

Trees for Home Landscapes

Trees beautify our surroundings, increase property values, and help save energy. They provide cooling shade, a habitat for wildlife, and reduce air pollution. They are an absolute benefit to a home landscape, but should be chosen carefully to make sure that they are functional as well as beautiful. The following points are a few things to consider before deciding on what type of tree to plant.

1. Size and rate of growth - Trees can range from ten feet in height to eighty feet tall (or more). A tree should be able to fit the selected site when it is full grown and homeowners should not try to keep it pruned to an unnatural size. Also, a tree may creep skyward at a pace of 6"-12" a year, while another type may charge upward at 2'-3' per year.
2. Soil requirements - If the planting site is extremely dry, or constantly moist, certain trees will perform better than others.
3. Hardiness - Trees must be completely hardy with a long life span when cared for properly. Weak wooded species can cause damaged to homes, power lines, and under-plantings during storms.
4. Freedom from insects and disease - Many new cultivars have been bred to withstand disease, or to be less appealing to insects. These would be improvements to the old standard varieties.
5. Function - It should be determined if the tree being is planted to produce shade, or to flower and create interest with berries or interesting foliage colors.

Small Sized Trees (Under 20')

The trees listed on the table below would be excellent choices for a foundation planting, at the corner of a house, or trees along a patio. They should be planted as far away from a house as half of their mature spread.

Botanical	Common	Mature		Growth		Outstanding Characteristic
		Ht.	Spd.	Rate	Insects	
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple	6'-15'	8'-10'	Slow	None	Various colors, sizes, shapes and textures, each one is unique
<i>Cercis canadensis varieties</i>	Eastern Redbud Varieties	15'	15'	Med	None	Incredible lavender or pink flowers in early spring
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White Fringe Tree	15'	15'	Slow	None	Fragrant white lacy flowers in late spring
<i>Cornus florida varieties</i>	American Dogwood Varieties	20'	20'	Slow	Some	Majestic white or pink flowers in early spring, beautiful fall color
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Chinese Dogwood	20'	15'	Med	None	Creamy white flowers, red raspberry shaped fruit in fall
<i>Cornus rutger hybrids</i>	Hybrid Dogwoods	20'	15'	Med	None	White or pink blooms on an upright grower, disease resistant
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	Star Magnolia	10'	8'	Slow	None	Early fragrant white blooms
<i>Malus Varieties</i>	Crabapple	10'-20'	10'-20'	Med	Some	Stunning spring flowers of pink, white or red, fruits in fall and winter, many sizes and shapes

Medium Sized Trees (20' - 40')

<i>Botanical</i>	Common	Mature		Growth		Oustanding Characteristic
		Ht.	Spd.	Rate	Insects	
<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark Maple	25'	20'	Slow	None	Delicately textured green leaves turn red in fall, year round interest with cinnamon-brown exfoliating bark
<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	Horsechestnut	30'	35'	Fast	Few	Rounded tree with showy spring flowers, great for screening
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa	25'	25'	Fast	Some	Unique pink powder-puff blooms in summer, vase shaped
<i>Amelanchier grandiflora</i>	Serviceberry	25'	15'	Med	None	Fantastic fall color, delicate white flowers in spring, and red fruit in summer
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	40'	30'	Med	Some	Glossy green leaves, and peeling, mottled orange, pink, cream, and brown bark
<i>Betula platyphylla</i>	Whitespire Birch	40'	25'	Med	Some	Upright habit with dark green leaves and contrasting white peeling bark
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	35'	25'	Slow	None	Symmetrical and formal in appearance, drought tolerant
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	Hawthorn	25'	25'	Med	Few	Vase shaped, with white or red flowers in spring, loaded with red berries in fall and winter, thorns
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honeylocust	40'	35'	Med	Some	Rich, golden-yellow fall color, creates a light shade, excellent salt tolerance
<i>Laburnum x watereri</i>	Goldenchain Tree	25'	20'	Med	None	Golden yellow, hanging flower cluster in late spring, narrow upright habit
<i>Magnolia soulangiana</i> varieties	Saucer Magnolia Varieties	25'	25'	Med	None	Large showy, pink-white blooms in spring, specimen tree
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	25'	15'	Med	Few	Fragrant, creamy white flowers in summer, bright green leaves with silvery undersides
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum	35'	20'	Med	Some	Stunning fall color, red, orange, yellow, adaptable to urban conditions
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Purpleleaf Plum	25'	20'	Med	some	Dainty, pale pink flowers and dark plum colored foliage, more shallow rooted than other trees
<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Japanese Cherry	25'	25'	Med	Few	Early spring bloomer, pink or white flowers, red-bronze fall color
<i>Prunus subhirtella pendula</i>	Weeping Cherry	25'	25'	Med	Some	Weeping form, pink spring blooms
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> varieties	Flowering Pear Varieties	35'	15'	Med	Few	Narrow, great for corner foundation plantings, great fall color, white flowers in early spring
<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	Japanese Stewartia	30'	15'	Slow	Few	Creamy white flowers in late summer, exfoliating bark with age
<i>Styrax japonica</i>	Japanese Styrax	30'	25'	Med	None	Vase shaped, with white bell shaped flowers in spring

Large Sized Trees (40' or Taller)

Botanical	Common	Mature		Growth		Oustanding Characteristic
		Ht.	Spd.	Rate	Insects	
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway/Crimson King Maple	50'	35'	Med/Fast	Few	Green, variegated or dark crimson leaves, good specimen tree
<i>Acer rubrum varieties</i>	Red Maple Varieties	50'	40'	Fast	None	Red-orange fall color, good shade, specimen or street tree
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	50'	50'	Fast	Some	Beautiful yellow-orange fall color, upright grower
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Katsura	45'	45'	Med	None	Beautiful heart shaped foliage turns yellow-orange in fall, excellent shade tree for parks and gardens
<i>Fagus sylvatica varieties</i>	Beech Varieties	50'	40'	Slow	None	Green, variegated or dark crimson leaves, good specimen tree, silvery bark
<i>Fraxinus americana varieties</i>	White Ash Varieties	45'	40'	Fast	Some	Excellent tolerance of any soil, wet or dry, purple fall color, great street tree
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo	45'	35'	Slow	None	Fantastic yellow fall color, good specimen or street tree
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	45'	30'	Med	Few	Gorgeous fall color, shades of yellow, red, purple, and orange, leaves persist late into fall, tolerates wet soil
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree	60'	30'	Fast	Few	Pale-yellow tulip-like flowers in summer, provide moisture in periods of extended drought
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood	70'	35'	Fast	None	Stately pyramidal form with conifer-like foliage, brilliant orange fall color
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	Planetree	50'	40'	Fast	Few	Attractive mottled bark, great park or specimen tree
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	60'	40'	Med	Few	Great fall color, pyramidal form, performs best in acidic soil, holds leaves late into fall or winter
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	55'	45'	Med	Few	Large, broad, round shape, with deep-red fall color, great shade tree
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow	50'	60'	Fast	Few	Combines a weeping habit, golden stems, and tolerates wet soil conditions
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden	40'	30'	Slow	Some	Tolerates dry soil, heavy clay soil, good street tree
<i>Ulmus parvifolia varieties</i>	Elm Varieties	50'	40'	Fast	Few	Upright, arching habit, with yellow-orange fall color, great shade or street tree
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese Zelkova	50'	40'	Fast	Few	High heat/drought tolerance, similar shape to Elm, with orange fall color