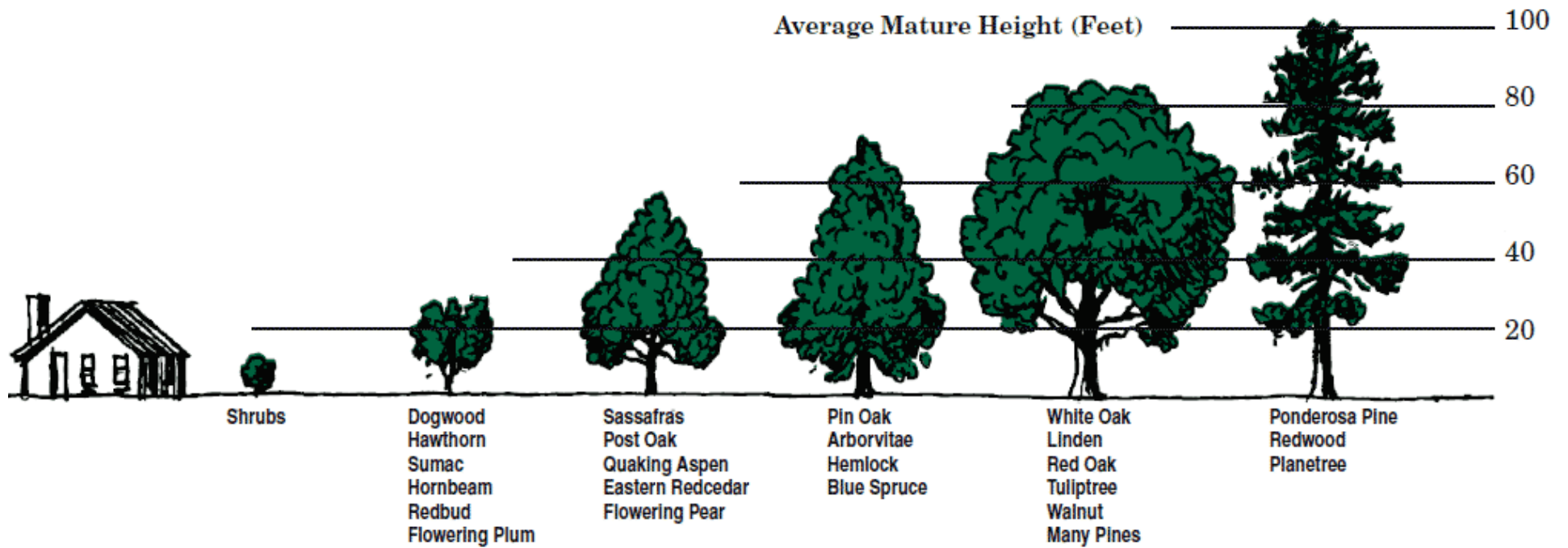
OPEN



WEEPING



IRREGULAR



**When planting trees and shrubs, please take into consideration proximity to homes, sidewalks, driveways, and both above ground and below ground utilities.**