

# **Legacy Tree Program**

**Colerain Township  
Parks & Services Department**

## *Acer rubrum* – red maple



Red maple is a deciduous, native Ohio tree which will typically grow 40-60' tall with a rounded to oval crown. Leaves are shiny green above and pale green beneath, 3-5 lobed and 3-6" across. Species name of *rubrum* (meaning red) is everywhere in evidence: red flowers in dense clusters in late March to early April (before the leaves appear), red fruit (initially reddish, two-winged samara), reddish stems and twigs, red buds, and, in the fall, orange-red foliage color. Quality of fall color may vary considerably. Many cultivars with excellent, more reliable fall color are available. Grows faster than Norway and sugar maples, but slower than silver maple. Cultivars include: *Acer rubrum* 'Autumn Flame', *Acer rubrum* 'Franksred' RED SUNSET, and *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory'.

## *Amelanchier laevis* – Allegheny serviceberry



Allegheny serviceberry is a small, deciduous, usually multi-trunked understory tree or tall shrub. It typically grows 15-25' (less frequently to 40') tall. Features showy, 5-petaled, slightly fragrant, white flowers in drooping clusters which appear in early spring (April) before the leaves. Flowers give way to small, round, edible berries which ripen to dark purplish-black in June (hence the sometimes common name of Juneberry) and resemble blueberries in size, color and taste. Finely-toothed, obovate leaves emerge with a bronzy-purple tinge in spring, mature to lustrous dark green in summer and turn red-orange in fall

## *Cladrastis kentukea* – yellowwood



Yellowwood is a medium growing, deciduous tree of the legume family which features a broad, rounded crown and typically grows 30-50' tall. Pinnately compound leaves (usually with 7-11 leaflets) open as yellowish green, turn bright green in summer, and then turn yellow in fall. Tree may not flower for the first 8-10 years, but once the bloom begins, it can be spectacular. Intensely fragrant, wisteria-like, white flowers in large, drooping, terminal panicles (10-15" long) will virtually cover a mature tree in late spring (profuse bloom in alternate years). Flowers give way to flat, brown seed pods (2.5-4" long) which mature in September-October. Wood of this tree contains a yellow dye which distinctively colors the heartwood and gives rise to the common name of yellowwood. *Cladrastis lutea* and *Cladrastis kentuckea* are synonymous

## *Cornus kousa* var. *chinensis* – Chinese dogwood



Chinese dogwood is a small, deciduous, flowering tree or large multi-stemmed shrub which typically grows 15-30' tall with a vase-shaped habit in the early years, maturing to a rounded habit. The showy parts of the Chinese dogwood "flower" (3-5" across) are the four white, petal-like, pointed bracts which surround the center cluster of insignificant, yellowish-green, true flowers. Bloom occurs in late spring (several weeks after flowering dogwood). Flowers are followed by berry-like fruits (to 1" in diameter) which mature to a pinkish red in summer and persist into fall. Fruits are edible, but are usually left for the birds. Dark green foliage turns reddish purple to scarlet in autumn.

## *Cornus mas* - cornelian cherry dogwood



Cornelian cherry dogwood is a multi-stemmed, low-branching, round to oval, deciduous shrub which typically grows 15-20' (infrequently to 25') tall. Features tiny, yellow, star-like flowers borne in umbels which appear in late winter to early spring before the foliage. Flowers give way to tiny red drupes which mature in summer.

## *Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King' - green Hawthorne



This cultivar is one of the best hawthorns for landscape purposes. A small deciduous tree with a rounded, vase-shaped habit which typically grows 25-35' tall. Features profuse white flowers which appear in May in 2" diameter clusters and toothed, elliptic, glossy green leaves (to 3.5" long) which turn red to purplish red in fall. Small, crabapple-like fruits (1/3" diameter) mature in fall to a bright red and persist throughout the winter. Fruits are technically edible, but are best left for the birds. Stems are an attractive silver-gray. The bark of older trunks often exfoliates to expose an orangish-brown inner bark. Unlike most hawthorns, this cultivar is largely spineless. *Crataegus* in Greek means flowering thorn.

## *Koelreuteria paniculata* – golden rain tree



Golden rain tree is a small, open-branching, irregularly-shaped, deciduous tree with a rounded crown which typically grows 30-40' tall and as wide. Features pinnate or bipinnate, feathery, compound leaves (to 18" long), each leaf having 7-17 irregularly lobed leaflets. Leaves emerge pinkish bronze to purplish in spring, mature to a bright green in summer and turn yellow (quality variable) in fall. Bright yellow flowers (1/2" wide) appear in early summer in long, terminal, panicles (12-15"). Falling blossoms may or may not resemble "golden rain", but the fallen blossoms often form an attractive golden carpet under the tree. Flowers give way to interesting, brown, papery seed capsules which somewhat resemble Chinese lanterns.

## *Liquidambar styraciflua* – sweet gum



Sweet gum is a low-maintenance deciduous shade tree that is native to Ohio. It typically grows to 60-80' (less frequently to 120') tall with a straight trunk. Habit is pyramidal in youth, but it gradually develops an oval-rounded crown as it matures. Glossy, long-stalked, deep green leaves (4-7" across) have toothed margins. Each leaf has 5-7 pointed, star-shaped lobes. Leaves are fragrant when bruised. Fall color at its best is a brilliant mixture of yellows, oranges, purples and reds. Branchlets may have distinctive corky ridges. Non-showy yellow-green flowers appear in spherical clusters in April-May. Female flowers give way to the infamous gum balls which are hard, spherical, bristly fruiting clusters to 1.5" diameter. *L. styraciflua* 'Rotundiloba' is a fruitless cultivar of this magnificent tree. The common name of sweet gum refers to an aromatic balsam or gum that exudes from wounds to the tree. This gum has been used in the past for a variety of purposes, including chewing gum, incense, perfumes, folk medicines and flavorings. Tree wood has been widely used for a number of applications including flooring, furniture and home interiors.

## *Liriodendron tulipifera* – tulip tree



Tulip tree or yellow poplar is a large, stately, deciduous tree of eastern North America that typically grows 60-90' (less frequently to 150') tall with a pyramidal to broad conical habit. Trunks of mature trees may reach 4-6' in diameter, usually rising column-like with an absence of lower branching. It is named and noted for its cup-shaped, tulip-like flowers that bloom in spring. Flowers are yellow with an orange band at the base of each petal. Although the flowers are 2" in length, they can go unnoticed on large trees because the flowers appear after the leaves are fully developed. Sometimes the flowers are first noticed when the attractive petals begin to fall below the tree. Flowers are followed by dry, scaly, oblong, cone-shaped brown fruits, each bearing numerous winged seeds. Four-lobed bright green leaves (to 8" across) turn golden yellow in fall. Wood is used for furniture, plywood, boatbuilding, paper pulp and general lumber. Native Americans made dugout canoes from tulip tree trunks. This is the state tree of Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana. Genus name comes from Greek *leirion* (lily) and *dendron* (tree). *Tulipifera* means tulip bearing.

## *Nyssa sylvatica*- black gum



Black gum is a slow-growing, deciduous, tree which occurs in a wide range of soils. A stately tree with a straight trunk and rounded crown (more pyramidal when young) that typically grows 30-50' tall, but occasionally to 90'. Primarily dioecious (separate male and female trees), but each tree often has some perfect flowers. Small, greenish-white flowers appear in spring on long stalks (female flowers in sparse clusters and male flowers in dense heads). Although flowers are not showy, they are an excellent nectar source for bees. Flowers give way to oval, 1/2" long fruits which are technically edible but quite sour. Fruits mature to a dark blue and are attractive to birds and wildlife. Spectacular scarlet fall color. Obovate to elliptic, entire to slightly toothed leaves (to 5" long) are dark green above and paler below. Sometimes commonly called black tupelo or sour gum.

## *Picea abies* – Norway spruce



Norway spruce is a pyramidal evergreen tree which typically matures to 40-60' tall in cultivation in North America, but may reach 200' tall in the wild in its optimum native growing environments in Europe. Stiff dark green needles (to 3/4" long). Pendant seed cones (4-7" long) are reddish-brown. Pendulous branchlets distinguish this species from native American spruces. The trees in front of the Colerain Township Parks Department offices are Norway spruces.

## *Pinus strobus* – eastern white pine



Eastern white pine is a rapid-growing, long-lived, needled evergreen tree that is native to the northeastern United States and Canada (State tree of Maine and Michigan). Although pyramidal in its early years, it matures to a broad oval habit with an irregular crown. Typically grows 50-80' in cultivation, but will grow to 100' tall in the wild, with records existing to over 200'. Bluish green needles (to 5" long) are soft to the touch and appear in bundles of five. Cylindrical, brown cones ( 4-8" long) are usually not produced until 5-10 years.

## *Quercus rubra*- red oak



A medium sized, deciduous tree with a rounded to broad-spreading, often irregular crown. Typically grows at a moderate-to-fast rate to a height of 50-75' (often larger in the wild). Dark, lustrous green leaves (grayish-white beneath) with 7-11, toothed lobes which are sharply pointed at the tips. Leaves turn brownish-red in autumn. Insignificant flowers in separate male and female catkins appear in spring. Fruits are acorns (with flat, saucer-shaped cups) which mature in early fall. An abundant crop of acorns may not occur before this tree reaches 40 years old. An Ohio native tree which is also commonly called northern red oak.

## *Sophora japonica* – Japanese pagoda tree



Japanese pagoda tree is native to China and Korea, but not Japan. It is a medium to large deciduous tree that typically matures to 50-75' (less frequently to 100') tall with a broad rounded crown. It is generally cultivated for its attractive compound foliage and fragrant late summer flowers. Pinnate leaves (to 10" long), each with 7-17 oval, lustrous, dark green leaflets, remain attractive throughout the growing season. Leaves retain green color late into fall, resulting in no fall color or at best an undistinguished greenish yellow. Small, fragrant, pea-like, creamy white flowers (each 1/2" long) bloom in late summer in sweeping terminal panicles to 12" long and to 12" wide. Flowers fall to the ground around the tree after bloom covering the ground with a blanket of white. Flowers give way to slender, 1- to 6-seeded, knobby, bean-like pods (to 3-8" long) that mature to brown in fall and persist into winter. Although not native to Japan, the specific epithet and common name seem to recognize the early use of the tree in Japan around Buddhist temples. This tree is also commonly known as Chinese scholar tree