

Trees of Minnesota

Eastern White Pine

Location: New England, Lake, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic States (In Minnesota, white pine is prominent throughout the northern, central and eastern parts of the state.)

Wood Properties: fine, uniform texture; straight grain; light; soft; low in shock resistance and strength; easily kiln-dried

Uses: lumber; patterns for castings; doors; furniture; knotty paneling; shade and map rollers

Full Size: 80-100 feet in height, up to 2-3.5 inches in diameter, maximum 220 feet in height and 6 feet in diameter



Red (Norway) Pine

(Minnesota State Tree)

Location: Southeastern Canada, Lake States and Northeastern U.S. (In Minnesota, Norway pine can be found in many parts of northern and northeastern regions of the state.)

Wood Properties: moderately uneven grain; light; hard and strong

Uses: timber for heavy and general construction

Full Size: 70-80 feet in height, 2-3 feet in diameter



Balsam Fir

Location: Northeastern U.S., Lake States; Canada. (In Minnesota, balsam fir can be found in the northern part of the state and a few scattered locations in the southeastern corner.)

Wood Properties: medium texture; moderately uneven to even grain; weak, soft and brittle

Uses: lightweight construction lumber; pulpwood; packing cases; especially important as Christmas trees

Full Size: 40-60 feet in height, 12-18 inches in diameter, small to medium-size tree



Northern White Cedar

Location: Maine, Lake States.

(In Minnesota, white cedar are native to the northern part of the state.)

Wood Properties: light; soft; weak; low in shock resistance; easily worked; highly decay resistant; fragrant; leaves are scale-like and flattened

Uses: poles; cross ties; lumber; posts; decorative fencing

Full Size: 40-50 feet in height, 12-24 inches in diameter; medium-size tree



Black Spruce

Location: Found mainly in the northern and northeastern parts of Minnesota, as far south as northern Anoka County.

Wood Properties: Yellowish-white; light; soft; medium strong

Uses: Used more extensively for paper pulp than any other tree. Also used extensively for Christmas trees.

Full Size: 25-65 feet in height; 6-12 inches in diameter; small to medium-size tree; Black Spruce is the most important pulpwood species in Canada and is also commercially important in the Lake States, especially Minnesota



Jack Pine

Location: Canada, Northeastern U.S. and Lake States. (In Minnesota, jack pine are found in abundance in north central and northeastern regions of the state.)

Wood Properties: coarse texture; moderately light and soft; moderately low in bending strength; low in shock resistance

Uses: pulpwood; construction; boxes; crates; posts; mine timbers; railway ties and fuel

Full Size: 55-65 feet in height, up to 8-12 inches in diameter



White Spruce

Location: Found extensively in northern Minnesota.

Wood Properties: Light; strong; soft; straight-grained; yellowish-white in color

Uses: Mainly used in the manufacture of paper. Also used in general construction – airplanes, furniture parts, canoe paddles and sounding boards for musical instruments

Full Size: 60-70 feet in height; 18-24 inches in diameter; maximum 184 feet, 4 feet in diameter



Paper (White) Birch

Location: Northern North America.

(In Minnesota, paper birch are abundant throughout the state except in the southwest.)

Wood Properties: fine and uniform in texture; lower strength and weight in comparison with other birches

Uses: pulpwood; veneer; craft products; furniture; cabinets

Full Size: 50-70 feet in height, 12-24 inches in diameter; maximum 120 feet in height and 6 feet in diameter



Eastern Larch (Tamarack)

Location: Lake States.

(In Minnesota, tamarack can be found mainly in swamps in the northeastern part of the state.)

Wood Properties: course texture; strongest softwood in North America; intermediate in other mechanical properties

Uses: pulpwood; framing; tanks; pallets; cross ties; mine timbers; fuel; fenceposts; poles

Full Size: 50-75 feet in height, 14-20 inches in diameter; small to medium-size tree, maximum 100 feet in height and 4 feet in diameter.



Basswood

Location: Lake, Central and Mid-Atlantic States.

(In Minnesota, basswood is common throughout the state except in the extreme northeastern part.)

Wood Properties: fine, even texture; straight grain; high shrinkage in drying, but rarely in use; easily worked

Uses: carving; Venetian blinds; molding; piano keys; patterns; sash and door frames

Full Size: 70-80 feet in height, 2-3 feet in diameter



Black Ash

Location: Lake States.

(In Minnesota, black ash is plentiful throughout the state except in the western half. Most abundant in cold, moist locations and along banks of streams.)

Wood Properties: similar to white ash but lighter, softer and weaker

Uses: barrels; furniture; shipping

Full Size: 40-70 feet in height, 1-2 feet in diameter



Trembling (Quaking) Aspen

Location: Northeastern U.S., Rockies, Lake States. (In Minnesota, aspen are found in sandy or rich soils that are moist. It is common except in southwestern and northeastern parts of the state.)

Wood Properties: fine, uniform texture; straight grain; light; soft; low in strength; easily worked; at least 500 organisms from deer and beaver to insects, fungi and viruses feed upon Quaking Aspen

Uses: one of the most used species in Minnesota; used for lumber pallets; crates; pulpwood; particleboard

Full Size: 50-60 feet in height, 10-20 inches in diameter



Yellow Birch

Location: Northeastern U.S. and Lake States. (In Minnesota, yellow birch are found in the northern half of the state where cool, moist conditions prevail.)

Wood Properties: fine texture; heavy; strong; hard; shock resistant; papery bark

Uses: furniture; veneer; crates; wooden ware; interior finish; doors

Full Size: 60-70 feet in height, 2-2.5 feet in diameter; maximum 114 feet by 4.5 feet



M

Red Maple

Location: In Minnesota, red maple can be found throughout the eastern half of the state.

Wood Properties: Also called soft maple, this wood is light brown in color and is characterized as heavy, close-grained and weak

Uses: Red maple has little commercial value. It is sometimes used to make inexpensive furniture and other woodenware, and for fuel.

Full Size: 50-70 feet in height; 12-24 inches to 2 feet in diameter; maximum 116 feet in height and 6 feet in diameter



P

American Elm

Location: Common throughout Minnesota, more abundant on rich bottom lands in southern half of the state. Commonly found along water sources.

Wood Properties: light brown; heavy; hard; strong; difficult to split

Uses: boats; furniture; veneer for baskets and crates

Full Size: 80-100 feet in height, 2-4 feet in diameter



N

Sugar (Hard) Maple

Location: Lake and New England States. (In Minnesota, hard maple trees grow in cool, rich locations in the eastern half of the state.)

Wood Properties: fine uniform texture; straight, wavy or curly grain; heavy; strong; stiff; hard; shock resistant

Uses: lumber; veneer; cross ties; flooring; furniture; wooden ware; novelties; syrup and sugar

Full Size: 60-80 feet in height, 2 feet in diameter; maximum 135 feet in height and 7 feet in diameter



Q

Black Walnut

Location: Central States. In Minnesota, black walnut trees grow on rich bottom lands and moist, fertile hillsides in the southern part of the state.)

Wood Properties: normally straight grain; heavy; hard; strong; stiff; good shock resistance; stable in use; easily worked; most highly valued of North American hardwoods

Uses: furniture; architectural wood-work; decorative panels; gunstocks; cabinets; interior finish

Full Size: 70-90 feet in height, 2-3 feet in diameter, medium size tree, may reach maximum height of 150 feet and diameter of 8 feet



O

Big Tooth Aspen

Location: Rich, sandy soils that are moist; common throughout Minnesota except in southwestern and northeastern parts of the state.

Wood Properties: fine, uniform texture; straight grain; light; soft; low in strength; easily worked

Uses: raw material for the pulp and paper, hardboard, wafer board and oriented strand board industries. Also used for wooden match sticks.

Full Size: 60-70 feet in height; 12-24 inches in diameter; fast growing, short lived



R

NOTE: A wood sample for this type of tree is not included in your Wood Kit. Its properties and appearance are very similar to the Trembling (Quaking) Aspen, which is included.

Northern Red Oak

Location: Eastern half of U.S. except for Gulf and South Atlantic States. (In Minnesota, red oak can be found throughout the state, but it is most common in the rich soil of southern, central and south-eastern regions.)

Wood Properties: coarse, uneven texture; straight grain; heavy

Uses: lumber; cross ties; veneer; flooring; cabinetry; furniture

Full Size: 60-80 feet in height, 2-3 feet in diameter, maximum 160 feet in height and 8 feet in diameter



S

White Oak

Location: South, South Atlantic and Central States. (In Minnesota, white oak are abundant in the southeastern part of the state as far north as the Twin Cities.)

Wood Properties: straight grain; strong; heavy; highly durable and decay resistant; impenetrable to liquids

Uses: furniture; lumber; cross ties; barrels; fenceposts; veneer; mine timbers; planking and bent parts for boats

Full Size: 80-100 feet in height, 3-4 feet in diameter; maximum 150 feet in height, 9 feet in diameter



U

Balsam Poplar

Location: Found throughout the northern part of Minnesota along streams and edges of swamps or in other cool locations.

Wood Properties: Heavy when green, light when dry; soft, not very strong; close grained; light brown.

Uses: Pulp, boxes, packing cases and rough lumber.

Full Size: 60-80 feet in height; 12-24 inches in diameter; fast growing, medium-size tree



T

NOTE: A wood sample for this type of tree is not included in your Wood Kit. Its properties and appearance are very similar to the Trembling (Quaking) Aspen, which is included.

Eastern Cottonwood

Location: Southern and Central States. (In Minnesota, cottonwood can be found in the southern half of the state.)

Wood Properties: fine, uniform texture; straight grain; moderately stiff and soft; moderately low in strength and shock resistance

Uses: boxes; crates; pallets; veneer; pulpwood; excelsior; fuel

Full Size: 80-100 feet in height, 3-4 feet in diameter; maximum 175 feet in height and 12 feet in diameter



V