

Shady Characters!

Four Deciduous Tree
Recommendations
From Chicagoland Grows

Unquestionably, trees constitute an extremely important design element on virtually every golf course in the Chicago area. Additionally, although exact figures are not available, the amount of money spent by golf courses on tree planting, transplanting, maintenance and removal is a truly staggering sum.

It follows, therefore, that the members of the Chicago-area golf community would benefit from a program designed to popularize the use of tree varieties selected especially for this area. The Chicagoland Grows Plant Introduction Program fits the bill.

Begun in 1986, Chicagoland Grows is a cooperative effort of the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Morton Arboretum and the Ornamental Growers Association (OGA) of Northern Illinois. The concept, initiated by the Chicago Botanic Garden, is to select, test and introduce plants that are well-suited to the growing conditions found in the upper Midwest. After selections are made and approved, large-scale production is undertaken by the OGA, which comprises 23 nurseries located in northeastern Illinois.

Thus far, 12 plant varieties have been approved for production and sale. Of these 12 varieties, four are deciduous shade trees and, for golf course usage, all four tree varieties hold great promise.

Marmo Freeman Maple (*Acer x freemanii* 'Marmo')

This red maple-silver maple hybrid comes from a tree located near Lake Marmo at the Morton Arboretum. The original tree, from an unknown nursery
(continued on page 10)



*Marmo Freeman Maple
(*Acer x freemanii* 'Marmo')*

Photos Credit, The Morton Arboretum

source, was brought to the Arboretum in the 1920s. When it was chosen for propagation and testing, it had achieved a height of 80 feet and a spread of 35 feet. Its leaves closely resemble the shape of the silver maple leaf, but this adaptable hybrid produces a very strong and regular branching structure (a definite plus when compared to the weak structure often characteristic of the silver maple). The fall color typically does not rival other Freeman maple selections currently in the trade, although some years it can be quite attractive, a blend of scarlet and maroon that outshines anything ever seen on a silver maple. As a final bonus, the tree is seedless.

State Street® Maple (*Acer miyabei* 'Morton')

The original tree is located in the collection of the Morton Arboretum. This species was brought to this country from Japan before 1900. This maple will achieve an ultimate height of about 50 feet, with a mature spread of 35 feet. It is a moderately fast-growing pest-free cultivar with excellent cold and

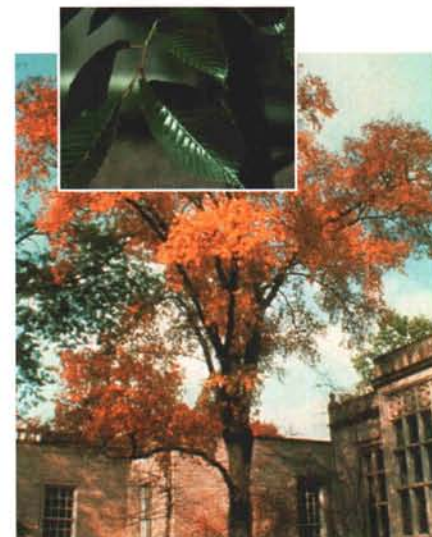


State Street® Maple
(*Acer miyabei* 'Morton')

drought hardiness. This tree is also tolerant of alkaline, high-pH soils typical of many sites in the Chicago area. The leaves resemble hedge maple (*Acer campestre*) in shape and color. A distinct advantage over the commonly planted Norway maple is the ease of growing grass beneath the

tree's canopy. That feature alone recommends State Street® maple for many situations. This selection promises to become a staple of the nursery industry in the years to come.

Accolade® Elm (*Ulmus japonica* x *Ulmus wilsoniana* 'Morton')



Accolade® Elm (*Ulmus japonica* x *Ulmus wilsoniana* 'Morton')

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The original Accolade® elm is also located in the collections of the Morton Arboretum. Records indicate that the tree was grown from seed collected at the Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts. It is one of the first and best selections to emerge from the exhaustive search for a replacement for the American elm. It is quite similar to the American elm in many ways, possessing the same vase-shaped habit, as well as beautiful dark-green glossy foliage. It has thus far demonstrated complete resistance to Dutch Elm disease while displaying a very vigorous growth rate. The strong initial response to the introduction of Accolade® elm indicates that the public's affection for elm trees remains very strong.



**Windy City™ White Ash
(Fraxinus Americana 'Tures')**

This selection was made by Matt Tures Sons Nursery in Huntley, IL, for the tree's uniform upright habit, vigor and resistance to frost-cracking. Other attributes include a strong central leader, attractive foliage and good fall color, which is

*Windy City™ White Ash
(Fraxinus Americana 'Tures')*

an attractive blend of bronze and burgundy, with copper, orange, gold and yellow accents. Mature size is estimated to be 40 to 50 feet in height, with a 25- to 30-foot spread.

In addition to the four shade tree selections, there have been nine

other plant introductions, including Little King® river birch, several improved Arrowwood viburnums, China Snow® Peking lilac and a Red-wing American Cranberry Bush viburnum. Additionally, there are many trial selections currently under review at several test sites located throughout the Midwest. It is possible that the gardens at the Midwest Golf House may be accepted as a test site, although this is as yet undecided.

For further information on Chicagoland Grows selections, cultivars under review or any of the grower-members of the Ornamental Growers Association, go to the OGA Web site at www.ogaoni.com.



The Chicagoland Grows program was designed to popularize the use of tree varieties selected especially for this area.

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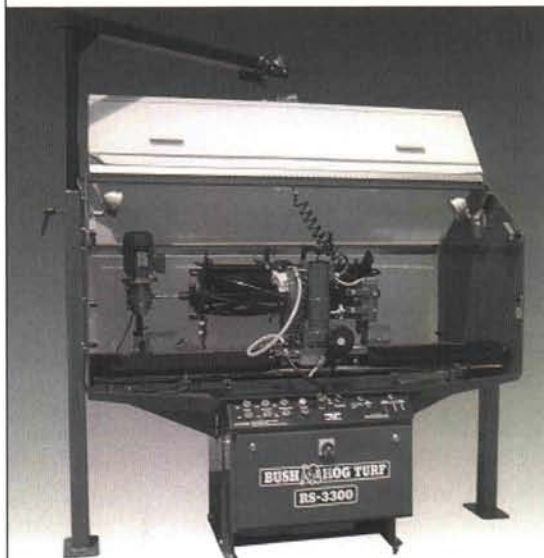


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