

## **Conservation Tree Program Species Description List**

A guide for landowners that provides information on the tree and shrub species available through the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District's Conservation Tree Program.

developed by the

## **LOWER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**



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The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District has adapted this listing from its original format (produced by the Nebraska Forest Service) to include only those trees and shrubs that are available through their conservation tree program. Species are numbered in this description list to match the NRD=s seedling order form. To find information on a specific tree or shrub species refer to the species number on the order form to find it in this listing.

**1. EASTERN REDCEDAR** (*Juniperus virginiana*) is native to Nebraska. Eastern redcedar is adapted to a wide range of sites. It is the primary species in most windbreak plantings and it has the highest survival rate of any conifer planted in Nebraska. Its deep root system and small leaf surface area makes this tree very drought resistant. The foliage will turn a russet color in winter. Eastern redcedar is not adapted to wet sites and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X Two foliage diseases, *Cercospora* and *Phomopsis*, can kill redcedar if not controlled. *Cercospora* blight is common and widespread.
- X Spider mites occasionally cause damage, and young trees may require protection.
- X Seed source: Platte River Valley, Nebraska.

**2. CONCOLOR FIR** (*Abies concolor*), also called white fir, is adapted to frost hardiness zones three to seven. Concolor fir is considered to be the best fir for ornamental plantings in the Midwest and east. It withstands heat, drought, and cold equally well. Concolor firs prefer deep, well-drained gravelly or sandy loam soils, it is intolerant of heavy clay soils. Concolor firs, on average, will reach heights of 20 to 24 feet by 20 years of age in *windbreak suitability group* three soils in Nebraska=s *vegetative zone* four. Concolor firs can best be used on the inside row of windbreaks and shelterbelts. Survival is best if the seedlings are protected from drying winds and late afternoon sun. Concolor fir is not adapted to wet sites and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X Spider mites can be a problem.
- X Seed sources: San Juan and San Isabel National Forests, Colorado

**3. AUSTRIAN PINE** (*Pinus nigra*) is adapted to frost hardiness zones four to seven. Austrian pine was originally introduced from Europe as an ornamental, however, it has considerable value in windbreak plantings and as Christmas trees. Its needles are four to six inches long, grouped in pairs, and are generally stiff with the ends being very sharp to the touch. Austrian pine is a very hardy tree. It will tolerate a wide variety of soils, including heavy clay and alkaline soils, and climatic conditions. Austrian pines resist heat and drought conditions and can be used in a variety of different plantings. When mature it becomes a large, broad, flat-topped tree with low, stout, spreading branches. Austrian pine is not adapted to wet sites and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X Austrian pine is susceptible to damage from pine tip moths, *Diplodia* tip blight, and *Dothistroma* needle blight.
- X Selected seed source: Nebraska Forest Service=s seed orchard. Selected trees of Yugoslavian origin.

**4. JACK PINE** (*Pinus banksiana*) is native to northeastern North America and is adapted to frost hardiness zones two to six. Jack pine is a very hardy tree and can be planted on a wide variety of sites. It will survive in almost pure sand soils, however, it should not be planted in alkaline or limestone derived soils. Jack pine is drought resistant and it will tolerate extremely cold climates. Jack pine's needles are one to two inches long, grouped in pairs, and are usually twisted. Jack pine has poor form. It is open, spreading and often shrubby and flat-topped at maturity. It is best used on inside rows of windbreaks in central and western Nebraska, or as outside rows in eastern Nebraska. Jack pine's general pyramidal form and persistent branches makes it a good substitute for redcedar. Jack pine is not adapted to wet sites and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Jack pine has no serious foliage diseases, but pine tip moths can be a problem.

X Selected seed source: Wisconsin.

**5. PONDEROSA PINE** (*Pinus ponderosa*) is native to northwest Nebraska and is adapted to frost hardiness zones three to six. Ponderosa pine prefers deep, moist, well-drained loam soils, however, it will tolerate alkaline and saline soil conditions. Ponderosa pine is intolerant of shade and can be hurt by late season frost. However, in its favor is the fact that it can withstand prolonged drought and is perhaps the best pine to use on severe sites. Ponderosa pine's needles are five to ten inches long and grouped in threes and sometimes pairs. When mature it develops a narrow crown with many short, stout branches. Ponderosa pine can be used in a variety of different plantings. It is best used as the inside row(s) of a windbreak or shelterbelt. Ponderosa pine is not adapted to wet sites and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Pine tip moths and Zimmerman pine moths are often serious pests and can kill or deform trees if not controlled.

X Two foliage diseases, *Diplodia* tip blight and *Dothistroma* needle blight, can damage the tree if not controlled.

X Selected seed sources: Valentine and Ainsworth, Nebraska; and Rosebud, South Dakota.

**6. SCOTCH PINE** (*Pinus sylvestris*), a native of Europe, is adapted to frost hardiness zones two to seven. Scotch pine is widely planted as a Christmas tree. Its needles are three to four inches long, grouped in pairs, and usually twisted. Scotch pine will grow in a wide variety of soils as long as they are well drained. It is tolerant of poor sites as well as dry and acid soil conditions. Older trees have orange-colored bark in the crown and are picturesque. When mature it develops an open, wide-spreading and round-topped crown that is somewhat umbrella-shaped. This species is not as drought resistant as ponderosa pine, Austrian pine or jack pine. It is best used as the inside row(s) of a windbreak or shelterbelt. Scotch pine is not adapted to wet sites and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Two foliage diseases, *Diplodia* tip blight and brown spot, can damage the tree severely if not controlled.

X It also is subject to pine tip moth and Zimmerman pine moth injury.

X Selected seed source: Nebraska Forest Service's seed orchard of selected individual trees.

**7. EASTERN WHITE PINE** (*Pinus strobus*) is native to the eastern United States and is adapted to frost hardiness zones three to eight. White pine is the largest of the northeastern conifers. Its needles are three to five inches long, grouped in bundles of five, and are soft and flexible to the touch. White pine grows best on well-drained loam soils. While it tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions, it may develop chlorosis in high pH soils. White pine can be used in a variety of different plantings. It is best used as an interior row(s) of a windbreak or shelterbelt. White pines are susceptible to top breakage from wind, snow or ice storms. Eastern white pine is not adapted to wet sites and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X White pine blister rust is a serious problem in its native range. However, there has never been a reported case in Nebraska.

X Seed source: Manistee National Forest, Michigan.

**8. COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE** (*Picea pungens*) is native to the Rocky Mountain region and is adapted to frost hardiness zones two to seven. The color of Colorado blue spruce's foliage ranges from dark green to silvery blue green. Blue spruce prefers deep, well-drained, moist soils and full sunlight. It is a very adaptable tree and is more drought tolerant than other spruce. Blue spruce will form a very dense windbreak when planted close together, but they only have a medium growth rate. Colorado blue spruce can best be used on the inside row of windbreaks and shelterbelts. Survival is best if the seedlings are protected from drying winds and late afternoon sun. Colorado blue spruce is not adapted to wet sites and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Spider mites can be a problem.

X Seed source: Kaibab National Forest, New Mexico

**9. NORWAY SPRUCE** (*Picea abies*) is native to northeastern North America and is adapted to frost hardiness zones two to seven. This species prefers moderately moist, sandy, acid, well-drained soils but can be planted in most average soils provided adequate moisture is available. Norway spruce, on average, will reach heights of 25 to 28 feet by 20 years of age in *windbreak suitability group* three soils in Nebraska's *vegetative zone* four. Norway spruce is an excellent windbreak species and can be used on either the outside or inside rows of windbreaks and shelterbelts. Survival is highest when the seedlings are protected from drying winds and late afternoon sun. Norway spruce prefers cold climates and has relatively few insect or disease problems. Norway spruce is not adapted to wet sites and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Seed source: No information available.

**10. GREEN ASH** (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) is native to Nebraska. It grows best in moist bottomland but can often be found on high sandy hills. Green ash has been used as a windbreak tree throughout Nebraska because of its adaptability to soil and moisture conditions. This medium-sized tree has beautiful yellow foliage in the fall. Green ash will tolerate seasonal flooding and can be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Ash borers, oystershell scale, ash rust, leaf scorch and stem canker may cause problems.

X Seed source: Eastern Nebraska.

**11. BLACK CHERRY** (*Prunus serotina*), also called rum cherry, is native to Nebraska and is valued for its rich, reddish-brown wood. It grows best on deep moist, fertile soils in eastern Nebraska. The wood of this tree is used in fine furniture and the cherries are used in jellies and wine. The cherries are excellent bird food during midsummer. Black cherry does not like to grow in pure stands like black walnut. It should be planted either in wildlife habitat for a bushy large tree or with other species like northern red oak in a forest plantation. Black cherry does not tolerate of seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X Black knot is a minor stem canker disease that can easily be managed through pruning.
- X Seed source: Eastern Nebraska.

**12. COTTONWOOD** (*Populus deltoides*) is the Nebraska state tree. It is native across the state and is usually found next to rivers and streams and around lakes. Cottonwood has a fast growth rate and provides most of the lumber processed in Nebraska today. It is planted in riparian areas for filter strips near streams to reduce sedimentation and to stabilize the stream banks. It can also be used in multiple row windbreaks for height and quick protection. Cottonwood will tolerate seasonal flooding and can be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X Native trees can become infested by leaf beetles, twig borers and stem canker but these will rarely kill the tree.
- X Cottonless clones are distributed.
- X Seed source: Eastern Nebraska.

**13. HACKBERRY** (*Celtis occidentalis*) is a native tree found throughout Nebraska. It has a medium to long life span. Once established, a moderate rate of growth and tolerance to adverse weather can be expected from the hackberry. Hackberry can be used in single row windbreaks to slow summer winds and increase the snow catch over fields during the winter. Hackberry will tolerate seasonal flooding and can be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X Witches broom on branches and nipple-galls on lower leaf surfaces can be unsightly, but have little adverse effect on growth or survival.
- X Seed source: Iowa or southeast Nebraska.

**14. HONEYLOCUST** (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) is native to eastern Nebraska. This medium-lived, relatively fast growing tree lends itself well to windbreak plantings. The fine-textured foliage of the honeylocust gives partial shade and turns a golden yellow in the fall. Honeylocust is used in multi-row windbreaks to increase the effective height of the windbreak. Honeylocust is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be planted in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

- X Mimosa webworm and other insects present minor problems.
- X The "thornless" variety is distributed.
- X Seed source: Eastern Nebraska.

**15. SILVER MAPLE** (*Acer saccharinum*) is a fast growing, long-lived tree native to eastern Nebraska. The species is ideal for wet bottomland sites and can easily recover from extended periods of flooding. It does well on upland soils, but is intolerant of alkaline or calcareous soil conditions. Silver maple is not a drought tolerant species. Silver maple is a very good choice for filter strips next to streams and for stream bank stabilization. The wood of the silver maple is brittle and can break in wind, snow or ice storms. Silver maple will tolerate seasonal flooding and can be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Possible problems are multiple main stems, scale insects, green striped maple worms, and maple bladder-gall mites.

X Seed source: Southeast Nebraska.

**16. NORTHERN RED OAK** (*Quercus rubra*) is a medium to large-sized tree native to eastern Nebraska. Red oak has a medium growth rate and oval shaped crown with bronze-red autumn color. This long-lived species is excellent for wildlife. It will provide food shelter and nesting for a variety of birds and animals. The Nebraska Forest Service does not recommend northern red oak for planting in the western half or extreme northern part of the state due to moisture and soil limitations. Red oak does not tolerate of seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Oak wilt, a vascular disease, is potentially a serious problem.

X Seed source: No information available.

**17. BUR OAK** (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is native to Nebraska. It grows on a variety of sites, but grows best on rich, moist bottomland. Bur oak has a moderate growth rate and is drought tolerant. It is an excellent species to include in wildlife habitat plantings. It is less susceptible to oak wilt than northern red oak and has no serious insect problems. Bur oak is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be planted in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X Seed source: Southeastern Nebraska.

**18. SWAMP WHITE OAK** (*Quercus bicolor*) is native to the eastern United States and is adapted to frost hardiness zones three to eight. Swamp white oak is a medium to large sized tree that will grow up to 50' to 60' in height with an equal or greater spread. The native habitat of this species is low-lying areas and flood plains. It is highly tolerant of poorly aerated soils and is also drought tolerant. Swamp white oak is an excellent tree for wildlife habitat plantings. It will provide food shelter and nesting for a variety of birds and animals. Swamp white oak is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be planted in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X May develop iron chlorosis in high pH soils.

X Seed source: No information available.

**19. BLACK WALNUT** (*Juglans nigra*) is native to eastern Nebraska's fertile bottomland. It is highly prized for its rich, chocolate-brown wood and nut meats. Straight, limb-free trees are very valuable in the timber industry. Walnut trees have a medium growth rate and a long life span. Walnut requires a deep, silty-loam soil having good internal drainage for maximum growth. Some landowners have planted walnut seedlings in the Sandhills for wood production, wildlife habitat, and as a local source of nut meats. Black walnut is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be used in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

- X Tent caterpillars and webworms can give the tree an unsightly appearance, but seldom cause any permanent damage. Walnuts are highly susceptible to herbicide damage from 2, 4-D.
- X Seed source: No information available.

**20. MANCHURIAN APRICOT** (*Prunus mandshurica*) is an introduced species from Manchuria and Korea. It is adapted to frost hardiness zones three and south. Manchurian apricot is a small spreading tree 15 to 20 feet tall. It has a beautiful pinkish flower that blooms in the spring before the leaves emerge. The fruit provides food for wildlife during the fall. It can be used for one of the outer rows in a multi-row windbreak planting. Manchurian apricot does not tolerate of seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X There are no major insect or disease problems.
- X Seed source: North Dakota.

**21. >MIDWEST= CRABAPPLE** (*Malus baccata* var. *Mandshurica*) is adapted to frost hardiness zones two and south. The AMidwest@ crabapple is one of the hardiest crabapple varieties and is disease resistant. A medium-sized tree it will grow to at least 20 feet in height. It will have a rounded crown when grown out in the open and will maintain its branches close to the ground. The small apples are only 3 to 2 inch in diameter. The persistent fruit makes excellent wildlife food throughout the fall and winter. The white blossoms are especially attractive during the spring. Crabapple is good for single row windbreaks where a shorter tree is needed, and between the central and outside rows of multi-row windbreaks. Crabapple trees do not tolerate seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X This variety is susceptible to apple scab.
- X Selected seed source: Nebraska=s seed orchard.

**22. WASHINGTON HAWTHORN** (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) is native to the Midwest and is adapted to frost hardiness zones three to eight. Washington hawthorn is a medium-sized tree growing to 25 to 30 feet on better sites. It has thin spikes that are three inches long on the younger branches. In the spring, the rounded crown is filled with snowy white clusters of flowers. The resulting fruit is about a 3 inch in diameter and turns a bright red in the fall. The persistent fruit is great food for songbirds in the fall and winter. Hawthorns can be used in wildlife habitat plantings or between the central and outside rows of multi-row windbreaks. Hawthorn does not tolerate of seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X There are no major insect or disease problems.

X Seed source: Eastern Nebraska.

**23. AMUR MAPLE** (*Acer ginnala*) is an introduced species from northern Asia. It is adapted to frost hardiness zones two to six. Amur maple is a medium to large-sized shrub. It is somewhat drought tolerant but subject to chlorosis on heavy alkaline soils. The leaves turn scarlet to deep red during the fall. It is best used for screen plantings or as the inside row of a windbreak. Amur maple is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and could be planted in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X There are no known serious insect or disease problems.

X Seed sources: Nebraska and South Dakota.

**24. HARBIN PEAR** (*Pyrus ussuriensis* McDermid) is an introduced species from northern Asia. It is adapted to frost hardiness zones two to six. Harbin pear is a small, bushy tree with a mature height of approximately 25 feet. Harbin pear is extremely hardy and tolerates a wide variety of climatic and soil conditions. The fruit, which matures in September, is somewhat small. It is excellent for wildlife, however, it is not particularly desirable for human consumption. Harbin pear can be used for wildlife habitat plantings or between the central and outside rows of a multi-row windbreak. Harbin pear does not tolerate seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Seedlings are susceptible to rabbit damage.

X Seed source: North Dakota.

**25. SILVER BUFFALOBERRY** (*Shepherdia argentea*) is native to western Nebraska. This thorny, tree-like shrub is drought tolerant and adaptable to alkaline soils. The persistent, fleshy berries, which appear in late June through July, provide food for birds during the winter. The tart berries can also be used in jellies. Buffaloberry does not tolerate seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X There are no major insect or disease problems.

X Seed source: Western Nebraska.

**26. BLACK CHOKEBERRY** (*Aronia melanocarpa*) is native to the eastern United States and is adapted to frost hardiness zones four to seven. Purple-fruited chokeberry is a large shrub growing to 12 feet under good conditions. Chokeberry will grow in a variety of soil types and conditions. The purple fruit and red-wine leaf color in the fall makes this an exceptionally showy shrub for the outer row of windbreaks and wildlife habitat areas. The fruit may fall off this shrub after the first frost. Chokeberry is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be used in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

- X There are no major insect or disease problems.
- X One drawback is that it does have a tendency to sucker.
- X Seed source: No information available.

**27. EUROPEAN CRANBERRY BUSH** (*Viburnum opulus*) is an introduced species from Europe and Northern Asia. It is adapted to frost hardiness zones three to eight. European cranberry is a medium sized shrub that ranges from eight to twelve feet in height. It tolerates a wide variety of soils and soil pH. The cranberry produces a bright red fruit (berry) that ripens in late September and persists throughout the Winter. Cranberry is an excellent shrub species for wildlife habitat plantings. It provides excellent food and cover for birds and small mammals. The berries can be harvested to make sauce and jams. European cranberry bush does not tolerate seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X No major insect or disease problems.
- X Seed source: No information available.

**28. ELDERBERRY** (*Sambucus canadensis*) is native to Nebraska. A medium-sized shrub it is primarily used in wildlife plantings for summer food. Elderberry tolerates a wide range of soil types and soil pH. The dark purple berries are formed on umbrella-type heads and ripen during mid to late summer. The berries make excellent jelly and syrups. This species is prone to suckering. Elderberry will tolerate seasonal flooding and can be planted in riparian buffer strips.

- X There are no major insect or disease problems.
- X Seed source: No information available.

**29. JUNE BERRY** (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), also known as Saskatoon Serviceberry, is native to the Great Plains. Juneberry is a medium to large-sized shrub that ranges from three to eighteen feet in height. It is tolerant of harsh climates and alkaline soils. The Juneberry produces a bluish-purple berry that ripens in June. The berries are edible for human consumption. Juneberry is an excellent species for wildlife habitat plantings. It provides excellent food and cover for birds and small mammals. Juneberry is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be used in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

- X There are no major insect or disease problems.
- X Seed source: North Dakota

**30. CHOKECHERRY** (*Prunus virginiana*) is native to Nebraska. Chokecherry is a medium-sized shrub that forms a dense thicket from root suckers. It is used for the outer row in multi-row windbreaks. Chokecherry is an excellent shrub for wildlife habitat, providing both food and cover for birds and small mammals. Showy white flowers bloom in April or May, and the cherries ripen during July. The cherries can be used for making jelly and wine. Chokecherry should not be planted near other stone-fruit species because of western x-disease and black knot. Chokecherry does not tolerate seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Tent caterpillars are often a problem in the spring.

X Seed source: Nebraska.

**31. SANDCHERRY** (*Prunus besseyi*) is a low growing shrub native to western Nebraska. It will sucker to form small, four- to six-foot wide thickets. It has showy white flowers in May and produces small, sweet, purplish-black cherries in July. The cherries are especially good for making jelly or jam. Sandcherry can tolerate hot, dry conditions, and prefers well-drained soils. Sand cherry does not tolerate seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X There are no major insect or disease problems.

X Seed sources: western Nebraska and eastern Colorado.

**32. PEKING COTONEASTER** (*Cotoneaster acutifolia*) is an introduced species from Asia. It is adapted to frost hardiness zones three and South. Peking cotoneaster is a low-growing shrub with dark, glossy green foliage that turns orange to red during the fall. The berry like fruit ripens to a dark red or black in early October and persists late into the winter, providing a good winter food source for birds. This is a sturdy shrub for the outside row of windbreaks. Peking cotoneaster is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be used in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X Fireblight of the twigs and stems can be a serious problem.

X Seed source: No information available.

**33. GOLDEN CURRANT** (*Ribes aureum*) is native to Nebraska. Golden currant is winter-hardy, and drought-tolerant. A small shrub it will grow to five to seven feet tall on better sites. Yellow flowers bloom during May. The edible fruit, which first appears in late June, is yellowish and turns purplish black when ripe. The fruit can be eaten directly from the bush or made into jelly. Golden currant is an excellent wildlife species or can be used on the outside row of multi-row windbreaks. Golden currant is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be used in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X There are no major insect or disease problems.

X Seed source: South Dakota.

**34. GRAY DOGWOOD** (*Cornus racemosa*) is native to eastern Nebraska. Gray dogwood is a medium-sized shrub. However, defining the spread of this shrub since it suckers profusely from the roots is difficult and forms a colony that extends in all directions. Gray dogwood is adaptable to a wide variety of soil and climatic conditions, however, it does best in deep, well-drained, moist soils. Gray dogwood is an excellent shrub for wildlife habitat plantings since it provides both food and cover for a wide variety of birds. White flowers bloom in late May to early June, and the fruit ripens from late August through early September. It is estimated that more than 100 species of birds eat the fruit of the gray dogwood. It is best used as an exterior row(s) of windbreaks and shelterbelts. Gray dogwood is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be used in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X No known disease problems or insects seriously affect the health of this shrub.

X Seed source: No information available.

**35. AMERICAN HAZEL** (*Corylus americana*) is native to eastern Nebraska. Best growth is obtained on moist, fertile loam soils. American hazel is a medium to fast-growing shrub that can grow to 15 feet, but 8 to 10 feet is more common. It will start producing nuts within three to five years. The nuts mature in late summer to early fall, and are very tasty if you can collect them before the birds and animals. American hazel does not tolerate seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X There are no major insect or disease problems.

X Seed source: Eastern Nebraska.

**36. AMUR HONEYSUCKLE** (*Lonicera maackii*) is an introduced species from Manchuria and Korea. It is adapted to frost hardiness zones two to eight. Amur honeysuckle is a small to medium-sized shrub with spreading branches. The abundant and fragrant white to pink blossoms begin to appear in late May through early June. The blossoms are very attractive to honey bees. The fruit of the amur honeysuckle ripens in October and is eaten by a wide variety of birds, however, if other food sources are available many species will pass over this shrub. Amur honeysuckle is a good species for an outer row of a multi-row windbreak, and provides winter food and nesting cover for songbirds. Amur honeysuckle is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and can be used in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X Leaf blight can be a problem.

X Amur honeysuckle is less susceptible to honeysuckle aphids than Tartarian honeysuckle.

X Selected seed source: 'Rem-Red' or 'Cling-Red' varieties.

**37. COMMON LILAC** (*Syringa vulgaris*) is an introduced species from Southern Europe. It is adapted to frost hardiness zones three to seven. Common lilac is a non-suckering, upright shrub that is at its best when used as the outside row of a windbreak or screen planting. Fragrant white to lavender flowers bloom during May. Lilac is rarely used in wildlife plantings since it does not form thickets and the seeds have little food value. Common lilac is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and could be planted in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X Powdery mildew and oyster scale are common problems.

X Seed source: Eastern Nebraska.

**38. AMERICAN PLUM** (*Prunus americana*) is native to Nebraska and is well adapted to a wide variety of soil and climatic conditions. It forms dense thickets ideal for the outside rows of windbreaks and for wildlife habitat plantings. Birds use the thickets for nesting, feeding and resting areas. The twigs are a preferred source of browse for deer and rabbits during the winter. White flowers bloom in May, with red to purple plums ripening during September. The earliest ripening fruit is usually the sweetest and makes the best jelly. American plum is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and could be planted in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X Insects and diseases are not considered serious problems. Brown spot, plum pocket and tent caterpillars may cause some problems.

X Seed source: Nebraska.

**39. SIBERIAN PEASHRUB** (*Caragana arborescens*) is an introduced species from Siberia and Mongolia and is adapted to frost hardiness zones two to seven. Siberian peashrub is a large spreading shrub. It provides dense cover for wildlife and is ideal for the shrub row in a windbreak. One major benefit of this plant is its ability to fix nitrogen. The fruit is a one to two inch pod, which matures in late July or early August, and has potential for wildlife forage. In Canada, it is planted as single row windbreaks. Siberian peashrub is adaptable to conditions of extreme cold and wind. It tolerates a wide range of soil types, including alkaline and saline soils and is tolerant of drought conditions. Siberian peashrub is somewhat tolerant of seasonal flooding and could be planted in zone two of riparian buffer strips.

X Grasshoppers can be a problem, but will very rarely kill an established plant.

X Seed source: Colorado.

**40. SKUNKBUSH SUMAC** (*Rhus trilobata*) is native to Nebraska. It can tolerate alkaline and drought conditions. The clusters of berry like fruit are covered with a soft, dense hair and turn a deep red in late summer. Skunkbush sumac is a good wildlife species, providing food for birds throughout the winter. It is best used on the inside row(s) of windbreaks. Skunkbush sumac does not tolerate seasonal flooding and should not be planted in riparian buffer strips.

X Leaf spot can be a problem.

X Selected seed source: 'Konza' variety.