



City of Essex Junction Tree and Historical Walk

Led by Warren Spinner and Tim Jerman

June 3, 2023

1. **'Shade Master' Honey Locust – *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Shade Master'** (28 Railroad Avenue)

A native of Central North America. The thornless variety is a commonly planted urban tree because it can survive in very poor compacted soils. It is heat- and drought-tolerant and can endure air pollution and salt spray. Locusts are legumes (pea family), producing seeds in pods. It has delicate foliage, providing filtered shade.

2. **'Autumn Blaze' Maple – *Acer x freemanii* 'Autumn Blaze'** (Central St. Corner of Railroad Ave.)

This is a hybrid cross of red and silver maple, with the best features of each. Freeman maple cultivars grow fast and have deeply lobed leaves (like silver maple). They also have good structural stability and great fall color (like red maple). They grow well in a variety of site conditions and have been widely planted.

3. **'Patmore' Green Ash – *Fraxnus pennsylvanica* 'Patmore'** (Village Cemetery)

This common species has been readily planted throughout the urban landscape because of its hardiness. The leaves of this tree are pinnately compound in an opposite pattern. Each leaf is composed of 7-9 leaflets. The bark is ridged and furrowed forming a loose diamond pattern. This variety was developed from a native of the Eastern US which is the most widely distributed ash species in this country. It was often planted in urban settings to replace elms. It is susceptible to attack by the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilis planipennis*), an exotic beetle now found in many states, which is why it is no longer planted.

4. **Sugar Maple – *Acer saccharum*** (Village Cemetery)

Vermont's state tree, best known for its maple sap and red-yellow-orange fall color. Most Vermonters can't and won't picture the state without this species. Leaves with 5 taper-pointed lobes and few teeth and are in an opposite arrangement. Grows to 130 ft. and can live 200+

years. The bark is brown to dark brown. It tolerates shade, but not salt or air pollution, so it's a good tree for cemeteries and parks.

5. Little Leaf Linden – *Tilia cordata* (39 Main Street, 1st Congregational Church)

A native of Europe commonly planted in the urban forest. It grows to 60-70 ft in a pyramid form with heart shaped leaves. It has sweet-smelling flowers that can be used to make tea. Aphids can infest lindens, dropping a sticky honeydew secretion on everything below which attracts bees and flies. Its North American cousin is the American Linden or Basswood.

6. White Ash – *Fraxinus americana* (39 Main Street, 1st Congregational Church)

Grows 60 to 70 ft with opposite pinnately compound leaves. Finely furrowed gray bark with intersecting diamond pattern. Used for hockey sticks, tennis racquets and baseball bats because wood is hard, strong, and light. This is the most commonly found ash in our northern hardwood forests.

7. 'Princeton' Elm – *Ulmus americana* 'Princeton' (47 Main Street Corner of Church St.)

One of several varieties of elms that is resistant to Dutch elm disease. This disease killed many of the American Elms in the US. This variety and others are bringing back the majestic vase-shaped elm canopy to our streets.

8. Pin Oak – *Quercus palustris* (2 Church St.)

A member of the red oak group, identifiable by pointed lobes, pin oak displays an interesting branching structure. The upper branches angle upwards, branches in the mid-section of the tree grow straight out, and those on the lower third tend to angle downwards. This gives us a visually appealing silhouette, especially in winter months. Grows 70 to 80 feet in height.

Norway Spruce – *Picea abies* (11 East St.)

A nice conical symmetric evergreen that can grow 40-80 feet high in an urban setting. It has the largest cones of the spruces, and limbs that swoop downward then up at the tips on older trees.

9. Ginkgo – *Ginkgo biloba* (15 East St.)

Noted for its fan-shaped leaves and pyramidal shape. Usually growing to 50-80 feet, it has beautiful yellow fall color. This tree is resistant to insect pests and disease.

10. 'Crimson King' Norway Maple – *Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King' (14 East St.)

This cultivar has maroon-colored leaves and is a striking-looking tree in the landscape. The non-native species Norway maples were popular landscape trees, but have now been designated as 'invasive', though cultivated varieties don't produce as much seed as the straight species.

11. Paperbark Maple – *Acer griseum* (28 East Ave. corner of Pleasant St.)

Small tree native to central China. It's rich cinnamon to reddish brown exfoliating bark makes it a stunning addition to the winter landscape. Grows 20-30 ft high and wide. Brilliant red fall color. Needs a well-drained soil but can adapt to both alkaline and acid soils. A real specimen that is a great addition to any landscape.

12. Butternut – *Juglans cinerea* (28 East Ave. corner of Pleasant St. in back Yard)

A native tree of the Eastern US related to the black walnut. It has fernlike compound leaves. Wood used for cabinetmaking. The greenish-yellow husk on the nut was used to dye Confederate uniforms. Sticky hairs around fruit stain hands. It grows up to 130 ft tall and lives 80+ years, but is susceptible to butternut canker, which kills trees by girdling the trunk & branches.

13. Blue Spruce – *Picea pungens* (31 East St. corner of Pleasant St.)

Pyramidal in form reaches 90 ft tall and can live 600 years. A native of the Rocky Mountains. Classic conical shape, grace and symmetry have made them a favorite for large Christmas trees.

14. Black Locust – *Robinia pseudocacacia* (67 Main St. corner on the Pleasant St. side)

In the bean family, produces pea-like flowers. Grows up to 80 ft tall, lives 90 years. At night, leaves appear to fold up; no reason is known for this unique habit. It has alternate compound leaves and heavily furrowed bark.

15. Red Maple – *Acer rubrum* (65 Main St. corner of Pleasant St. on the Main St. side)

This native maple prefers damp feet, but tolerates a wide range of soil types, and has beautiful red fall color. The leaves are three-lobed with toothed edges. It is found growing somewhere in all 48 continental United States.