

City of Portland

Recommended Tree List 2018

Trees on our recommended list represent varieties that have shown hardiness to our Portland, Maine climate, display favorable characteristics and are generally available in the nursery trade. '**Co-Op Nurseries**' offer a wide selection of shade and ornamental trees, including trees native to New England along with interesting non-native 'exotics'. Trees with * are readily available and especially recommended.

Trees are grouped into the following categories: Small, Medium & Large and by site use: "**Street trees (ST)**" which are trees recommend for planting between the sidewalk and street, or along street lines due to desired characteristics such as branching height, shape and hardiness to grow in urban conditions. Street-trees tend to include more 'shade trees' that are grown for shade vs. ornamental qualities. "**Lawn trees (L)**" are '**setback planted**' away from the esplanade or street on the lawn area. They can be multi-stemmed or lower branched than the street-trees and may be less tolerant of urban conditions. "Lawn trees" include: 'shade', 'ornamental', 'conifers' along with "fruit & nut" trees.

It is important to match the desired characteristics of the tree to the site where the tree is intended to grow. '**Plant the right tree - in the right place**'. Shade, screening, ornamental qualities such as flowers, fruit, or interesting bark, how big will the tree grow and where will it grow best? What are the site conditions - wet or dry, sun or shade? Trees need room to grow, picture the mature tree size growing in the location you plant to plant the new tree. See updated USDA Plant Hardiness Map: <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/#>

Planting Site Guidelines -

Trees planted in sidewalk 'treewells' have a minimum width of 3.5' / leaving 3' for wheelchair and pedestrian travelway. In restricted areas and under utility lines we recommend 'setback' tree planting behind the sidewalk. Trees must be planted 10' from intersections, driveways, walks, utility poles and fire hydrants. (This is to avoid future problems) New tree cutouts in the sidewalk require approval by our Public Works Department and are not created by our Forestry program.

Tree Planting Web site links -

Please review the following web sites for more information:

ISA – International Society of Arboriculture ‘Trees Are Good’ - Tree Selections.
http://www.treesaregood.org/treecare/tree_selection.aspx

Also thinking ahead to avoid utility line conflicts:
http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/avoiding_conflicts.aspx

National Arborday Foundation: ‘Right tree for the right place’
www.arborday.org/trees/rightTreeAndPlace/index.cfm

Cornell University ‘Urban Horticulture Institute’ tree selections
www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/recurbtree/index.html

US National Arboretum <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Newintro/awards.html>

Cary Award Trees / Shrubs <http://www.caryaward.org/pastwinners.html>

Tree Size Recommendations; Street-trees: 1.75" - 2.0" caliper, (thickness of the trunk at the base) and #5 gal pot size - 2" for lawn planting. Maximum sizes - 2.5" caliper for shade and ornamental trees and 6' Height for conifers.

THE TREES ON THIS LIST HAVE BEEN EVALUATED FOR THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:	
*	Trees that are readily available and are especially recommended.
ST	STREET TREE Shade & ornamental trees suitable for ‘Street-tree’ planting in esplanades, between the sidewalk and the street, or along street lines for their ability to grow in urban conditions. Planted in esplanades or tree-lawn areas.
L	LAWN – ‘Set back’ TREE Shade, ornamental, conifer, including “Fruit & Nut” trees with single or multiple stem or trunks, low-branched and or fruit are recommended for ‘Lawn planting’, set back away from the roadway.
Trees are listed by both Common Name and <i>Scientific or Botanical name</i> .	

Small Trees 15' – 25' (this group can be used for planting under wires)

Small sized trees are often planted along streets under overhead utility lines and for restricted space where a smaller tree is desired; this tree group offer many ornamental characteristics such as flowers and fruit. (1.5" to 2" caliper)

Hedge Maple, *Acer campestre* Uses: **Street tree or / Lawn tree**

Grows slowly to a height of 25' according to reference materials, however, we have several trees that after 10 years are just approaching 15' in height.

'Three-flowered' Maple*, *Acer triflorum* Uses: **Street tree / Lawn tree**

A unique small specimen tree, nice exfoliating bark, tri-foliolate leaves that turn yellowish red fall color. See at Longfellow Arboretum in Payson Park. Expensive due to slow grow rate but worth the extra cost.

Shadbush, *Amelanchier** – tree form, Uses: **LAWN / Esplanade AREAS best.**

Native tree with white or pink flowers in the spring. Available with single (ST) or multi-stemmed (L) trunks and is best used in moist areas with light shade. Not for dry compacted spaces, better for lawn areas than small tree-lawn spaces between the sidewalk. 'Robin Hill' is single-stem with pink flowers. Good alternative to Callery Pear.

Hawthorns*, *Crataegus* Uses: **Lawn / Street tree**

Flowers in June and is noted for its red berries in the winter. There are many interesting varieties including our favorite: ''Crusgalli' (Thorn-less) Crusgali has glossy foliage and no thorns. 'Winter King' (better for Lawn areas),

Flowering Crabapple, *Malus x varieties* Uses: **Lawn / Street tree**

There are many varieties with different attributes of shape, flower, foliage, and fruit. Our favorite varieties include: 'Adirondack', 'Spring Snow' (fruitless), 'Snowdrift', 'Donald Wyman', and 'Sargent' for lawn areas and 'Pinkspire' and 'Sentinel' for narrow sites. Crabapple varieties with larger fruit are not recommended as street-trees. 'Springsnow' flowers with no fruit.

Cherry*, *Prunus* Uses: **Lawn / Street tree** Clouds

of pink flower in early Spring, Sargent Cherry cultivars have been reliable; 'Accolade' & 'Pink Flair-upright form for narrow areas (ST,L); 'Amur chokecherry' (L) has pink/white flowers and interesting bark, for lawn areas only.

Tree Lilac, *Syringa reticulata* Uses: **Lawn / Street tree**

Tree form lilac with white flowers. Available with single (ST) and multi-stem trunks (L), Tree lilacs have performed well as street-trees under utility lines in areas. Requires ample, non-compacted, growing space.

(Note: the Japanese tree lilac has been so popular it is starting to be 'overplanted' and we are having some concerns on invasive tendencies)

The following 'small trees' are great as non-street trees for lawn areas:

Paperbark Maple, *Acer griseum*

Uses: **LAWN AREAS only.**

A small specimen tree with interesting exfoliating bark and good fall color, planted in lawn areas only, hard to find, may want to use a smaller size. Beautiful small specimen tree. Grows best in sheltered areas. See at Longfellow Arboretum in Payson Park.

Korean Maple, *Acer sieboldianum*

Uses: **LAWN AREAS only.**

Small ornamental maple with good fall color, trees are often multi-stem & low branched. Two are planted in Longfellow Square.

Dogwood, *Cornus kousa*

Lawn areas only.

Kousa and the new Rutgers Hybrids, *C. kousa* x *C. florida*, are recommended specimen trees for lawn areas, white or pink flowers.

White Fringe Tree, *Chionanthus*

Lawn areas only.

Beautiful small tree / shrub with white flowers in June. Available only in multi-stem shrub form.

Magnolias

Uses: **Lawn areas only.**

Used as specimens and planted in lawn areas only. Check with your Co-op Nursery for availability. Single stem types more rare than multi stem plants.

American Hophornbeam*, *Ostrya virginiana* Uses: Lawn areas, Native to Maine. Native tree with interesting bark, lawn areas, does not grow too large, tolerates shade, 'understory' tree.

Sourwood*, *Oxydendrum arboretum*

Lawn areas only.

Excellent small specimen tree with late summer bloom. Truly, a great small tree for late summer and early Fall bloom & great Fall color. Scarce, available in small sizes.

Stewartia, *Stewartia pseudocamellia* and *koreana* **Lawn areas only.**

Flowers in July and has beautiful exfoliating bark. Longfellow Arboretum in Payson Park has a beautiful specimen planted in 1976.

(Plant size recommendations: 5 Gallon potted to 2" caliper size)

Medium Sized Trees 25' - 45'

River Birch*, *Betula nigra* Uses: Lawn or landscape areas best.
Fast growing tree with creamy white to brownish bark and has less insect & disease problems than Paper Birch. See grove of River Birch at the Longfellow Arboretum along the Payson Park roadway. Available in single & multi-stem. Yellow Birch are also a great option though hard to find.

American or European Hornbeam* *Carpinus caroliniana* & *Carpinus betulus*,
A nice small to medium sized, compact tree in single-stemmed (ST) and multi-stemmed (L) forms. The bark and leaves are similar to beech trees. Upright forms are useful for screening or hedges. Hornbeam makes an excellent screen, does best in non-compacted lawn & esplanade areas vs. tree well situations.

Katsuratree*, *Cercidiphyllum* Uses: Lawn areas.
This is a unique tree with heart shaped leaves that open as reddish purple, turn green, with yellow-orange Fall color. This interesting tree can be seen at the Longfellow Arboretum in Payson Park.

American Yellowwood, *Cladrastis* Uses: Lawn / Street-tree with ample room.
Compound leaves and white flowers blossoming bi-yearly in June. Locations - Deering Oaks Park, State Street at Park Avenue on the left.

Turkish Filbert, *Corylus colurna* Uses: Street-tree.
We have been planting Filbert's for over 10 years with good results. It's hardy with interesting light colored, rough bark and should grow to 30'.

Honeylocust, *Gleditsia* Uses: 'Tough' Street-tree.
Thornless honeylocusts have small compound leaves that cast a light filtered shade. Honeylocusts are medium sized trees in Maine and are able to grow in difficult sites. Some recommended varieties include 'Skyline' and 'Halka.' Honeylocusts due to their branching habit can often be planted under or closer to utility lines than most medium or large trees with necessary pruning.

Tupelo*, *Nyssa sylvatica* Uses: **Tree Lawn & Lawn areas**
Native, rare shade tree that can tolerate damp sites and is slow growing. Fall foliage is bright red. Maine's largest is near O'Donal's Nurseries. Ferry Beach State Park in Saco has a beautiful stand of Tupelo. Slow growing.

Korean Mountainash, *Sorbus alnifolia* Uses: Lawn areas, Street-tree
This is a beautiful tree which has a different appearance than the common European Mountainash. The Korean Mountainash has beech-like foliage and bark, white flowers in June, and pinkish-red berries in fall and winter.

(1.75" to 2" caliper size for street tree use - #10 potted for Lawn)

Large Trees 45' +

Large trees should not be planted close to utility lines and need room to grow.

Red Maple, *Acer rubrum* Uses: Lawn / Street-tree.

Native maple with red leaves in the fall. It tolerates wet sites and is more salt-tolerant than Sugar Maples. There are many new cultivars and Red Maple / Silver Maple hybrids. We really like the upright shape Red Maple cultivars !

'Armstrong' Red Maple - upright cultivar seen in the Old Port area.

'Karpick*' & "Bowhall' Red Maple* - more open with a upright / oval form.

'Redpointe', 'Red Sunset' - Oval to round shape with good Fall color.

Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum* Uses: Lawn area. (away from deicing salt)

Native maple with yellow-orange fall foliage. Upright cultivars are available for narrow spaces. Not salt tolerant, 'Green Mountain', 'Majesty'.

Catalpa, *Catalpa* Uses: Lawn area.

White flowers bloom in June and seedpods develop in the Fall. Interesting Winter form. (Indian Bean tree.)

Beech, *Fagus* Uses: Lawn area with lots of room !

American and European varieties. There are many leaf shapes with color ranging from green to purple. Standard beeches are best planted in lawn areas or behind sidewalks because it needs some room to grow. We have seen upright varieties as successful street trees in the Western Prom area. Many interesting cultivars exist, including 'Riversi' that has purple leaves, and 'Aspenifolia' that has fern-like leaves.

Ginkgo*, *Ginkgo biloba* Uses: ST / L

A truly unique tree with fan-shaped leaves and an interesting history. Ginkgos are slow growing after transplanting, but grow well in difficult sites. Cultivars: 'Autumn Gold*' - broad, conical form with good Fall color, 'Magyar' upright form. Non Fruiting.

Tuliptree, *Liriodendron* Uses: ST

Tulip shaped leaves with an interesting flower blooming at the top of the tree. Large, fast growing tree that needs room, interesting tree. Maine's largest Tuliptree is on Munjoy Hill. Upright cultivar available.

Cucumber Magnolia, *Magnolia acuminata* Uses: Lawn

A large shade-tree magnolia that does not have the showy spring flowers of other Magnolias. It is an interesting tree, A beautiful specimen is on Brackett Street at Walker Street.

Oak, *Quercus* (L)

(Street trees only where ample planting space exists) There are many varieties of native oak including the common Red Oak, Pin Oak, Chestnut Oak, White Oak, and **Swamp White Oak***. The Swamp White Oak has beautiful glossy foliage, exfoliating bark and transplants well. **Consider Upright varieties** for smaller narrow spaces.

Elm, *Ulmus* (ST,L) American Elm, Chinese or Lacebark Elm, & cultivars.

Once the most popular of all trees, Dutch Elm Disease (DED) has caused and continues to be a severe problem. New resistant varieties have shown promise in resistance to DED, 'Patriot', 'Princeton', 'Pioneer', and 'Lacebark' *Ulmus parvifolia*. Limited availability. All sorts of sizes and shapes. Fast growing.

Zelkova (ST,L) Medium to Large tree,

A vase shaped tree that was hoped to replace the American Elm...Zelkovas are vase-shaped but smaller than elms. Difficult branching angles can cause some problems later on if not pruned correctly. Many beautiful specimens exist in the West End near Danforth Street.

(Recommend 1.75" to 2" caliper size for street tree use)

Conifers / 'Fruit & Nut Trees' for 2018 for lawn planting areas

Conifers, Fruit & Nut Trees are a great addition to the landscape...

Note – many evergreens can quickly outgrow a small space, take time to review growth rate and size. Nurseries now offer many new selections many with compact sizes and shapes.

Pine, *Pinus*

Swiss Stone Pine* *Pinus cembra*, small, (15-20') slow growing with soft blue green needles. See nice specimen at the Spring Point Shoreway Arboretum in South Portland. Others: 'Vanderwolf' *Pine**, *p. flexilis*, upright with soft blue-green needles.

Spruce, *Picea*

Serbian Spruce* (narrow upright form), like Norway Spruce offers pendulous branching, White Spruce is a good 'native' spruce. (Serbian Spruce is not as wide, and is better for lawn areas.) Blue Spruce are not recommended due to insect and disease problems.

Fir, *Abies*

Balsam and Fraser Fir are used as Christmas trees. Moderate growth rate and large mature size. Firs have soft needles vs Spruce. Concolor Fir has blueish needles.

Deciduous Conifers

Offer the shape and screening of an evergreen, but during the winter months allow sunlight. TYPES: (Lawn use only) Dawn Redwood or *Metasequoia**, and Eastern Larch or Japanese Larch, are beautiful deciduous conifers, consider them as 'evergreens' that lose their needles. Great for lawn areas, naturalized damp sites or as specimens, they have the advantage of allowing winter sun as they drop their needles in the Fall with great fall color and texture.

Fruit & Nut Trees

There is a wide variety of fruit & nut trees available at our Co-Op Nurseries. We currently do not have a minimal size limit for trees planted on lawn areas only, our maximum size is 2" caliper / 6' height size / #7 Gal. pot.

Apple, *Mallus* – 'Freedom' & 'Liberty' varieties show good resistance to pest problems,

NOTE - Portland, Maine is located in USDA Plant Hardiness **Zone 5 B**

Portland Co-Op Nurseries: Trees can be selected the following nurseries:

O'Donal's Nurseries, Gorham **839-4262** www.odonalsnurseries.com

Skillin's Nurseries, Falmouth **781-3860** www.skillins.com