



Recommended Tree Planting List

Please note that this is by no means an exhaustive list. These are trees that are available from local nurseries in medium sizes (5' tall for conifers, 1.5" caliper for broadleaf trees, smaller for some ornamentals), transplant well, have few pest or disease problems and generally require little pruning.

Multi Stemmed Hedge Trees: These trees can be sheared into a formal topiary (hedge) form or can be allowed to grow in a more natural columnar form with minor pruning when needed.

Prunus laurocerasus 'Schipkaensis' - Schipka Laurel

This laurel is smaller, slower growing, and more upright than its well known relative, English laurel. It makes a great broadleaf hedge without all the maintenance an english laurel requires. Some folks even leave them to grow unpruned. They can also be sheared for a more formal look.

<https://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/2019/schipka-cherry-laurel/>

Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata' - Irish Yew

Irish yew make a great hedge in sun or shade. While the slow growth rate means that it will take a while to provide tall screening it also means enormously reduced maintenance costs over its lifespan. This is a durable and beautiful evergreen hedge and a great alternative to more traditional choices.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1541>

Small Trees:

Acer circinatum - Vine Maple - Native

Small growing native deciduous multi-stemmed tree. 20' Mature height.

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/30>

Acer griseum - Paperbark maple

Very low maintenance deciduous tree with beautiful bark. 30' Mature height. Full sun to deep shade. Slow growing.

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/35>

Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium' - Fernleaf Full Moon Maple

Small tree with beautiful foliage and spectacular fall color, fun alternative to Japanese maple.

15' Mature height. Watering is needed in sandy soils.



<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/36>

Acer palmatum 'Shishigashira' - Lion's Head Japanese Maple
Very small tree with incredible foliage and branching structure. 15' Mature height.

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/48>

Acer palmatum Dissectum Group - Weeping Laceleaf Japanese Maples

These iconic ornamental trees are a fantastic addition to almost any landscape. There are a myriad of cultivars to choose from, a few quality selections are listed below. While these trees start out small, make sure to give them space. After many decades it's not unusual to have a specimen reach 12+ feet tall and wide. Pruning to remove dead branches and thinning to maintain an open appearance will keep them looking their best.

'Tamuke yama' <https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/49>

'Red Dragon' <https://www.greatplantpicks.org/search/plant-details/44>

Amelanchier Grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance' - Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry

Flowers, edible fruit, and a great fall color display. This tree is tough and tolerant of harsh urban conditions.

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b240>

Arbutus unedo - Strawberry Tree

This small evergreen tree/shrub has fantastic bark and leaves. The fall fruit turns bright red in the fall. This tree is beautiful year round. Needs well drained soil.

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/155>

Cornus Kousa - Chinese dogwood

Small-growing tree with a beautiful long lasting spring flower display. Makes a great specimen ornamental tree. Resistant to dogwood anthracnose which plagues native and flowering dogwood in the region causing foliar discoloration and early leaf drop. Also resistant to verticillium wilt.

'Stellar Pink' (pink flowers):

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=j890>

'Venus' (white flowers):

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=268782>

Lagerstroemia indica 'Tuscarora' - Crape Myrtle



Conservation Tree Care
Seattle, Wa
conservationtreecare.com

A beautiful and tough deciduous multi-stemmed tree. Great and long lasting flower display.
Works well in small spaces.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=261536>



Sorbus americana 'Dwarfcrowm' - Red Cascade Mountain Ash

Grows to 20' tall and 8' wide. It has clusters of white flowers that eventually turn into orange, then red fruit, smaller in size than a marble. Green pinnately compound leaves turn yellow in fall, some years with quite a spectacular show. This is a very hearty tree and generally does well even with little planting aftercare.

<http://www.urbanforestnursery.com/treeprofiles/profiledredcascademountainash.html>

Magnolia stellata - Star magnolia

Low maintenance magnolia with a beautiful spring flower display. 20' tall mature. Full sun to light or open shade.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/965>

Stewartia pseudocamellia - Japanese Stewartia

Beautiful small tree with a spring flower display, the bark and branching structure are probably its most beautiful traits though. Looks great year round.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1513>

Malus transitoria 'Schmidtcutleaf' - Golden Raindrops Cutleaf Crabapple

Beautiful little tree with an enormous fruit crop that brings nice color to an otherwise dreary early winter landscape. This tree has it all, beautiful flowers, beautiful fruit, interesting leaves, and great disease resistance.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/984>

Medium Trees:

Betula nigra - River Birch

Resistant to the Bronze birch borer that has been plaguing almost all other birches. This hearty native birch has beautiful bark and is tolerant of a wide range of conditions. Needs a little space to spread out, but won't get too tall.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/240>

Calocedrus decurrens - Incense Cedar

Beautiful upright conifer native to Oregon and California. Drought tolerant once established. Beautiful fragrant foliage and shreddy bark.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/260>

Parrotia persica - Persian Ironwood

A deciduous, upright multi-stemmed tree with beautiful bark and a spectacular silhouette. Drought tolerant once established.



<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1090>

Styrax japonicus - Japanese snowbell tree

25' mature height. Beautiful foliage and bark, great spring flower display. Beautiful branching structure and bark keep interest through the winter.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1811>

Oxydendrum arboreum - Sourwood

Slow growing tree which matures at about 25' tall. Beautiful late summer flower display followed by spectacular foliage. Very hearty and tolerant of difficult urban conditions. Prefers full sun to dappled shade, foliage display is best in full sun.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1072>

Cladrastis kentukea - Yellowwood

Nice spring flowers, beautiful bark, and bright fall color make this a showy tree. Mature height of 30-50' can get as wide as it is tall so it needs some space or corrective pruning in tight spaces.

<https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/yellowwood>

Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold' - Ginkgo - Living Fossil

An extremely tough and hearty tree tolerant of urban conditions. The leaves are very unique bringing beauty, the fall color is especially spectacular. Bring home a tree that dates back 270 million years.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/715>

Pinus contorta - Shore Pine - Native

This tough native conifer will tolerate many difficult conditions. It has a beautiful structure and brings much character to any landscape. Generally only available as a seedling.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1184>

Carinus japonica - Japanese Hornbeam

The leaves and branching of this tree are beautiful. It is tolerant of any soil as long as it is well drained. The tree generally needs little pruning.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/300>



Columnar Trees:

Quercus palustris 'Green Pillar' - Green Pillar Oak

Hearty columnar oak with great foliage density. Holds senescent leaves through most of the winter dormancy to provide great screening year round. Maximum likely size is 45' tall by 15' wide.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1274>

Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck Purple' - Columnar Purple European Beech

Upright version of the beautiful European Beech. The purple leaves bring color through the entire growing season. The bark and branching structure bring interest year round. 50' maximum height by 15' wide.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1751>



Large Trees:

Fagus Sylvatica - European Beech

When you think of an iconic spreading shade tree this might be what you think of. These tough trees are tolerant of a range of conditions. The smooth gray bark is beautiful year round. They also possess very strong wood and have few structural problems. Available in green and purple leafed cultivars.

<https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/european-beech>

Taxodium distichum - Bald Cypress

This is a beautiful deciduous conifer (loses foliage in the winter) with spectacular fall color. This tree is very tolerant of clay and wet sites.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1540>

Quercus garryana - Garry Oak - Native

A beautiful spreading native oak tree. Needs well drained soil but is drought tolerant once established (well suited to climate change). Slow growing, but can get large if given enough time. Twigs hang on to dead leaves through the winter, dropping them before new leaves emerge in the spring.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1268>

Metasequoia glyptostroboides - Dawn Redwood - Living Fossil

A tall and skinny deciduous conifer, trunk and branches are much more slender than its native cousin, coast redwood. Grows fast and tall but stays relatively narrow with a beautiful silhouette. One of the few conifers that loses its foliage in the winter, which will let more light in during the dark months. Bring home a tree that coexisted with the dinosaurs.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/993>

Pseudotsuga menziesii - Douglas Fir - Native

Our most stately conifer should need no introduction. It is tall, stout and drought tolerant. What else do you need? Ample space above is needed to allow ample room to grow in height. The width can generally be contained through pruning. Transplant best when small, consider planting several seedlings in proximity and choosing the one that does best after a few years. Larger specimens are available, but survival cannot be guaranteed.

<https://www.arborday.org/trees/treeguide/treedetail.cfm?itemID=836>

Quercus bicolor - Swamp White Oak

A very hearty oak tolerant of wet and dry conditions. A go-to bulletproof choice for harsh urban plantings or difficult sites. Beautiful rough bark brings interest all year long.

<http://urbanforestnursery.com/inventory/tree-profiles/swamp-white-oak/>



Quercus coccinea - Scarlet Oak

This hearty and adaptable oak will mature into a beautiful spreading shade tree. It needs ample space to spread out but will make a beautiful centerpiece.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1915>

Quercus frainetto - Hungarian Oak

A beautiful broad spreading oak that is a little more drought resistant than most other oaks, but unlike Gary oak will tolerate clay soils if drainage is adequate.

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1267>

Thuja plicata - Western Redcedar

This beautiful native tree needs your help! If you have a moist site and some space for a big conifer please consider this long-lived iconic native. Western redcedar has been struggling with longer summer droughts linked to climate change across its range. They still do great here as long as they have access to sufficient water. Help this tree if you can!

<https://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1815>

Ulmus carpinifolia x *parvifolia* 'Frontier' - Frontier Elm (smaller)

Ulmus americana 'Princeton' (larger)

Elms, once ubiquitous shade trees throughout the country have been all but lost to Dutch elm disease. This tree is part of a new generation, bred to be resistant to the disease. Help bring back this stately large growing tree by planting one. This cultivar is hearty and tolerant of harsh urban conditions.

<https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/frontier-elm>

<https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/princeton-elm>