





Last updated: 8/29/2025

Baltimore City Approved Tree Species List

Introduction:

Baltimore has a citywide goal of reaching 40% tree canopy cover. Wherever possible, larger trees are preferred. Large shade trees provide more benefits and live longer than small understory trees. The following approved species list is not exhaustive and is subject to change. The Forestry Division reviews and updates this list as needed.

Diversity and Resilience:

Native species are better adapted to local conditions and provide more ecological benefits than non-native species. For each planting project, at least half of the installed trees must be native. Trees should be grown from as local a seed source as possible, preferably within 200-miles of Baltimore City.

A diverse urban forest is more resilient and less susceptible to pests and disease. Projects should incorporate a variety of species. For plantings projects larger than 20 trees, no single species should exceed 10% of the total.

The best approach for selecting "right tree, right place" is to evaluate sunlight, soil volume and quality, water sources, and other physical conditions of the site.

The following guidelines apply to all planting projects:

- Permission is required from the Forestry Division before planting any tree in the public right-of-way (ROW) along our streets or on BCRP parkland. More information at www.treebaltimore.org/tree-order
- Trees planted along streets, busy pedestrian thoroughfares, or adjacent to playgrounds must be at least 1½-inch caliper to ensure survival. Park trees must be at least ½-inch caliper unless otherwise approved by Forestry. Caliper is measured at 6" above ground. If the planting is part of a construction or development project, or for environmental mitigation, the size may be dictated by the applicable regulations.
- Current City tree planting specifications for tree pit size, soil, planting, and maintenance are detailed in the Baltimore City Landscape Manual: https://www.baltimoresustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Baltimore-City-Landscape-Manual.pdf
- All trees must conform to American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.2) and shall have a single, dominant leader.
- A two-year maintenance plan is key to long-term success and is required for all plantings. This includes routine watering, mulching, weeding, and trunk protection. Weekly summer watering is the most important factor for survivability. For more information on proper planting and maintenance, reference our partner agreements at http://www.treebaltimore.org/resources

Tree Sizes

Mature tree height can vary based on site conditions.

Small: under 35 feet Medium: 35-50 feet Large: over 50 feet

Key Terms

- For this list, native is a regional term. For example, while black locust and yellow buckeye are not native to Baltimore City, they are listed as native because they were historically present in the Mid-Atlantic region. Trees native to other regions of the U.S. are noted.
- Climate resiliency: The plus symbol (+) indicates a tree species that is projected to perform better in future warming conditions.

The minus symbol (-) indicates a tree species that is projected to perform poorly in future warming conditions.

- Street/right-of-way locations include tree pits or grass strips. Median locations are considfered at least 15-feet or wider.
- Parks and greenspace refer to managed open space, not wooded/natural areas.
- *Highly urbanized describes heavy traffic locations with a high percentage of impervious surface and increased temperatures.
- *Prone to structural problems indicates that a tree may have weak wood or poor branch attachment. May require additional routine pruning.

Scientific and Common Names

- The authority for scientific names is the USDA-ARS Germplasm Resources Information Network (https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxon/taxonomysearch)
- Baltimore City Forestry use the primary common name as listed on the USDA PLANTS Database (https://plants.usda.gov/)

		lee or	I				
Species	Common Name	Native Status	Climate Resiliency	Comments			
Tree Species Approved for Streets							
May also be suitable for parks and green spaces with Forestry approval.							
Small (under 35 feet)							
	s. or areas with overhead utility win	res. Multi-stemmed	l trees are allo	wable in open areas such as parks or green spaces.			
Suitable for narrow streets, small pits, or areas with overhead utility wires. Multi-stemmed trees are allowable in open areas such as parks or green spaces. Only single trunk trees with a defined leader may be planted along streets.							
Multi-stemmed trees are allowable in							
Acer buergerianum	trident maple	Nonnative					
Acer triflorum	three-flowered maple	Nonnative					
Acer truncatum	Shantung maple	Nonnative					
Aesculus pavia	red buckeye	Southeast	+				
Amelanchier arborea	common serviceberry	Native					
Amelanchier canadensis	Candaian serviceberry	Native					
Amelanchier laevis	Allegheny serviceberry	Native					
Cercis canadensis	eastern redbud	Native		Prone to structural problems*			
Chionanthus virginicus	white fringetree	Native	+				
Cornus mas	Cornelian cherry	Nonnative					
Cotinus obovatus	American smoketree	S Central					
Crataegus crus-galli var. inermis	cockspur hawthorn	Native		Thornless variety.			
Crataegus laevigata	smooth hawthorn	Nonnative		Toba' and 'Crimson Cloud' are more resistant to hawthorn rust.			
Crataegus phaenopyrum	Washington hawthorn	Native					
Crataegus viridis	green hawthorn	Native					
Crataegus × lavallei	Lavalle hawthorn	Nonnative		Avoid planting in highly urbanized areas.*			
Magnolia × soulangeana	saucer magnolia	Nonnative					
Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'	little gem magnolia	Southeast		Other small, narrow cultivars are also acceptable.			
Magnolia stellata	star magnolia	Nonnative					
Magnolia virginiana	sweetbay	Native					
Parrotia persica	Persian ironwood	Nonnative		Can be successful in highly urbanized areas*			
Prunus angustifolia	Chickasaw plum	Native					
Prunus cerasifera	cherry plum	Nonnative		Drops edible fruit.			
Prunus serrulata 'Kanzan'	Kwanzan cherry	Nonnative					
Prunus × incamp 'Okamé'	Okamé cherry	Nonnative					
Prunus × yedoensis	Yoshino cherry	Nonnative					
Viburnum prunifolium	Japanese snowbell	Nonnative					
Syringa reticulata	Japanese tree lilac	Nonnative	_				
Viburnum prunifolium	blackhaw	Native					
Viburnum rufidulum	rusty blackhaw	Native					

Species	Common Name	Native	Climate	Comments		
		Status	Resiliency	Continents		
Medium (35-50 feet)						
Aesculus × carnea	red horsechestnut	Nonnative	-	Fort McNair' cultivar shows some resistance to leaf blotch.		
Betula nigra	river birch	Native		Single trunk only. Multi-trunk may be planted in medians.		
Carpinus betulus	European hornbeam	Nonnative				
Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	Native				
Celtis laevigata	sugarberry	Native	+			
Celtis occidentalis	common hackberry	Native				
Cercidiphyllum japonicum	katsura	Nonnative				
Cladrastis kentukea	Kentucky yellowwood	Southeast				
Ostrya virginiana	hophornbeam	Native				
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese pistache	Nonnative				
Prunus sargentii	Sargent cherry	Nonnative				
Quercus × warei 'Long'	Regal Prince® Ware's oak	Nonnative		Columnar growth habit.		
Robinia pseudoacacia 'Purple Robe'	purple robe black locust	Native				
Large (over 50 feet)						
Acer floridanum	southern sugar maple	Southeast	+	Formerly Acer barbatum.		
Acer saccharum 'Legacy'	legacy sugar maple	Native		Southern cultivar. Avoid planting in highly urbanized areas.*		
Ginkgo biloba	ginkgo	Nonnative		Fruitless males only.		
Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis	thornless honeylocust	Native		Sunburst' and 'Emerald Kascade' are common cultivars.		
Gymnocladus dioicus 'Espresso-JFS'	Espresso™ Kentucky coffeetree	Native		Fruitless cultivar.		
Liquidambar styraciflua	seedless sweetgum	Native		Seedless only; 'Rotundiloba' and 'Happdell' are common cultivars.		
				Can revert and produce seed balls.		
Maclura pomifera	Osage orange	Midwest		Thornless male only; 'White Shield' and 'Wichita' are common cultivars.		
Magnolia grandiflora	southern magnolia	Southeast		Evergreen.		
Nyssa biflora	swamp tupelo	Native	+			
Nyssa sylvatica	blackgum	Native				
Platanus occidentalis	American sycamore	Native		Avoid planting in highly urbanized areas due to anthracnose.*		
Platanus orientalis	Oriental planetree	Nonnative				
Platanus × hispanica	London planetree	Nonnative		Synonym: Platanus x acerifolia		
Quercus alba	white oak	Native		Avoid wet or poorly drained sites.		
Quercus bicolor	swamp white oak	Native	_			

Species	Common Name	Native Status	Climate Resiliency	Comments			
Large Continued	Large Continued						
Quercus coccinea	scarlet oak	Native		Avoid wet or poorly drained sites.			
Quercus falcata	southern red oak	Native	+				
Quercus hemisphaerica	Darlington oak	Native	+				
Quercus laurifolia	laurel oak	Native	+				
Quercus lyrata	overcup oak	Native	+				
Quercus macrocarpa	bur oak	Native	_				
Quercus michauxii	swamp chestnut oak	Native	+				
Quercus muehlenbergii	chinquapin oak	Native	_				
Quercus nigra	water oak	Native	+				
Quercus pagoda	cherrybark oak	Native	+				
Quercus palustris	pin oak	Native	_	Avoid planting in highly urbanized areas.*			
Quercus phellos	willow oak	Native					
Quercus robur	English oak	Nonnative		Check specific cultivar for height and spread.			
Quercus rubra	northern red oak	Native		Avoid planting in highly urbanized areas.*			
Quercus shumardii	Shumard oak	Native	+				
Quercus stellata	post oak	Native	+				
Quercus texana	Nuttall oak	S Central					
Quercus velutina	black oak	Native		Avoid wet or poorly drained sites. Avoid planting in highly urbanized areas.*			
Taxodium ascendens	pond cypress	Native	+	Deciduous conifer.			
Taxodium distichum	bald cypress	Native	+	Deciduous conifer.			
Tilia tomentosa	silver linden	Nonnative		Prone to suckering. May require additional routine pruning.			
Tilia americana	American linden	Native		Avoid planting along heavily salted roadways.			
Tilia × euchlora	Crimean linden	Nonnative					
Ulmus alata	winged elm	Native	+				
Ulmus americana 'Jefferson'	Jefferson elm	Native		Forestry approval is required for all other Dutch Elm Disease (DED) cultivars due to significant structural issues.			
Ulmus rubra	slippery elm	Native					
Special Forestry Approval Required							
Acer rubrum	red maple	Native		Overplanted. Do not plant without specific Forestry approval.			
Acer × freemanii 'Armstrong'	Armstrong maple	Native		Overplanted. Do not plant without specific Forestry approval.			
Acer × freemanii 'Jeffersred'	Autumn Blaze® maple	Native		Overplanted. Do not plant without specific Forestry approval.			

Species	Common Name	Native Status	Climate Resiliency	Comments		
Tree Species Approved for Medians (15-feet or Wider)						
Mature height ranges from 15-100 feet	depending on site conditions.					
Small trees may not be planted near int	tersections for visibility purposes.					
May also be suitable for parks and gree	en spaces with Forestry approval.					
Small (under 35 feet)						
Halesia carolina	Carolina silverbell	Southeast	+	Avoid planting in highly urbanized areas*		
Malus spp.	crabapple			Both native and non-native available.		
Morella cerifera syn. Myrica cerifera	wax myrtle	Southeast				
Medium (35-50 feet)						
Catalpa bignonioides	southern catalpa	S Central		Drops flowers, large leaves and pods.		
Catalpa speciosa	northern catalpa	Midwest		Drops flowers, large leaves and pods.		
Diospyros virginiana	common persimmon	Native		Drops fruit.		
Sassafras albidum	sassafras	Native				
Large (over 50 feet)	Large (over 50 feet)					
Aesculus flava	yellow buckeye	Native		Drops nuts.		
Aesculus glabra	Ohio buckeye	Native		Drops nuts.		
Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucky coffee tree	Native		Female trees drop pods.		
Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum	Native		Drops gum balls.		
Liriodendron tulipifera	tuliptree	Native		Very large tree.		
Metasequoia glyptostroboides	dawn redwood	Nonnative		Deciduous conifer. Very large tree.		
Quercus virginiana	live oak	Southeast	+	Evergreen. Wide spreading form. Avoid exposed, colder locations.		

Species	Common Name	Native Status	Climate Resiliency	Comments			
Tree Species Approved for Parks and Green Spaces							
Species are not approved for planting along streets.							
Small (under 35 feet)							
Asimina triloba	pawpaw	Native		Drops fruit. Prone to structural problems.*			
Cornus florida	flowering dogwood	Native		Only anthracnose resistant cultivars. Plant in partial to full shade. Avoid planting in highly urbanized areas.*			
Corylus americana	American hazelnut	Native					
Hamamelis virginiana	witch hazel	Native					
Magnolia tripetala	umbrella magnolia	Native					
Prunus americana	American plum	Native					
Prunus maritima	beach plum	Native					
Quercus laevis	American turkey oak	Southeast	+				
Rhus typhina	staghorn sumac	Native		Prone to suckering. May require additional routine pruning.			
Sambucus canadensis	American black elderberry	Native					
Medium (35-50 feet)							
Acer negundo	box elder	Native		Prone to structural problems.*			
Chamaecyparis thyoides	Atlantic white cedar	Native					
llex opaca	American holly	Native					
Juniperus virginiana	eastern red cedar	Native					
Morus rubra	red mulberry	Native		Drops fruit.			
Oxydendrum arboreum	sourwood	Native	+				
Pinus rigida	pitch pine	Native	_				
Pinus serotina	pond pine	Native	+				
Pinus virginiana	virginia pine	Native					
Quercus marilandica	blackjack oak	Native					

Species	Common Name	Native Status	Climate Resiliency	Comments			
Tree Species Approved for Parks and Green Spaces (continued)							
Species are not approved for planting	Species are not approved for planting along streets.						
Large (over 50 feet)							
Acer saccharinum	silver maple	Native		Prone to structural problems.*			
Acer saccharum	sugar maple	Native	_	Only southern seed sources. Avoid planting in highly urbanized areas.*			
Carya cordiformis	bitternut hickory	Native		Drops nuts.			
Carya glabra	pignut hickory	Native		Drops nuts.			
Carya illinoinensis	pecan	S Central		Drops nuts.			
Carya lacinosa	shellbark hickory	Native		Drops nuts.			
Carya ovalis	red hickory	Native		Drops nuts.			
Carya ovata	shagbark hickory	Native		Drops nuts.			
Carya pallida	sand hickory	Native		Drops nuts.			
Carya tomentosa	mockernut hickory	Native		Drops nuts.			
Juglans nigra	black walnut	Native		Drops nuts.			
Magnolia acuminata	cucumber tree	Native					
Pinus echinata	shortleaf pine	Native					
Pinus palustris	longleaf pine	Southeast	+				
Pinus strobus	eastern white pine	Native	_				
Pinus taeda	loblolly pine	Native					
Populus deltoides	eastern cottonwood	Native	_	Prone to structural problems.*			
Populus hetrophylla	swamp cottonwood	Native	+	Prone to structural problems.*			
Prunus serotina	black cherry	Native		Drops fruit. Prone to structural problems.*			
Quercus imbricaria	shingle oak	Native	_	Avoid wet or poorly drained sites.			
Quercus montana	chestnut oak	Native	_				
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	Native		Prone to structural problems.*			
Salix nigra	black willow	Native		Prone to structural problems.*			

Species	Common Name	Native	Climate	Comments		
•		Status	Resiliency			
Trees Not to be Planted Anywhere in the ROW or in Parks						
Please note that existing trees in good condition will not be removed just because they appear on this list.						
Acer campestre	hedge maple	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Acer ginnala	Amur maple	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Acer palmatum	Japanese maple	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Acer platanoides	Norway maple	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Aesculus hippocastanum	horse chestnut	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Ailanthus altissima	tree of heaven	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Albizia julibrissin	silktree	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Aralia elata	Japanese angelica tree	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Broussonetia papyrifera	paper mulberry	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Cornus kousa	kousa dogwood	Nonnative		Emerging invasive.		
Elaeagnus angustfolia	Russian olive	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Fraxinus spp.	ash all species			Blighted by Emerald Ash Borer.		
Ginkgo biloba	ginkgo (female)	Nonnative		Fruit is messy; plant males only.		
Koelreuteria paniculata	goldenrain tree	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Lagerstroemia indica	crape myrtle	Nonnative		Emerging invasive.		
Morus alba	white mulberry	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Paulownia tomentosa	princesstree	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Phellodendron amurense	Amur cork	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Populus alba	white poplar	Nonnative		Prone to structural problems.*		
Populus nigra	black poplar	Nonnative		Includes all subspecies. Prone to structural problems.*		
Prunus persica	peach	Nonnative		Drops fruit; highly susceptible to diease.		
Pyrus calleryana	Callery pear	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Quercus acutissima	sawtooth oak	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Salix alba	white willow	Nonnative		Invasive. Prone to structural problems.*		
Salix babylonica	weeping willow	Nonnative		Invasive. Prone to structural problems.*		
Salix matsudana	corkscrew willow	Nonnative		Prone to structural problems.*		
Styphnolobium japonicum	Japanese pagoda tree	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Tetradium danielli	bee-bee tree	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Tilia cordata	littleleaf linden	Nonnative		Overplanted. Not climate suitable.		
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese elm	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm	Nonnative		Invasive.		
Zelkova serrata	Japanese zelkova	Nonnative		Overplanted. Emerging invasive.		