



SUGGESTED ORNAMENTAL EDIBLES

Ht. Native Edible Woody
part Annual
Per.

SHADE TREES					
Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)	100'	yes	nuts	W	hard wood, slow to mature, nut casings will stain
Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	75'	yes	fruit	W	tolerates part shade when young
Butternut (<i>Juglans cinerea</i>)	60'	yes	nuts	W	most are dying from butternut canker
ORNAMENTAL TREES					
Pin Cherry (<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>)	45'	yes	fruit	W	may be pruned to tree form or grown as large shrub
Apple hybrids (<i>Malus X</i>)	>30'		fruit	W	standard apples are quite large, but dwarf forms available; choose from a variety of forms, colors; some crabapple types are also quite edible such as Dolgo or Whitney
Pear hybrids (<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>)	20'		fruit	W	prune to keep short or purchase dwarf types. All fruit better with second pear variety nearby
Plum hybrids (<i>Prunus X</i>)	20'		fruit	W	European prune-plums are self-pollinating
Cherry hybrids (<i>Prunus X</i>)	8' - 20'		fruit	W	pie cherries must be protected from birds. "Meteor" and "North Star" are MN varieties.
Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)	16'	yes	fruit	W	may be pruned to tree form or grown as large shrub
Plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>)	15'	yes	fruit	W	short-lived, but reseeds into thickets
Peach (<i>Prunus persica</i>)	15'		fruit	W	seldom bears fruit since trees bloom too early, but the plant may survive our winters and the leaves are very attractive
Apricot (<i>Prunus sp.</i>)	15'		fruit	W	stunning in bloom and in fall color but bears fruit only one out of 5 years in our area.
SHRUBS					
Juneberry, Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier sp.</i>)	3'-15'	yes	fruit	W	Available in bush or tree forms of varying heights. Fruit similar to blueberry in appearance, but not as much flavor. Unlike blueberries, Amelanchier grows well in alkaline soil. Beautiful white spring bloom, great fall leaf color. Protect fruit from birds.
Highbush Cranberry (<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>)	12'	yes	berries	W	tolerates quite a bit of shade, but will fruit less. Very attractive three-season shrub. Use fruit in jelly, juice
Nanking Cherry (<i>Prunus tomentosa</i>)	10'		fruit	W	tart red pie cherries. Stunning in bloom, but must protect fruit from birds



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Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium sp.</i>)	3'-6'	yes	berries	W	require acid soil - thus may be best grown in containers. Be sure to look for MN-developed varieties. Beautiful glossy leaves on dense shrubs with wonderful fall color
Gooseberry (<i>Ribes uva crispa</i>)	5'	yes	berries	W	tolerates considerable shade. Cultivated varieties generally fruit better than the native, but are still very thorny. Use in pies, juice, jelly
Sand Cherry (<i>Prunus besseyi</i>)	4'	yes	berries	W	sweet black cherries. Plants sucker freely, forming a thicket that may be difficult to weed. Must protect fruit from birds
Currant (<i>Ribes sp.</i>)	4'	yes	berries	W	rather sparse shrubs that may defoliate early in poor conditions. Ropes of berries in red, white, or black for pies, jelly, or juice. Avoid black currants as alternate host of White Pine blister rust if you have White Pines nearby.
HEDGES					
Buffalo Berry (<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>)	12'	yes	berries	W	Somewhat thorny; takes pruning nicely. Attractive silver leaves all season. Orange-red berries for juice or mixed with apples for pie.
Tomato (<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>)	4'-10'		fruit	TP	Fruits in red, pink, purple, yellow, green. Plants with particularly attractive leaves for containers include "Smarty Red Cherry", "New Big Dwarf", and "Window Box Roma"
Asparagus	7'		stems	P	Harvest new shoots for no more than 6 weeks in early spring, then allow fronds to grow until late fall. Fronds make nice filler for bouquets
Okra (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>)	7'		fruit	A	Hibiscus relative with stunning flowers. "Burgundy" has the bonus of colored fruit and stems. "Jambalaya" is a good green choice.
Raspberry (<i>Rubus sp.</i>)	3'-6'	yes	berries	W	Require regular care to keep healthy and attractive. Everbearing-varieties are easiest to manage by mowing to the ground each fall. Berries are red, pink, yellow, or black, though black types are very thorny and can form dense thickets
VINES					
Hardy Kiwi (<i>Actinidia sp.</i>)	varies		fruit	W	Woody vine requiring strong support and both male and female vines. Fruit from MN hardy types is small (large grape size) but very tasty. New shoots need to wrap around wire. Male plants take a few years to show color.
Grapes (<i>Vitis sp.</i>)	varies	yes	berries	W	woody vine requiring annual pruning to produce well. Look for hardy varieties to avoid winter covering task. Tendrils must wrap around wire.



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Hops (<i>Humulus sp.</i>)	30'	yes	cones	P	perennial vine that dies back to ground each season, but grows quickly. Leaves have fine hairs that rasp bare skin. Cones used to flavor beer. Must wrap around wire to climb.
Squash (<i>Cucurbita sp.</i>)	20'	yes	fruit, flowers, seeds	A	Require wire trellis. Poor climber, but weekly manipulation is enough to keep them growing up. Heavy fruit may need support.
Cantaloupe (<i>Cucumis sp.</i>) Watermelon (<i>Citrullis sp.</i>)	15'		fruit	A	see Squash (above). Try smaller-fruited varieties for less support requirements
Cucumber (<i>Cucumis sativus</i>)	10'		fruit	A	Tendrils must wrap around wire. Not a strong climber, but doesn't need a lot of encouragement and fruit is straighter on a trellis. Try "H-19 Little Leaf" for ground cover or "Orient Express" or "Tasty King" or "Iznik" for trellis
Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>)	10'	yes	fruit, seeds, flowers	A	see peas, below. Try "Scarlet Runner Bean" for brilliant flowers.
Yard-Long Bean (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>)	10'		fruit, flowers	A	see peas, below. Try "Red Noodle" for attractive 12" long fruit
Hyacinth Bean (<i>Dolichos lablab</i>)	10'		fruit, flowers	A	see peas, below. Lablab comes in red or white forms
Malabar Spinach (<i>Basella sp.</i>)	6'		leaves, shoots	A	see peas, below. Red-stemmed form is more ornamental than green. Leaves and young shoots make great salads and stir-fry. Slow to get going: start seed indoors
Peas (<i>Pisum sativum</i>)	6'		fruit, seeds, flowers	A	needs small post, wire, or string for plants to climb. Some varieties are very ornamental. Try "Super Sugar Snap" , "Magnolia Blossom"
GROUND COVERS					
Catmint (<i>Nepeta sp.</i>)	>30"	yes	leaves	P	quite a variation in height; watch labels closely
Mint (<i>Mentha sp.</i>)	15"		leaves	P	Does well in shade. Very spreading, almost invasive; recommend containing the plants and cutting back once a season to prevent bloom and keep plants tidy.
Sweet Potato (<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>)	15"		roots	TP	Propagate by stem cuttings or sprouting roots. "Vardaman" is a short-vined, attractive, edible variety. Ornamental types produce edible, but not tasty, roots.
Woodruff (<i>Galium odoratum</i>)	12"		leaves	P	prefers moist shade. Coumarin flavor used in May Wine. Not long-lived in Minnesota
Oregano/Marjoram (<i>Origanum sp.</i>)	12"		leaves	P	For best flavor, pluck sprigs before they bloom. Good drainage required to overwinter reliably
Cucumber (<i>Cucumis</i>)	12"				see Vines



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Strawberries (<i>Fragraria sp.</i>)	9"	yes	fruit	P	Alpine types tolerate some shade
Thyme (<i>Thymus sp.</i>)	6"		leaves	W	Semi-hardy to hardy; some creep more than others
Lettuce (<i>Lactuca sativa</i>)	6"		leaf	A	Grows quickly from seed, tolerating some shade. Comes in an assortment of colors from chartreuse to burgundy. Try "Black-Seeded Simpson" (chartreuse) and "Sea of Red"
DECORATIVE PERENNIALS					
Jerusalem artichoke (<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>)	7'	yes	tubers	P	Beautiful yellow fall blooms. Starchy white tubers are a potato substitute, especially good for diabetics.
Anise Hyssop (<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>)	40"	yes	leaves, flowers	P	rootbeer flavored flowers and leaves for salads. "Golden Jubilee" particularly beautiful before bloom
Horseradish (<i>Amoracia sp.</i>)	36"		roots	P	White bloom in spring. Dig roots to peel and grind from October through March
Rhubarb (<i>Rheum rhabarbarum</i>)	30"		leaf petiole	P	long-lived plant with architectural quality. Large leaves are considered poisonous; petioles are tart, but edible in juice, desserts
Garlic Chives (<i>Allium tuberosum</i>)	30"		leaves	P	white flowers smell a lot like roses, but be sure to deadhead them immediately to prevent rampant seeding. Flat leaves should be cut young for mild garlic flavor
Chives (<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>)	24"	yes	leaves, flowers	P	purple flowers taste just like leaves, Cut both flowers and leaves when they are young for best flavor.
Sage (<i>Salvia officinalis</i>)	24"		leaves	P	Garden sage hardier than most other types (variegated, pineapple, etc.) Snip young leaves to use fresh or dry for seasoning
ORNAMENTAL VEGETABLES					
Okra	7'				see Hedges
Tomato	7'				see Hedges
Cardoon (<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>)	5'		stems	TP	Will often survive MN winters with some protection. Stems must be blanched to become edible, but this is a beautiful plant.
Peppers (<i>Capsicum annuum</i>)	4'		fruit	TP	Attractive plants with dark green leaves. Look for hot peppers "Habanero", "Cayenne", "Thai Hot" and sweet varieties "Islander", "Flexum", "Blaze Orange"
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> , including Cabbage, Kale, Brussels Sprouts	15" - 4'		leaves	B	Garden-worthy varieties include any savoy or red cabbage and any Brussels sprout variety. Knock-out Kale types include "Winterbor", "Redbor", and "Dinosaur"



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Eggplant (<i>Solanum melongena</i>)	42"		fruit	A	Sturdy, handsome plant with large attractive leaves. Fruit is a bonus and comes in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Try "Little Green" for a smaller, yet productive, plant.
Zucchini (<i>Cucurbita sp.</i>)	36"	yes	fruit, flowers	A	Large plant with striking leaves and bold yellow flowers with a meaty taste. Harvest fruit frequently when small
Artichoke (<i>Cynara scolymus</i>)	30"		flower buds	TP	thistle relative, only marginally hardy in MN. Overwinter potted plants in protected location
Carrots (<i>Daucus carota</i>)	15"		root, leaves	A	Grown mainly for the orange, red, white, purple, or yellow roots, lacy carrot leaves are also edible.
DECORATIVE HERBS					
Dill (<i>Anethum graveolens</i>)	36"		leaves, flowers, seeds	A	Attractive ferny green foliage followed by delicate yellow bloom umbels. Best flavor found in young leaves and mature, but green, seeds
Fennel (<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>)	36"		leaves, flowers, seeds, bulb	A	Ferny green or bronze foliage. Some types form bulbs with light licorice flavor. Same flavor is present throughout the plant. Unlike dill, the plants stay green through fall as long as the seed heads are removed. Try "Finale" or "Bronze"
Chamomile (<i>Matricaria recutita</i>)	30"		flowers	A	Grows best as a winter annual. Plants die back after bloom, so there may be a gap in the garden for part of the summer
Rosemary	30"		leaves, flowers	TP	Lovely silvery needle-like leaves. Overwinter indoors
Borage (<i>Borago officinalis</i>)	24"		flowers, leaves	A	Large, easy seeds for a child to grow. Softly prickly leaves and bright blue blooms both taste of cucumbers in salads
Basil (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>)	12"- 24"		leaves	A	Many colors and flavors available. Favorites are "Red Rubin" (purple), "Magical Michael" (Thai), "Sweet", and "Lemon"
Parsley (<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>)	20"		leaves	B	A tender biennial, parsley sometimes overwinters in MN to set seed the second year. Available in both curly and flat-leaf types; both are very attractive plants
Cilantro/Coriander (<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>)	18"		leaves, seeds	A	Harvested before bloom as cilantro, or allowed to go to seed as coriander. Attractive in bloom, it dies back after setting seed, so there may be a summer gap in the garden
Scented Geranium (<i>Pelargonium sp.</i>)	18"		leaves	TP	A variety of leaf sizes, shapes, and scents used to flavor sugar or tea. Overwinter indoors - blooms are a bonus



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Lavender	18"		flowers	TP	Lovely silvery needle-like leaves with fragrant flowers. Look for edible varieties, and overwinter indoors
EDIBLE FLOWERS	EAT FLOWERS ONLY FROM PLANTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN SPRAYED				
Herbs	vary		flowers	A,P	All edible herbs have flowers that taste like the leaves
Lilac (<i>Syringa sp.</i>)	10'		flowers	W	Lovely floral flavor for salads, drinks, desserts
Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i>)	>10'	yes	flowers	W	Use un-sprayed petals in salads, desserts, or to flavor sugar
<i>Gladiolus</i>	42"		flowers	A Corm	Glad flowers are truly the dessert of the flower world with sweet flavors. Different colors have differing flavors, so be sure to try them all.
Daylily (<i>Hemerocallis sp.</i>)	36"	yes	flowers	P	Both buds and opened flowers have a meaty flavor that works in salads, stuffed and fried, or added to soups at end of cooking for a thickener
Squash/Pumpkin (<i>Cucurbita sp.</i>)	36"	yes	flowers, fruit		The meaty flavor of the buds and flowers works well chopped in salads or stuffed, battered, and fried.
Nasturtium (<i>Tropaeolum sp.</i>)	24"		flowers, leaves, seeds	A,TP	Both leaves and flowers add a nice bite to salads. Tender seeds may be pickled as a caper substitute
<i>Dianthus sp.</i>	20"		flowers	A,TP	clove-like flavor in salads. More fragrance - more flavor
Beebalm (<i>Monarda sp.</i>)	30"	yes	flowers, leaves	P	Oswego and Earl Grey Teas are flavored with beebalm, which has a nice floral flavor.
Signet Marigold (<i>Tagetes tenuifolia</i>)	20"		flowers	A	"Lemon Gem" and "Tangerine Dream" are favorites. The tiny blooms have strong citrus tang that enhances salads, desserts, beverages, and muffins
<i>Begonia</i> Tuberous types	15"		flowers	A Bulb	Strongly citrus flavored (reminiscent of sour lemon candy), petals work well in all sweetened desserts and drinks
Pansy (<i>Viola sp.</i>)	10"		flowers	A	Floral flavor for salads, desserts
Radish (<i>Raphanus sativus</i>)	6"		flowers, leaves, roots	A	Older leaves are a mite hairy, but young or old have the familiar radish bite. Flowers and young seed pods add smaller bits of tang to salads. Plants small and grow quickly.

