



What is a Giving Tree?

A Giving Tree is a tree that is a host to one of the most widely recognizable insect orders in the world, the Lepidoptera order, which includes butterflies and moths.

The term Giving Tree was developed by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful staff to highlight examples of the importance of intentionally planting types of trees that complete and support the lifecycles of organisms at the base level of our food chain.

AMERICAN ELM

Ulmus americana

Mature Height: 60 – 80 Feet
Crown Spread: 40 – 70 Feet
Flower: Insignificant
Sun: Full Sun
Native: Eastern North America



Description: Large deciduous tree that grows best in medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Hardy and adaptable these trees thrive in urban settings. Small green flowers appear in spring before foliage emerges and become seeded wafer-like whirlybirds.

BUR OAK

Quercus Macrocarpa

Mature Height: 60 - 80 Feet
Crown Spread: 60 - 80 Feet
Flower: Insignificant
Sun: Full Sun
Native: Eastern & Central U.S.
& Canada



Description: Medium to large sized deciduous oak of the white oak group with a broad-spreading, rounded crown. Produces small oval acorns with fringed, burry cups that are an important source of food for wildlife.

CHOCKECHERRY

Prunus virginiana

Mature Height: 20 – 30 Feet
Crown Spread: 15 – 20 Feet
Flower: Showy, Fragrant
Sun: Full Sun / Part Shade
Native: North America



Description: Small deciduous tree with an irregular, oval-rounded crown. Fruits are edible, but are astringent and better used processed into jams, jellies, pies and sauces. Fruits are very attractive to many birds and animals.



EASTERN WHITE PINE

Pinus Strobus

Mature Height: 50 – 80 Feet
Crown Spread: 20 – 40 Feet
Flower: Showy
Sun: Full Sun / Part Shade
Native: Eastern U.S. & Canada



Description: Rapid-growing, long-lived, needled evergreen tree that grows well in acidic, medium moisture soils. Once an important timber tree for its lightweight, straight-grained wood these trees are attractive homes to birds today.

NORTHERN PECAN

Carya illinoensis

Mature Height: 75 – 100 Feet
Crown Spread: 40 – 70 Feet
Flower: Insignificant
Sun: Full Sun
Native: North America



Description: Large deciduous lowland tree that is the largest of the hickories with a large rounded spreading crown. Leaves are odd-pinnate, compound leaves with 9-17 pointed leaflets. Flowers give way to edible nuts, pecans, and fall when ripe.

NORTHERN RED OAK

Quercus rubra

Mature Height: 50 – 75 Feet
Crown Spread: 50 – 75 Feet
Flower: Insignificant
Sun: Full Sun
Native: Eastern North America



Description: Medium sized, fast-growing deciduous tree with a rounded to broad-spreading, often irregular crown. Acorns with flat, saucer-shaped cups mature in early fall, though not usually until after the tree reaches 40.

QUAKING ASPEN

Populus tremuloides

Mature Height: 20 - 50 Feet
Crown Spread: 10 - 30 Feet
Flower: Insignificant
Sun: Full Sun
Native: United States



Description: Medium sized deciduous tree best known for its beautiful white bark, its deep green foliage. Best grown in rich, consistently moist soils in cool climates this tree has the widest geographical distribution of any North American tree.



RIVER BIRCH *Betula nigra*

Mature Height: 40 – 70 Feet
Crown Spread: 40 – 60 Feet
Flower: Showy
Sun: Full Sun / Part Shade
Native: Eastern U.S.



Description: Vigorous, fast-growing, medium-sized, deciduous tree grown best in moist, fertile soils including semi-aquatic conditions. Salmon-pink to reddish brown bark exfoliates to reveal lighter inner bark. Attractive to a variety of birds.

SUGAR MAPLE *Acer saccharum*

Mature Height: 40 – 80 Feet
Crown Spread: 30 – 60 Feet
Flower: Insignificant
Sun: Full Sun / Part Shade



Description: This large growing deciduous tree is responsible for giving New England its reputation for spectacular fall color. Long-lived, these trees grow relatively slowly, usually fastest in the first 35 years.

SWAMP WHITE OAK *Quercus bicolor*

Mature Height: 50 - 60 Feet
Crown Spread: 50 - 60 Feet
Flower: Insignificant
Sun: Full Sun
Native: Northeastern
North America



Description: Medium sized, deciduous tree with a broad, rounded crown and a short trunk. Leaves are dark, shiny green above and silvery white beneath. Fall color is yellow, but sometimes reddish purple. Attractive to birds.