

A Tree Guide to Canada





Did you know that there are about **180** different types of trees in Canada?

From birch and oak to spruce and pine, we've got them all, but the type of trees you see really depends on where you are. That's because Canada is a huge country with all sorts of different ecosystems and climates. The trees that grow close to the Rocky Mountains might not be the same ones growing along the St. Lawrence.



Coniferous Trees

Conifers are a group of trees that grow all over the world. They produce cones instead of flowers. They are sometimes called evergreens because they tend to stay green year-round. Conifers like pines, firs, and spruces are often used as Christmas trees!



Deciduous Trees

Deciduous trees shed their leaves once a year. In Canada, they tend to lose their leaves to prepare for winter. When the weather warms up, they produce new leaves.

Use this guide to learn what trees are near you!



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Canada's west coast has one of the mildest climates in the country. Unless you live in the mountains, you probably don't experience a very cold or snowy winter. The warm Pacific Ocean air creates lots of moisture and humidity all year, which is great for the plants and trees that grow there! With lots of ecosystems and climates, you'll see tons of different trees throughout the province.

Trees that grow well here: 

Photo Credit: Robert Flogaus-Faust & Dawin Harris

Type:
Coniferous

Fun Fact:
Some Western Red Cedars have
been around for
1400 years.

Detail:



Western Red Cedar

Photo Credit: U.S Forest Service- Pacific Northwest Region



Type:
Coniferous

Fun Fact:
This tree is often used as a Christmas tree.

Detail:



Douglas Fir

Photo Credit: Sam Beebe & Robert Flogaus-Faust

Type:
Coniferous

Fun Fact:
This tree is used as a nesting tree by bird species like the northern three-toed woodpecker.

Detail:



Western Hemlock



Photo Credit: David Baron & Bureau of Land Manage



Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact:
Northern flying squirrels eat the seeds in winter when other foods are scarce.



Detail:



Bigleaf Maple



THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

(Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba)

Canada's prairies are known for their grasslands, which has some of the best farmland in the whole country. The region also has thick forests, super dry areas like the badlands, and mountains, among others. You'll see all sorts of different trees depending on where you are.

Trees that grow well here: 

Photo Credit: Matt Lavin

Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact:
Beavers use this
tree for food and
building materials.

Detail:



Balsam Poplar



Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact:
This tree is sometimes called Quaking Aspen because of the 'quaking' sound it makes in the wind.

Detail:



Trembling Aspen

Photo Credit: S. Rae & Brett Whaley

Type:
Coniferous

Fun Fact:
Its seeds are eaten by
rodents and birds.

Detail:



Jack Pine

Photo Credit: Arthur Chapman



Type:
Coniferous

Fun Fact:
Mammals like moose, caribou, American minks, and American martens make their homes in black spruce communities.

Detail:



Black Spruce



CENTRAL CANADA

(Ontario, Quebec)

Central Canada covers a big area. Parts of northern Quebec are tundra, and Ontario is home to the most southern part of Canada. This means there are lots of different ecosystems throughout the region and lots of different trees.

Trees that grow well here: 

Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact:
This tree can live for
300 to 400 years.

Detail:



American Beech



Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact: Birds like the great horned owl and pileated woodpecker make their nests in the cavities of this tree!



Detail:



Sugar Maple

Type:
Coniferous

Fun Fact:
The needles of this tree
grow in bunches of five.

Detail:



White Pine



Type:
Coniferous

Fun Fact:
This tree is often used as a Christmas tree.

Detail:



White Spruce



THE NORTH

(Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon)

It can get pretty cold up in Canada's North, especially during the winter. While parts of the boreal forest grow here, a lot of the land is Arctic tundra. Not a lot of trees can survive here, and the ones that do are usually smaller than what you'd see in the south. That's because the permafrost stops their roots from getting big. The farther north you go the fewer trees you'll see.

Trees that grow well here: 

Photo Credit: Matt Lavin

Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact:
Beavers use this tree
for food and building
materials.

Detail:



Balsam Poplar

Photo Credit: Aaron Carlson & Joshua Mayer



Type:
Deciduous conifers
(their needles fall off in the
autumn and new ones grow
in the spring)

Fun Fact:
This tree is found in every
province and territory in
Canada.

Detail:



Tamarack

Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact:

This tree is used to make things like ice cream sticks, toothpicks, clothespins, broom handles, and toys.

Detail:



White Birch



Type:
Coniferous

Fun Fact:
This tree is often used as a
Christmas tree.

Detail:



White Spruce



ATLANTIC CANADA

(Newfoundland & Labrador; New Brunswick,
Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island)

Being so close to the Atlantic Ocean, these provinces can get pretty humid. They get lots of fog and precipitation (rain or snow) almost all year long. The region also stretches pretty far north, where it can get really cold!

Trees that grow well here: 

Photo Credit: Chris M. Morris & Erin Lunsford Jones

Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact:

This tree gets its name from its bark, which is a golden yellow for much of its life.



Detail:



Yellow Birch



Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact:
Birds eat the fruit from the Mountain Ash, and they spread seeds through their droppings, helping new trees to grow.



Detail:



American Mountain Ash

Type:
Coniferous

Fun Fact:
This tree is often used as a
Christmas tree.

Detail:



White Spruce

Photo Credit: Mirabelka Szuszu & Katja Schulz



Type:
Deciduous

Fun Fact:
The sap from this tree can be used to make maple syrup.

Detail:



Red Maple

