



City of East Lansing Approved Street Tree List

The City practices "Right Tree, Right Place" concepts. Therefore, all aspects of the tree and the planting location are considered from the ultimate height of the tree, root zone, overhead utilities, sidewalks, etc. This concept minimizes damage to sidewalks and curbs, reduces conflicts with utilities and provides the best opportunity for a tree to grow up to

Recent studies of the City's urban tree canopy have found that nearly half of all street trees are maple. To increase the diversity and resiliency of the urban forest, the City will not be planting maples at this time except in areas without large populations of maple street or yard trees. The following species are approvable and offer guidance on which species are suitable for specific site conditions. Other tree species will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

| | Botanical Name | Common Name | Cultivar | Native | Drought Tolerance | Soil Drainage Tolerance | Soil Salt Tolerance | Salt Spray Tolerance | Soil pH | Pest Resistance | Shape | Mature Spread (feet) | Mature Height (feet) | Growth Rate | Tree Pit | Overhead Wires |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|--------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------|----------------|
| Tier 1 Trees Suitable for Parkways greater than 3' | <i>Amelanchier arborea</i> | Downy Serviceberry | Trazam | Yes | Mod | Moist to Well Drained | Mod | Mod | Acidic to Mod Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Rounded | 15 to 25 | 15 to 25 | Mod | | • |
| | <i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i> | Serviceberry or Juneberry | Autumn Brilliance; Princess Diana; Robin Hill | Hybrid | Low to Mod | Well Drained | Low | Low | Acidic to Neutral | No Serious Pests | Rounded | 10 to 15 | 10 to 25 | Mod | | • |
| | <i>Amelanchier laevis</i> | Allegheny Serviceberry | Cumulus | Yes | Low to Mod | Moist to Well Drained | Mod | Mod | Acidic to Mod Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Rounded | 15 to 25 | 15 to 25 | Mod | | • |
| | <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Eastern redbud | | Yes | Mod | Moist to Well Drained | Low | Low | Slightly Acidic to Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Rounded | 15 to 25 | 15 to 25 | Mod | | • |
| | <i>Cornus kousa</i> | Kousa dogwood | | No | Low | Moist to Well Drained | Low | Low | Acidic | No Serious Pests | Rounded | 15 to 20 | 20 to 30 | Slow | | • |
| | <i>Crataegus crusgalli var inermis</i> | Cockspur Thornless Hawthorn | | Yes | High | Occasionally Wet to Well Drained | Mod | High | Acidic to Alkaline | Somewhat Sensitive | Rounded | 10 to 25 | 10 to 15 | Mod | • | • |
| | <i>Crataegus viridis</i> | Green hawthorn | Winter King | No | High | Occasionally Wet to Well Drained | Mod | High | Acidic to Alkaline | Somewhat Sensitive | Upright Vase to Spreading | 15 to 20 | 10 to 15 | Mod | • | • |
| | <i>Malus spp.</i> | Crabapple | Sugar Tyme; Prairie Fire; Various | No | High | Moist to Well Drained | Low | Low | Acidic to Alkaline | Somewhat Sensitive | Rounded | 20 to 25 | 20 to 25 | Mod | | • |
| | <i>Syringia reticulata</i> | Japanese Tree Lilac | Ivory Silk | No | High | Moist to Well Drained | High | High | Acidic to Alkaline | Resistant | Oval to Rounded | 15 to 20 | 20 to 30 | Mod | • | • |
| Tier 2 Trees Suitable for Parkways greater than 4' | <i>Betula nigra</i> | River Birch | Single stem, "tree form" only | Yes | High | Extended Flooding to Moist | Low | Mod | Acidic | No Serious Pests | Upright/Oval | 30 to 40 | 40 to 60 | Fast | | |
| | <i>Carpinus betulus</i> | European Hornbeam | Fastigiata; Various | No | Mod | Well Drained | Low | Low | Acidic | No Serious Pests | Oval | 20 to 30 | 10 to 40 | Mod | | |
| | <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> | American Hornbeam | | Yes | Mod | Moist to Well Drained | Low | Low | Acidic | No Serious Pests | Upright | 20 to 30 | 20 to 40 | Mod | | |
| Tier 3 Trees Suitable for Parkways greater than 6' | <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> | Eastern Hackberry | | Yes | Mod | Occasionally Wet to Well Drained | Mod | Mod | Acidic | No Serious Pests | Rounded | 40 to 50 | 60 to 70 | Fast | | |
| | <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> | Ginkgo | male trees only | No | High | Moist to Well Drained | High | High | Acidic to Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Round/Pyramidal | 30 to 60 | 50 to 75 | Slow | | |

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|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|------|---|--|
| Suitable for Parkways greater than 6' | <i>Gymnocladus dioicius</i> | Kentucky Coffeetree | | Yes | High | Moist to Well Drained | Mod | High | Acidic to Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Upright to Rounded | 40 to 70 | 50 to 70 | Fast | • | |
| | <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> | Sweetgum | | No | Mod | Extended Flooding to Well-Drained | Low | Mod | Acidic to Slightly Alkaline | Resistant | Pyramidal/Oval | 35 to 50 | 60 to 75 | Mod | | |
| | <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | Tuliptree | | Yes | Low | Moist to Well Drained | Low | Low | Acidic to Neutral | No Serious Pests | Pyramidal/Oval | 35 to 50 | 70 to 90 | Fast | | |
| | <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> | Dawn Redwood | | No | Low | Occasionally wet to Moist. | Low | Low | Acidic to Neutral | Resistant | Upright Pyramidal | 20 to 30 | 60 to 80 | Fast | | |
| | <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> | London Planetree | Bloodgood; Various | No | Mod | Extended flooding to Well-Drained | Mod | Mod | Acidic to Alkaline | Resistant | Pyramidal / Rounded | 50 to 70 | 75 to 90 | Mod | | |
| | <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> | Sycamore | | Yes | Mod | Extended Flooding to Well-Drained | Mod | Mod | Acidic to Alkaline | Sensitive | Pyramidal / Rounded | 50 to 70 | 75 to 90 | Fast | | |
| | <i>Quercus bicolor</i> | Swamp White Oak | | Yes | High | Extended flooding to Well Drained | Mod | Mod | Acidic to Slightly Alkaline | Resistant | Upright Oval / Rounded | 50 to 60 | 50 to 70 | Mod | | |
| | <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> | Shingle Oak | | No | Mod | Occasionally wet to Well Drained | Low | Low | Acidic to Slightly Alkaline | Resistant | Oval, Pyramidal | 50 to 60 | 50 to 60 | Mod | | |
| | <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> | Bur Oak | | Yes | High | Moist to Well Drained | High | High | Acidic to Alkaline | Resistant | Upright Oval / Spreading | 40 to 60 | 60 to 70 | Slow | | |
| | <i>Quercus rubra</i> | Northern Red Oak | | Yes | High | Moist to Well Drained | High | Low | Acidic to Slightly Alkaline | Resistant | Rounded | 60 to 80 | 50 to 60 | Fast | | |
| | <i>Taxodium distichum</i> | Bald Cypress | | No | High | Extended Flooding to Well-Drained | High | High | Acidic to Slightly Alkaline | Resistant | Pyramidal | 25 to 35 | 60 to 80 | Fast | | |
| | <i>Tilia americana</i> | American Linden | | Yes | Mod | Moist to Moderately Well Drained | Low | Low | Slightly Acidic to Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Rounded | 30 to 50 | 50 to 80 | Mod | | |
| | <i>Tilia cordata</i> | Little-leaf Linden | Greenspire | No | Mod | Moist to Moderately Well Drained | Low | Low | Slightly Acidic to Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Pyramidal to Rounded | 30 to 40 | 40 to 60 | Mod | | |
| | <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> | Silver Linden | | No | High | Moist to Moderately Well Drained | Low | Low | Acidic to Alkaline | Resistant | Broad Columnar | 30 to 50 | 50 to 70 | Mod | | |
| | <i>Ulmus americana</i> | American Elm | Valley Forge; Princeton | Yes | Mod | Extended Flooding to Well-Drained | High | Mod | Acidic to Alkaline | Resistant | Vase | 50 to 70 | 70 to 90 | Fast | | |
| | <i>Ulmus X</i> | Hybrid Elm | Patriot; Triumph; Accolade | No | High | Extended Flooding to Well-Drained | High | High | Acidic to Alkaline | Resistant | Vase | 30 to 45 | 40 to 60 | Fast | | |
| | <i>Zelkova serrata</i> | Zelkova | Green Vase; Village Green | No | Mod | Moist to Moderately Well Drained | Low | Low | Acidic to Slightly Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Vase | 40 to 50 | 60 to 80 | Mod | | |
| | <i>Aesculus x carnea</i> | Red Horsechestnut | Briotti; Ft. McNair | Hybrid | Mod | Moist to Well Drained | Poor | Mod | Acidic to Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Upright/Oval | 30 to 40 | 60 to 80 | Mod | | |
| <i>Gleditsia triacanthos var inermis</i> | Thornless Honeylocust | Various | Yes | High | Moist to Well Drained | High | High | Acidic to Alkaline | No Serious Pests | Rounded | 30 to 70 | 30 to 70 | Fast | • | | |

*The tree species and cultivars on this list should not be used exclusively for replacement planting or reforestation of large areas. The diversity of all tree species on individual streets, in neighborhoods, and in the entire community should be taken into consideration. Monocultures should be avoided. The tree species and cultivars on this list are not the only suitable trees for planting in Michigan communities. This list is merely intended to be used as a starting point. There are many more excellent native and non-native shade and ornamental trees that can be planted. Please contact your local Michigan State University Extension office or Natural Resource Conservation Service for additional recommendations.