# Trees in North Dakota



### Tree Anatomy Basics

### Trees

Deciduous (Sheds leaves annually)
 Coniferous



• Coniferous (Cone Bearing )



## Deciduous Conifer

Siberian Larch

Picture Credit: yorktonnews.com



## Parts of a Tree (Forest Service)

- A: The **outer bark** is the tree's protection from the outside world. Continually renewed from within, it helps keep out moisture in the rain, and prevents the tree from losing moisture when the air is dry. It insulates against cold and heat and wards off insect enemies.
- B: The inner bark, or "phloem", is pipeline through which food is passed to the rest of the tree. It lives for only a short time, then dies and turns to cork to become part of the protective outer bark.
- C: The cambium cell layer is the growing part of the trunk. It annually produces new bark and new wood in response to hormones that pass down through the phloem with food from the leaves.
- D: Sapwood (Xylem) is the tree's pipeline for water moving up to the leaves. Sapwood is new wood. As newer rings of sapwood are laid down, inner cells lose their vitality and turn to heartwood.
- E: Heartwood is the central, supporting pillar of the tree. Although dead, it will not decay or lose strength while the outer layers are intact. A composite of hollow, needlelike cellulose fibers bound together by a chemical glue called lignin.
- Leaves make food for the tree.





Plants are autotrophic (Create own food)They create their own food through Photosynthesis.Carbon Dioxide, Water, Sunlight

Xylem (Sapwood) transports water up to leaves where they obtain carbon dioxide through leaf openings (Stomata).

Leaves synthesize sucrose and transport down by way of Phloem (inner bark)



Picture Credit: imgkid.com

### Why do trees have a difficult time growing in North Dakota?

## **Basic Biomes**

Tundra Taiga Deciduous Forest **Grasslands** Desert High Plateaus Tropical Forest Finding a tree for that location... Not a location for that tree. (Start with location)

Hardiness Zone
 Soils
 Wet Vs. Dry ground area
 General area

(What zone are you in?)Alkali (high pH)Vs. Acidic (low pH)

Power Lines? Mature Tree height/width



## Zone 3

Zone 4



# Shelterbelts



## Shelterbelt History

1930's – "Dust Bowl" 1930's- Great Depression

1935 U.S. Forest Service undertakes Prairie States Forestry Project initiated by President Franklin D Roosevelt.

"In 1935, the U.S. Forest Service undertook the largest tree-planting effort ever conducted, the Prairie States Forestry Project. During the next eight years, with labor provided by the Works Project Administration (WPA), more than 222 million tree seedlings were planted, creating in excess of 18,500 miles of shelterbelts."

-James R. Brandle University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Brandle, James R., D. L. Hintz, and J. W. Sturrock. Windbreak Technology. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., 1988. Droze, Wilmon H. Trees, Prairies, and People: A History of Tree Planting in the Plains States. Denton: Texas Woman's University Press,

Howe, J. A. G. "One Hundred Years of Prairie Forestry." Prairie Forum 11 (1986): 243-51.

# Types of shelterbelts

Windbreaks Wind Erosion Pollinator Trees Snow Control Wildlife Enhancement Privacy Ornamental or Environmental Importance of Shelterbelts

Reduce wind erosion

Reduce wind around farmsteads

Provide habitat and food for wildlife

Aid pollinating insects

**Provide Privacy** 

Aid in snow control

# Shelterbelt Resources

USDA - NRCS (Natural Resources conservation Service)

**US Forest Service** 

NDSU

Local Soil Conservation Districts

North Dakota Forest Service

-Windbreak renovation program

### NRCS Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG)

Soil groups ranging from 1 through 10 with subgroups. Determines soil textures, pH, salinity, and sodicity.

# Shelterbelt design





Photos: USDA NRCS

Common North Dakota Trees

### Green Ash

#### • Susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer -----





#### 2 Photos: USDA



#### American Elm

### 







2 Photos:

Forest Service

---Flagging

### Chokecherry

#### Native Species

#### Edible Fruit



Caragana
 Drought-tolerant
 Alkaline soil tolerant



Picture Credit: zahradnictvi\_cervena.cz

Colorado Blue Spruce
Drought tolerant
Prefer heavier soils
Average moisture



Scotch Pine
Hardy
Prefer heavier soils
Fast growing



#### Photo: OhioDNR

Ponderosa Pine
Drought resistant
Native Species
Competes well with grass



• Paper Birch

Prefers moist areas

#### Does not tolerate drought

Native Species



- Quaking Aspen
- Prefers moist areas
- Leaves shimmer due to flattened petioles.



American Plum
Native Species
Edible fruit
Bushy tree



Rocky Mountain Juniper
Native Species
Come in variety of forms
Good windbreak or animal cover



• Burr Oak

Long-living

**Native Species** 

Abundant in Turtle Mountains and Sheyenne river valley



#### • Russian Olive



- Russian olive is native to Europe and western Asia.
- Tree was widely used in North Dakota shelterbelts.
- Said to be likely planted in every North Dakota county.
- Very Hardy and tolerant.

#### • NOT NATIVE





- Buffaloberry
   Thorny
   Native Species
   Edible berries
  - Tolerates heavy clay soils



• Photo: Wikipedia

Juneberry
Edible fruit
Native Species
Prefers moisture
Medium – Large Shrub



Siberian Larch
Looses needles each fall
Grows rapidly
Drought tolerant



Photo: NDSU

Common Lilac
 Medium – Large shrub
 Showy, fragrant flowers



#### Photo: Flickr

### • Sandcherry

Native Shrub Edible fruits

#### Photo: USDA



Boxelder
Native Species
Prefers ravines, hillsides, coulees



• Crabapple

#### Attracts wildlife



#### • Willow

Native and non-native species

Low, wet areas



#### • Hawthorn

Dense low-branched tree Attracts wildlife Native and non-native species



- Ironwood (Hophornbeam)
   Prefers moist areas
- Native Species



• Redosier Dogwood

Native Species

Multi-stemmed shrub

Red bark provides color in winter



Cottonwood

Native Species

Large tree

#### Can irritate allergies



• Smooth Sumac

Native Species

Common in Sheyenne River valley



• Photo: minnisotawildflowers.info

When Buying trees Types of Planting Stock

Bare Root

Balled-in-Burlap (B&B)

Container

## Planting Stock Sources

Local Nursery or Garden Center

-Bailey's Nursery

Mail order

-Jung's

**Conservation Stock** 

-Towner State Nursery



North Dakota Tree Handbook NDSU

https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/trees/handbook/ndhand-1.htm

USDA NRCS Plants Database

<u>https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/</u>

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