

Native Trees to Southern Ontario

Tulip Tree

Large hardwood tree which gets its name from the almost tulip like flowers that bloom. This tree was traditionally used by Indigenous people to create canoes. Due to the trees long and straight trunks, they were the perfect vessel to carve out big canoes. These trees can live up to 150 years, with some as old as 300.



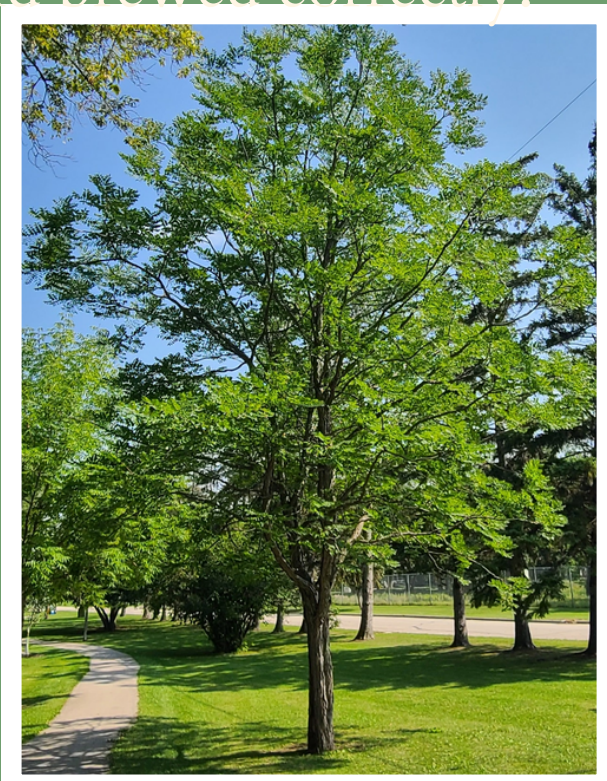
Balsam fir Tree

This spruce tree is unique due to the fact that its pine cones grow upward instead of downwards. The sap found within this tree is used in medicine, with its origin in Indigenous medicine to treat open wounds. The oils and smells emitted by the needles are often used in essential oils associated with winter and Christmas. These are one of the trees most commonly used for Christmas trees.



Kentucky Coffee Tree

Only found naturally growing in Southwestern Canada. This tree was used by early European settlers as well as Indigenous people as a substitute for coffee, they would roast, grind, and then brew the seeds. This coffee was considered a “poor man’s coffee” because of its cheap and bitter tasting nature. Almost all parts of this tree is toxic, the seeds are poisonous if not roasted and brewed correctly.



Pawpaw Tree

Characterized by its small shrub appearance and long droopy leaves, the Pawpaw is a fruit bearing tree found only through Toronto to Windsor. As a result of the trees rarity many Canadians have never eaten or seen a pawpaw fruit before, they are said to taste like a mixture of a mango, banana, and pineapple. This fruit played a huge roll in Indigenous people’s diets and traditions. As of 2021, more communities have learnt about the Pawpaw tree and have started planting them around in hopes to remove them from the vulnerable species list.

