

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 japonicum* Tree Form- Katsura Tree (requires more water during establishment years than most other trees)
- Corylus colurna* (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 dioica* (male variety only) - Kentucky Coffeetree
- Liriodendron tulipifera* - Tulip Tree (open lawn or large parking island)
- Metasequoia glytostroboides* - Dawn Redwood (requires larger than usual pit if used as a street tree, or use in open planting areas)
- Nyssa 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
- Ulmus* Hybrids - disease resistant trees like 'Homestead', 'Pioneer', 'Accolade', 'Frontier', 'Liberty' and 'Urban'.
- Zelkova serrata* - Zelkova ('Green Vase' is not recommended in commercial areas where it may block signage)

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'

Crataegus crus-galli var. 'Inermis' – Thornless cockspur hawthorn 15'-20'

Crataegus 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 *zumii* '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 serrulata 'Amanogawa', 'Kwanzan' – Japanese flowering cherry 25'-35'

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'

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.