

Midwest Permaculture's

80 Favorite Plants for Permaculture Guilds in the Midwest

Common Name	Scientific Name	Main Yield(s)	~10 yr/ Height	~10 yr/Width	Avg. H	Avg. W	Zone
	Canopy						
American Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Fruit after 5 years, JT	20'	12'	75'	50'	5-9
Basswood	<i>Tilia ameicana</i>	Fiber, medicinal, nectary, JS	20'	17'	100'	75'	3-9
Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	Nuts in ~40 years, syrup, JT	12'	10'	100'	75'	3-8
Black Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	N-Fixer, lumber, JS	25'	15'	80'	30'	3-7
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	N-Fixer, lumber in >10 years, nectary, JT	20-30'	15-20'	80'	45'	4-9
Black Walnut*	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Nuts in 7-10 years, lumber in ~20 years, syrup	30'	12'	100'	100'	4-7
Butternut*	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Nuts in 7 – 10 years	10'	10'	75'	75'	3-7
Chinese Chestnut	<i>Castanea Molissima</i>	Nuts in 4-5 years	20'	25'	40'	60'	4-8
English Walnut (Carpathian)*	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Nuts in 7-10 years, lumber	24'	24'	100'	100'	5-7
Hardy Pecan*	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Nuts in 6-10 years, lumber	20'	15'	100'	75'	6-9
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	N-Fixer, edible pods for livestock/wildlife, JT	24'	24'	75'	75'	4-9
Korean Stone Pine	<i>Pinus korainensis</i>	Pine nuts after 15 years, pine pollen, JS	12'	6'	100'	50'	3-7
Mulberry	<i>Morus alba/Rubra</i>	Fruit after 5 years, good chicken forage, JT	20'	16'	50'	40'	3-9
Shagbark Hickory*	<i>Carya ovata</i>	Nuts at around 40 years	10'	6'	85'	50'	4-7
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Syrup when trunk is ~16" diameter, JT	15'	5'	100'	75'	3-7
Sweet Chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Nuts after 2-3 years	15'	8'	100'	50'	5-7
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Acorns after 30 years, lumber, JT	12'	12'	100'	100'	4-8

	Midstory					
Apple	<i>Malus spp.</i>	Fruit, many varieties, stagger to extend harvest (early, mid and late), nectary, JS	10'-35'	10'-35'	4-9	
Cherry	<i>Prunus spp.</i>	Fruit, there are generally two varieties, "sweet" and "tart" or "pie" cherries, JS	15'-30'	15'-35'	5-9	
Cornelian Cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	Fruit, not a true cherry, related to dogwood, JT	20'	20'	4-8	
Crabapple	<i>Malus spp.</i>	Fruit, keep one or more in the orchard to increase pollination of apples, nectary, JS	15'-35'	10'-20'	3-8	
Paw Paw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Fruit, needs gene diversity to fruit = plant multiple varieties, grows well in shade, JT	35'	35'	5-7	

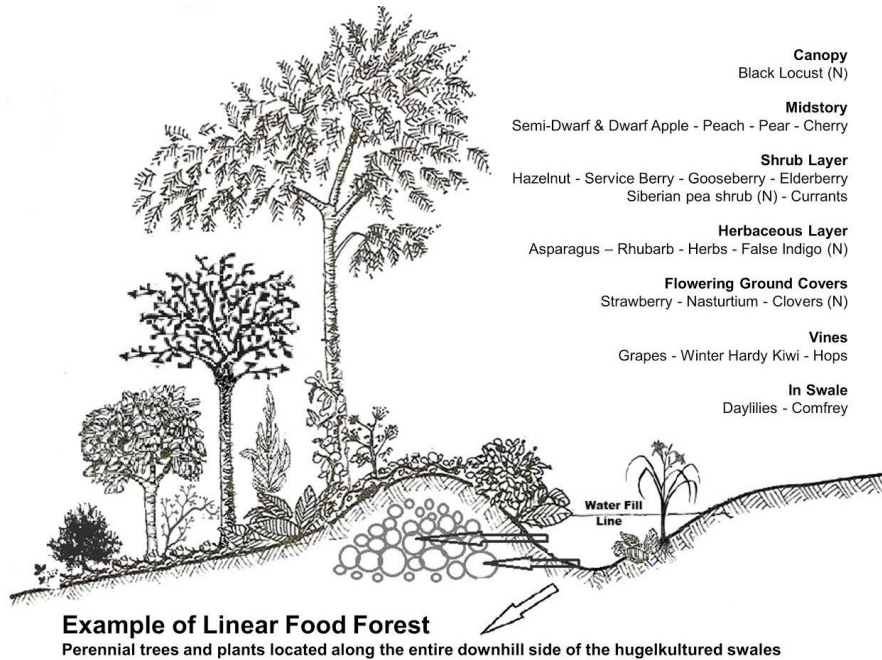
Peach	<i>Prunus persica</i>	Fruit, nectary, JS	15'	12'	4-8
Pear	<i>Pyrus spp.</i>	Fruit, nectary, likes full sun, JS	15'-40'	10'-25'	4-9
Plum	<i>Prunus spp.</i>	Fruit, usually hardy, many varieties, nectary, JS	15'-20'	10'-20'	4-9
Willow	<i>Salix spp.</i>	Many uses and species, medicinal, nectary, rooting hormone from "willow tea", JT	---	---	---
	Shrub Layer				
Aronia	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Fruit, nectary	8'	9'	3-8
Blackberry	<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>	Fruit, nectary, JS	4'	12'+	3-7
Blueberries	<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>	Edible berries, very nutritious, prefer acidic soils, highbush and lowbush varieties, JS	6'	4'	4-7
Currant	<i>Ribes sativum</i>	Fruit, flowers are a butterfly favorite, JT	5'	5'	5-9
Elderberry	<i>Sambucas nigra</i>	Fruit, useful and tasty flowers, bird attractant, JT	12'	12'	3-10
Goji	<i>Lyceum barbarum</i>	Edible berries, edible shoots, very nutritious and productive, grows quickly, JT	7'	5'	3-10
Gooseberry	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Fruit, produces in shade, JT	5'	5'	4-8
Goumi	<i>Eleagnus multiflora</i>	N fixer, berries, produces in partial shade, JT	8'	6'	4-9
Hazelnut	<i>Corylus spp.</i>	Nuts in 3 years from nursery stock, many varieties, produces in shade, JT	15'	15'	3-7
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Fruit, tea from the leaves, nectary, JT	6'	6'	3-9
Rugosa Rose	<i>Rosa rugose</i>	Medicinal rose hips, beautiful flowers, JT	6'	8'+	2-7
Sea Buckthorn	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Edible, medicinal, thorny, N-fixer	20'	8'	3-7
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Fruit, nectary, often called the "blueberry tree", JT	12'	12'	2-8
Siberian Pea Shrub	<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	N-fixer, nectary, good chicken forage, JT	12'	9'	2-7
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Medicinal, flowers bloom in late fall (great for feeding bees), prefers partial shade, JT	15'	15'	3-8
	Herbaceous layer	(assume juglone susceptibility unless noted otherwise)			
Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Medicinal, edible, tea, nectary	5'	3'+	4-9
Arugula	<i>Eruca vesicaria</i>	Edible leaves	1'	1'	3-11
Asparagus	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Edible shoots	5'	3'	3-8
Chamomile	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Tea from the flowers (medicinal), aromatic pest confuser	1'	1'	4-8
Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Edible bulbs, aromatic pest confuser, JT	18"	15"	2-10

Comfrey	<i>Symphytum uplandicum</i>	Medicinal, mulch, insectary, dynamic accumulator, attracts hummingbirds	4'	3'	3-9
Daylilly	<i>Heemerocallis fulva</i>	Edible flowers & bulb, ground cover, JT	3'	3'	3-10
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Edible leaves and seeds, insectary	3'	3'	3-11
False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	N-fixer	4'	5'	4-8
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Edible bulb, stalk, leaves, seeds, insectary	5'	3'	3-10
Garlic	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Edible bulbs, flowers and scapes , aromatic pest confuser, JT	1'	2"	7-10
Jerusalem Artichokes	<i>Helianthus tuberosum</i>	Edible tubers, harvest in late Fall through Winter, JT	12'	4'	4-9
Kale	<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	Edible leaves, biennial	3'	2'	7-9
Lemon Balm	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Tea from leaves, mosquito repellent, aromatic pest confuser, JT	2'	1'+	4-8
Lettuce	<i>Latuca sativa</i>	Edible leaves	3	1	5-9
Lovage	<i>Levisticum officinale</i>	Edible, medicinal, aromatic pest confuser, nectary, no data for juglone sensitivity	6'	5'	5-9
Mint	<i>Mentha spp.</i>	Edible leaves, aromatic pest confuser, tea from leaves, JT	2'	3'+	3-7
Onion/Nodding Onion	<i>Allium cepa/cernuum</i>	Edible bulbs, leaves and flowers, <i>cernuum</i> spreads readily, hardy, both are JT	2'	4"	4-8
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Edible leaves, stems, roots and seeds, insectary, dynamic accumulator	2'	1'	3-9
Rhubarb	<i>Rheum rhabarbarum</i>	Edible stems (the leaves are poisonous)	3'	3'	3-7
Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Edible leaves	2'	1'	4-8
Sorrel	<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	Edible leaves	2'	2'	5-9
Spinach	<i>Spinacea oleracea</i>	Edible leaves	1'	1'	4-8
Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Edible, medicinal, tea, dynamic accumulator, mulch, many uses! JT	4'	3'	4-9
Wild Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	N fixer, edible and nutritious seed pods, nectary	4'	3'	3-9
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Edible, medicinal, insectary, dynamic accumulator, JT	3'	2'	4-9
	Flowering Ground Covers				
Dutch White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	N fixing, long blooming season, used as green mulch/living mulch in garden, JT	6"	6"+	4-9
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Annual, edible flowers and leaves, pest confuser (aphids)	1'	11'	8-11
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria spp.</i>	Fruit, flowers	8"	3'+	4-8

	Vines			
Grape	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Fruit, edible leaves, JT with wild rootstock	50'	6-9
Groundnut	<i>Apios americana</i>	N fixing, edible tubers (similar to potato), nectary	18'	3-9
Hardy Kiwi	<i>Actinidia arguta</i>	Fruit, nectary	25'	6-9
Hops	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Medicinal, tea, edible shoots	20'	5-7
Passionflower	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Fruit, tea from flowers and leaves, immaculate flowers!	25'	5-9
Scarlet Runner Bean	<i>Phaseolus coccineus</i>	N-fixer, edible beans, nectary, JT	10'	9-11
Wisteria	<i>Wisteria spp.</i>	N-fixer, nectary, beautiful ornamental	25'	5-9

	Spring Ephemerals	(Plants that complete their life cycle before the trees leaf out in the spring)			
Ramps (Wild Leek)	<i>Allium tricoccum</i>	Edible bulbs and leaves, likes humus rich forest soils, produces in shade, JT	1'	6"	3-7
Saffron Crocus	<i>Crocus sativa</i>	Stamens for culinary use, nectary, JT	6"	4"	4-10
Daffodils	<i>Narcissus spp.</i>	Nectary, plant around trees in guilds to suppress grass, gophers and voles, JT	2'	1'	3-8

* - Alleopathic = secretes a substance from the plant that is toxic to other plants, here referring to juglone. Sources – Edible Forest Gardens Vol. 2, <http://pfaf.org>
 JT = Juglone tolerant. Plant shows little to no response to juglone exposure. JS = Juglone susceptible. Not recommended to plant this within ~50' from trunk of alleopathic tree.



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