

Recommended Street Tree Species List - With Notations

San Francisco Urban Forestry Council

Updated May 2014

The Urban Forestry Council annually reviews and updates this list of trees, in collaboration with public and non-profit urban forestry stakeholders, including San Francisco's Department of Public Works Urban Forestry Division and Friends of the Urban Forest.

It's important to carefully match the conditions of your site with the tree you choose. Please note that while this list contains recommendations that are known to do well in many locations in San Francisco, no tree is perfect for every potential tree planting location.

This list should be used as a guideline for choosing which street tree to plant, but should not be used without the help of a tree professional.

Section 1: Tree species, varieties, and cultivars that do well in most locations in the San Francisco.

Size	Evergreen/ Deciduous	Species	Notes		
Small - Less than 20' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Arbutus x 'Marina'	Fruit drop can range from low volume to significant		
		Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'			
		Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'			
		Tristaniopsis laurina	Formerly known as Tristania laurina		
Medium - 20-35' tall at maturity	Deciduous	Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'	Prefers wind protection		
		Evergreen	Agonis flexuosa	Fast grower that requires extra tree care	
			Callistemon viminalis	Has sticky flowers	
			Cupaniopsis anacardioides	Uneven performer, needs heat, wind protection	
			Magnolia grandiflora 'St. Mary,'		
	Melaleuca linarifolia				
	Tall – More than 35' tall at maturity	Deciduous	No recommended species in this category		
			Evergreen	Lagunaria patersonii	
				Lophostemon confertus	Formerly Tristania conferta
				Magnolia grandiflora 'Sam Sommers,' 'Majestic Beauty,'	
Lagunaria patersonii				Does well in windy areas	
Pittosporum undulatum		Can self-sow, take care when planting near natural areas			
Deciduous		Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold', 'Princeton Sentry', 'Saratoga'	Slow grower		
		Platanus x acerifolia 'Bloodgood,' 'Columbia' 'Yarwood'	Prefers wind protection, Susceptible to anthracnose and powdery mildew		
		Ulmus parvifolia 'Drake' 'Sempervirens'	Fast grower, which initially requires higher maintenance		

Section 2: Tree species, varieties, and cultivars that do well with certain special considerations, which may not appropriate for planting broadly throughout the San Francisco.

Size	Evergreen/ Deciduous	Species	Notes
Small - Less than 20' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Callistemon citrinus	Grows low, and wide canopy and needs a wide sidewalk, sticky flowers
		Cordyline australis	Needs very large basin, take care when planting near natural areas
		Elaeocarpus decipens	Slow growing, keep out of strong/ prevailing wind, flowers and may not produce fruit at maturity here
		Eriobotrya deflexa	Needs wind protection, does not perform well in sandy soils
		Laurus nobilis 'Saratoga'	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, gets pests
		Leptospermum laevigatum	Poor rooter, may need long-term or permanent staking
		Magnolia doltsopa	Formerly Michelia doltsopa; uneven performer, grows very slowly, prefers heat, wind protection
		Magnolia champaca	Formerly Michelia champaca; needs wind protection, wide sidewalk, gets powdery mildew and very slow grower
		Pittosporum crassifolium	Tolerates wind and fog. Can leak sap from trunk.
		Pyrus kawakamii	Plant in only warmest areas of city, semi-evergreen, leaf spot/fungus likely to occur and may cause premature leaf drop, does not flower well in our climate, susceptible to fireblight
		Rhus lancea	Fast grower, dense, irregular form, high maintenance
		Tristaniopsis laurina 'Elegant'	Formerly know as Tristiana laurina 'Elegant'; grows slowly, irregular form, mod-high maintenance
	Garrya elliptica	Maintain central growth to train up	
	Deciduous	Acer buergeranum	Prefers heat, wind protection
		Crataegus phaenopyrum	Subject to pests, has thorns, may be susceptible to fireblight
Crataegus laevigata		Needs wind protection	
Crataegus x Lavalii			
Medium - 20-35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Acacia baileyana 'Purpurea'	Fast grower, high maintenance
		Agonis flexuosa 'After Dark'	'After Dark' is a fast grower that requires extra tree care
		Geijera parvifolia – prefers heat, wind protection	Prefers heat, wind protection
		Jacaranda mimosifolia	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage
		Melaleuca ericifolia	Roots poorly, may need staking for many years

		Melaleuca quinquenervia	Grows fast, dense, irregular form, prefers wind protection	
		Melaleuca stypelioides	Can root poorly, and prickly leaves	
		Metrosideros excelsus	Needs a very large basin, and very wide sidewalks	
		Olea europaea	Needs a very large basin, prefers wind protection	
		Phoenix dactylifera	Needs a large basin and wide sidewalk	
		Podocarpus gracilior	Better as a shrub, gets pests	
		Syagrus romanzoffianum	Needs heat, wind protection	
	Deciduous	Aesculus x carnea	gets windburn easily in summer even in protected sites	
		Celtis sinensis	Prefers heat, wind protection, uneven performer	
		Koelreuteria paniculata	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection	
		Pistacia chinensis 'Keith Davey'	Prefers heat, wind protection	
		Pyrus calleryana 'New Bradford'	Needs wind protection, susceptible to fireblight	
Tall – More than 35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Brahea edulus	Very slow growing in San Francisco	
		Ceratonia siliqua	Needs a very large basin, good drainage	
		Corymbia ficifolia	Needs a very large basin, wide sidewalk	
		Eucalyptus nicholii	Needs a very large basin, wide sidewalk, fast grower, high maintenance	
		Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Needs a large basin, fast grower, high maintenance	
		Hymenosporum flavum	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage	
		Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius	Prefers heat, wind protection	
		Magnolia grandiflora 'Russet'	Needs a large basin	
		Phoenix canariensis	Needs a large basin	
		Quercus agrifolia	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage	
		Quercus suber	Needs a large basin, wide sidewalk	
		Washingtonia robusta	Prefers some warmth	
		Deciduous	Acer rubrum	Prefers heat
	Gleditsia triacanthos 'Shademaster'		Prefers heat	
	Liquidambar styraciflua		Needs a very large basin	
	Liriodendron tulipifera		Uneven performer	
	Tilia cordata		Slow grower	

Section 3: Tree species, varieties, and cultivars which are experimental. San Francisco does not have many of these species planted yet and would like

to plant more of these trees to test how they do.			
Size	Evergreen/ Deciduous	Species	Notes
Small - Less than 20' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Prunus lyonii	Fruit drop may get messy
		Prunus ilicifolia	Fruit drop may get messy
	Deciduous	Magnolia x soulangeana 'Rustica Rubra' and other varieties	Can be difficult to find stock in a standard form, hard training needed when young to maintain single trunk/standard form
Medium - 20-35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Banksia integrifolia	
		Brachychiton populneum	Prefers heat, wind protection
		Cassia leptophylla	Semi-evergreen
		Cedrella fissilis	
		Chorisia speciosa	Prefers heat, wind protection
		Pittosporum eugenioides	
		Pittosporum rhombifolium	Use in warmer parts of the City
		Quercus virginiana	
	Schinus molle	Needs a very large basin, prefers heat	
	Deciduous	Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'	Needs wind protection
	Corylus colurna, Turkish hazel		
Tall - More than 35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Quercus ilex	Needs wind protection, sidewalk space, gets powdery mildew
		Quercus tomentella	Availability improving
	Deciduous	Acer x freemanii	
		Acer platanoides	
		Platanus x acerifolia 'Liberty'	Prefers wind protection, susceptible to anthracnose and powdery mildew
		Quercus frainetto 'Forest Green'	
		Quercus phellos	
		Ulmus parvifolia x carpinifolia 'Frontier'	
		Ulmus wilsoniana 'Prospector'	
		Ulmus japonica x wilsoniana 'Accolade'	
Zelkova serrata	Needs wide sidewalk, warmth		