

AMERICAN HAZELNUT

The American Filbert is a multi-stemmed shrub with a rounded top and an open, often wide-spreading base. Because of its size and versatility, it has the personality of a **problem-solver**, and is one to enjoy **innovation**. It adapts well to naturalizing and other non-formal areas and is **eager to improve its surrounding**. Hazelnuts have a talent for seeing possibilities for improvement, whether in the wild or in domesticated areas. In 2 to 3 years after planting, the Hazelnut bears annual, abundant crops of small, sweet tasting nuts. The nuts are easy to crack and drop free of the husk when mature.



AMERICAN PLUM

A small tree that grows to 30 feet in height. In the spring, its white clustered flowers are **vivacious entertainers** who charm and engage those around them. After charming you with their flowers, if you are patient, this spontaneous, energetic, and fun-loving tree will charm you with its yellow and red fruit. As the Plum ages the branches become spiny with prominent corky ridges. Nevertheless, the fun-loving effervescence of this tree is always a delight and an inspiration as it often forms large colonies by suckering from the roots.



BLACK CHERRY

Black Cherry is a large, native tree found in the Midwest and throughout the eastern United States. The Black Cherry are innovators, motivated to find new solutions to challenging problems. The showy white flowers appear as pendulous clusters in early spring, followed by dark, pea-sized fruits in late summer. They are curious and clever, and seek to explore new areas and new systems. They entice birds with their sweet fruit and then the seeds enjoy a sort of roller coaster ride through the bird's digestive system until there are deposited in new territories such as fence rows and other roosting spots. Black Cherry understand ecosystems and the principles that surround them and they rarely turn away an opportunity to flourish in new surroundings. The mature bark is dark and scaly, often compared to burned potato chips.



BLACK GUM

As an adult the Black Gum is a fine landscape tree with outstanding fall color. However, it starts life as shy, small, and reticent. For the Black Gum possibilities are paramount; the reality of the moment is only of passing concern. Black Gums survive because they are imaginative idealists, guided by their own core values. Early on their few friends, mainly bees who enjoy their nectar, are the ones that begin to see their potential. Eventually, the gum tree matures with a refreshing ability to poke fun at itself. They persist in spring and summer and in the fall of the year they share magnificent colors of red, crimson, yellow and orange. Black gums are ones to see a better future, and pursue truth and meaning with their own flair. Their idealism is reflected in very sour berries that are super nutritious and eaten by many birds and animals. The Black Gum are common trees in southern Indiana, but as our climate warms they will become more at home in northern Indiana.



BLACK WALNUT

Black Walnuts are hardworking traditionalists, eager to take charge in organizing projects. On the surface they don't look appealing, however when crafters examine their interior, they are found to have depth and great character. Orderly, rule-abiding, and conscientious, they like to get things done and may often go unnoticed until you move in next to them. Black walnuts are highly selective and they are picky about the neighbors they choose. They produce juglone, a chemical that is toxic to some nearby competitor plants. Their leaves have a feathery appearance of a white ash or a black locust. Each fall they are among the first to sacrifice their leaves to prepare for the upcoming winter. They are caretakers, feeding humans and animals alike. Black Walnuts have a unique sense of humor as they enjoy watching humans and animals struggle to remove with their dark-staining, strong-smelling, juicy husk and a hard shell before they allow access to their edible, nourishing meats.



BUR OAK

Slow and steady, drought tolerant, it comes into its own late, stately and grand. There is really nothing much to notice about a bur oak early on, other than that it will begin to produce a knobby, warty kind of bark between four and seven years of age, the way some teenagers get an unfortunate dose of acne. Otherwise, it's just a tree, going about its tree business, not really concerned about what anyone else thinks of it. Bur Oaks do not push the boundaries, and they are **very adaptable to clay and alkaline soils.**

A deep cap, conspicuously fringed at the margin, encloses 1/2 or more of the acorn. Its acorns are the largest of all native oaks, up to 1.5 inches long, and are important wildlife food. And this is pretty much the way it goes about its life for 40, 50, 60 years. But then there comes a slow dawning moment, when someone looks up at this tree, says "When did all that happen? When did that tree become so stately, so grand, so...amazing?" And after that, no one will remember that for most of its life it was just a very unremarkable brown tree with green leaves.



CHINKAPIN OAK

A worthy specimen, Chinkapin Oaks seek visibility in larger lawns, estates, or parks. They are strategic leaders, motivated to organize change in the landscape. They are quick to see inefficiency of monoculture landscapes and they work hard to attract insects and birds that will diversify the surrounding ecosystems. They produce 1" sweet acorns that mature in a single season and their acorns are at the top of the food preference list for many wildlife species.

A medium to large size oak with glistening dark green leaves in summer turning yellow-orange to orangish-brown in fall, they quickly implement long-range plans to accomplish their vision to develop a diverse ecosystem. The bark is an ashy light gray that breaks into narrow, thin flakes. As this species matures, it becomes a magnificent specimen and a conversation piece. They derive their name "Chinkapin" from the Algonquian word for the American Chestnut, a tree with similar shaped leaves.



COMMON CHOKECHERRY

A large, deciduous shrub or small understory tree, Chokecherry are activity centered creators. With a focus on possibilities and a contagious enthusiasm for new activities, they often grow 20-30 ft. tall. Energetic, warm, and passionate, they often form thickets, and offer a warm hospitality that helps other plants to feel at home next to them. They provide safe space for other plants to explore their creative potential. Dense clusters of white flowers are followed by red fruit ripening to dark purple from August to September. As the common name suggests, chokecherries are astringent or puckery, but their gracious hospitality helps others to overlook this minor personality quirk.



EASTERN RED CEDAR

EASTERN RED CEDAR are innovators and wanderers, wanting to understand the unifying themes of life, in all their complexity. They have a wide natural distribution, and they grow in both large groups and in isolation. They prefer sun but they are fascinated by and find many types of landscapes suitable. As young trees, they are pyramidal. The foliage becomes bronzy in winter on male trees and silver blue on female. They freely share as their fruits are eaten by many wildlife species who distribute their seed to many settings. But unlike some of their Cedar cousins they punish any predator trying to eat their leaves with miserable sharp jabs and barbs to tender and vulnerable tongues. They tend to be carefree and have little concern about holding onto the past as they quickly shred any bark that is not needed. Their wood is surprisingly fragrant and used to make cedar-lined chests and boxes.



Elderberry

Elderberries are conscientious helpers, sensitive to the needs of others and energetically dedicated to their responsibilities. The elderberry family spans the globe with its dark purple berry of the black elder tree, which grows in the warmer parts of Europe, North America, Asia, and Northern Africa.

Elderberries are gifted healers providing tinctures and potions for anyone who seeks healing. They are highly attuned to their environment and its midsummer blossoms dispense an aroma that calls all living things to take a moment to inhale and savor the moment. Elderberries are attentive to the needs of others and offer their small berries to all who are in need. For centuries elderberry has been used as a dietary supplement and used to treat colds, flu and other health conditions.



FLOWERING DOGWOOD

The flowering dogwood is a creative nurturer producing “showy white petals. They dot the landscape and hide in among larger wooded areas. They are dedicated to providing spring color with showy white flowers. Despite often being dwarfed by larger trees they have a strong sense of personal integrity and a drive to provide spring color and to help other trees reach their potential. Creative and dedicated, its fruits are clusters of green berries which ripen to bright red in autumn. The dogwood demonstrates a talent for helping others to look and be their personal best.



PAWPAW

Pawpaw's are energetic thrill seekers growing in fence lines and populating the edges of wooded areas. Their trees are small, and grow in clusters in the forest floor. They spread by sending out surface roots and they produce shoots from the roots. The pawpaw finds it gratifying when people and animals turn away in disgust when noticing the flowers which smell like rotting meat. Their scent is weak, attracting few pollinators, thus limiting fruit production. Its flowers are pollinated by carrion flies and beetles. Pawpaw fruit is large, 3 to 4 inches long, is initially green, then ripens to yellow or brown. Pawpaw fruit is edible and its flavor is similar to banana and mango. Using their uniquely tasting fruit they bring a sense of dynamic energy to their interactions with others and the world around them.



PECAN

The largest member of the hickory family, Pecans are industrious and loyal to traditions and organizations. They are practical, waiting many years to produce fruit until they have developed a solid root system and grown to a significant height. They compassionately allow smaller trees and bushes to grow in and around them. Its natural range is primarily the lower Mississippi River Valley, but it is found in southwestern Indiana and with climate change it is finding northern Indiana ecosystems to be a hospitable environment.



PERSIMMON

Persimmons are gentle caretakers who live in the present moment and enjoy their surroundings with cheerful, low-key enthusiasm. Their ability to thrive in poor soil demonstrates their flexible, “like to go with whatever life has to offer” attitude. They often send out suckers from surface roots to form thickets. Although their fruits look luscious, they ask that you they gently ask that you wait to eat the fruit until after a frost when they become quite delicious. Otherwise, you will find yourself looking for a safe place to expel the bitter fruit. The bark of these trees has an “alligator hide”, scaly look. In retirement they often spend their summers in manicured, irrigated landscapes and their winters in dark basements or cold garages as their wood is used for golf club heads. Nevertheless, they maintain an irrepressible cheerfulness as they await warmer weather.



RED OAK

The red oak is a responsible organizer, driven to create and enforce order within the forest ecosystems. Their leaves have 7 to 11 inches deep wavy lobes and are narrower and more deeply lobed than Black Oak. Like a gentleman's striped trousers, the bark has ridges that have shiny vertical stripes down the center that run all the way down the trunk. When it rains, like many other oaks, the leaves, twigs and branches are perfectly angled to channel water from the leaves to twigs to small branches to the trunk where the water is channeled to the root system. Once in the root system, water is stored until needed in dryer seasons. Red Oaks are neat and orderly, inside and out, and tend to have a procedure for everything they do. Their acorns are 1 inch long, round, and require 2 years to reach maturity and ripen in fall.



White Oak

Like their oak relatives, the white oak is a responsible organizer, driven to create and enforce order within the forest ecosystems. They approach their environments with a flexible logic. Their leaves have rounded lobes along edges, sometimes shallow, sometimes deep, depending on whether the leaves are in the sun or shade. They like to live in communities and share resources through an underground network of roots and fungal networks in which they share their resources with other oaks who may be struggling. The bark is light gray, shallowly fissured into long plates or ridges that come off. Their acorns are long and thin, enclosed by a shallow cup. Acorns germinate shortly after falling from tree. In their adulthood the white oak is a majestic tree that can live up to 900 years if the living environment is respected.



White Oak leaves have different shapes, depending on whether they grow in the sun (left) or shade (right)

Shagbark Hickory

Despite its unkempt appearance, shagbark hickories are idealist and organizers, driven to implement their vision of what is best for the forest ecosystems. They are not found in pure stands, but instead are usually scattered throughout a forest of oaks, pines, and maples. They often act as catalysts for growth because of their ability to see potential in other species. The leaves are pinnately compound, 8-14" long, End leaflets are usually much larger than other leaflets. The fruit is a nut with a hard outer husk that splits open when ripe. Black bears, foxes, mice, chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, and a number of birds enjoy the nuts every fall. Shagbark hickories reach maturity and start producing seeds at around 40 years old. The average lifespan is 200 years, but some longer-lived shagbarks can continue to produce seeds until age 300. The bark is very shaggy, peels off in long vertical strips from the ends but stays attached in the middle. Bats and insects are known to live in and find refuge the shaggy loose bark ends.



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