

The Trees of Keddy Nature Sanctuary

There are 31 species of trees known from KNS. This list sorts them into three artificial classes: abundant, common, and uncommon. The abundant species are mostly typical of Temperate Deciduous Forest in northeastern North America. Four species are threatened by disease. Two conifer species were introduced in the last century and occur only in plantations. The list does not include shrubs. Common larger shrubs include Juneberry (on rock ridges) and Holly (in vernal pools). The forests of KNS include most of the common tree species of Lanark County, although several regionally uncommon trees are missing: black spruce, hackberry, red spruce, shagbark hickory, and white oak. The best guide to trees in Ontario is R.C. Hosie (1979) *Native Trees of Canada*. That book includes full descriptions, notes on ecology, and distribution maps.

(prepared by Paul and Cathy Keddy January 2021)

Abundant Trees (7 species)

Basswood

Common, often multiple trunks from one root

Ironwood

Common in shallow soils, resistant to deer grazing, increasing in abundance

Red Maple

Common in shallow soils

Red Oak

Common on rock ridges throughout, pointed lobes on leaves

Sugar Maple

Dominant forest tree, shade tolerant

White Birch

Common, particularly in areas that were cleared or logged

White Pine

Common, especially in old clearings, 5 needles in a bunch

Common Trees (12 species)

American Elm

Common in wet areas, in decline from Dutch Elm disease

Balsam Fir

Common in wet places, particularly disturbed forests

Eastern Hemlock

On rock ridges, very sensitive to deer grazing, one large stand south of Lily Pond

Green Ash

Scattered in pure stands in moist areas, in decline from Emerald Ash Borer

Large-tooth aspen

Common on west side in clay soils, clonal growth with root sprouts

Red Ash

Common in old fields, in decline from Emerald Ash Borer

Rock Elm

On rocky ridges, the twigs have obvious corky extrusions

Tamarack

Edges of wetlands, the only conifer with deciduous leaves

Trembling Aspen

Scattered mostly on west side in clay soils, clonal growth with root sprouts

White Ash

Common in drier forest, in decline from Emerald Ash Borer

White Cedar

Common in wet places, particularly the edges of beaver ponds

White Spruce

Often in groups, large trees common in areas that were old fields

Uncommon Trees (12 species)

American Beech

Scarce, important food tree for wildlife, in decline from Beech Bark disease

Balsam Poplar

Scattered, clonal, notable for resinous glands on the foliage

Black Ash

Scattered in mostly pure stands in wet depressions, in decline from Emerald Ash Borer

Blue Beech

Small sub canopy tree or shrub, mostly in seepage areas with fertile soil

Bitternut Hickory

Drought tolerant, conspicuous yellow buds in winter, a southern species overall

Black Cherry

Scattered through forests, a bird dispersed species, pendant clusters of white flowers

Black Maple

One record from the south side of the property

Bur Oak

On rock ridges mostly on west side of property, lobed leaves without spines

Butternut

Scattered through younger forests, many dying from Butternut Canker disease

Jack Pine

Introduced, planted in rows on old homestead, two short needles in a cluster

Red Pine

Introduced, planted in rows on old homestead, two long needles in a cluster

Silver Maple

A swamp tree, found in Salamander Pond and in wetlands on the clay plain

Slippery Elm

Quite rare, mostly in moist clay soils near Big Rock Meadow

Yellow Birch

Scarce, found mostly in wet sites, young trees very sensitive to deer grazing