



DESIGN. CRAFT. PRESERVE.

NORTHERN MINNESOTA PLANT PALLET

Selecting plants for the Iron Range and North Shore isn't about what looks good in the catalog—it's about what survives the winter. This cheat sheet features top-tier performers trialed for our specific climate.

TREES: THE BACKBONE

Species	Why it Works	Pro-Tip
Black Hills Spruce	Extreme wind/cold resistance; holds shape under heavy snow.	Plant on the NW side of property for the best windbreak.
Autumn Blaze Maple	Fast grower with brilliant red fall color; handles clay well.	Wrap trunks of young maples in winter to prevent sunscald.
Quaking Aspen	Iconic white bark and soothing rustling leaves in the wind.	Best for "naturalizing" larger areas or property lines.

SHRUBS: STRUCTURE & WINTER INTEREST

Species	Why it Works	Pro-Tip
'Limelight' Hydrangea	Blooms on "new wood"; handles heavy freezes without loss of flowers.	Prune back by one-third in early spring for bigger blooms.
Redosier Dogwood	Bright red stems provide stunning contrast against white snow.	Cut the oldest stems to the ground every 3 years to keep color vivid.
Serviceberry	Spring flowers, edible summer fruit, and red fall foliage.	Ensure well-draining soil; they don't like "wet feet."

PERENNIALS: THE SEASONAL COLOR


Species	Why it Works	Pro-Tip
Peonies	Virtually immortal in MN; requires cold winters to bloom.	Don't plant too deep! Eyes should be only 1-2" below soil.
Blazing Star (Liatris)	Native pollinator magnet; thrives in rocky or poor soils.	Plant in groups of 3 or 5 for the best visual impact.
Siberian Iris	Rugged, moisture-tolerant, and handles the "false spring" well.	Great for drainage areas or the edges of rain gardens.



Don't Leave Your Landscape to Luck.

Northern Minnesota is a beautiful place to live, but a brutal place to build a garden. Choosing the right plant is only half the battle. Skip the "trial and error" and partner with the experts who know the North Country soil.

Contact Us Today for a Consultation

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