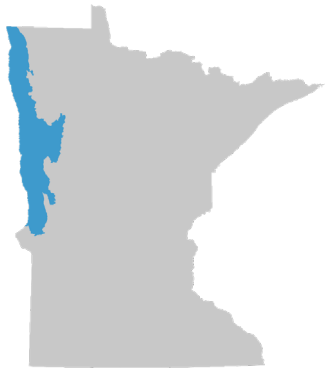


# CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL TREE SPECIES

## RED RIVER VALLEY (ECOLOGICAL SECTION 251A)



This region's forests will be affected by a changing climate and other stressors during this century. A team of managers and researchers created an assessment that describes the vulnerability of forests in the region ([Handler et al. 2014](#)). This report includes information on observed and future climate trends, and also summarizes key vulnerabilities for forested natural communities. The Landscape Change Research Group recently updated the Climate Change Tree Atlas, and this handout summarizes that information.

Full Tree Atlas results are available online at [www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/](http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/). Two climate scenarios are presented to “bracket” a range of possible futures. These future climate projections (2070 to 2099) provide information about how individual tree species may respond to a changing climate. Results for “low” and “high” emissions scenarios can be compared on the reverse side of this handout.

The updated Tree Atlas presents additional information helpful to interpret tree species changes:

- **Suitable habitat** - calculated based on 39 variables that explain where optimum conditions exist for a species, including soils, landforms, and climate variables.
- **Adaptability** - based on life-history traits that might increase or decrease tolerance of expected changes, such as the ability to withstand different forms of disturbance.
- **Capability** - a rating of the species' ability to cope or persist with climate change in this region based on suitable habitat change (statistical modeling), adaptability (literature review and expert opinion), and abundance (FIA data). The capability rating is modified by abundance information; ratings are downgraded for rare species and upgraded for abundant species.
- **Migration Potential Model** - when combined with habitat suitability, an estimate of a species' colonization likelihood for new habitats. This rating can be helpful for assisted migration or focused management (see the table section: “New Habitat with Migration Potential”).

Remember that models are just tools, and they're not perfect. Model projections can't account for all factors that influence future species success. If a species is rare or confined to a small area, model results may be less reliable. These factors, and others, could cause a particular species to perform better or worse than a model projects. Human choices will also continue to influence forest distribution, especially for tree species that are projected to increase. Planting programs may assist the movement of future-adapted species, but this will depend on management decisions. Despite these limits, models provide useful information about future expectations. It's perhaps best to think of these projections as indicators of possibility and potential change.

**SOURCE:** This handout summarizes the full model results for the Red River Valley (Ecological Section 251A), available at [www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries](http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries). More information on vulnerability and adaptation in the region can be found at [www.forestadaptation.org/northwoods](http://www.forestadaptation.org/northwoods). A full description of the models and variables are provided in Iverson et al. 2019 ([www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/57857](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/57857)) and Peters et al. 2019 ([www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/58353](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/58353)).

### CLIMATE CHANGE CAPABILITY

#### POOR CAPABILITY

Balsam fir	Paper birch
Balsam poplar	Pin cherry
Black ash	Quaking aspen
Black cherry	Red pine
Black willow	Serviceberry
Eastern cottonwood	Slippery elm
Eastern white pine	White spruce
Jack pine	

#### FAIR CAPABILITY

Boxelder	Ironwood
Bur oak	Northern red oak
Green ash	Sugar maple

#### GOOD CAPABILITY

Eastern redcedar	Hackberry
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#### MIXED RESULTS

American basswood	American elm
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#### NEW HABITAT WITH MIGRATION POTENTIAL

Ashe juniper	Nuttall oak
Bitternut hickory	Pin oak
Black locust	Post oak
Black oak	Red maple
Black walnut	Red mulberry
Cedar elm	Shagbark hickory
Cittamwood	Silver maple
Honeylocust	Swamp white oak
Live oak	Tamarack (native)
Northern pin oak	White oak
Northern white-cedar	Winged elm



**ADAPTABILITY:** Life-history factors, such as the ability to respond favorably to disturbance, that are not included in the Tree Atlas model and may make a species more or less able to adapt to future stressors.

- + **HIGH** *Species may perform better than modeled*
- **MEDIUM**
- **LOW** *Species may perform worse than modeled*

**HABITAT CHANGE:** Projected change in suitable habitat between current and potential future conditions.

- ▲ **INCREASE** *Projected increase of >20% by 2100*
- **NO CHANGE** *Projected change of <20% by 2100*
- ▼ **DECREASE** *Projected decrease of >20% by 2100*
- ★ **NEW HABITAT** *Tree Atlas projects new habitat for species not currently present*

**ABUNDANCE:** Based on Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) summed Importance Value data, calibrated to a standard geographic area.

- + **ABUNDANT**
- **COMMON**
- **RARE**

**CAPABILITY:** An overall rating that describes a species' ability to cope or persist with climate change based on suitable habitat change class (statistical modeling), adaptability (literature review and expert opinion), and abundance within this region.

- ▲ **GOOD** *Increasing suitable habitat, medium or high adaptability, and common or abundant*
- **FAIR** *Mixed combinations, such as a rare species with increasing suitable habitat and medium adaptability.*
- ▼ **POOR** *Decreasing suitable habitat, medium or low adaptability, and uncommon or rare*

SPECIES	ADAPT ABUN		LOW CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 4.5)		HIGH CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 8.5)	
			HABITAT CHANGE		HABITAT CHANGE	
			ADAPT	ABUN	CHANGE	CAPABILITY
American basswood	•	-	▲	○	●	▼
American elm	•	•	▼	▼	●	○
Ashe juniper	•		★		★	
Balsam fir	-	-	▼	▼	▼	▼
Balsam poplar	•	-	▼	▼	▼	▼
Bitternut hickory*	+		★		★	
Black ash	-	-	●	▼	●	▼
Black cherry	-	-	▼	▼	●	▼
Black locust*	•		★		★	
Black oak	•		★		★	
Black walnut*	•		★		★	
Black willow*	-	-	●	▼	●	▼
Boxelder*	+	•	▼	○	▼	○
Bur oak	+	•	▼	○	▼	○
Cedar elm	-		★		★	
Cittamwood*	+		★		★	
Eastern cottonwood*	•	-	●	▼	●	▼
Eastern redcedar	•	-	▲	▲	▲	▲
Eastern white pine	-	-	●	▼	▼	▼
Green ash*	•	•	●	○	●	○
Hackberry	+	-	▲	▲	▲	▲
Honeylocust*	+		★		★	
Ironwood*	+	-	●	○	●	○
Jack pine	+	-	▼	▼	▼	▼

SPECIES	ADAPT ABUN		LOW CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 4.5)		HIGH CLIMATE CHANGE (RCP 8.5)	
			HABITAT CHANGE		HABITAT CHANGE	
			ADAPT	ABUN	CHANGE	CAPABILITY
Live oak	•		★		★	
Northern pin oak	+		★		★	
Northern red oak	+	-	●	○	●	○
Northern white-cedar	•		★		★	
Nuttall oak	+		★		★	
Paper birch	•	-	●	▼	●	▼
Pin cherry*	•	-	▼	▼	▼	▼
Pin oak*	-		★		★	
Post oak	+		★		★	
Quaking aspen	•	•	▼	▼	▼	▼
Red maple	+		★		★	
Red mulberry*	•		★		★	
Red pine	-	-	▼	▼	▼	▼
Serviceberry*	•	-	▼	▼	▼	▼
Shagbark hickory	•		★		★	
Silver maple*	+		★		★	
Slippery elm*	•	-	●	▼	●	▼
Sugar maple	+	-	●	○	●	○
Swamp white oak*	•		★		★	
Tamarack (native)	-		★		★	
White oak	+		★		★	
White spruce	•	-	▼	▼	▼	▼
Winged elm	•		★		★	

\*Species with low model reliability based on five statistical metrics of the habitat models that affect change class. See maps and tables for more information ([www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries](http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/combined/resources/summaries)).