



## Department of Public Parks

# Providence Tree List

City Forester  
(401) 785-9450

The following is a list of tree species recommended by the City Forester for planting in Providence. Trees were chosen for their ability to withstand drought, compacted soil, pollution, and other urban stresses. All are cold hardy to USDA Zone 5. Other species or cultivars may be substituted subject to Forestry approval, unless contained on the Prohibited Trees List.

LARGE TREES: Mature height greater than 50 feet tall				1000 sf.		
TREE SPECIES		SHAPE	VISUAL INTEREST	ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES	ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES	COMMENTS
Scientific Name	Common Name					
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	rounded	red fall color	Wet soils	Salt / compaction	
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	rounded	orange fall color	Shade	Salt / compaction	For large lawn areas
<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Heritage'	River Birch	pyramidal	brown peeling bark	Wet soils		Heritage® is best
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	rounded		Wet and dry soils / wide pH		Fast growth
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo	upright	yellow fall color	Drought / salt / high pH	Permanently wet soils	Male only - does not bear fruit
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>	Honeylocust	irregular	yellow fall color	Wet or dry soils / salt / wide pH	Shade	
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree	rounded	double compound leaf	Drought / salt	Needs space	For large lawn areas
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum	pyramidal	yellow/maroon fall color	Wet or dry soils	Shade	Plant spring only / messy fruit
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree	pyramidal	green/orange flowers		Drought / needs space	For large lawn areas
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood	pyramidal		Wet or dry soils / wide pH	Needs space	Deciduous conifer
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Planetree	rounded		Wet or dry soils / wide pH	Needs space	Leaf fungus defoliates in spring
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	rounded		Wet or dry soils	High pH	Plant spring only / flaking bark
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak	rounded	russet fall color		Needs space	Plant spring only / slow recovery
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	pyramidal		Wet or dry soils / compaction	Needs space / high pH	
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow Oak	rounded	russet fall color	Wet or dry soils	High pH	Plant spring only / unlobed leaves
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak	rounded		Dry soils		Plant spring only
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	rounded	russet fall color	Dry soils / compaction	Needs space	Plant spring only
<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>	Sophora	rounded	July flowers, fall seed pods	Dry soils / salt / compaction	Shade	Northern hardiness limit
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Baldcypress	pyramidal		Wet and dry soils / salt	Shade / need space	Deciduous conifer / hardiness limit
<i>Tilia americana</i> 'Redmond'	Basswood	rounded	yellow fall color	Compaction / wide pH	Salt / foliage insects	Fragrant / basal suckering
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden	pyramidal	yellow fall color	Wide pH	Salt	Fragrant flowers
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Linden	rounded		Dry soils / compaction / wide pH		Fragrant flowers
<i>Ulmus</i> 'Homestead'	Homestead Elm	oval		Wet and dry soils / salt / wide pH	Shade	Fast growth
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm	vase-like	yellow fall color	Wet and dry soils / salt / wide pH	Shade	Only DED resistant cultivars
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm	rounded	yellow fall color	Wet and dry soils/ salt / wide pH		Lacebark elm
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese Zelkova	vase-like	bronze fall color	Dry soils / salt / wide pH	Shade	Structural prune when young

## Street Tree Planting

There are three ways to get a street tree planted in the City of Providence:

- 1) For free trees, apply to the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program for a "group award." A minimum of five neighborhood residents must request trees and agree to planting aftercare. Call the PNPP office at 368-5380 or visit [www.pnpp.org](http://www.pnpp.org) for further information.
- 2) For individual tree planting requests, match half of the planting cost (\$200) to have the tree planted through the PNPP. Call the Parks Forestry Division at 785-9450.
- 3) Apply for a free planting permit to plant a tree yourself or hire someone at your own expense. All planting in the city right-of-way must be approved. Call the Parks Forestry Division at 785-9450.

MEDIUM TREES: Mature height between 35 and 50 feet tall 700 sf.						
TREE SPECIES		SHAPE	VISUAL INTEREST	ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES	ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES	COMMENTS
Scientific Name	Common Name					
<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	Red Horsechestnut	rounded	pink/red flowers	Wide pH	Dry soils	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European Hornbeam	oval	yellow fall color	Wide pH	Salt	Tightly branched
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Katsura Tree	pyramidal	yellow fall color	Wide pH	Dry soils	Lawn areas only
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Yellowwood	rounded	yellow fall color	Wide pH	Dry soils	Lawn areas only
<i>Corylus columna</i>	Turkish Filbert	rounded		Wide pH	Dry soils	
<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	Hardy Rubber Tree	rounded		Dry soils / wide pH		Slow growth
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Raintree	rounded	papery seed capsules	Dry soils / salt / wide pH		
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Tupelo	oval	purple/scarlet fall color	Wet soils / salt		Plant spring only, small / difficult
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Hophornbeam	rounded	yellow fall color	Wide pH	Dry soils	Plant spring only, small / difficult
<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Aristocrat'</i>	Callery Pear	oval	white flowers	Wet and dry soils / salt / wide pH		Overplanted
<i>Quercus accutissima</i>	Sawtooth Oak	rounded	yellow fall color	Salt		Plant spring only

SMALL TREES: Mature height less than 35 feet tall (suitable for planting beneath utility wires) 300 sf.						
TREE SPECIES		SHAPE	VISUAL INTEREST	ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES	ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES	COMMENTS
Scientific Name	Common Name					
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Hedge Maple	rounded	yellow fall color	Dry soils / salt / wide pH		
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple	rounded		Dry soils / salt / wide pH		
<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Serviceberry	rounded	orange/yellow fall color		Salt / dry soils	For lawn areas only
<i>Acer truncatum</i>	Shantung Maple	rounded		Dry soils / wide pH		
<i>Crataegus crusgalli inermis</i>	Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn	rounded	bronze fall color	Dry soils / salt / wide pH	Foliar diseases	
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Amur Maackia	rounded		Wide pH	Compacted soil	For lawn areas only
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Flowering Plum	vase-like		Wide pH		Low branching / short-lived
<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	Sargent Cherry	vase-like		Salt	Dry soil	For lawn areas only
<i>Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'</i>	Kwanzan Cherry	vase-like				Double flower
<i>Prunus virginiana 'Schubert'</i>	Schubert Cherry	oval	maroon leaves			Leaves first green, then maroon
<i>Prunus x yedoensis</i>	Yoshino Cherry	rounded				
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese Tree Lilac	oval	white flowers	Dry soils / salt / wide pH		Flowers showy, fragrant

UNAUTHORIZED TREES		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Reason
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	Invasive exotic; over-planted
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore Maple	Invasive exotic
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	Invasive exotic
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa	Invasive exotic
<i>Morus spp.</i>	Mulberry	Invasive exotic; hazard/poor structure
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur Corktree	Invasive exotic
<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'</i>	Bradford Pear	Hazard/poor structure; over-planted

RARE NATIVE TREES OF RHODE ISLAND*			
Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status*	
<i>Larix laricina</i>	American Larch	(ST)	State Threatened
<i>Picea mariana</i>	Black Spruce	(C)	Concern
<i>Acer pennsylvanicum</i>	Striped Maple	(C)	Concern
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	Mountain Maple	(ST)	State Threatened
<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	Round-leaved Dogwood	(C)	Concern
<i>Quercus prinoides</i>	Dwarf Chestnut Oak	(C)	Concern
<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post Oak	(C)	Concern
<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	Black Ash	(C)	Concern
<i>Populus heterophylla</i>	Swamp Cottonwood	(ST)	State Threatened
<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>	Bog Willow	(SH)	State Historical
<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	Slippery Elm	(C)	Concern

\* Maintained by the Rhode Island Natural History Survey for the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program.