

# ROOT RIVER SWCD CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



Hello from Root River SWCD! This year we have reduced the size of our newsletter. This is due to having a conservation insert coming out in the Fillmore County Journal in December. Keep an eye out for this special insert. It will contain a wealth of conservation information and cost share opportunities.

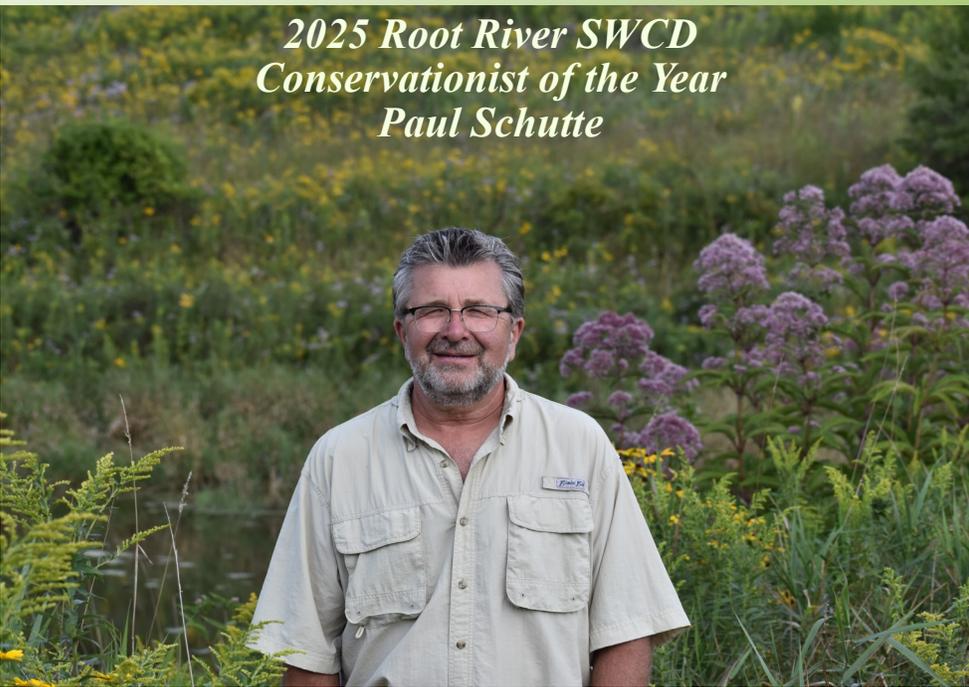
Feel free to contact us at any time with your conservation resource needs/concerns, (507) 724-5261 extension 3.

NOVEMBER 2025

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## 2025 Root River SWCD Conservationist of the Year Paul Schutte



*Root River SWCD is proud to announce Paul Schutte as the 2025 Conservationist of the Year.*

*Paul owns 220 acres in Houston Township that have been dedicated solely to conservation. Since he began his conservation endeavor, in 2003 and being a huge advocate for implementing conservation practices, Paul has added eight ponds, numerous native grass and shrub plantings, wind breaks and vast amounts of timber stand improvements on his property. These are all best management practices that promote soil and water quality. Paul has also dedicated his property to promoting and creating as much plant and wildlife species diversity his land will hold.*

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Root River SWCD

Office Location:

805 N. Hwy. 44/76, Suite 1

Caledonia, MN 55921

HOURS

7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday—Friday

(507) 724-5261 ext. 3

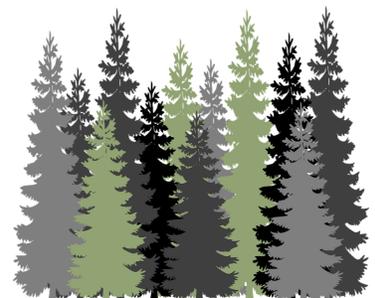
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departments/soil-and-water/](https://www.co.houston.mn.us/departments/soil-and-water/)

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### *Schutte Property in Mound Prairie Township*

*Paul manages his lands via prescribed burning which he has had great success with over the years. He has his entire property on a rotation to ensure there is always some management being done each year.*

*Paul is the President of the SE Quail Forever Chapter and is always looking for ways to spread the word on the importance of conservation. He has hosted field days for the local school districts to educate the youth in the area on these importances as well. He is always willing to offer knowledge he has acquired over the two decades of this endeavor. He will tell you the many great things he has seen change in his landscape, but also, what he would have done differently along the way. His door is always open to anyone who is curious about implementing practices that will benefit the landscape for all.*

*Paul is most proud of his recent success hosting two pairs of Red Headed Woodpeckers on his property and watching their young.*

*Congratulations!*



## Driftless Area Climate Change Projections for Tree Species

The Driftless Area's forests will be affected by climate change and other stressors during this century. An assessment put together by a team of researchers describes the vulnerability of forests in the Driftless Area. It includes information on observed and future climate trends and summarizes key vulnerabilities. The Landscape Change Research Group recently updated the Climate Change Tree Atlas, [www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/](http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/).

The updated Tree Atlas presents information helpful to interpret tree species changes. It includes a tree's suitable habitat, adaptability, migration potential and capability. The assessment shows the following trees with a good climate change capability along with a high to medium adaptability (ability to respond favorably to disturbance making a specie adaptable to future stressors) include American Elm, Bitternut Hickory, Black Oak, Black Walnut, Bur Oak, Eastern Cottonwood, Eastern Red Cedar, Green Ash, Hackberry, Honey Locust, Ironwood, Northern Red Oak, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple and White Oak.

The assessment model projections can't account for all factors that influence future species success.

The Root River SWCD has several of these species available. If you are interested in a specie not listed on our order form feel free to contact us at (507) 724-5261 ext. 3

S	P	R	U	C	E	T	R	L	B
R	J	B	D	W	V	F	G	I	U
U	I	A	C	A	C	I	A	N	S
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S	T	R	E	E	Y	P	I	E	O
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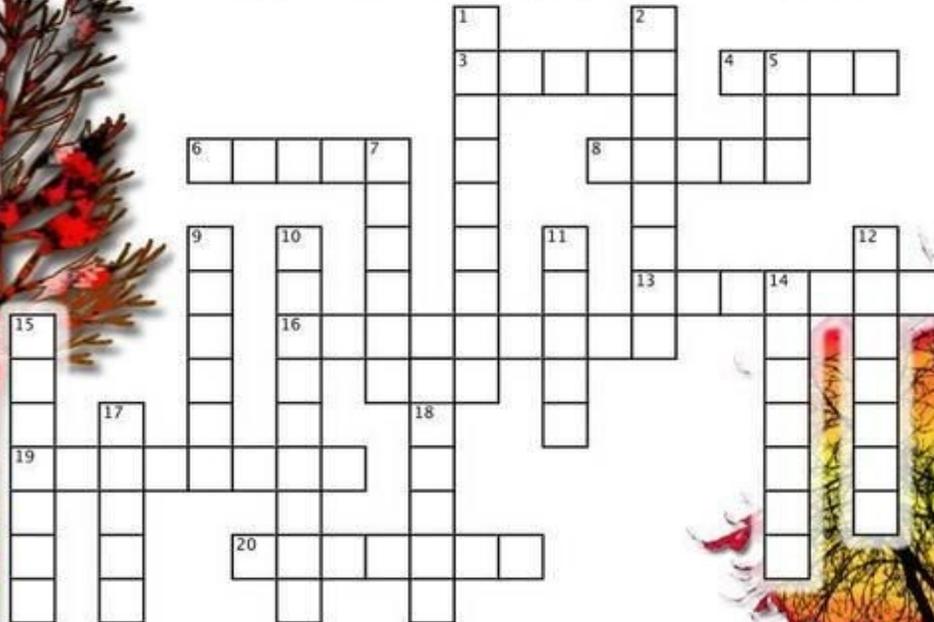
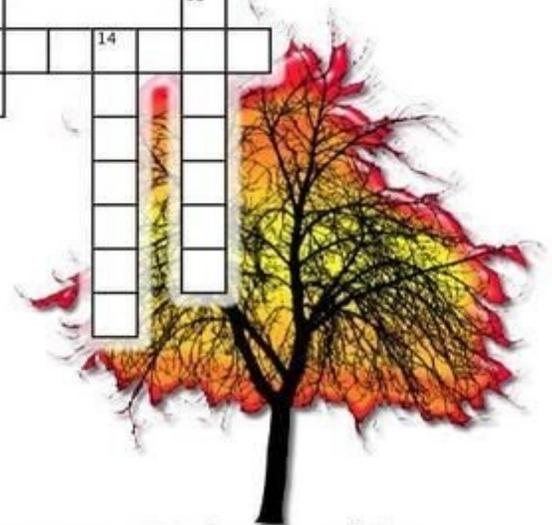
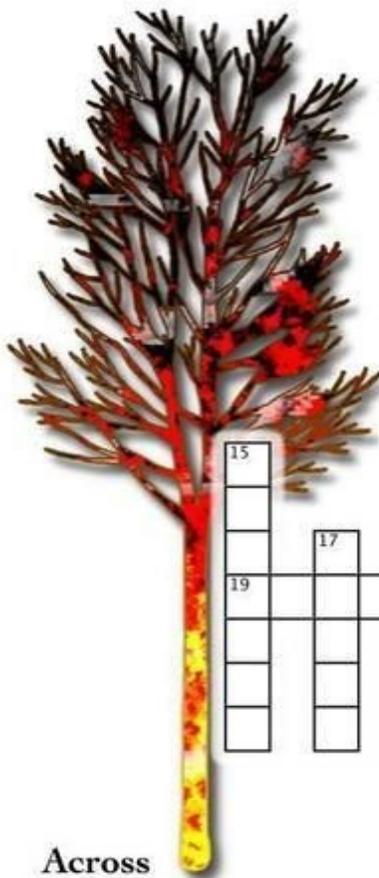
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O	C	N	A	L	E	C	B	C	D
O	E	I	P	Y	G	L	R	E	S
H	D	V	B	O	H	U	J	U	A
S	A	C	A	C	A	I	A	C	A
U	I	B	B	W	A	B	R	J	B
B	L	R	E	C	U	R	P	R	S





# Fall Crossword Puzzle

Trees and their fruits are the focus of this fun puzzle!



### Across

- 3. The spiky partner of the Ivy from the holiday song.
- 4. You've got to hand it to Florida for picking this as their State tree!
- 6. This tree grows in Indiana, not Amsterdam! It's the State tree.
- 8. Looks like an evergreen, but loses its leaves.
- 13. This giant is the State tree of California.
- 16. Shellfish meets orchard fruit?
- 19. A horse doesn't eat them, despite the name; this tree is also known as the conker tree.
- 20. I've no "eye-deer" why they thought this tree's fruit looked like a mammal's optical organ!

### Down

- 1. We harvest young Fir, Spruce and Pine trees at this time.
- 2. The seeds of this tree whirl down to earth like miniature helicopters!
- 5. If you burn the wood of this tree, you're left with its name.
- 7. This tree sounds like it has a lot of friends...
- 9. The tree's not built from bricks and the nuts are hard to crack.
- 10. All trees which lose their leaves are called this.
- 11. The tree we get syrup from.
- 12. Four-legged friends might be tempted to tinkle on the State tree of Missouri.
- 14. This Willow doesn't really have much to cry about.
- 15. If there's a shortage of coffee, then the root of this tree is roasted and ground as a bitter-tasting substitute.



# The Tree

The oak tree is the undisputed king of the Western world. It is known for its lobed leaves and the large cap of its acorn, a nut found on all trees of the genus *Quercus*. The tree's main trunk grows upward and branches out toward the top. Oaks are a large group, containing many types of deciduous trees. Under optimal conditions oaks can grow to a height of more than 130 feet (40 m) and live an average of 600 years.

The leaves absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and produce sugars by means of photosynthesis

Transpiration (the loss of water vapor) in the leaves pulls the xylem sap upward

## Flowers

The tree produces hanging male flowers, whereas female flowers are hidden among the leaves.



## Buds

Are formed by protective scales that fall off in the spring. They grow into new leaves and branches.



## Trunk

Is strong & grows straight upward. The top of the tree widens with branches, which may be twisted, knotted or bent.



Bark Growth Rings

**Climate** – Trees grow in any place where there is sufficient water in the soil



**Spring** – The cycle begins as the first leaves appear

**Summer** – The oak blossoms, increases in height and its bark grows

**Autumn** – Low temperatures weaken the branches



The xylem transports water & minerals from the roots to the rest of the tree.

**Winter** – The leaves fall away; the tree is dormant until spring

## Leaves

One leaf per stem on alternating sides of the twig. Have rounded lobes on either side of the main vein.

**Summer** – The leaves undertake photosynthesis & the rest of the tree uses the sugars it produce.

**Autumn** – The cells at the end of each leaf stem weakens

**Winter** – The leaf falls away and the tree remains dormant

**Spring** – New leaves begin to replace the old ones.

**600 years**  
THE AVERAGE LIFE SPAN OF AN OAK

## Beginnings

In first year of life the roots can grow nearly 5 feet.

**Acorn** – dark stripes along length, caps have scales.



## Seeds

Some species have a sweet tastings seed; others are bitter.

## Oak-Tree Products

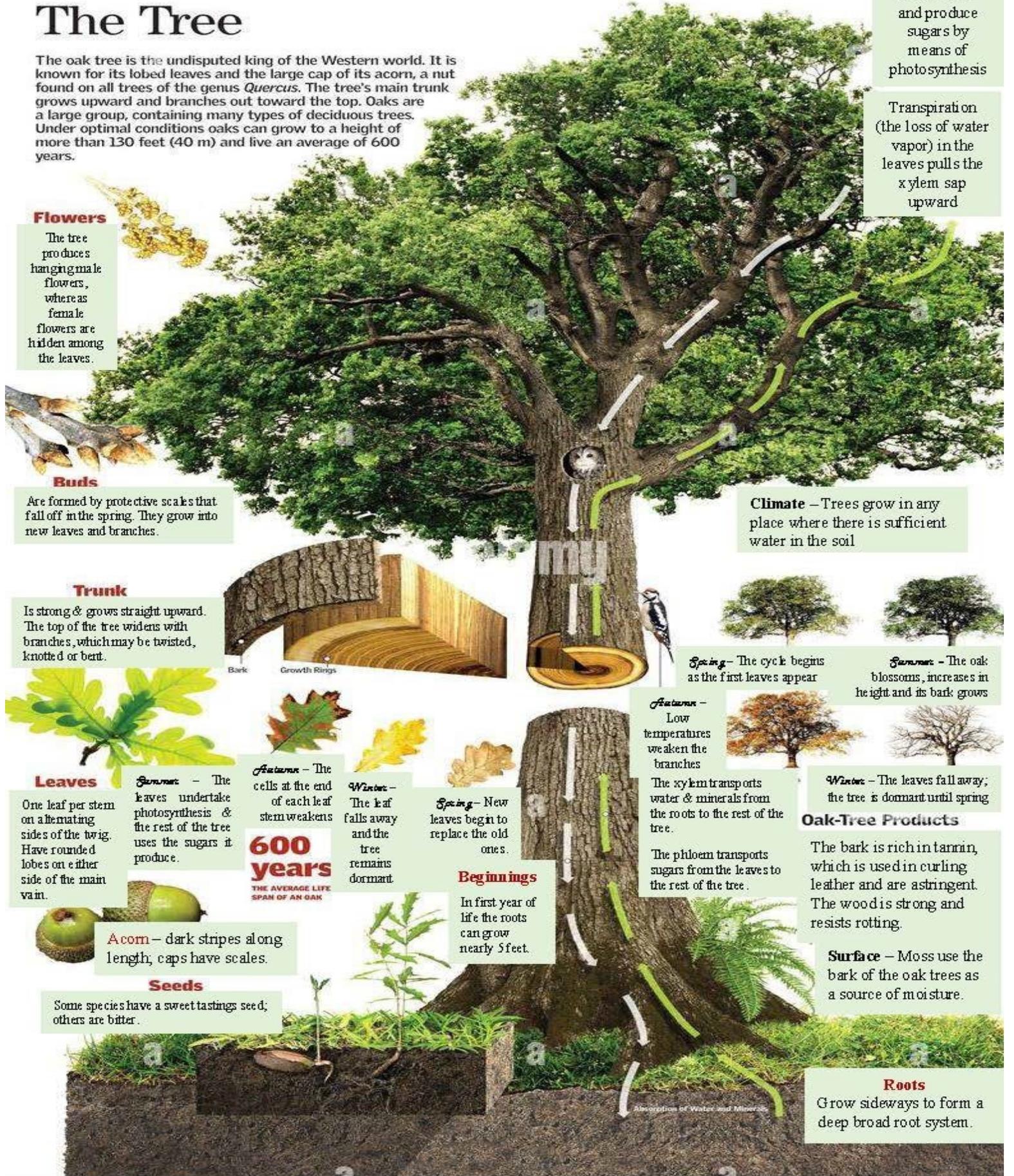
The bark is rich in tannin, which is used in curling leather and are astringent. The wood is strong and resists rotting.

**Surface** – Moss use the bark of the oak trees as a source of moisture.

## Roots

Grow sideways to form a deep broad root system.

Absorption of Water and Minerals





**CONIFERS - TRANSPLANTS**

Variety	Size	Maturity Size	Description
Pine, Norway (Red Pine)	10' - 20'	75 - 100'	 Needles are 4 - 6" long, flexible, and a dark yellow-green color. Prefers well-drained, moist soils, but will tolerate dry conditions. Prefers full to partial sun. Growth spread ranges from 50 - 75'. Fast growth rate
Pine, White Eastern	10' - 20'	50 - 75'	Needles are 3-5" long, very soft and flexible, bluish-green in color. Grows well in rich, moist soil, but does best in moist, sandy loams. Full sun to partial shade. Growth spread ranges from 20 - 40'. Medium growth rate (12 - 24" per year). Good lumber tree. Also, good for wildlife habitat. Used in windbreaks, to block farm odor, screens and shade. Soft, picturesque tree.
Spruce, Colorado	7" - 15"	70 - 100'	1" - 1 1/2" needle all shades of blue and green with very sharp tips. Prefers well-drained, moist soils but will tolerate dry conditions. Moderately tolerant of shade. Provides a 20-35' growth spread. Medium growth rate.
Spruce, Norway	10' - 14'	40 - 100'	Full sun and drought tolerant 20-50' growth spread. Does well in dry, moist or wet conditions. Fastest growing spruce. Dense draping branches. Needles are 1/2 to 1" long. Not native.
Spruce, White	7" - 15"	50 - 80'	 Needles are 1/3 - 3/4" long. Tolerant of shade. Does best in moist, well-drained, gravelly soils. Drought sensitive. Good wildlife cover and useful windbreak tree. Medium growth rate.
Fir, Balsam	12" - 18"	50 - 75'	Shade tolerant with 20-30' growth spread. Prefers moist, wet regime. Sensitive to drought. Bears small cones. Slow growth rate.

**DECIDUOUS TREES**

Variety	Size	Maturity Size	Description
Oak, Red	10' - 18'	60 - 80'	Fastest growing Oak. Does best on moist or well-drained sites in full to partial sun. Valuable wood products tree. Acorns provide excellent wildlife food source. Fall color is red to a winter bronze.
Oak, White	10' - 16'	50 - 80'	Does best in slightly moist to well-drained sites and full sun. Acorns provide excellent wildlife food source. Brown, purple autumn foliage. May hold some leaves over winter. Excellent firewood & valuable wood products tree. Slow growth rate.
Walnut, Black	10' - 22'	70 - 100'	A large tree with medium green, compound leaves. Does best on rich, deep, fertile, well-drained soils. Requires full sun. Widely planted and highly regarded for top quality lumber. Excellent food source for wildlife. Yellow fall color. Rapid growth rate.
Maple, Sugar	10' - 18'	50 - 75'	Brilliant orange red fall color. Tolerates shade. Thrives on fertile moist and well drained soils. Collect sap in the spring for your own maple syrup. Valuable for wood products and excellent firewood. Slow growth rate.

**SHRUBS**

Variety	Size	Maturity Size	Description
Serviceberry	10' - 16'	Height: 6 - 20' Spread: 6 - 20'	Growth Rate: medium (12 - 24" per year) Sun: sun or partial shade Soil: acidic, moist to well-drained Fall Color: yellow, orange or red Flowering Dates: late March - May with white flowers Seed/Fruit: red-purple berries fruiting June - August Uses: Planted on rocky, wooded slopes and along streams; good songbird and wildlife food; edible to humans and taste similar to a blueberry. Also known as Juneberry.
Cranberrybush <i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	12' - 18'	Height: 8 - 12' Spread: 8 - 10'	Growth Rate: moderate Sun: sun to partial shade Soil: clay, loam, sand Flowering: white flat clusters in May to mid-June Fruits: Red berry bunches form by August and can be harvested in autumn. Fall Color: red to purplish leaves similar to a soft maple leaf Uses: food & cover for birds and pollinators. Used for stream bank stabilization, erosion control on low/moist ground, hedges or a windbreak. Planting Tips: As a hedge where a mid-size tall screen is desired, plant 4 feet apart. Best to plant more than one to avoid poor fruit production.
Crabapple, Red Splendor	12' - 18'	Height: 20 - 25' Spread: 20'	Growth Rate: fast Sun: full sun Soil: sandy loam to clay loam Flowering: pink spring flowers Fruits: red fruit from spring through winter. Uses: high wildlife rating Planting Tip: Should have moderate drainage with dry, moist or wet moisture regime.
Ninebark, Common	10' - 16'	Height: 6 - 10' Spread: 6 - 12'	Growth Rate: fast (24" + per year) Sun: sun to part shade Soil: moist to moderately dry, alkaline or clay Flowering: small pink or white five petal flowers appearing in dense flat rounded 1-2" dia. spine-like clusters in late spring Fruits: drooping clusters of reddish fruit (inflated seed capsules) Leaf Structure: shallow lobed leaves up to 3" long Fall Color: yellow Uses: valuable nectar source for pollinators. Noted for its exfoliating bark which peels in strips to reveal layers of reddish to light brown inner bark providing winter interest.
Dogwood, Red Osier	10" - 24"	Height: 4 - 5' Spread: 6 - 12'	Growth Rate: fast Sun: full sun Soil: tolerates almost any location, growing in moist soils Flowering: red stems with white flowers Fruits: white berries. Uses: effective bank cover holds soil wall. Excellent wildlife food source and cover. Red twigs create winter color.
Plum, Wild	10' - 24'	Height: 10 - 15' Spread: 10 - 15'	Growth Rate: fast (24" or more per year) Sun: full sun to slight shade Soil: rich, moist to well-drained, acid Tolerate: walnut toxicity, occasional drought, dry, alkaline, and clay soils (intolerant to soil salt & salt spray) Fall Color: reddish to yellow Flowering Dates: March-May; white flowers Seed Dispersal Dates: June-October; purple, edible fruit Uses: Edible fruit that is good for jams and jellies. Good wildlife food and cover, especially good nesting habitat for rarer songbirds. Provides food for bees and many butterfly species.
Lilac, Common Purple	12' - 18'	Height: 8 - 15' Spread: 5 - 12'	Growth Rate: medium Sun: full sun Soil: well-drained Flowering Dates: late April - early May; deep purple to wine red, sweetly fragrant, single flowers with white edges arranged in dense, pyramidal terminal clusters (panicles) Uses: Excellent fresh cut flower; perfect for border, screens or windbreaks. Good for wildlife cover.

**HOW MANY TREES DO I NEED & HOW FAR APART DO I NEED TO PLANT THEM?**

Windbreaks/Shelterbelts - Shrubs: 6 ft. apart in rows, Trees: 15 ft. apart in rows (Rows should be 15 - 20 ft. apart). Wildlife Planting - Mixed plantings of shrubs & trees average 10 ft. apart in rows and between rows (about 500 seedlings per acre). Fiber Production - Average spacing of 8 ft. apart in rows and nine feet between rows (about 700 seedlings per acre).



**Root River Soil and Water Conservation District  
TREE ORDER – SPRING 2026**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONIFERS – TRANSPLANTS** (Tree information can be found on back side.)

Variety	Type	Min. Size	Price of 25	# of Bundles	Extended Price	Total # of Trees (# of bundles x 25)
Pine, Norway	3-0	10" – 20"	\$ 45.00			
Pine, White	3-0	10" – 20"	\$ 45.00			
Spruce, Norway	3-0	10" – 14"	\$ 45.00			
Spruce, Colorado	TR 2-2	7" – 15"	\$ 45.00			
Spruce, White	TR 2-2	7" – 15"	\$ 45.00			
Fir, Balsam	TR 2-3	12" – 18"	\$ 53.00			

**DECIDUOUS TREES** (Tree information can be found on back side.)

Variety	Type	Min. Size	Price of 25	# of Bundles	Extended Price	Total # of Trees (# of bundles x 25)
Oak, Red (Northern)	Seedling 3-0	10" – 18"	\$ 42.50			
Oak, White	Seedling 3-0	10" – 16"	\$ 42.50			
Walnut, Black	Seedling 2-0	10" – 22"	\$ 42.50			
Maple, Sugar	Seedling 2-0	10" – 18"	\$ 42.50			

**SMALL TREES & SHRUBS** (Tree information can be found on back side.)

Variety	Type	Min. Size	Price of 25	# of Bundles	Extended Price	Total # of Trees (# of bundles x 25)
Serviceberry	Seedling 2-0	10" – 16"	\$ 41.00			
Cranberrybush	Seedling	12" – 18"	\$ 41.00			
Crabapple, Red Splendor	Seedling	12" – 18"	\$ 41.00			
Ninebark, Common	Seedling 1-0	10" – 16"	\$ 41.00			
Dogwood, Red Osier	Seedling 2-0	10" – 24"	\$ 41.00			
Plum, Wild	Seedling 2-0	10" – 24"	\$ 41.00			
Lilac, Common Purple	Seedling	12" – 18"	\$ 41.00			

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Item	Price	Qty	Extended Price
Flags, Fluorescent Pink Bundle of 100	\$ 14.00		

Sub total \_\_\_\_\_  
 MN State Sales Tax 6.875% \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Trees \_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ Trees will be sold on a first come first serve bases.
- ✓ Trees usually arrive late April. We will send out a post card or e-mail notifying you of pick-up dates.
- ✓ Call our office to check on tree availability, (507) 724-5261 ext. 3.
- ✓ Special ordering available upon request.
- ✓ We purchase good stock, but make no survival guarantee.
- ✓ Payment is due in full with order. Make checks payable to: Houston County Treasurer

Mail to: Root River SWCD Phone: (507) 724-5261 Ext. 3  
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 Caledonia, MN 55921