

Rhode Island's canopy provides a delightful array of trees. A tally of the biggest trees of their kind began on index cards, and is now in cyber space. The greatest trees in Rhode Island continue to astound and delight. Recognizing the premiere trees is an interesting challenge that helps us to keep in tune with the changing landscape. We find Champion trees in yards, parks and forests.

The particular siting of the tree is important, as is the origin of the species. Let us consider the array of Champion trees, and their origins. The list below features trees native in Rhode Island, and trees native to North America. The remaining list is of trees introduced from other continents. On plains, mountains and coast, forests fluctuate in composition, molded by glacial forces and changes in climate. Rhode Island is an unusual geographic region (Appalachian/ Coastal), where the last leading glacier edge was found. Tree species are always on the move. Our general context of time is the forest development since the last glaciation 11,000 years ago. So suffice it to say, any trees persisting today are remarkable, and the champions of those, really are amazing. As of 2018, there were 141 crowned species.



### NATIVE in RHODE ISLAND

white ash  
American beech  
yellow birch  
cherry birch, black birch  
gray birch  
Atlantic white cedar  
eastern red cedar  
choke cherry  
pin cherry  
black cherry  
pagoda dogwood  
flowering big-bracted-dogwood  
eastern cottonwood,  
common hackberry  
cockspur hawthorn

pignut hickory  
shagbark hickory  
American hornbeam  
American holly  
hop-hornbeam  
American linden, basswood  
red maple  
silver maple  
sugar maple  
mountain maple  
eastern white oak  
swamp white oak  
scarlett oak  
burr oak  
mountain chestnut oak  
pin oak

northern red oak  
post oak  
black oak  
pitch pine  
eastern white pine  
American plum  
quaking poplar  
sassafras  
black spruce  
American sycamore  
Tulip tree  
Tupelo  
butternut, white walnut

### NATIVE in NORTH AMERICA

Ash, White  
Ash, Green  
Apple, Greening  
Arborvitae, Western  
Birch, Sweet  
Birch, Paper  
Buckeye, Yellow  
Catalpa, Northern  
Incense cedar, California  
Chestnut, Zimmerman  
Coffee Tree, Kentucky  
Chestnut, American  
Crabapple, Common

Dogwood, Eastern  
Dogwood, Cornelian Cherry  
Dove tree  
Elm, American  
Fir, Silver  
Fir, White  
Hemlock, Eastern  
Hickory, Sweet  
Honeylocust, Common  
Larch, Eastern  
Locust, Black  
Magnolia, Cucumber tree  
Magnolia, Kobus  
Magnolia, Saucer

Maple, Ash leaf  
Maple, Black  
Mockernut, White  
Orange, Osage  
Redbud, Eastern  
Sourwood  
Silverbell, Mountain  
Silverbell, Carolina  
Sweet Gum  
Tupelo  
Yellowwood  
Walnut, Black



## Trees Introduced to Rhode Island

Birds, collectors, cargo, and industries, are the largest reasons for the translocation of trees. Whether intentional, or inadvertently, new varieties and species have been introduced. These trees come from similar latitudes and climates. However, an introduced tree leaves a lot of its associates behind, so a trees introduction to an area can have various consequences. When an introduced species overtakes and inhibits local flora, this is considered 'invasive'.<sup>1</sup>

Understanding how to recognize the trees, appropriate for long term canopy investment, helps assure that efforts today result in canopy benefits for decades. Evaluating the introduced champions may help to identify canopy contributors that are hearty, capable and beneficial. While promoting natives is an effective way forward, considerations regarding introduced species ought be done with deliberate inquiry of landscape impact.

### Enjoy the Cornucopia!!

#### EUROPE/ SCANDINAVIA

Spruce, Norway  
 Spruce, Yeddo  
 Pine, Lacebark  
 Pine, Swiss Stone  
 Pine, Scotch  
 Planetree, London  
 Maple, Norway  
 Horse chestnut, Europe  
 Elm, Camperdown  
 Beech, European  
 Maple, Sycamore  
 Oak, English

Horse chestnut, Red  
 Linden, Littleleaf  
 Linden, Silver  
 Larch, European

#### AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

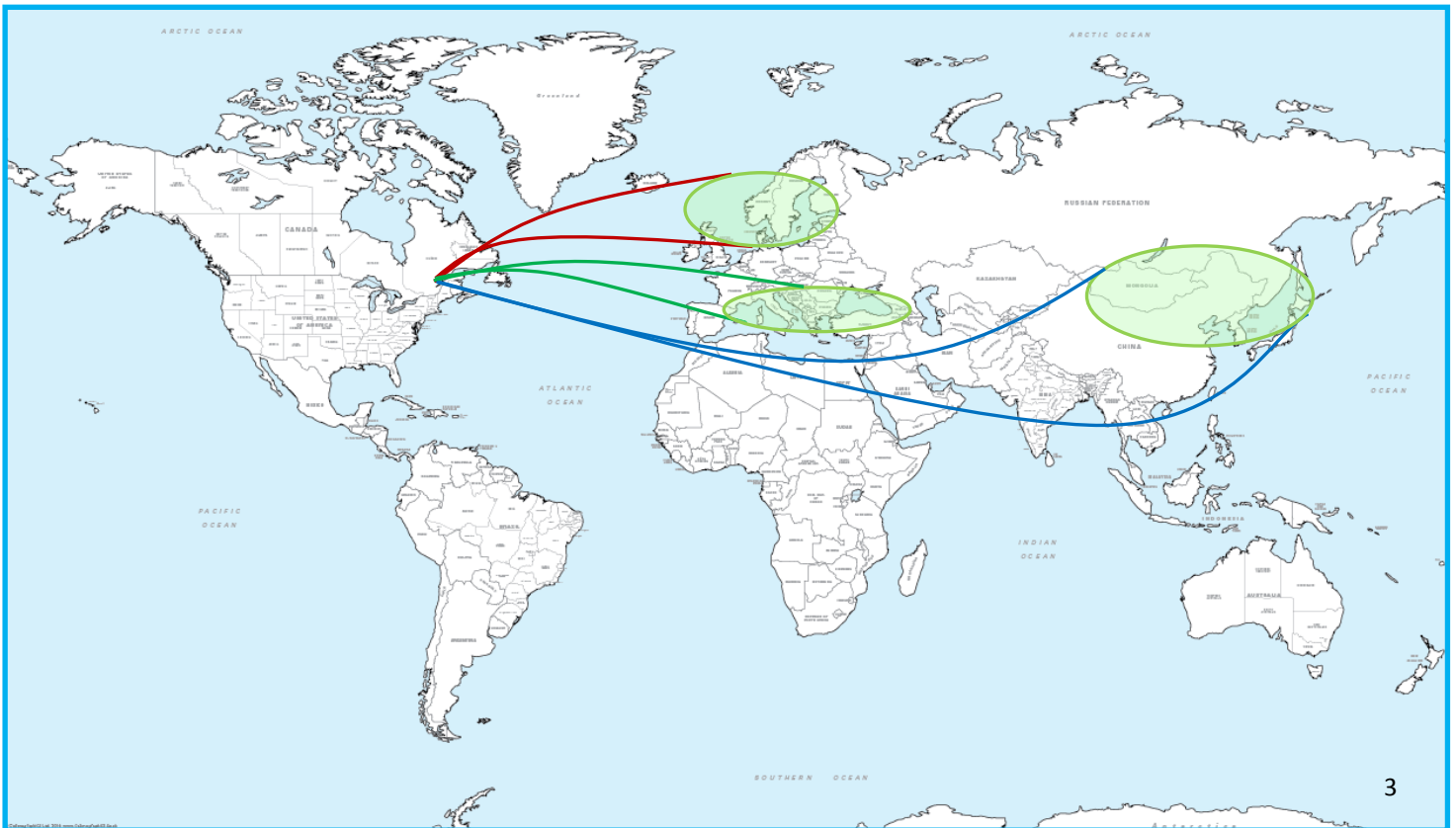
Cedar, Atlas  
 Fir, Nordmann  
 Cedar of Lebanon

#### EAST ASIA/ JAPAN

Maidenhair tree  
 Cork tree, Amur  
 Cherry, Higan

Elm, Wych  
 Elm, Siberian  
 Viburnum, Siebold  
 Silk tree, Mimosa  
 Chestnut, Chinese  
 Dogwood, Chinese  
 Raintree, Golden  
 Empress tree  
 Spruce, Oriental  
 Mulberry, White  
 Oak, Mongolian  
 Fir, Nikko  
 Maple, Paperbark

Ailanthus, Tree of Heaven  
 Scholar tree  
 Katsura tree  
 Snowbell, Japanese  
 Lilac, Japanese Tree  
 Maple, Japanese  
 Umbrella pine, Japanese  
 Stewartia, Japanese  
 Yew, Japanese  
 False cypress, Hinoki  
 False cypress, Sawara  
 Cherry, Japanese  
 Cedar, Japanese



<sup>1</sup> Vascular Flora of Rhode Island— A list of Native and Naturalized Plants; Rhode Island Natural History Survey, 1998

<sup>2</sup> RI Native Plant Guide-URI Cooperative Extension

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Geographic Regions Map; www.Cdoovision.com, 2019

<sup>4</sup> Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, 4thEd— Dirr, Michael; 1990