



# Shelterbelt Species Quick Facts

## 2024

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## Conifer Trees

### Colorado Spruce (Blue Spruce)

*Picea pungens*

People are attracted to the distinctive blue-green colour of this hardy evergreen. But Blue Spruce really stands out because it is tough, long lived, and adapted to a wide range of growing conditions. Blue Spruce trees are ideally suited for use in shelterbelts, privacy screens, or as accent trees. Seed propagated.

**Zone:** 2a                      **Height:** 27 m (90 ft)                      **Spread:** 6 m (20 ft)  
**Moisture:** dry, normal    **Light:** full sun                      **Growth rate:** slow  
**Life span:** long            **Maintenance:** low                      **Suckering:** none  
**Pollution tolerance:** high  
**In row spacing:** 3 - 4 m (10 - 12 ft)            **Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)  
**Other names:** Colorado blue spruce, Colorado spruce



### White Spruce

*Picea glauca*

White Spruce is a hardy, long-lived evergreen tree. It can grow in many soil types and moisture levels. And it can even tolerate significant amounts of shade. White spruce requires little maintenance and is well suited for use in shelterbelts, privacy screens, hedges, and as an ornamental in an urban setting. Benefits from some shelter in early years. Seed propagated.

**Zone:** 1a                      **Height:** 25 m (82 ft)                      **Spread:** 6 m (20 ft)  
**Moisture:** dry, normal    **Light:** partial shade, full sun                      **Growth rate:** medium  
**Life span:** long            **Maintenance:** low                      **Suckering:** none  
**Pollution tolerance:** medium  
**In row spacing:** 3 m (10ft)            **Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)  
**Other names:** Alberta white spruce, Canadian spruce, cat spruce, labrador spruce.



### Scots Pine

*Pinus sylvestris*

Scots Pine is a hardy, adaptable evergreen. This large tree has an oval crown and distinctively orange bark when mature. Scots Pine prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil. It is the most common pine tree used in shelterbelts and windbreaks. Scots Pine is also occasionally used as a Christmas tree variety. Seed propagated.

**Zone:** 2a                      **Height:** 15 m (49 ft)                      **Spread:** 5 m (16 ft)  
**Moisture:** dry, normal    **Light:** full sun                      **Growth rate:** medium  
**Life span:** long            **Maintenance:** low                      **Suckering:** none  
**Pollution tolerance:** medium  
**In row spacing:** 3 - 4 m (10 - 12 ft)            **Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)  
**Other names:** scotch pine





## Jack Pine

*Pinus banksiana*

Jack Pine is a cold tolerant native species that can survive on dry, sandy, or gravelly sites. Similar to Scots Pine, though somewhat larger, Jack Pine is known for its yellow-green needles, spreading crown, and irregular form. If you have a tough site to plant, this tree may be right for you. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 1a	<b>Height:</b> 20 m (66 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 8 m (25 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> dry, normal	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Growth rate:</b> fast
<b>Life span:</b> long	<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> none
<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> medium		
<b>In row spacing:</b> 3 - 4 m (10 - 12 ft)	<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)	



## Lodgepole Pine

*Pinus contorta*

Lodgepole pine is well suited to western Canada's climate and growing conditions. This native pine is noted for its rapid growth among evergreens. And as one of Canada's hardiest conifers, it can tolerate cold, shade, drought, and poor soil conditions. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 1a	<b>Height:</b> 30 m (98 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 6 m (20 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> dry, normal	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Growth rate:</b> fast
<b>Life span:</b> very long	<b>Suckering:</b> none	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> medium
<b>In row spacing:</b> 3 - 4 m (10 - 12 ft)	<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)	



## Deciduous Conifer Trees

### Siberian Larch

*Larix siberica*

Siberian larch is a large, cold hardy deciduous conifer. Like the Tamarack, its needles turn golden yellow and drop in the fall, and it is able to handle saturated soils. If you are looking for a long-lived tree for your large property or shelterbelt with quite wet soil, this is the tree for you. This variety is often used on the south side of a shelterbelt to let sunlight in during the winter and to provide protection or shading during the summer. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 1b	<b>Height:</b> 20 m (66 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 8 m (25 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> normal, wet	<b>Light:</b> partial shade, full sun	<b>Growth rate:</b> slow
<b>Life span:</b> medium	<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> none
<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> low		
<b>Fall Colour:</b> yellow needles, loses needles		

**Other names:** altaian larch, russian larch



## Tamarack

*Larix laricina*

Small to medium-sized native deciduous conifer tree featuring needles that turn an attractive gold before dropping in the fall. This cold-tolerant tree grows well in very wet conditions, as long as it is exposed to full sun. Performs best on moist, well drained soil. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 1a	<b>Height:</b> 15 m (49 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 4 m (12 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> any	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Fall colour:</b> yellow needles
<b>Growth rate:</b> medium	<b>Life span:</b> long	<b>Maintenance:</b> low
<b>Suckering:</b> none	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> medium	

**Other names:** American larch, American tamarack, hackmatack, native larch, tamarack larch



## Deciduous Trees

### Okanese Hybrid Poplar

*Populus X Okanese*

Okanese Poplar is an excellent shelterbelt tree. It's one of the hardiest and fastest growing trees you can plant on the prairie. This hybrid poplar is disease resistant, drought and cold tolerant, produces no fuzz, and requires little maintenance. Okanese poplar also makes for a good privacy screen on larger properties.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 18 m (60 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 8 m (26 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> any	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Hybrid:</b> yes
<b>Fuzz/fluff:</b> no	<b>Growth rate:</b> very fast	<b>Life span:</b> medium
<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> high	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high
<b>In row spacing:</b> 2.4 - 3 m (8 - 10 ft)		<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)



### Green Alder

*Alnus Crispa*

Green Alder is a cold hardy, native shrub. It is often planted on infertile sites so it can fix nitrogen from the air and improve the soil quality. Green Alder is known for its smooth grey bark and attractive shiny green leaves; it is commonly used in reclamation. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 1a	<b>Height:</b> 7 m (23 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 3 m (10 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> any	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Fuzz/fluff:</b> no
<b>Growth rate:</b> fast	<b>Life span:</b> short	<b>Maintenance:</b> low
<b>Suckering:</b> high	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> medium	
<b>In row spacing:</b> 0.9 m (3 ft)		<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)



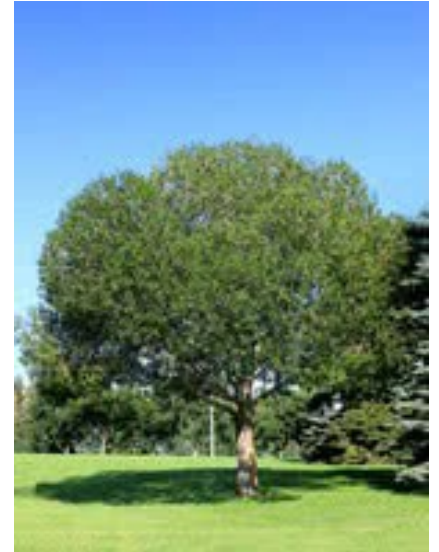


### Laurel Leaf Willow

*Salix Pentandra*

Round-shaped tree with attractive dark green leaves. This cold hardy tree can withstand bitter winters and still put on lots of growth every summer. Laurel Leaf Willow prefers moist to wet ground and full sun, though it can tolerate partial shade too. This species is also known as one of the more salt-tolerant species for those with saline soils. Willows are important to native pollinators each spring as they have higher amounts of pollen and nectar early each growing season when other food sources are scarce. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 2b	<b>Height:</b> 15 m (49 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 8 m (25 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> normal, wet	<b>Light:</b> partial shade, full sun	<b>Fuzz/fluff:</b> yes
<b>Catkins:</b> yes	<b>Growth rate:</b> fast	<b>Life span:</b> medium
<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> medium	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high
<b>In row spacing:</b> 2.4 - 3 m (8 - 10 ft)		<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)
<b>Other names:</b> bay willow, bay-leaf willow, laurel willow		



### Golden Willow

*Salix alba vitellina*

An attractive accent tree that's perfectly suited for those moist or wet areas on your property. The fast growing tree has glossy narrow leaves that turn gold in fall, furrowed brown bark and showy gold branches that especially stand out in the winter. Golden Willow is commonly used for windbreaks, shelterbelts, and ornamental planting. Golden Willow attracts a variety of birds and mammals with its twigs and buds. Seed propagated.

**\*Do not plant near buildings of buried services\***

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 15 m (49 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 15 m (50 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> normal, wet	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Fuzz/fluff:</b> yes
<b>Catkins:</b> yes	<b>Fall colour:</b> golden yellow	<b>Bark:</b> bright yellow
<b>Growth rate:</b> fast	<b>Life span:</b> medium	<b>Maintenance:</b> low
<b>Suckering:</b> medium	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high	
<b>In row spacing:</b> 2.4 - 3 m (8 - 10 ft)		<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)
<b>Other names:</b> basket willow, blue willow, cricket bat willow, duck willow, velvet osier, white osier, white willow		



### Acute Willow

*Salix acutifolia*

Acute Willow is a very fast growing small tree that can reach growth rates of up to 6 feet per year. It's a great choice for developing a quick, hardy shelterbelt, windbreak, or privacy screen. Acute Willow will grow multi-stemmed but can be pruned to a single stem for a smaller footprint. It prefers moist areas and requires almost no maintenance. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 12 m (40 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 11 m (35 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> normal, wet	<b>Light:</b> partial shade, full sun	<b>Fuzz/fluff:</b> yes
<b>Catkins:</b> yes	<b>Bark:</b> younger branches are bright brown-red	
<b>Growth rate:</b> fast	<b>Life span:</b> short	<b>Maintenance:</b> low
<b>Suckering:</b> low	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> medium	
<b>In row spacing:</b> 2.4 m (8 ft)		<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)
<b>Other names:</b> acute leaf willow, acute leafed willow, long-leaved violet willow		



## Deciduous Shrubs

### Villosa Lilac

*Syringa villosa*

Villosa Lilac is a relatively large and cold hardy shrub. It provides excellent privacy and wind protection. Its fragrant, pin flowers grow in clusters at the end of its branches during mid to late summer and fade to a light pink over time. Grows quickly and is drought resistant, making it suitable for the outer row of a shelterbelt. Roots are non-suckering, and it does not compete with nearby crops. Villosa Lilac is relatively salt tolerant. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 5 m (16 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 3 m (10 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> dry, normal	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Growth rate:</b> medium
<b>Life span:</b> medium	<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> low
<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high	<b>Flowers:</b> fragrant purple clusters	
<b>In row spacing:</b> 0.9 m (3 ft)	<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)	



### Common Lilac

*Syringa vulgaris*

Common Purple Lilac is a popular lilac. This large shrub provides excellent privacy or wind protection in an attractive package. Lilac flowers are pleasantly fragrant and add a beautiful lavender colour to your property. Common Purple Lilac is cold hardy, easy to grow, and can tolerate most soil types. Seed propagated. Some people alternate villosa and common purple lilacs to create the impression that the hedge is in flower for almost a full month with the common purple flowering about 2 weeks sooner than the Villosa Lilac.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 5 m (16 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 2.7 m (9 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> dry, normal extremely fragrant	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Flowers:</b> dark purple,
<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Growth rate:</b> fast	<b>Life span:</b> medium
<b>In row spacing:</b> 0.9 m (3 ft)	<b>Suckering:</b> medium	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high
	<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)	



### Canadian Buffaloberry

*Shepherdia canadensis*

Native deciduous shrub found throughout North America. This hardy, medium-sized shrub will tolerate poor soil conditions and produces attractive, edible-though very bitter- red fruit. Nitrogen fixer so grows well on low fertility areas. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 1a	<b>Height:</b> 3 m (10 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 1.8 m (6 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> dry, normal (edible)	<b>Light:</b> partial shade, full sun	<b>Berries:</b> red bitter berries
<b>Flowers:</b> tiny, red	<b>Growth rate:</b> fast	<b>Life span:</b> short
<b>Maintenance:</b> low medium	<b>Suckering:</b> none	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b>

**Other names:** foam berry, russet buffaloberry, soap berry, soapberry, soopolallie





### Common Saskatoon

*Amelanchier alnifolia*

Common Saskatoon is a native shrub that's famous for its great-tasting fruit. The berries are terrific for fresh eating and cooking. The Saskatoon bush itself can be quite large and produces an abundance of fruit. Saskatoons are hardy and can tolerate partial shade and a variety of growing conditions. Good drought tolerance. Found on all types of soils except poorly drained and heavy soils. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 1a	<b>Height:</b> 1-6 m (3-20 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 2.7 m (9 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> normal	<b>Light:</b> partial shade, full sun	<b>Berries:</b> Purple-blue
<b>Brix (sugar):</b> 14	<b>Firmness:</b> Firm	<b>Growth rate:</b> medium
<b>Life span:</b> short	<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> medium

**Pollution tolerance:** low

**Other names:** alder-leaf shadbush, dwarf shadbush, pacific serviceberry, pigeon berry, western juneberry, western serviceberry



### Choke cherry

*Prunus virginia*

Shrub or small tree commonly used for farmstead and field windbreaks. It produces white flowers in the spring and edible dark purple fruit that matures between September and October. Its cherries are great for making jams, jellies, or wine, but not very palatable for raw eating. Found in open areas of the boreal region. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 7 m (23 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 5 m (16 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> dry, normal	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Fall colour:</b> reddish-purple
<b>Growth rate:</b> fast	<b>Life span:</b> short	<b>Maintenance:</b> low
<b>Suckering:</b> low	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> medium	

**Berries:** edible, astringent, red-purple      **Toxicity:** toxic to horses, cattle, etc.)

**Other names:** bitter-berry, common chokecherry, virginia bird berry



### Blueberry

*Vaccinium myrtilloides*

Low growing branched shrub. August maturing berry that is wonderfully flavourful and contain more antioxidants by volume than the highbush varieties. They'll give your baked goods a wonderful pop of flavour. One of the only varieties that survive in plant hardiness zones 1A to 2B. Seed propagated.

\*Require very specific soil conditions. They need well drained soil with a pH between 4.5 and 5.0\*

<b>Zone:</b> 1a	<b>Height:</b> 0.5 m (1.5 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 0.5 m (1.5 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> dry, normal	<b>Light:</b> partial shade, full sun	<b>Berries:</b> blue
<b>Firmness:</b> medium	<b>Flavor:</b> tart	<b>Harvest:</b> late summer
<b>Flowers:</b> white	<b>Growth rate:</b> medium	<b>Life span:</b> short
<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> none	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> low

**Fall colour:** yellow, orange, and red

**Other names:** Canadian blueberry, sourtop blueberry, velvetleaf blueberry, velvetleaf huckleberry





### High Bush Cranberry

*Viburnum opulus*

Highbush Cranberry produces attractive white flowers in late June and bears edible fruit that matures to a bright red colour in the late summer. This shrub, native to much of Canada, is fast growing, and its fruit can be eaten raw or cooked into a sauce. Shade tolerant, often found in the understory. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 4 m (13ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 2.7 m (9 ft)
<b>Fall Colour:</b> red	<b>Berries:</b> red	<b>Flowers:</b> white clusters
<b>Growth rate:</b> medium	<b>Life span:</b> medium	<b>Moisture:</b> normal
<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> none	<b>Light:</b> partial shade, full sun
<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high		
<b>In row spacing:</b> 0.6 m (2 ft)	<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)	

**Other names:** American cranberrybush, viburnum, kalyna



### Pin Cherry

*Prunus pensylvanica*

Pin Cherry is a small tree that produces clusters of white blossoms in spring followed by bright red berries that ripen through the summer. The attractive red color of the leaves in the fall is an added bonus. The fruit is quite sour when eaten fresh but is excellent when cooked into jam or jelly. Birds love the berries and will be attracted to your property. Seed propagated.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 9 m (30 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 5 m (16 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> normal	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Fall Colour:</b> very bright
orangish-red	<b>Berries:</b> red	<b>Flowers:</b> white
<b>Bark:</b> reddish brown	<b>Growth rate:</b> fast	<b>Life span:</b> short
<b>Maintenance:</b> medium	<b>Suckering:</b> low	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b>
medium		

**Other names:** bird cherry, fire cherry, red cherry, wild red cherry



### Beaked Hazelnut

*Corylus cornuta*

Beaked Hazelnut is a multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub native to North America. It features smooth, grey bark and edible nuts. Beaked Hazelnut prefers a rich sandy-clay loam but will grow on poorer sites and can be used as an understory shrub. Important food source for squirrels and wildlife. Seed propagated. Note: You want more than one hazelnut to improve yields.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 5 m (15 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 2.1 m (7 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> dry, normal	<b>Light:</b> partial shade, full sun	<b>Nuts:</b> small
<b>Growth rate:</b> medium	<b>Life span:</b> medium	<b>Maintenance:</b> low
<b>Suckering:</b> low	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> medium	

**Other names:** beaked hazel



Landscape Species (different price ranges on order form)

### Mugo Pine

*Pinus mugo*

The Mugo Pine is a smaller evergreen that is commonly seen in small city lots or up against houses or commercial buildings. Its slow growth allows for a long life without ever getting too large. Mugo Pine is an extremely hardy, adaptable evergreen. 2-year-old seedlings, grown from seed in a greenhouse.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Height:</b> 2.4 m (8 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 2.7 m (9 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> normal	<b>Light:</b> full sun	<b>Growth rate:</b> slow
<b>Life span:</b> long	<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> none
<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high		

**Other names:** mountain pine, Swiss mountain pine

### American Plum

*Prunus americana*

Short and stout fruit trees native to North America. This hardy ornamental is excellent for both city dwellings as well as rural areas. During the spring, the white and pink blossoms are long lasting. The tasty fruit is suitable for fresh eating, baking, and preserves. Commonly used as rootstock and as pollinators for other plum varieties. Greenhouse grown from seed. Near universal pollinator for plum varieties.

<b>Zone:</b> 2b	<b>Height:</b> 5 m (15 ft)	<b>Spread:</b> 4 m (12 ft)
<b>Moisture:</b> normal, wet	<b>Light:</b> partial shade, full sun	<b>Fall Colour:</b> yellow and gold
<b>Flowers:</b> white	<b>Bark:</b> grey and scaly with age	<b>Growth rate:</b> fast
<b>Life span:</b> medium	<b>Maintenance:</b> low	<b>Suckering:</b> high
<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high		

**Other names:** black plum, Canada plum, horse plum, wild plum

