

The Alphabet Forest

Think of a word related to trees for every letter of the alphabet. You can challenge yourself to see how many different words you can think of for each letter. Some of our ideas are found on the following page.

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

A: Ash--Once a very common tree in Gays Mills but mostly gone due to the emerald ash borer infestation.

B: Beech--An American beech tree was planted just south of the end of Rebecca St. by the Stump Dodger walking trail.

C: Cumulus--A cultivar of serviceberry that is more upright and produces an edible berry

D: DNR--The WI DNR has been a major funder for the Village's forestry work. I could have said "depth" because planting trees at the proper depth is critical. Not convinced? Look at the poor condition of the crabapple trees behind the Mercantile. The contractors planted those trees about 5" too deep.

E: Elm--American elm trees once arched gracefully over many streets. Most died due to Dutch elm disease.

F: Fire and Floods--Floods are more of a challenge to our local trees; but, fires kill many trees each year in Wisconsin and damage the timber value of trees that are not killed.

G: Ginkgo--A popular tree because of its unique leaf shape and adaptability to many soil types.

H: Horse chestnut--Look for a young one at the vacated lot kitty-corner to Royal Bank.

I: Infestation--We'll probably have an infestation of Japanese beetles in July. The beetles eat many tree (and other plant) leaves but particularly like linden leaves.

J: Juniper--Otherwise known as red cedar. Junipers can grow on very dry soils. Find shrubby ones on prairies.

K: Kentucky coffeetree--one example of this fast-growing tree is near the corner of Orin and Rebecca Streets in front of Marjie Jurgensen's former house.

L: Longevity--we plant trees with different expected lifespans with the hopes that not all will mature and die at the same time.

M: Mower damage--One of the biggest dangers to little trees is damage from lawn mowers and weed trimmers.

N: Nuts--Pine nuts, chestnuts, hickory nuts, hazel nuts. We hope to increase the trees that produce food for people and animals in town.

O: Oaks--A premier tree for bugs, birds, and mammals due to its acorns and firm twigs that allow birds to search for insects without expending lots of energy.

P: Pine--Spruce, tamarack, white cedar and red cedar trees are often, and erroneously called pine trees.

Q: Quercus--The scientific name of the genus for oak trees.

R: Rust--A fungal disease that can affect the leaves of trees (and apples).

S: Sycamore--A tree suited to riverbottoms, sycamores have very large leaves and smooth plates of bark.

T: Tamarack--A tree that could be confused with a pine tree but its needles turn golden then drop each fall.

U: Ulmus--The scientific name for the genus of elm trees.

V: Variety--We strive to plant a variety of trees so that no one pest will again destroy so much of our urban forest canopy.

W: Willow--Willow trees support very high numbers of insects that then serve as food for birds.

X: Xylem--The water conducting tissue in a tree.

Y: Yellow-bellied sapsucker—a bird that makes horizontal rows of holes in trees to catch bugs on the sap; also the name of a great local band.

Z: Zero! The number of folks who could get through this forest alphabet without learning something about the trees of our community.