

Tree Diversity
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One of the best ways to avoid serious pest/disease problems with plants is to mix different species together. Diversity!

Choosing a tree should involve more than picking one that you like the looks of. Your choices should also consider what else has been planted in the area. In any forest ecosystem, diversity plays a major role in long-term stability. Overuse of a single type of tree greatly increases the vulnerability of the tree itself to insects and diseases that can wipe out the entire species. American Chestnut Blight and Dutch Elm disease are perfect examples historically and presently.

Emerald Ash Borer has claimed millions of ash trees in our own back yards. Along with all the benefits that coincide with the increase in diversity that an uncommon or exotic tree species can have, these species can also add an increased aesthetic quality to the often monotonous plantings of many urban environments. Keep this concept in mind for planting trees on the home landscape. It works just as well in our backyards as it does along our streets.

Our Master Street Plan for the City of Bowling Green includes over 60 tree species to plant the “right tree in the right place” based on the planting site, infrastructure (gas lines, water & sewer, power lines, signs,) soil type and drainage. Our goal is to plant smaller varieties of trees on small planting sites, under power lines to not interfere with the electric service and provide canopy of the street, and landscapes close to buildings and streets lights. We plan to use medium and large growing trees on sites where we have the adequate space and minimum infrastructure concerns for the future.

We planted five different species of trees on East Wooster Street next to the BGSU Campus. We have planted 5 to 10 different species in new subdivisions to diversify our urban forest. Our City Arborist has planted new species adapted for Bowling Green soils to increase diversity.