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## Trees for Nebraska

When I was shooting archery at Big Indian on Saturday (losing arrows), I regularly waited my turn in the shade of the trees. That is always going to be the case in Southeast Nebraska. Here is a brief summary of ten trees well adapted to Southeast Nebraska. These are a bit less used than the norm, so will add diversity to your yard and the tree community in your town or rural setting.

**Kentucky Coffee Tree** - A native tree well adapted to our climate and nice winter form. Female trees have pods to clean up, but some nurseries have male trees identified which eliminate the problem.

**American Elm** - Two types resistant to Dutch elm disease in the trade are New Harmony and Valley Forge. American Elms are the original state tree and are still around, but die from Dutch elm disease after a few years. We have two Pioneer Elms in the horse arena area of the fairgrounds. Pioneer Elm is a cross between some European types and is doing quite well here.

**Chinkapin Oak** - a native tree which tolerates high pH sites and has narrow chestnut type leaves rather than the more familiar oak type leaf.

**Bur Oak** - Beginning to be used more in landscapes. A very tough native, but you need to start small, as larger trees (over 6 feet) do not move real well. Tree has a very broad spread. A very large one at the southwest corner of the Chautauqua Park Tabernacle will show you what they can become.

**Black Maple** - A native tree, similar to a sugar maple. It is more tolerant of heat and dry conditions common in Nebraska. The large droopy leaves and orange fall color are an added attraction.

**Silver Linden** - Similar to the American Linden, but the dark shiny leaves have a silvery underside.

**Ohio Buckeye** - A medium native tree, which is tough and well adapted. It has a rounded form and the rather interesting buckeye nut.

**Miyabe Maple** - This medium sized deciduous tree is drought tolerant, has pumpkin yellow fall color, and thick glossy leaves.

**Black Hills Spruce** - Is a bit slower growing than the blue spruce, but well adapted to our climate and a quality alternative.

**Jack Pine** - A very hardy pine less likely to be bothered by pine wilt disease like the European pines (Scotch and Austrian). Jack Pine has an interesting irregular kind of gnarled growth habit.

Consider overhead and underground utilities, future construction sites, and the mature size of the plant. The mature size of a plant must be considered when selecting planting locations. Large trees should be planted a minimum of 15 to 20 feet away from buildings and a minimum of 20 to 25 feet from overhead power lines. Shrubs should be planted a minimum of 5 feet away from any potential conflict. Three to six foot trees usually save money, start faster and will out grow more expensive alternatives.

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