RECOMMENDED TREE SPECIES FOR PITTSBURGH'S STREETS

There are two main categories; Shade Trees where no overhead utilities conflict with tree growth, and Utility Trees where overhead utilities call for shorter trees. The Utility Tree section has 2 parts to account for the occasional situation where wires are 25’ or higher above ground.

SHADE TREES
Trees in the Shade Tree category should be planted where no overhead utilities exist. Shade trees are the most desirable size of tree for planting, and should be used at all times in the absence of overhead wires.

_Acer rubrum_ ‘Franksred’ - Red Sunset Red Maple  (do not use within 5’ of sidewalks; aggressive root system)
_Acer x freemanni_ ‘Celzam’ - Celebration Freeman Maple (do not use within 5’ of sidewalks; aggressive root system)
_Aesculus x carnea ‘Briotii’ - Ruby Red Horsechestnut (less mid-summer scorch than _hippocastanum_
_Cercidiphyllum japonecum_ Tree Form- Katsura Tree (requires more water during establishment years than most other trees)
_Corylus columnea_ (tree form) - Turkish Hazel or Turkish Filbert
_Eucommia ulmoides_ - Hardy Rubber Tree  (not pretty but can be useful)
_Ginkgo biloba_ (any male variety) - Ginkgo (male example is Princeton Sentry)
_Gleditsia triacanthos_ (any thornless, seedless, variety) - Honeylocust
_Gymnocladus dioicus_ (male variety only) - Kentucky Coffeetree
_Liriodendron tulipifera_ - Tulip Tree (open lawn or large parking island)
_Metasequoia glyptostroboides_ – Dawn Redwood (requires larger than usual pit if used as a street tree, or use in open planting areas)

_Nysssa sylvatica_ - Blackgum
_Ostrya virginiana_ – American Hophornbeam
_Platanus x acerifolia_ ‘Bloodgood’ - Bloodgood London Planetree
_Quercus bicolor_ - Swamp White Oak
_Quercus macrocarpa_ – Bur Oak
_Quercus rubra_ - Northern Red Oak
_Quercus palustris_ - Pin Oak
_Sophora japonica_ - Scholartree (flower issues make this an open space tree not suited to sidewalk use)
_Taxodium distichum_ – Baldcypress (for large areas)
_Tilia tomentosa_ - Silver Linden  (open space tree)
_Ulmus parvifolia_ – Lacebark Elm/Chinese Elm
_Zelkova serrata_ – Zelkova (‘Green Vase’ is not recommended in commercial areas where it may block signage)

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UTILITY-COMPATIBLE TREES –

**Group A** (under-wire use)
Group A applies to most plantings under utility lines. This is necessary because
most wires are less than 25’ above ground. Where possible, offset trees so they
are not directly under the wires.

*Acer ginnala* – Amur Maple 15’-20’
*Acer tataricum* – Tatarian maple 15’-25’
*Crateagus crus-galli* var. ‘Inermis’ – Thornless cockspur hawthorn 15’-20’
*Crateagus laevigata* ‘Superba’ – Crimson Cloud hawthorn (tree form) 15’-20’
*Magnolia stellata* – Star Magnolia (tree form) 10’-20’
*Malus* cultivars – crabapple (disease resistance emphasized) all under 22’
  Adams, Amsalzam, Centurion, Donald Wyman, Harvest Gold, Prairifire, Professor
  Sprenger, Red Jewel, Robinson, Sentinel, Sugar Tyme, Strawberry Parfait
  (always specify tree form for crabapple selection)
  (Fruit makes Malus undesirable in commercial areas)
*Malus floribunda* – Japanese flowering crabapple under 25’
*Malus sieboldii x zumi* ‘Calocarpa’ – Zumi crabapple under 25’
*Malus* ‘Spring Snow’ tree form – Spring Snow Crabapple 15-20’
  (fruit makes Malus undesirable in commercial areas)

**Group B** (use only under wires 25’ and higher)
Group B applies only to utility plantings where the bottom wire is over 25’ above
ground. Where possible, offset trees so they are not directly under the wires.

*Acer buergeranum* – Trident Maple (tree form) 20-30’
*Acer campestre* – Hedge maple (tree form) 25’-40’
*Acer campestre* ‘Evelyn’ – Queen Elizabeth hedge maple 30’-40’
*Acer griseum* – Paperbark Maple 25’-35’
*Amelanchier laevis* ‘Cumulus’ or “Majestic’ – Apple Serviceberry 20’-30’
*Amelanchier x grandiflora* – Serviceberry (many cultivars) 20’-30’
*Carpinus betulus* “Fastigiata’ – European Hornbeam (tree form) 30’-40’
*Carpinus caroliniana* – American Hornbeam (useful in full shade) 20-35’
*Cercis canadensis* – Eastern Redbud 25’-30’
*Cornus kousa* – Kousa Dogwood (esp. Rutgers hybrids) 20’-30’
*Koelreuteria paniculata* - Goldenrain Tree 25’–40’
*Magnolia* ‘Galaxy’ – Galaxy Magnolia (tree form) 20’-30’
*Phellodendron amurense* – Amur Corktree 30’-40’
*Prunus sargentii* – ‘Columnar’ – Sargent cherry 30’
*Prunus virginiana* ‘Shubert’ – Shubert Chokecherry 20’-30’
*Sorbus* species – Mountain Ash 15’-35’ (in limited quantities)
*Syringa reticulata* ‘Summer Snow’, ‘Ivory Silk’ – Japanese Tree lilac 20’-25’

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Trees planted on city property shall be:

- 2” caliper (minimum) measured 6” above the root ball;
- set rootball level slightly above soil grade (1-2”), finished soil grade being 2” below top of sidewalk (see Tree Planting Detail).
- mulched with 2” of shredded wood mulch for weed control;
- stake trees just below the first branch with 1”-3” wide polypropylene straps (2 per tree on opposite sides of tree, connecting from tree to stake horizontally). DO NOT use rope or wire through a hose. ArborTie is an acceptable product.
- Remove all staking materials after one (1) year, or as otherwise directed by the City Forester.
- Planting beds shall measure a minimum of 3’ X 10’ in order to assure space for the root zone. Where box style planting beds currently exist, the space shall be enlarged to the above dimensions. The rectilinear shape may be substituted with Forestry approval, but a minimum of 30 sq. ft. of root zone must still be observed. Trees require ample root space for optimum growth and longevity, so planting beds larger than the minimum are welcome and desirable where there is still sufficient space for pedestrian traffic.