City of Robbinsdale Gravelbed Species Performance & Survivability Notes

Species	Gravelbed Performance	Landscape Survivability 1 year after planting	*Specific Cultivar(s) Trialed*	Other Notes: Specific years, species-specific oddities, root growth observations
Amur chokecherry	Very good	Excellent	*NA*	
Amur maackia	Fair	Fair-good	*NA*	Only 2015 & 2023
Aspen, bigtooth	Excellent	Excellent	*NA*	
Aspen, quaking	Excellent	Excellent	*NA*	
Basswood	Very good	Very good	*NA*	Only 2022 & 2023
Blue beech	Good	Fair	*NA*	Only 2016, "Pom-pom" roots
Contender peach	Good	Poor	*NA*	Only 2019, very marginal Zone 4
Crabapple	Very good	Excellent	*Dolgo, Prairiefire, Thunderchild*	Transplants well
Dawn Redwood	Excellent	Fair	*NA*	Only 2022, prone to severe dieback
Elm, American	Excellent	Excellent	*St. Croix, Valley Forge*	Probably most reliable all-around performer along with *Populus* genus
Elm, hybrids	Excellent	Excellent	*Triumph & Accolade*	Mostly Accolade
Exclamation Planetree	Very good	Fair-good	*NA*	Only 2022 & 2023
Fruiting cherries	Very good	Excellent	*Evans Bali, Mesabi*	
Ginkgo	Fair-Good	Very good	*Autumn Gold, Magyar*	Minimal fibrous roots
Hackberry	Very good	Very good	*NA*	Rapid growth once established
Hawthorn	Good	Good	*Cockspur (thornless), Snowbird, Toba*	Few trees died after establishment

Honeylocust	Good	Fair, sometimes dieback	*Imperial, Northern Acclaim, Shademaster, Skyline*	Some bad years, also prone to trunk dieback after planting, resprouts with great vigor
Ironwood	Good	Very good	*NA*	"Pom-pom" roots
Japanese tree lilac	Excellent	Excellent	*Ivory Silk, Snowdance*	Often extreme level of fibrous root growth
Kentucky coffeetree	Good	Very good	*NA*	Sometimes minimal fibrous root development & leader dieback, trunk root bark prone to "shearing off" when extracting from gravel
Kiwi Sunset zelkova	Very good	Poor	*NA*	Only 2015 & 2016, regular dieback & stunted growth, likely not hardy enough for MN
Manchurian alder	Very good	Very good	*NA*	Only 2022
Maple, red	Very good	Very good	*NA*	Only 2017
Maple, sugar	Good	Good	*Green Mountain*	Only 2015, 2017, 2021; only the cultivar used
MayDay Tree	Very good	Very good	*NA*	
MN Strain redbud	Fair-Good	Good	*NA*	Only 2016 & 2021, slow to establish, doesn't seem to overwinter in gravel well
Northern catalpa	Very good	Excellent	*NA*	
Oak, bur	Poor	Poor-Fair	*NA*	Minimal fibrous root growth, often tiny leaves, tried all different sub-caliper sizes, a few have transplanted well but often a reliably poor performer in gravel
Oak, chinkapin	Good	Good	*NA*	Only 2022
Oak, Heritage	Very good	Very Good	*NA*	2nd to swamp white for overall success among *Quercus*
Oak, northern pin	Poor-Fair	Poor-Fair	*Majestic Skies*	Cultivar seems to transplant better
Oak, northern red	Fair	Good	*NA*	Some marginal fibrous root growth
Oak, Regal Prince	Very good	Very good	*NA*	Only 2017 & 2018

Oak, shingle	Good	NA	*NA*	Only 2023
Oak, swamp white	Excellent	Excellent	*NA*	By far best oak for gravelbeds
Oak, white	Fair-Good	NA	*NA*	Only 2023
Ohio buckeye	Fair	Good	*NA*	Minimal fibrous roots but transplants OK
Plum, Newport	Very good	Very good	*NA*	
Plum, Princess Kay	Very good	Very good	*NA*	
Plum, American	Very good	Very good	*NA*	
Purple Robe locust	Astounding	Good	*NA*	Only 2015, marginal cold hardiness, now blacklisted by MDA so unavailable locally
River birch	Excellent	*Very good	*Heritage*	*Only if planted in spring. Gaurunteed to dieback to ground if planted after mid-Septemeber
Russian olive	Astounding	Excellent	*NA*	2015-2017, 2' of new canopy growth in GB
Showy mountain ash	Very good	Good	*NA*	
Siouxland poplar	Good	Excellent	*NA*	Fastest grower once in landscape
Spring Wonder cherry	Very good	Very good	*NA*	
Sycamore	Very good	Fair	*NA*	Only 2015, planted as 5' whips, possibly only Zone 5 hardiness, regular severe dieback followed by vigorous recovery
Tamarack	Very good	Good	*NA*	Needs full sun
Tuliptree	Very good	Good		Only 2015-2017, few trees died long after establishment, few others partial dieback
Turkish filbert	Fair-Good	Fair	*NA*	Transplants OK but very slow growth
Yellowwood	Good	Good	*NA*	Only 2022 & 2023