

Excellence Tree Award Criteria

by Vance Wood (Approved by Board 4/1/1995)

This compilation of trees and shrubs is intended to reflect representatives of the native flora usable for bonsai within the MABA environment. The reason for the document is to serve as a guideline for those who may be called upon to judge a showing of bonsai within the sphere of influence of the Mid-America Bonsai Association. The intention is to create a list of approved plant material acceptable solely on the grounds of their being an indigenous species. It is from this list that the recipient of the MABA Award for Excellence in Bonsai is to be chosen.

This is not to rule out other trees as acceptable for showing at a MABA function or being ruled out for awards such as best of show. The idea is to draw special attention to those species that are native to our particular areas and in turn encourage development of this unique local material. It is the purpose of MABA to encourage and develop not only local talent but to develop local material. MABA should not become simply a reflection of the rest of the country in our view, cultivation, and material, but instead, where ever possible, to establish a regional identity valid in its own right, with its own unique contributions to the art of bonsai as important as the California juniper, the Florida buttonwood and bald cypress. The list, nation wide, is quite large except for here. It is our purpose to change that view.

There is no question that there are many imported species of trees and shrubs that are delightful, beautiful, and traditional subjects for bonsai that are represented in the many MABA member collections. These trees should be recognized for the skill needed to develop them. The accomplishment of developing any tree into an extraordinary bonsai should be acknowledged and awarded, less we run the risk of taking on some other form of bonsai fascism.

However the creation and distribution of this unique and special award should follow strictly the guidelines set forth and approved by the board of directors for the sole purpose wherein it was set forth: A special recognition and award for cultivation of native material as defined. The purpose for this list is to assist both judges and exhibitors in determining what species are eligible for the award in discussion. The problem is that there are in cultivation many named cultivars allowable on that basis. It is possible that a grower has a plant to exhibit that would be eligible but goes

unrecognized due to ignorance of the heritage of the material used. This becomes a particular problem with junipers. Many of us have a tendency to think of most juniper cultivars sold in the nursery trade as being Asian in origin. It is not uncommon to find Wilton's blue rug juniper listed as *Juniperus Chinensis Wiltonii*. This infers that this tree or shrub is a cultivar of a Chinese juniper, which would disqualify it for the MABA award. However Wilton's juniper is in reality *Juniperus Horizontalis*. It is our hope that this list will help to relieve some of the confusion.

The best effort possible has been put forth to complete the most accurate list possible. It is more than possible that there are errors of omission especially in the area of the *malus* species, considering that Dr. Michael A. Dirr is not able to weed out of the cultivars and their sources, domestic and foreign. In this case the basic wild flora are the only ones included in the list. Additions and deletions from this list are welcomed with appropriate proof and references. The changes proposed to the list are to be approved by the board or it's designate.

References:

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by Michael A. Dirr

Trees of North America by Dr. C. Frank Brockman, Professor of Forestry Emeritus
College of Forest Resources, University of Washington

PINE PINACEA

Pinus Strobus (Eastern White Pine)

Compacta
Contorta
Fastigiata
Fastigata var. glauca
Little Giant
Minima
Nana
Pindula
Prostrata
Pumila

Pinus Banksiana (Jack Pine)

Uncle foggy

Pinus Resinosa (Red Pine)

Pinus Echinata (Short Leaf Pine)

Pinus Virginiana (Virginia Pine)

Pinus Rigda (Pitch Pine)

Sherman Eddy

LARCH LARIX

Larix Laricina (Larch)

Tamarack

SPRUCE PICEA

Picea Mariana (Black spruce)

Doumetii
Nana
Ericoides

Picea Glauca (White Spruce)

Albertiana
Conica
Densata

HEMLOCK TSUGA

Tsuga Canadensis (Canadian Hemlock)

100's of cultivars all of which are
Canadensis

FIR ABIES

Abies Balsamea (Balsam Fir)

Hudsonia
Nana

BALD CYPRESS TAXODIUM DISTICHUM

Taxodium Distichum (Bald Cypress)

Monach of Illinois
Pendens
Shawnee Brave

YEW TAXUS

Taxus Canadensis (Canadian Yew)

Pyramidalis
Stricta

CEDAR - CYPRESS CUPRESSACEAE

Thuja Occidentalis (Northern White
Cedar)

100's of cultivars
Aurea
Canadian Green
Douglasii Aurea
Emerald
Globosa
Little Gem

JUNIPER JUNIPERUS

Juniperus Communis (Common Juniper)

Compressa
Depressa
Depressa Aurea
Green Carpet

Juniperus Virginiana (Eastern Red Cedar)

Canaetii
Cupressifolia
Glauca
Globosa
Kosteri
Pyramidalis

Juniperus Horizontalis (Creeping Juniper)

Admirabilis
Bar Harbor
Blue Mat
Emerald Spreader
Hughes
Plumosa
Plumosa Fountian
Wiltonii Blue Rug

WILLOW SALIX

Salix Discolor (Pussy Willow)

BIRCH BETULA

Betula Papyrifera (Paper Birch)
Betula Alleghaniensis (Yellow Birch)
Betula Nigra (River Birch)

BEECH FAGUS

Fagus Grandifolia (American Beech)

OAK QUERCUS

Quercus Alba (White Oak)
Quercus Macrocarpa (Bur Oak)
Quercus Prinus (Chesnut Oak)
Quercus Bicolor (Swamp White Oak)
Quercus Muehlenbergii (Chinkapin Oak)
Quercus Rubra (Northern Red Oak)
Quercus Velutina (Black Oak)
Quercus Palustris (Pin Oak)
Quercus Ellipsoidalis (Northern Pin Oak)
Quercus Imbricaria (Shingle Oak)

HOP - HORNBEAM OSTRYA

Ostrya Virginiana (Eastern Hop-Hornbeam)

HORNBEAM CARPINUS

Carpinus Caroliniana (American Hornbeam)

ELM ULMUS

Ulmus Americana (American Elm)
Ulmus Rubra (Slippery Elm)
Ulmus Thomasii (Rock Elm)
Ulmus alata (Winged Elm)*

HACKBERRY CELTIS

Celtis Occidentalis (American Hackberry)

WITCH - HAZEL HAMAMELIS

Hamamelis Virginiana (Common Witch-Hazel)

APPLE MALUS

Malus Coronaria (Sweet Crabapple)

Malus Ioensis (Prairie Crabapple)

CHERRIES & PLUMS PRUNUS

Prunus Serotina (Black Cherry)

Prunus Pennsylvanica (Pin Cherry)

Prunus Virginiana (Common
Chokecherry)

Prunus Americana (American Plum)

Prunus Nigra (Canada Plum)

SERVICE BERRIES AMELANCHIER

Amelanchier laevis (Allegheny

Serviceberry)

HAWTHORNS CRATAEGUS

Crataegus Pruinosa (Frosted Hawthorn)

Crataegus Pedicellata (Scarlet
Hawthorn)

Crataegus Galli (Cockspur Hawthorn)

Crataegus Mollis (Downy Hawthorn)

REDBUD CERCIS

Cercis Canadensis (Eastern Redbud)

DOGWOOD CORNACEA

Cornus Florida (Flowering Dogwood)

Cornus Alternifolia (Alternate-leaf
Dogwood)

Cornus Drummandii (Rough leaf
Dogwood)

Cornus Stolonifera (Red-Osier Dogwood)

MAPLE ACER

Acer Saccharum (Sugar Maple)

Acer Nigrum (Black Maple)

Acer Fubrum (Red Maple)

Acer Pensylvanicum (Striped Maple)

Acer Spicatum (Mountain Maple)

Acer Sacharinum (Silver Maple)

HORSE CHESTNUT AESCULUS

Aesculus Octandra (Yellow Buckeye)

Aesculus Glabra (Ohio Buckeye)

TUPELO NYSSA

Nyssa Sylvatica (Black Tupelo)

LAUREL KALMIA

Kalmia Latifolia (Mountain Laurel)

RHODODENDRON RHODODENDRON

Rhododendron Latifolia (Rose bay

Rhododendron)

PERSIMMON DIOSPYROS

Diospyros Virginiana (Common

Persimmon)

*Added 2015, P. Weishaar



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