

Suburban Gardener

MSU Bulletins Aid In Choice Of Trees

By BETTY FRANKEL

Take a look up and down your street and note the different kinds of trees that you find growing in one rather small area.

If it is a city street you may find Norway maple, pin oak, honey locust, flowering crab and many other varieties of trees both large and small. If it is a suburban street the list is even longer and might include sugar maples, silver

maple, ash, linden, and horsechestnut.

If you live on a country road the trees that line it might be oaks, hickories, beech, or even a few die-hard elms.

There are hundreds and hundreds of kinds of trees that grow in Michigan. How do you know which to choose to plant in your back yard to shade the patio, or to put in the front

of the house to enhance the front entrance?

The Michigan State University extension service has published several bulletins to aid the homeowner who is planning to buy a tree. These include "Michigan Trees Worth Knowing" which describes about 50 trees, and a new bulletin called "Selection of Shade and Flowering Trees."

HONEY LOCUSTS (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) are being widely planted as a substitute for American elms. These trees grow to be 75 feet tall with a broad, open habit and small leaves that provide light, dappled shade. The bulletin lists nine different kinds of honey locusts which are thornless and seedless. Best known is the Moraine locust with wide-spreading

branches. Imperial is graceful with a straight trunk and spreading branches. Majestic is upright and compact. Shademaster is upright and Skyline is pyramidal. Sunburst is noted for the golden color of the new foliage and Rubylace has leaves that are red in Spring and bronze in summer.

Norway maples (*Acer platanoides*) are popular street trees. The species has dark green leaves and a round dense crown from 50 to 75 feet tall. Crimson King is a variety with wine-red leaves all season long. Faassen's redleaf is similar to Crimson King.

Drummondii has light green leaves edged with white, and Greenlace has finely cut leaves. Almira and globosum are small sized with round heads. Erectum is conical in form, and Columnare is upright and narrow.

Among the sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) varieties, Globosum is slow growing and remains a small tree. Green Mountain has dark green leaves that color scarlet in Fall. Temple's upright and Sentry are upright columnar trees.

RED MAPLES (*Acer rubrum*) are noted for their brilliant red fall coloring. The named varieties have been chosen because of special color characteristics. Autumn flame is bright scarlet, October Glory has orange coloring in fall and the leaves hang on longer than most red maples. Scanlon has a pyramidal form and Armstrong and Bowhall are slender and upright. Garling is a broad pyramidal and Telford is globe shaped.

White birch are small decorative trees that reach about 40 feet in height. The varieties pendula, Tristis, and Youngii have slender pendulous branches. Fastigiata is a narrow upright form, and laciniata has finely cut, lacy leaves. Purple splendor and purple glory have purple leaves.

Another good tree choice is the little leaf linden (*Tilia cordata*) which has small heart-shaped leaves. Chancellor and Greenspire are narrow and upright and Pyramidalis spreads wide.

The popular flowering trees each are available in numerous varieties, too. Choose the shape and size that fits the space you have. Varieties have been selected for special flower color or other flower characteristics as well as size and shape of the tree.

Twig Pruners At Work?

Twig pruners may be the culprits if you have been plagued by a scattering of fresh twigs on your lawn during the past several weeks.

According to Michigan State University entomologists, twig pruners are small borers that live in the center of small, growing, tree twigs. When the borers are fully grown they partially cut the twig and then wait for a strong breeze to break off the weakened twig.

The borers hibernate in the fallen twigs during the winter and emerge as beetles the following summer.

Oak, hickory, maple and elm trees are the varieties commonly attacked by the twig pruner. This damage will not kill trees but can thin the tree canopy by pruning out small twigs.

To find out if twig pruners are causing your lawn cleanup problem, carefully split several of the fallen twigs and look for the borer.

Putting an end to twig pruner problems is best accomplished by burning all the fallen twigs. This breaks the insects' life cycle and reduces the number of beetles emerging next year.

Garden Reminders

It's late now to plant evergreens because they don't have time to make good root growth before winter. . . This is the ideal time to plant deciduous trees and shrubs. Their roots will grow some this fall and more in the spring before the leaves come out. . . It is safe to transplant large trees even during the winter. When the ground is frozen a truck can deliver the tree to the planting spot and not damage the lawn. Dig the hole in advance and fill it with straw or leaves. . . Finish planting bulbs. . . Remove spent plants from the garden and do a general cleanup.

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