State Forest Nursery
Seedling Catalog

Providing Conservation Seedlings for Iowans since the 1930s

800.865.2477 | 515.233.1161 | F: 515.233.1131 | WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NURSERY
2404 South Duff Ave | Ames, Iowa 50010-8037

New! State Forest Nursery Online Store
Place your order today at NURSERY.IOWADNR.GOV
The State Forest Nursery welcomes the opportunity to help you with your tree planting needs. Our goal is to provide low cost, native seedlings to help make your tree planting successful and affordable. We strive to produce the best stock in the industry, and our staff will do everything they can to help you achieve your planting goals. Native, affordable seedlings are available to help make your planting successful, so please let us know how we can help! You can contact us by calling 1-800-865-2477 or visiting nursery.iowadnr.gov.

By planting trees today you will leave a legacy for your children and grandchildren, as well as a legacy for your home state, its people and its habitat. Let us help you leave your mark on the state you love—your children and grandchildren will thank you!

NEW! Visit the State Forest Nursery online store to place your order today. It’s easy and convenient! nursery.iowadnr.gov

To Order

CALL 800-865-2477 | FAX 515-233-1131
Or order online at NURSERY.IOWADNR.GOV

PLACE ORDERS August 1 - May 31

Please DO NOT SEND MONEY with your mail order—we will bill you at a later date.
Checks, VISA, MasterCard and Discover are accepted.

Seedlings may be planted for any purpose and given away to others. Seedlings may be resold as long as the appropriate licenses are obtained by the seller.

SHIPPING RATES

Via Spee Dee Delivery Service
25-100 seedlings $10
125+ seedlings $.10 per seedling

Via Fed Ex (available for areas not serviced by Spee Dee)
25-100 seedlings $20
125+ seedlings $.15 per seedling

You can pick the week you would like to have your order shipped. Once a date is confirmed on your invoice, we will do everything possible to ship your order that week. Please leave a note for the shipper where to leave trees so they will not be in the sun. Fall shipments start the last week of October. Spring shipments start the first week of April. Weeks in April will become full as we can only physically ship a limited quantity each week.

PICKUP

You may also choose the week to pick up your order from the nursery in Ames. Please call 48 hours before picking up your trees to confirm that your order is ready.

Orders must be paid in full before they are shipped or picked up.

GIFT SEEDLINGS A GIFTS
Purchase seedlings for birthdays, Christmas and other holidays. You will receive a gift acknowledgment to give to the recipient and the seedlings can be shipped directly to the recipient’s address.

Forest Nursery Staff

Jeff Goerndt, State Forester
Aron Flickinger, Nursery Manager
Kandy Weigel, Administrative Assistant
Kevin Barker, Nursery Technician
Ashley Balmer, Nursery Technician
Lee Goldsmith, Nursery Technician
SUCCESSFUL TREE PLANTING TIPS
Before ordering, take time to plan. For assistance contact your DNR District Forester. (Page 19)
• Select tree and shrub species that will do well on your site and meet your objectives.
• Determine tree and shrub spacing and the quantity needed.
• Place your order early to insure that seedlings are available.
• Consider existing ground cover and the steps needed to insure your trees will not succumb to weeds. You may need to eliminate or reduce competing vegetation before planting.
• Consider what you will need to do to prepare the site.
• Decide if the site should be machine planted or hand planted.
• Decide if you can do the work yourself or if you need to hire a contractor.
• Small trees (8-16”) may be better for hand planting projects and those new to planting trees.
• Large trees (17-24”) may be better for more experienced tree planters and for contractors using equipment to help properly planting the bigger root systems usually associated with these trees.

SITE PREPARATION
The objective of site preparation is to control competing vegetation and to insure good soil to root contact for the newly planted seedlings. An ideal site is well tilled and free of weeds. However, the steepness of slope, rocks and other impediments and the need to control soil erosion often limit the degree of site preparation that can be considered practical.

Eliminate all vegetation in a strip 3-5’ wide where the trees will be planted by cultivating or using herbicides. If the site needs protection from erosion, do all work on the contour.

SEEDLING CARE PRIOR TO PLANTING
The planting seasons in Iowa are generally from the end of October until the ground freezes for fall and April 1st through May for spring. To get the best survival rate, plant the seedlings as soon as you receive them. If you need to store the seedlings, leave them in the packaging bags and keep them as cool as possible in an environment that does not allow freezing and thawing until you are ready to plant. Seedlings lose their vigor if stored for long periods.

ARE GRASSES & WEEDS REALLY A PROBLEM?
Grass and weeds are a problem because they grow faster and are often taller than young seedlings. Grass is a problem because: 1) it competes for water and quickly dries out the soil, 2) it competes for nutrients, 3) it can have allelopathic properties that stunt the growth of seedlings (reeds canary grass and brome are two good examples) and 4) it creates cover for wildlife such as rabbits and voles.

The primary reason for failed tree plantings in Iowa is poor control of grass and weed competition.

The only way to avoid these problems is to control the grass and weeds that cause them.

Keep weeds from growing in a 3-5’ zone around your seedlings. Mow the area between rows in the fall to reduce hiding places for rabbits and rodents during the winter. This gives the seedlings space to start growing without competition.

SEEDLING CARE DURING PLANTING
• An hour before you plant, place trees in a bucket with water covering the roots until they are planted.
• Keep unplanted and packaged trees out of direct sunlight.
• Plant seedling root collar slightly below ground. Trees may not survive with exposed roots.
• Plant seedlings with the main root straight down. Avoid doubled or sharply bent roots.
  Seedlings planted with “U-shaped” roots grow poorly. It is better to trim extremely long roots.
• Plant seedlings upright and firmly pack soil around the roots, leaving no air pockets.

HOW MANY TREES DO I NEED? WHAT IS THE RECOMMENDED SPACING?
Recommended spacing for trees is 8’ between plants with 8’ between rows or 10’ between plants with 6’ between rows (700 trees per acre). Spacing for shrubs is 4’ between plants with 8’ between rows (1400 shrubs per acre) or 5’ between plants with 10’ between rows (900 shrubs per acre).

For no additional cost, contact your DNR District Forester for additional questions (Page 19).

For more information about a species, such as its native range, please refer to the USDA plants database: http://plants.usda.gov/checklist.html.

EXTRA CARE PRODUCES HARDY NURSERY SEEDLINGS
Top pruning: We top prune certain seedlings to maintain a balance between above ground shoots and the available root system. This practice helps the seedlings concentrate energy at the root level which increases the survival rate. It also aids in packaging, allowing the bags to be sealed well so the roots stay moist.

Root pruning: Almost all of our hardwood and evergreen trees are root pruned. This practice helps develop more lateral roots and controls top growth, improving the seedlings’ balance and survival with a larger root system and shorter top.
### WILDLIFE AND POLLINATOR BENEFITS: NATIVE HARDWOOD TREES

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### WILDLIFE AND POLLINATOR BENEFITS: SHRUBS & SMALL TREES

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Federal and State law prohibits employment and/or public accommodation (such as access to services or physical facilities) discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability (mental and/or physical), gender identity, nation origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416, or write to: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, DSM, IA 50319-0034. P: 515-725-8200
**Black Cherry** (*Prunus serotina*)
Height: 50-60’  |  Rate of growth: medium
Soils: prefers moist and well-drained
Full sun to partial shade
Fall color: yellow
Valuable wood products, small cherries make good jelly and wine and are excellent bird and wildlife food, excellent firewood.

**Black Walnut** (*Juglans nigra*)
Height: 50-80’  |  Rate of growth: medium
Soils: deep, moist and well-drained
Requires full sun
Fall color: yellow
Valuable wood products, nuts are edible for humans and animals, excellent firewood.

**Cottonwood** (*Populus deltoides*)
(available as 14” cuttings or 12” rooted cuttings)
Height: 60-100’  |  Rate of growth: fast
Soils: wet to well-drained
Requires full sun
Fall color: yellow
Valuable for fuel-wood plantations, very adaptable tree.

**Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*)
Height: 50-70’  |  Rate of growth: medium
Soils: moist to well-drained
Full sun to partial shade
Fall color: yellow
Host plant for several butterflies, including Emperor, Question Mark and American Snout. The fruit is highly sought after by a number of bird and mammal species. A good substitute for ash in a tree planting; good for biomass plantings and firewood.

**Hybrid Poplar** (*Populus deltoides X Populus nigra*)
(available as 14” cuttings or 12” rooted cuttings)
Height: 40-60’  |  Rate of growth: very fast
Soils: moist to well-drained
Requires full sun
Fall color: yellow
Seedless mix of cottonwood and black poplar, valuable for trainer trees and fuel-wood trees.

**Hybrid Willow** (*Salix ssp.*)
(available in 14” cuttings or 12” rooted cuttings)
Height: 30-40’  |  Rate of growth: very fast
Soils: wet to well-drained
Requires full sun
Fall color: yellow
Good for streamside plantings for erosion control, rapidly establishes cover and windbreak for wildlife. Host plant for Viceroy butterfly.

**Hickory, Shagbark** (*Carya ovata*)
Height: 60-80’  |  Rate of growth: slow
Soils: well-drained
Full sun to partial shade
Fall color: yellow
Nuts are edible to people and wildlife, excellent firewood, shaggy bark provides bat nesting sites. Usually found on uplands with oaks.

**Hickory, Shellbark** (*Carya laciniosa*)
Height: 60-80’  |  Rate of growth: slow
Soils: adaptable to moist soils
Full sun to partial shade
Fall color: yellow
Nuts are edible to people and wildlife, excellent firewood. Usually found within riparian areas.

**Black Walnut** (*Juglans nigra*)
Height: 50-80’  |  Rate of growth: medium
Soils: deep, moist and well-drained
Requires full sun
Fall color: yellow
Valuable wood products, nuts are edible for humans and animals, excellent firewood.

**Cottonwood** (*Populus deltoides*)
(available as 14” cuttings or 12” rooted cuttings)
Height: 60-100’  |  Rate of growth: fast
Soils: wet to well-drained
Requires full sun
Fall color: yellow
Valuable for fuel-wood plantations, very adaptable tree.

Current order form and pricing are available at [www.iowadnr.gov/nursery](http://www.iowadnr.gov/nursery)
**Northern Pecan** (*Carya illinoensis*)
*Height*: 70-100’ | *Rate of growth*: medium
*Soils*: deep, moist, well-drained
Full sun
Fall color: yellow
Nuts are edible for people and wildlife.

**Kentucky Coffeetree** (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)
*Height*: 60-75’ | *Rate of growth*: medium
*Soils*: moist to well-drained
Full sun to partial shade
Fall color: yellow
Very disease tolerant, leaves and seeds are toxic to sheep, cattle, horses.

**Maple, Silver** (*Acer saccharinum*)
*Height*: 60-80’ | *Rate of growth*: fast
*Soils*: prefers moist or moderately drained soils
Full sun to partial shade
Fall color: yellow
Valuable wood products, good firewood. Seeds used by songbirds and small mammals. Commonly grows along rivers.

**Maple, Sugar** (*Acer saccharum*)
*Height*: 60-75’ | *Rate of growth*: slow
*Soils*: prefers moist and well-drained
Sun or shade
Fall color: brilliant orange, red or yellow
Valuable wood products, excellent firewood, used for maple syrup production.

**Oak, Black** (*Quercus velutina*)
*Height*: 50-70’ | *Rate of growth*: medium
*Soils*: moist to well-drained, can survive on poor, dry and sandy sites
Requires full sun
Fall color: red to red-brown
Acorns provide good wildlife food, excellent firewood.

**Oak, Bur** (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
*Height*: 50-80’ | *Rate of growth*: medium
*Soils*: moist to well-drained, adaptable to a variety of conditions
Requires full sun
Fall color: yellow-brown
Branches: yellow-brown
Branches have great character; excellent firewood; acorns eaten by turkey, blue jay, grouse, deer and wood duck.

**Oak, Mixed** (*Quercus variety*)
*Height*: 50-80’
Rate of growth: varies with species
*Soils*: varies with species
Requires full sun
Fall color: varies with species
Contains a mixture of oaks including red, white and bur in varying proportions.

**Oak, Pin** (*Quercus palustris*)
*Height*: 60-80’ | *Rate of growth*: medium
*Soils*: moist to well-drained and pH below 7; tolerates poorly drained wet sites
Requires full sun
Fall color: bright red
Pyramidal shape, small acorns offer good wildlife food, excellent firewood.

**Maple, Silver** (*Acer saccharinum*)
*Height*: 60-80’ | *Rate of growth*: fast
*Soils*: prefers moist or moderately drained soils
Full sun to partial shade
Fall color: yellow
Valuable wood products, good firewood. Seeds used by songbirds and small mammals. Commonly grows along rivers.

**Oak, Black** (*Quercus velutina*)
*Height*: 50-70’ | *Rate of growth*: medium
*Soils*: moist to well-drained, can survive on poor, dry and sandy sites
Requires full sun
Fall color: red to red-brown
Acorns provide good wildlife food, excellent firewood.

**Oak, Bur** (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
*Height*: 50-80’ | *Rate of growth*: medium
*Soils*: moist to well-drained, adaptable to a variety of conditions
Requires full sun
Fall color: yellow-brown
Branches have great character; excellent firewood; acorns eaten by turkey, blue jay, grouse, deer and wood duck.

**Oak, Mixed** (*Quercus variety*)
*Height*: 50-80’
Rate of growth: varies with species
*Soils*: varies with species
Requires full sun
Fall color: varies with species
Contains a mixture of oaks including red, white and bur in varying proportions.

**Oak, Pin** (*Quercus palustris*)
*Height*: 60-80’ | *Rate of growth*: medium
*Soils*: moist to well-drained and pH below 7; tolerates poorly drained wet sites
Requires full sun
Fall color: bright red
Pyramidal shape, small acorns offer good wildlife food, excellent firewood.

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**Oak, Red** (*Quercus rubra*)  
**Height:** 60-80’  |  **Rate of growth:** fast  
**Soils:** moist and well-drained  
Requires full sun  
Fall color: red to red-brown  
Valuable wood products, acorns provide good wildlife food, excellent firewood.

**Oak, Swamp White** (*Quercus bicolor*)  
**Height:** 50-60’  |  **Rate of growth:** medium  
**Soils:** prefers wet but will grow in well-drained and prefers pH below 7  
Requires full sun  
Fall color: yellow-brown  
Acorns provide excellent wildlife food, excellent firewood.

**Oak, White** (*Quercus alba*)  
**Height:** 50-80’  |  **Rate of growth:** slow  
**Soils:** prefers moist, well-drained upland soils  
Requires full sun  
Fall color: purplish-red  
Valuable wood products, acorns provide excellent wildlife food, excellent firewood. Provides important habitat for colorful spring warblers.

**River Birch** (*Betula nigra*)  
**Height:** 40-70’  |  **Rate of growth:** medium to fast  
**Soils:** prefers moist soils  
Full sun to partial shade  
Fall color: yellow  
Peeling bark exposes reddish brown inner bark. Grows along rivers and drainages. Provides important habitat for colorful spring warblers.

**Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*)  
**Height:** 70-100’  |  **Rate of growth:** fast  
**Soils:** moist to well-drained; tolerates poorly drained soils  
Requires full sun  
Fall color: yellow-brown  
Enormous leaves, interesting bark on upper branches peels away to lighter colors. Provides important nesting habitat for Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler.

**Bald Cypress** (*Taxodium distichum*)  
**Height:** 80-100’  |  **Rate of growth:** medium  
**Soils:** wet to moderately dry  
Full sun to partial shade  
This tree loses needles every fall and grows new ones in the spring. Very long lived tree, seed is good wildlife food, provides good wildlife cover. Wood is very decay resistant.

**Concolor Fir** (*Abies concolor*)  
**Height:** 40-60’  |  **Rate of growth:** slow  
**Soils:** moist to well-drained, does well on gravelly sites.  
Requires full sun  
Soft needles with a blue-green color, very few serious diseases, more tolerant to deer than pines, good wildlife cover.

**Norway Spruce** (*Picea abies*)  
**Height:** 40-60’  |  **Rate of growth:** medium  
**Soils:** moist to well-drained  
Can grow in partial shade  
Hardy, dense draping branches, more tolerant to deer than pines, good wildlife cover. Cones are favored by Red-breasted Nuthatch.

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**White Spruce** (*Picea glauca*)
**Height:** 40-60’  |  **Rate of growth:** medium
**Soils:** moist to well-drained, gravelly sites.
Can grow in partial shade
Hardy, tolerant of hot dry summers, more tolerant to deer than pines, good wildlife cover. Attracts colorful winter finches.

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**White Pine, Eastern** (*Pinus strobus*)
**Height:** 50-75’  |  **Rate of growth:** medium
**Soils:** rich, moist or moist sandy loams
Requires full sun
Soft, beautiful tree, good wildlife habitat, intolerant of air pollutants and ice storms, good wood products tree, widely used for Christmas trees. Provides roosting habitat for Eastern Screech Owl and other owls.

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**Scotch Pine** (*Pinus sylvestris*)
**Height:** 30-60’  |  **Rate of growth:** fast
**Soils:** moist to well-drained
Requires full sun
Good wildlife cover, widely used for Christmas trees, should be considered for short term plantings as tree may not live past 20 years.

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**Jack Pine** (*Pinus banksiana*)
**Height:** 30-50’  |  **Rate of growth:** fast
**Soils:** well-drained, very hardy on dry, sandy sites
Requires full sun
Somewhat open and loose appearing, tolerant to deer, good wildlife cover and erosion control.

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**Red Pine** (*Pinus resinosa*)
**Height:** 50-80’  |  **Rate of growth:** medium
**Soils:** moist to well-drained
Requires full sun
Does not tolerate hot, dry winds, prefers a cool, protected site. Good wildlife cover, good lumber tree. Seeds used by songbirds and small mammals.

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**Arrowwood** (*Viburnum recognitum*)
**Height:** 8-15’  |  **Rate of growth:** medium
**Soils:** dry to wet
Sun or partial shade
Fall color: yellow to red-purple
Produces white button-shaped flowers in late summer and bears seed that benefits wildlife. Flowers are great nectar source for butterflies

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**Aroniaberry** (*Aronia melanocarpa*, variety “McKenzie”)
**Height:** 4-10’  |  **Rate of growth:** fast
**Soils:** wet to drier soils
Sun or shade
Fall color: bright red
Berries are high in vitamins, minerals and antioxidants and are edible for people and animals. White flowers in May and bears blackish purple fruit. Good wildlife food and cover.

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**Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
**Height:** 3-6’  |  **Rate of growth:** medium
**Soils:** wet to moist
Requires full sun
Fall color: yellow
Produces white button-shaped flowers in late summer and bears seed that benefits wildlife. Flowers are great nectar source for butterflies.

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**Dogwood, Gray** (*Cornus racemosa*)
*Height: 10-15’ | Rate of growth: fast*  
*Soils: prefers moist to well-drained; adaptable to tough sites like poor fertility, dry, compacted sites*  
*Grows best with full sun or partial shade*  
*Fall color: yellow*  
*Forms a large plant colony from the original, produces cream flowers followed by white berries. Fruit eaten by pheasants and grouse and provides good winter cover. Great habitat for migrant songbirds- especially warblers.*

**Dogwood, Redosier** (*Cornus stolonifera*)
*Height: 10-15’ | Rate of growth: fast*  
*Soils: wet to well-drained; very adaptable*  
*Grows best with full sun or partial shade*  
*Fall color: yellow*  
*Has attractive bright red stems, produces cream flowers followed by white berries, forms a large plant colony. Good wildlife food and cover. All dogwoods are host plants for Azure butterflies and food plants for many butterfly species.*

**Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*)
*Height: 10-25’ | Rate of growth: fast*  
*Soils: rich, moist to well-drained*  
*Full sun to slight shade*  
*Fall color: yellow*  
*Similar to black cherry tree but smaller. Bears red fruit that is good for many birds and mammals. Good wildlife cover.*

**Elderberry** (*Sambucus canadensis*)
*Height: 5-12’ | Rate of growth: fast*  
*Soils: moist to well-drained*  
*Full sun to partial shade*  
*Fall color: yellow*  
*Showy white, flat-topped flowers in June, produces berries edible for people and animals in fall that are good for jams and jellies. Good wildlife food and cover.*

**Hazelnut** (*Corylus americana*)
*Height: 8-10’ | Rate of growth: medium*  
*Soils: well-drained*  
*Full sun to slight shade*  
*Fall color: yellow-brown*  
*Produces nuts edible for people, squirrels, chipmunks, deer, grouse, quail, pheasants, blue jays. Provides excellent browse and shelter for deer and other wildlife.*

**Highbush Cranberry** (*Viburnum trilobum*)
*Height: 8-12’ | Rate of growth: medium*  
*Soils: deep, moist to well-drained*  
*Full sun to partial shade*  
*Fall color: red to purple*  
*Showy flat clusters of white flowers followed by large bright red berries that hold on all winter. Excellent wildlife food and cover. Habitat includes stream banks and low moist ground. Host plants for Azure butterflies and food plants for many butterflies.*

**Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*)
*Height: 15-18’ | Rate of growth: fast*  
*Soils: dry, well-drained, or moist sites*  
*Sun or partial shade*  
*Fall color: purple-red*  
*White flowers in early May with bluish-black berries in the fall. Good bird and wildlife food and cover. Host plant for Azure butterflies and food plants for many butterflies.*

**Ninebark** (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
*Height: 5-9’ | Rate of growth: fast*  
*Soils: moist to moderately dry*  
*Full sun to partial shade*  
*Fall color: yellow-brown*  
*Hardy, dense, compact grower. Has small foliage, produces clusters of white flowers in May followed by numerous red pods. Good wildlife food and cover.*

**Current order form and pricing are available at www.iowadnr.gov/nursery**
Redbud *(Cercis canadensis)*
**Height:** 15-25’ | **Rate of growth:** medium  
**Soils:** moist to well-drained  
Sun or shade  
Fall color: yellow  
Small tree with low, horizontal branching on umbrella-like spreading crown. Very showy tree in the spring, producing lavender to pink flowers along the branches. Doesn’t grow well above Hwy 20. Host plant for Henry’s Elfin butterfly.

Serviceberry *(Amelanchier arborea)*
**Height:** 6-20’ | **Rate of growth:** medium  
**Soils:** moist to well-drained  
Prefers partial shade  
Fall color: yellow, orange or red  
Small, single to multi-stemmed tree, also known as Juneberry. Produces white flowers in early spring and bears edible purple berries in June. Good songbird and wildlife food. Fruit is especially important for robins, flickers, and waxwings.

Wild Plum *(Prunus americana)*
**Height:** 10-15’ | **Rate of growth:** fast  
**Soils:** rich, moist to well-drained  
Full sun to slight shade  
Fall color: reddish to yellow  
This small tree forms thickets and has small soft thorns. White flowers appear in April followed by purple, edible fruit good for jams and jellies. Good wildlife food and cover. Especially good nesting habitat for rarer songbirds like Yellow-breasted Chat and Bell’s Vireo. Provides food for bees and many butterfly species, including Tiger Swallowtail.

**SONGWRITING PACKET**
This packet includes 16 favorite shrubs and 4 trees. These species will attract a variety of songbirds year round: 2 Bur Oak, 2 White Pine, 4 Wild Plum, 4 Chokecherry, 4 Gray Dogwood and 4 Serviceberry. Recommended by Iowa Audubon Society.

**PRIVATE LANDS SECTION & DISTRICT MAP**
For information contact the State Forest Nursery at 800-865-2477 or your district forester.