

Recommended Street Tree Species List - With Notations

San Francisco Urban Forestry Council

Updated March 2016

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's 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	Arbutus x 'Marina'	Fruit drop can range from low volume to significant
		Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'	Not good for narrow sidewalks
		Laurus nobilis 'Saratoga'	Uneven performer, prefers heat, needs some wind protection, susceptible to pests
		Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'	
	Deciduous	Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'	Prefers wind protection; prefers a larger planting basin.
Medium - 20-35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Agonis flexuosa	Fast grower – more than 12" annually, requires extensive maintenance when young.
		Callistemon viminalis	Has sticky flowers
		Magnolia grandiflora 'St. Mary,'	
		Tristaniopsis laurina	Formerly known as Tristania laurina, slow grower – less than 6" annually
Tall – More than 35' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Lagunaria patersonii	Grows well in windy areas
		Lophostemon confertus	Formerly Tristania conferta, fast grower
		Magnolia grandiflora 'Sam Sommers,' 'Majestic Beauty,'	
		Pittosporum undulatum	Can self-sow, take care when planting near natural areas
	Deciduous	Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold' 'Princeton Sentry' 'Saratoga'	Slow grower, prefers wind protection
		Platanus x acerifolia 'Bloodgood' 'Columbia' 'Yarwood'	Prefers wind protection, susceptible to anthracnose and powdery mildew
		Ulmus parvifolia 'Drake' 'Sempervirens'	Fast grower, requires extensive maintenance when young.

Section 2: Tree species, varieties, and cultivars that do well with certain special considerations, which may not appropriate for planting broadly throughout the San Francisco.

Size	Evergreen/ Deciduous	Species	Notes
Small - Less than 20' tall at maturity	Evergreen	Callistemon citrinus	Grows low, and wide canopy and needs a wide sidewalk, sticky flowers
		Cordyline australis	Cabbage palm. Needs very large basin, take care when planting near natural areas
		Elaeocarpus decipens	Slow growing, keep out of strong/ prevailing wind, flowers and may not produce fruit at maturity here
		Laurus nobilis 'Saratoga'	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, gets pests
		Leptospermum laevigatum	Poor rooter, may need long-term or permanent staking
		Magnolia doltsopa	Formerly Michelia doltsopa; uneven performer, grows very slowly, prefers heat, wind protection
		Magnolia champaca	Formerly Michelia champaca; needs wind protection, wide sidewalk, gets powdery mildew and very slow grower
		Pittosporum crassifolium	Tolerates wind and fog. Can leak sap from trunk.
		Pyrus kawakamii	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
		Tristaniopsis laurina 'Elegant'	Formerly known as Tristania laurina 'Elegant'; grows slowly, irregular form, mod-high maintenance
	Deciduous	Acer buergeranum	Prefers heat, wind protection
		Crataegus phaenopyrum	Subject to pests, has thorns, may be susceptible to fireblight
		Prunus cerasifera '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	Acacia baileyana 'Purpurea'	Fast grower, high maintenance, short lived.
		Agonis flexuosa 'After Dark'	'After Dark' is a fast grower that requires extra tree care
		Eriobotrya deflexa	Needs wind protection, does not perform well in sandy soils, susceptible to fireblight
		Geijera parvifolia – prefers heat, wind protection	Prefers heat, wind protection
		Jacaranda mimosifolia	Uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage
		Melaleuca quinquenervia	Grows fast, dense, irregular form, prefers wind protection
		Melaleuca styphelioides	Can root poorly, and prickly leaves
		Metrosideros excelsus	Needs a very large basin, and very wide sidewalks
		Olea europaea	Needs a very large basin, prefers wind protection
		Phoenix dactylifera 'Medjool' or 'Zahidi'	Palm tree. Needs a large basin and wide sidewalk
		Podocarpus gracilior	Better as a shrub, gets pests

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