

# Generic City Draft Tree List

Updated Date 4/4/2023

## Note:

- Large Tree should have a minimum planting width of 5' by 6' or larger
  - Medium Tree should have a minimum planting width of 5 by 5'
  - Small Tree should have minimum planting width of 4' or special consideration be required.
- If a type of tree makes up more than 10 per cent of any neighborhood, choices may be limited.

| Common Name                                    | Scientific Name                                                                                             | Notes |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Large Trees</b>                             |                                                                                                             |       |
| <b>Native</b>                                  |                                                                                                             |       |
| Tupelo / Black Gum                             | <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>                                                                                      |       |
| Tulip Tree (more compact cultivars)            | <i>Liriodendrom tulipifera</i>                                                                              |       |
| Baldcypress                                    | <i>Taxodium distichum</i> (For example: 'Shawnee Brave'...)                                                 |       |
| Honeylocust                                    | <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> (For example: 'Imperial', 'Acclaim', 'Shademaster', 'Skyline', 'Streetkeeper') |       |
| Kentucky Coffee Tree (seedless)                | <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> (Seedless cultivar. For example: 'Espresso', 'True-North')                       |       |
| Swamp white oak                                | <i>Quercus bicolor</i>                                                                                      |       |
| Bur oak                                        | <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> ('For example: Beacon' for narrow crown space)                                    |       |
| Swamp Chestnut Oak                             | <i>Quercus michauxii</i>                                                                                    |       |
| Willow oak                                     | <i>Quercus phellos</i>                                                                                      |       |
| White oak (hybrids)                            | <i>Quercus alba</i> and hybrids                                                                             |       |
| Pin Oak                                        | <i>Quercus palustris</i> (For example: 'Green Pillar' -narrow crown space)                                  |       |
| Chinkapin Oak                                  | <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>                                                                                |       |
| White Basswood                                 | <i>Tilia heterophylla</i>                                                                                   |       |
| American Basswood                              | <i>Tilia americana</i> (For example: 'Redmond', 'Continental Appeal', 'Duras')                              |       |
| Sweetgum (seedless)                            | <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (Seedless cultivar. For example: 'Rotundifolia')                             |       |
| Shingle Oak                                    | <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> (more acidic, well drained soil)                                                  |       |
| American Elm hybrids                           | <i>Ulmus</i> - hybrid                                                                                       |       |
| Freeman Red Maple                              | <i>Acer x Freemanii</i> (For example: 'Sienna Glenn' (Pyramidal), 'Armstrong' (fastigate)                   |       |
| Overcup oak                                    | <i>Quercus lyrata</i>                                                                                       |       |
| <b>Non Native</b>                              |                                                                                                             |       |
| Sycamore-London Plane                          | <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (For example: 'Bloodgood', 'Exclamation')                                      |       |
| Littleleaf linden                              | <i>Tilia cordata</i>                                                                                        |       |
| Ginkgo                                         | <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (male), smaller cultivars                                                              |       |
| <b>MEDIUM</b>                                  |                                                                                                             |       |
| <b>Native</b>                                  |                                                                                                             |       |
| Hackberry                                      | <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> 'Prairie' (40-60', slow growing)                                                 |       |
| Eastern Hophornbeam                            | <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> (35-50')                                                                           |       |
| Yellowwood                                     | <i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> (40') (For example: 'Perkins Pink')                                              |       |
| River birch                                    | <i>Betula nigra</i> (25-40') (For example: 'Heritage', 'Dura Heat') (moist, salt tol, wide pH)              |       |
| Black Gum/Tupelo (smaller cultivars)           | <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> (smaller cultivars)                                                                  |       |
| Osage Orange (fruitless, thornless)            | <i>Maclura pomifera</i> 'White Shield' (35-40')                                                             |       |
| Honeylocust (thornless)                        | <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> 'Imperial', 'Inermis' (30-45')                                                 |       |
| American basswood (linden) (smaller cultivars) | <i>Tilia americana</i> (For example: 'Lincoln', 'Fastigata', 'American Sentry') (40-45')                    |       |
| Tuliptree (smaller cultivars)                  | <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> (For example: 'Ardis' (30'), 'Compactum' (40'), 'Arnold' (columnar)          |       |
| Red maple (smaller cultivars)                  | <i>Acer rubra</i> 'Brandywine', 'Bowhall' (40'), 'Pacific Sunset'                                           |       |
| Sugar maple (smaller cultivar)                 | <i>Acer saccharum</i> 'Goldenspire' (40')                                                                   |       |
| <b>Non Native</b>                              |                                                                                                             |       |
| Katsura                                        | <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i> (only male trees, 45' x 40' on average)                                     |       |
| Littleleaf linden (smaller cultivar)           | <i>Tilia cordata</i> (For example: 'Greenspire', 'Halka', 'Fairview', etc)                                  |       |
| Ginkgo                                         | <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Princeton Sentry'-male trees, columnar                                                |       |
| <b>SMALL</b>                                   |                                                                                                             |       |

## Native

|                          |                                                                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| American smoketree       | <i>Cotinus obovatus</i> (20-30')                                       |
| American hornbeam        | <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (30', shade, part shade)                   |
| Black Gum                | <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> (Only small-slow growing cultivars)             |
| Hawthorn                 | <i>Crataegus</i> spp                                                   |
| Eastern Red Cedar        | <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>                                            |
| Eastern Redbud           | <i>Cercis canadensis</i>                                               |
| Serviceberry             | <i>Amelanchier</i> , spp                                               |
| Crabapples               | <i>Malus</i> , spp                                                     |
| Canada Red Select Cherry | <i>Prunus virginiana</i> 'Shubert'                                     |
| American Dogwood         | <i>Cornus florida</i> (30', partial shade, mulch, organic soil)        |
| Sourwood                 | <i>Oxydendron arboreum</i> (25-35', p/o sun only, less polluted areas) |
| Carolina silverbell      | <i>Halesia carolina/monticola</i> (20-35'), shadier, good sites only   |

## Non Native

|                              |                                                       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| European hornbeam            | <i>Carpinus betulus</i> (40'), pyramidal form         |
| Swedish Mountain Ash         | <i>Sorbus intermedia</i> (triple hybrid)              |
| Amur mackia/Persian ironwood | <i>Mackia amurensis</i> (to 40'), often multi-stemmed |

## Parks Native

|                         |                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common hoptree          | <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> 'fastigata', 25' (often bushy)                                              |
| American Holly          | <i>Ilex opaca</i>                                                                                    |
| American larch/Tamarack | <i>Larix laricina</i>                                                                                |
| Catalpa                 | <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>                                                                              |
| White Pine              | <i>Pinus strobus</i>                                                                                 |
| Pawpaw tree             | <i>Asimina triloba</i> Edible                                                                        |
| Persimon                | <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> 'Meader' (Self fertile, or male and female are needed for fruits) Edible |
| Sourwood                | <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>                                                                           |
| Magnolia, spp           | For Example: <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Edith Bogue', other hardy Magn.                            |
| White Spruce            | <i>Picea glauca</i>                                                                                  |
| Eastern cottonwood      | <i>Populus deltoides</i> Floodplain                                                                  |
| Shagbark hickory        | <i>Carya ovata</i>                                                                                   |
| Mulberry                | <i>Morus rubra</i> Edible                                                                            |
| Sassafras               | <i>Sassafras albidum</i>                                                                             |

## Parks Non Native

|                          |                                                                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Turkish filbert hazelnut | <i>Corylus colurna</i> (tolerates urban soils) (50'x30'), pyramidal Edible |
| Dawn Redwood             | <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>                                        |

Audubon link

[https://www.audubon.org/native-plants/search?zipcode=12491&active\\_tab=best\\_results&attribute=&attribute\\_tier1=12916&resource=&](https://www.audubon.org/native-plants/search?zipcode=12491&active_tab=best_results&attribute=&attribute_tier1=12916&resource=&)

Eco benefit of trees

<https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants/Trees-and-Shrubs>

My list of suggestions (please see how to use this list on Page 7):

### Small to medium size trees

American smoketree-Cotinus obovatus 'Red Leaf', 'Cotton Candy-30' (tolerates higher pH soils, sun). **European smoketree H, bush)**

Eastern hophornbeam/Ironwood-Ostrya virginiana- 40', Autumn treasure (high pH, partial shade, variety of soils, fairly slow growing, reported heat tolerance, 40 by 20'). **Ostrya carpinifolia (Europ. Hophornbeam) D, H**

**Hackberry-Celtis occidentalis-40-60' (wide range of soils, tolerant) D, BIO, L, H**

**American basswood (linden)-Tilia Americana 'Lincoln,' 35' BIO, T. Americana 'Fastigata,' (columnar), 'Sentry' (pyramidal)**

**Summer sprite littleleaf linden (Tilia cordata 'Halka')-15-20', 'Greenspire'-40', 'Fairview' (<40'), 'Corzam' (45') L, H (NN)**

**Tilia tomentosa "Green Mt', 'Sterling Silver' (45') D (NN)**

American hornbeam (Carpinus caroliniana) (30', not drought resistant, slow growing, sensitive to compaction, avoid strong westerly sun, salt) BIO, L, H

**European hornbeam (Carpinus betulus 'Fastigata,' 'Frans Fontaine'), 40' (full sun/p/o shade/bark issues, non-native), compaction/salt sensitive H**

**Black gum (Tupelo) - Nyssa sylvatica 'Afterburner,' 'Gum Drop,' 'JFS,' 'Red Rage,' 'Tupelo Tower' are all about 35,' Zydeco Twist about '20.' David Odori, Fire Starter (35' by 18') BIO, pH above 6 not good, soil compaction, some salt tolerance, slow growth. L, H**

**Zelkova serrata 'Schmidtflow,' 'City Sprite,' 'Wireless,' 'Halka' (but be careful about good form/ with main leader), "Green Vase." (some freeze thaw issues) D BIO, H. I? (some invasivity noted in Virginia, NJ, HV PRISM very low concern), NN**

**Eastern redbud (Cercis canadensis, spp), 30x35', white, pink, not too much sun BIO, careful of origin.**

**Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier), drought-heat, A. alnifolia (up to 18,' rhizomes, large root crown) BIO, H**

Black locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Globe' -20'

Thornless honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Imperial'-30-35, 'Inermis,' 45'

American Mountain ash (*Sorbus Americana* (to 35'), Intolerant pollution.

European mountain ash-*Sorbus aucuparia* (to 40'), dislikes hot/humid summers naturalized in some parts of Canada/NE U.S./blights. H

Swedish mountain ash (whitebeam)-*Sorbus x intermedia*, 25-35.' (good urban tolerance).

Oak-leaf mountain ash-*Sorbus thuringiaca* 'Fastigata,' 35', NN

*Sorbus hybrida* I (invasive potential). White clustered flowers in spring, orange red fruit in Fall-naturalizes). *S. alnifolia* (contradictory on fireblight). NN

Red Maple (*Acer rubra* 'Bowhall,' ( D , Depends on provenance/cultivar), 'Brandywine,' etc...(<35') BIO, not too wet, Pacific Sunset Maple H, *Acer x freemanii*. Hardier in warming climate than sugar maple. (larger cultivars always available).

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum* ' Goldenspire'-40'), larger cultivars available.

Tartarian Maple (*Acer tartaricum*) I , *Acer zoeschense* D, Shantung Maple H, 'Autumn blaze' maple (*Acer fremanii*) H, Clay, 40-60' (full sun), *A. campestre* (Hedge maple) H, *Acer miyabei* 'Morton'/'Street Tree' 30-45 (others up to 60') non-native-no invasivity listed, *A.griseum* (Paperbark maple) 30'x25' (non-native, no invasivity listed), NN

River Birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage' or 'Fox Valley) 25-40' BIO

Japanese tree lilac-*Syringa reticulata* 'Summer Snow,' 'Ivory Silk,' 35' D (Potentially I ), H (In 2021 more I reports-Oneonta, Columbia and Otsego Co.

Chinese tree lilac, *Syringa pekinensis*, 25' (moderately drought tolerant) H

Tuliptree (Yellow Poplar),zone 4, (smaller cultivars- Ardis (20-30'), Compactum (30-40',zone 4-9), Fastigatum (narrow, 10-20' wide," up to 60'), Emerald City (55',upright,oval 25'wide), Arnold-Columnar (8-12'wide, 50'tall)

Ginkgo 'Princeton sentry' (smaller hybrid) H, NN, but not invasive, only male trees due to fruits.

Crabapples (*Malus*) (careful, pick disease resistant), some potentially Invasive- *M. sieboldii*, *M. hupehensis*, *M. toringo* *Crataegus* (hawthorns, relatively disease resistant, H) and ornamental cherries (*Prunus*) are common short-lived trees. (*Prunus sargentii*, D; *Prunus avium*, *P. subhirtella* I, *P. Macckii* (Amur Cherry, H).

Turkish filbert/hazelnut (*Corylus colurna*, D, hazelnut, tolerant of heat, drought, pollution, up to 45'x25,' street tree in Germany, NN (not Beaked hazel, 8') H

Callery pears (*Pyrus calleryana*)- clearly invasive, now getting fireblight, entomosporium leaf spot, powdery mildew, Jack/Jill better, avoid Bradford. D I

### Larger trees:

Black locust (*Robinia*) L I (invasive-like, though native to W. Virginia and Pennsylvania, etc, good for urban lands, keep away from forestlands), tolerates high pH.

Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Morraine' and cultvrs.)

➤ American linden, *Tilia Americana* 'Redmond,' 50-70,' 'Continental Appeal'(50'), 'Duros' (50')

White American basswood -*Tilia heterophylla* – for drier, heavier soils (no details on where to find).

Tupelo/Black Gum - *Nyssa sylvatica* 'wildfire' (up to 70') BIO L H

Tuliptree, Yellow Poplar - *Liriodendron tulipifera* (very tall tree (100'+, cultivars of about 50' are hard to find, but exist, 'Fastigata') , intolerant of hot dry sights. (*L. integrifolium*?)

Sweetgum –*Liquidambar styraciflua* (zone 6-9, var *Rotundiloba*-seedless cultivar, few seed balls, 40-50', 30' wide), var 'Clydesform,' var 'Emerald Sentinel' (30' by 12', columnar, pyramidal, yellow-orange to orange-zone 5), var Cherokee (40-50' high, 30' wide, zone 5-9, 'Palo Alto' - 40'x20, zones 6-9). L

➤ Ginkgo biloba – 50'- only male trees (very hardy, still a good tree for urban areas, **not native but not invasive**) H

Sycamore -*Platanus occidentalis* BIO

Japanese Pagoda Tree - *Sophora japonica* (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) I

Baldcypress-*Taxodium distichum* 'Shawnee Brave' (moist soils, compaction/salt tolerant, difficult to transplant) to- 60' BIO L H (Metasequoia-non-native-monoecious, no invasivity noted)

Elm hybrids, *Ulmus*, (40-60') BIO, (Accolade, Discovery, Frontier, Triumph H).

*Catalpa speciosa*, 40-60', 'Nana' -zone 4A- round-crown dwarf, others are 'Aurea,' 'Koehnei,' 'Pulverulenta,' 'Purpurea,' 'Variegata.' H (has native invasive spread potential)

Zelkova (full size) D BIO H I? (some invasivity noted in Virginia, NJ, HV PRISM very low concern), NN

Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*), intermediate salt tolerance, 5-8 pH, 40-60,' restricted space. Moderate to drought intolerant I? (HV PRISM, no other). Plant only male trees. NN

Kentucky Coffee Tree (fruitless, 45-60')- 'Espresso' or 'True North' cultivar (*Gymnocladus dioica*) , Large leaves messy-larger space/park tree D BIO L H. (There may be a compact form 'Minnesota Compact Form' available)

Osage orange 'White Shield,' fruitless (thorns, *Maclura pomifera*, 35' x 35') L H

*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Edith Bogue,' 'Bracken Brown Beauty' (larger spaces, shown to be hardy in Finger Lakes region).

#### White oak group:

Sawtooth oak- *Quercus acutissima* var *chenii* – 40'-50'-(excurrent tree form strong in storms, from China, smaller oak, tolerant of urban) D I (in parts of Midwest)

Swamp white oak –*Quercus bicolor*- 45' (salt tolerant) BIO H (better water movement than Bur oak)

Bur oak 'heritage 55'- *Q. macrocarpa*- 55' (soil compaction) BIO H

Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*), tolerant of high pH, wet and dry BIO

Overcup oak - Quercus lyrata, clay soils-wet soils, acidic soils, tolerant of wide range of conditions, 40-60 ft.

Chinkapin Oak (Quercus muhlenbergii), 45' prolonged dry soils, calcophyte D

English oak – Q. robur – 50-60' English oak may not do so well in drier US, May be spreading into wild). (Note: Asjes cultivar Q.robur x Q. bicolor is fastigate-columnar).

#### Red Oak Group:

Shingle oak- Quercus imbricaria-50'-excurrent form, dry to moist range L H

Shumard Oak (Q. shumardii) H

Overcup oak (Q. lyrata)

Willow oak – Q. phellos – 55'-excurrent form (small acorn, B&B is best, avoid high pH soils, prefers moister soils) L H

Pin oak-Q. palustris -55'-excurrent, Green Pillar Oak (columnar, avoid alkaline soils) BIO

Red oak (Q. rubra),scarlet oaks (Q. coccinea, so-so on pollution)... in large spaces....Black Oak (Q.velutina) H

#### White oak crosses:

Oak crosses: Quercus X 'Long' – Regal Prince Oak (Q roburX Q.bicolor, 45'X18'); Crimson spire oak (Q.roburXQ.alba) 'Crimschmidt,45' columnar; Heritage (Q.robur X Q. macrocarpa 'Heritage.' (May be good, not completely native).

**Other less common trees, which have shown promise: (However some that are not native may have impacts as of yet uncertain?)**

Yellowwood- Cladrastis lutea (kentukea) – 40-50' (full sun, restricted space, sens to drought, compaction, white flowers when older), native (possible low vulnerability L) H

Carolina silverbell - Halesia tetraptera (carolina)- 20'- 35,' sun/p shade/shade, moist soils (prefers rich occasionally wet, well-drained soils, avoid high pH, rose

pink flowers, understory, ok if watered, no compaction), native, nhard to transplant B&B.

*Maackia amurensis* -Amur maackia- 20'-30' (full sun, creamy flower clusters in July, similar to *styphnolobia/sophora*) H, (Good candidate for street tree, well-drained, wide pH range, N fixing capacity, NN, I=no information).

Sourwood - *Oxydendrum arborium* - 25'-30+', sun, p/shade, heat? Mid-summer bloom, pyramid shape (pH 4-6.5), wide range of soil types (up to zone 5, not for polluted or urban areas?).

Persian ironwood -*Parrotia persica* – 20'-40', 10-25' wide, hardier. Leaves similar to witchhazel, peeling bark similar to Sycamore, Flowers red in late winter on bare stems, leaves purple to red in autumn), sun, p/shade, wide soil range, slow growing drought resistant, pH 6-8 (tolerates calcium carbonate rich soils). NN, I=no information.

Japanese snowbell –*Styrax japonicus* -30' drought intol., to Zone 5 (related to Silverbell), not below -20 F, problematic, NN

Japanese Stewartia –*Stewartia pseudocamelia*-20'-40' (best protected from hot summer sun, winds and drought-vulnerable), NN

Hardy rubber tree (*Eucommia ulmoides*) D , 40-60', drought – ok, urban tolerant, adaptable to high pH, avoid poorly drained soils, NN, I=unknown (possible high seed dispersal).

*Ilex opaca* (zone 5, 30-50'), acidic soils, protect from winds. *Ilex attenuata*? (limit zone 6a).

Persimon - *Diospyros virginiana*, 35-60', wide pH range, full sun, does well in cities, OK on low fertility dry soils, sandy soils), possibly use male trees (some dioecious).

Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*), 40-60', only male trees, may be a possible with future cultivars.

Boxelder (*Acer negundo*), drought resistant, wide soil and pH range, full sun. Pruning and removal/maintenance high. Use male trees due to heavy seeding. Possible in future.

## How to Use this list:

Other lists were used to compile this list and are available for comparison. An excellent additional resource is the Cornell Woody Plants Database ([woodyplants.cals.cornell.edu/home](http://woodyplants.cals.cornell.edu/home)). Once you have reduced your choices, this site has good information on cultivars and tree characteristics which should be checked for your local conditions. (Also see Dirr, Michael. 2009. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants-Their identification, ornamental characteristics, culture, propagation and uses, 6<sup>TH</sup> ed, 1325 pp.)

Green are possibly better picks, though some may be non-native.

Black are neutral picks

Red are OK, but some are non-native (NN, indicated when the name not obvious) or have some questionable characteristics as to adaptability or future invasiveness)

D = Indicator of Drought tolerance (*Sjoman, H., Hirons, A.D. and Basuk, Evaluation of Leaf Water Loss at Turgor Potential (Improving confidence in tree species selection for challenging urban sites: A role for leaf turgor loss. Urban Ecosyst (2018) 21:1171.*)

B = Bioswale use (USFS and various sources)

I = Invasive potential from USFS, state sources, Lower Hudson Valley Partnership for Invasive Species Management (LHV PRISM), when available

L or H = "Rough picks" from Tables 22 and 23, Appendix 6-7, High Adaptability Species/Tree Species Vulnerability, from Chicago Wilderness Region Urban Forest Vulnerability Assessment and Synthesis...April 2017 USDA Forest Service, Gen Tech Report NRS-168. (pp 118-131, explanations page 38-39). H = Table 22, High adaptability for species in planted environments in Chicago Wilderness Region Urban Forest Vulnerability Assessment.

Please send comments, observations, differences, to:

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