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2018 Recommended Street Tree Species List

San Francisco Urban Forestry Council
Approved [date]

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 Public Works – Bureau of Urban Forestry and Friends of the Urban Forest.

While this list recommends species 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 an arborist or other tree professional.

All street trees must be approved by Public Works before planting. The application form to plant a street tree can be found on their website:

<http://sfpublicworks.org/plant-street-tree>

Section 1: Tree species, varieties, and cultivars that do well in most locations in San Francisco.				
Size	Evergreen/ Deciduous	Species		Notes
Small Less than 20' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> 'Saratoga'	Saratoga bay laurel	Uneven performer, prefers heat, needs some wind protection, susceptible to pests
		<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Little Gem'	Little Gem magnolia	
	Deciduous	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	Washington hawthorn	Subject to pests, has thorns, may be susceptible to fireblight.
Medium 20-35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> (green)	peppermint willow	Standard green-leaf species only. 'After Dark' variety NOT recommended. Fast grower – more than 12" annually, requires extensive maintenance when young.
		<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	weeping bottlebrush	Has sticky flowers
		<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'St. Mary,'	southern magnolia	
		<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	broad-leaf paperbark	Grows fast, dense, irregular form, prefers wind protection
		<i>Olea europaea</i> (any fruitless variety)	fruitless olive	Needs a very large basin, prefers wind protection
		<i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> / <i>Afrocarpus falcatus</i>	fern pine	Slow rooter.
		<i>Tristaniaopsis laurina</i>	tristania; water gum	Standard species only. 'Elegant' variety NOT recommended. Formerly known as <i>Tristania laurina</i> , slow grower – less than 6" annually
Large More than 35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Lagunaria patersonii</i>	primrose tree	Grows well in windy areas
		<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brisbane box	Formerly <i>Tristania conferta</i> , fast grower
		<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Sam Sommers,' 'Majestic Beauty,' 'D.D. Blanchard'	southern magnolia	
		<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	victorian box	Self-sows, do not plant near natural areas
	Deciduous	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Autumn Gold,' 'Princeton Sentry,' 'Saratoga'	ginkgo; maidenhair	Slow grower, prefers wind protection
		<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> 'Columbia'	London plane; sycamore	Prefers wind protection, susceptible to anthracnose and powdery mildew
		<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Drake,' 'Sempervirens'	Chinese elm	Fast grower, requires extensive pruning and maintenance

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

Size	Evergreen/ Deciduous	Species		Notes
Small Less than 20' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Arbutus</i> x 'Marina'	strawberry tree	Fruit drop can range from low volume to significant. May be short lived; may need to be replanted in 20-25 years
		<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	lemon bottlebrush	Grows low, and wide canopy and needs a wide sidewalk, sticky flowers
		<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Ray Hartman'	California lilac tree	Not good for narrow sidewalks
		<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Cabbage tree	Needs very large basin, take care when planting near natural areas
		<i>Elaeocarpus decipiens</i>	Japanese blueberry	Slow growing, keep out of strong/prevaling wind, flowers but may not produce fruit at maturity
		<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Australian tea tree	Poor rooter, may not root well in sandy soil.
		<i>Magnolia doltsopa</i>	sweet michelia	Formerly <i>Michelia doltsopa</i> ; uneven performer, grafted trees grows very slowly, prefers heat, wind protection
		<i>Magnolia champaca</i> / <i>M. x alba</i>	champak	Formerly <i>Michelia champaca</i> ; needs wind protection, wide sidewalk, gets powdery mildew and very slow grower
	<i>Pyrus kawakamii</i>	evergreen pear	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	
	Deciduous	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	trident maple	Prefers heat, wind protection
Medium 20-35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Brahea edulis</i>	Guadalupe palm	Palm tree. Very slow growing in San Francisco, needs a large basin.
		<i>Eriobotrya deflexa</i>	bronze loquat	Needs wind protection, does not perform well in sandy soils, susceptible to fireblight
		<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	jacaranda	Uneven performer; prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage; spring leaf drop
		<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i> (NEW)	flax-leaf paperbark	
		<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> 'Medjool' or 'Zahidi'	date palm	Needs a large basin and wide sidewalk

		<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	queen palm	Needs heat, wind protection
	Deciduous	<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	red horse chestnut	gets windburn easily in summer even in protected sites
		<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	Chinese flame tree	NEW
		<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	golden raintree	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection
		<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> 'Keith Davey' or standard	Chinese pistache	Prefers heat, wind protection
Large More than 35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>	red flowering gum	Needs a very large basin, wide sidewalk, drops large seed pods
		<i>Geijera parvifolia</i>	Australian willow	Prefers heat, wind protection
		<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	sweetshade	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage
		<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius</i>	Catalina ironwood	Prefers heat, wind protection, prone to transplant shock, very susceptible to phytophthora
		<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	New Zealand Christmas tree	Needs a very large basin, and very wide sidewalks
		<i>Quercus suber</i>	cork oak	Needs a large basin, wide sidewalk
		<i>Quercus tomentella</i>	island oak	Availability improving
	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Mexican fan palm	Prefers some warmth	
	Deciduous	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	little-leaf linden	Susceptible to aphids and sooty mold.

Section 3: Tree species, varieties, and cultivars which are experimental or potentially problematic.

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.

***Permission from the Bureau of Urban Forestry is required to plant any species below. Approval is will vary depending on the planting site.**

Size	Evergreen/ Deciduous	Species	Common Name	Notes
Small - Less than 20' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Butia odorata</i>	southern jelly palm	NEW
		<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Cliff Schmidt'; <i>Ceanothus arboreus</i>	California lilac tree	NEW
		<i>Prunus lyonii</i>	Catalina cherry	Fruit drop may get messy
		<i>Eucalyptus conferruminata/E. lehmanni</i>	bushy yate	Wide canopy – large space needed
	Deciduous	<i>Crataegus x lavallei</i>	Lavalle hawthorn	Appears to be less susceptible to fireblight and other pests than other <i>Crataegus</i>
		<i>Prunus subhirtella</i> 'Autumnalis'	Higan cherry	NEW; tolerates mild winters better than other flowering cherry species
Medium 20-35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> 'Burgundy'	Burgundy peppermint willow	Better form and structure than other dark-leaf cultivars; fast grower
		<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>	king palm	NEW; needs wind protection and water
		<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	coast banksia	Requires extensive early maintenance
		<i>Brahea clara</i>	Mexican blue palm	NEW
		<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	bottle tree	Prefers heat and wind protection, needs a large basin due to thick trunk
		<i>Cassia leptophylla</i>	gold medallion tree	Semi-evergreen, requires extensive early maintenance
		<i>Cedrella fissilis</i>	Brazilian cedarwood	
		<i>Ceiba speciosa</i>	silk floss tree	Prefers heat, wind protection
		<i>Howea forsteriana</i>	Kentia palm	NEW
		<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	swamp paperbark	NEW
		<i>Melaleuca squamophloia</i>	scaly paperbark	NEW
		<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	prickly-leaf paperbark	Can root poorly, and prickly leaves
		<i>Parajubaea sunkha</i>	Sunkha palm	NEW
		<i>Pittosporum rhombifolium/Aurantiarpa rhombifolia</i>	Queensland pittosporum	Use in warmer parts of the City
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i> , standard & 'Wagnerianus'	Chinese windmill palm	NEW		
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	carrotwood	Uneven performer; needs heat & wind protection		

	Deciduous	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	horse chestnut	
		<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	Chinese hackberry	Prefers heat, wind protection, uneven performer, gets pests
		<i>Corylus colurna</i>	Turkish hazel	
Large More than 35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	flame tree	NEW: semi-deciduous
		<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	carob tree	NEW: needs large basin & wide sidewalk
		<i>Corymbia maculata/Eucalyptus m.</i>	spotted gum	NEW
		<i>Corymbia papuana/Eucalyptus p.</i>	ghost gum	NEW: Reqs. warmth; possible lignotubers
		<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	willow-leaf peppermint	NEW
		<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>	silver dollar gum	Needs a large basin, fast grower, high maintenance
		<i>Parajubaea torallyi</i>	Bolivian mountain coconut palm	NEW
		<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak	NEW; Requires large sidewalk/basin and wind protection; likely unsuitable for most street tree locations.
		<i>Quercus ilex</i>	holly oak	Needs wind protection, sidewalk space, gets powdery mildew
		<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	southern live oak	
		<i>Quillaja saponaria</i>	Chilean soapbark	Availability improving
	Deciduous	<i>Acer x freemanii</i>	Freeman maple	
		<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Armstrong'	columnar red maple	Prefers heat
		<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tulip tree	Uneven performer, susceptible to aphids followed by sooty mold.
		<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> 'Liberty'	London plane, sycamore	Prefers wind protection, susceptible to anthracnose and powdery mildew
		<i>Platanus racemosa</i> 'Roberts'	California sycamore (Roberts)	NEW
		<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	scarlet oak	NEW
		<i>Quercus frainetto</i> 'Forest Green'	Italian oak	
		<i>Quercus phellos</i>	willow oak	
		<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	silver linden	NEW
		<i>Ulmus parvifolia x carpinifolia</i> 'Frontier'	frontier elm	
		<i>Ulmus propinqua</i> 'Emerald Sunshine'	emerald sunshine elm	
		<i>Ulmus wilsoniana</i> 'Prospector'	prospector elm	
<i>Ulmus japonica x wilsoniana</i> 'Accolade'	accolade elm			
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese zelkova	Needs wide sidewalk		

*For more information about planting trees under and around power lines, visit the Right Tree, Right Place website:
<http://www.pge.com/en/mybusiness/services/maint/vegman/customerresources/righttree/index.page>