



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>

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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 considered 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/>)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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