

2017 Recommended Street Tree Species List

San Francisco Urban Forestry Council

Approved May 26, 2017

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 is 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.

All street trees must be approved by Public Works before planting. The application form to plant a street tree can be found here: <http://sfdpw.org/index.aspx?page=644>

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	<i>Arbutus x ‘Marina’</i>	Fruit drop can range from low volume to significant. May be short lived; may need to be replanted in 20-25 years
		<i>Ceanothus ‘Ray Hartman’</i>	Not good for narrow sidewalks
		<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Cabbage palm. Needs very large basin, take care when planting near natural areas
		<i>Laurus nobilis ‘Saratoga’</i>	Uneven performer, prefers heat, needs some wind protection, susceptible to pests
	Deciduous	<i>Prunus serrulata ‘Kwanzan’</i>	Prefers wind protection; prefers a larger planting basin.
Medium 20-35’ tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Fast grower – more than 12” annually, requires extensive maintenance when young.
		<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Has sticky flowers
		<i>Eriobotrya deflexa</i>	Needs wind protection, does not perform well in sandy soils, susceptible to fireblight
		<i>Magnolia grandiflora ‘St. Mary,’</i>	
		<i>Tristanopsis laurina</i>	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>	Grows well in windy areas
		<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Formerly <i>Tristania conferta</i> , fast grower
		<i>Magnolia grandiflora ‘Sam Sommers,’ ‘Majestic Beauty’</i>	
		<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Can self-sow, take care when planting near natural areas
	Deciduous	<i>Ginkgo biloba ‘Autumn Gold’ ‘Princeton Sentry’ ‘Saratoga’</i>	Slow grower, prefers wind protection
		<i>Platanus x acerifolia ‘Bloodgood’ ‘Columbia’ ‘Yarwood’</i>	Prefers wind protection, susceptible to anthracnose and powdery mildew
		<i>Ulmus parvifolia ‘Drake’ ‘Sempervirens’</i>	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 the San Francisco.

Size	Evergreen/ Deciduous	Species	Notes
Small Less than 20' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Grows low, and wide canopy and needs a wide sidewalk, sticky flowers
		<i>Elaeocarpus decipens</i>	Slow growing, keep out of strong/ prevailing wind, flowers and may not produce fruit at maturity here
		<i>Laurus nobilis</i> 'Saratoga'	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, gets pests
		<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Poor rooter, may not root well in sandy soil.
		<i>Magnolia doltsopa</i>	Formerly <i>Michelia doltsopa</i> ; uneven performer, grows very slowly, prefers heat, wind protection
		<i>Magnolia champaca</i>	Formerly <i>Michelia champaca</i> ; needs wind protection, wide sidewalk, gets powdery mildew and very slow grower
		<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>	Tolerates wind and fog. Can leak sap from trunk.
		<i>Pyrus kawakamii</i>	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
		<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i> 'Elegant'	Formerly known as <i>Tristania laurina</i> 'Elegant'; grows slowly, irregular form, mod-high maintenance
	Deciduous	<i>Acer buergeranum</i>	Prefers heat, wind protection
		<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	Subject to pests, has thorns, may be susceptible to fireblight
		<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Krauter Vesuvius'	Wind protection, susceptible to shot hole fungus. Limit use to areas that have very small tree basins where other species could not fit.
	Medium 20-35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Acacia baileyana</i> 'Purpurea'
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> 'After Dark'			'After Dark' is a fast grower that requires extra tree care
<i>Eriobotrya deflexa</i>			Needs wind protection, does not perform well in sandy soils, susceptible to fireblight
<i>Geijera parvifolia</i>			Prefers heat, wind protection
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>			Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>			Grows fast, dense, irregular form, prefers wind protection
<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>			Can root poorly, and prickly leaves
<i>Metrosideros excelsus</i>			Needs a very large basin, and very wide sidewalks
<i>Olea europaea</i>			Needs a very large basin, prefers wind protection
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> 'Medjool' or 'Zahidi'			Palm tree. Needs a large basin and wide sidewalk
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>			
<i>Podocarpus gracilior</i>	Slow rooter.		

		<i>Syagrus romanzoffianum</i>	Palm tree. Needs heat, wind protection
	Deciduous	<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	gets windburn easily in summer even in protected sites
		<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection
		<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> 'Keith Davey'	Prefers heat, wind protection
		<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'New Bradford'	Needs wind protection, susceptible to fireblight
Large More than 35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Brahea edulis</i>	Palm tree. Very slow growing in San Francisco, needs a large basin.
		<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>	Needs a very large basin, wide sidewalk, drops large seed pods
		<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>	Needs a large basin, fast grower, high maintenance
		<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage
		<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius</i>	Prefers heat, wind protection, prone to transplant shock, very susceptible to phytophthora
		<i>Quercus suber</i>	Needs a large basin, wide sidewalk
		<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Palm tree. Prefers some warmth
	Deciduous	<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Armstrong'	Prefers heat
		<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Needs a very large basin
		<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Uneven performer, susceptible to aphids followed by sooty mold.
		<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Susceptible to aphids followed by sooty mold.

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	<i>Prunus lyonii</i>	Fruit drop may get messy
		<i>Eucalyptus conferruminata</i> / <i>Eucalyptus Lehmanni</i>	
	Deciduous	<i>Crataegus x lavallei</i>	Appears to be less susceptible to fireblight and other pests than other <i>Crataegus</i>
		<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i> '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	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Requires extensive maintenance when young.
		<i>Brachychiton populneum</i>	Prefers heat and wind protection, needs a large basin
		<i>Cassia leptophylla</i>	Semi-evergreen, requires extensive maintenance when young.
		<i>Cedrella fissilis</i>	
		<i>Ceiba speciosa</i>	Prefers heat, wind protection
		<i>Pittosporum rhombifolium</i>	Use in warmer parts of the City
		<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	
		<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Uneven performer, needs heat, wind protection
	Deciduous	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	Prefers heat, wind protection, uneven performer, gets pests
		<i>Corylus colurna</i> , Turkish hazel	
Large More than 35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Needs wind protection, sidewalk space, gets powdery mildew
		<i>Quercus tomentella</i>	Availability improving
		<i>Quillaja saponaria</i>	Availability improving
	Deciduous	<i>Acer x freemanii</i>	
		<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> 'Liberty'	Prefers wind protection, susceptible to anthracnose and powdery mildew
		<i>Quercus frainetto</i> 'Forest Green'	
		<i>Quercus phellos</i>	
		<i>Ulmus parvifolia x carpinifolia</i> 'Frontier'	
		<i>Ulmus wilsoniana</i> 'Prospector'	
		<i>Ulmus japonica x wilsoniana</i> 'Accolade'	
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	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>