



# Tacoma Not Recommended Street Tree List



This table is arranged by planting strip width. Please contact us at 253.591.2048 or [trees@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:trees@cityoftacoma.org) for questions.

DT – Drought Tolerant

HF – Hard to Find

Highlighted – Overhead Utility Friendly

WWN - Western Washington Native

WCN – West Coast Native

Common Tree Name ( <i>Botanical name</i> )	Size (H x W)	Reservations
<b>For planting strips 4' wide and up:</b>		
Ornamental Plum ( <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> )	25'x20'	This has been a very popular tree in the past 20 years, and therefore has been largely overplanted. In addition, these trees don't live very long and don't respond well to pruning.
<b>For planting strips 6' wide and up:</b>		
Ash ( <i>Fraxinus americana</i> , <i>F. pennsylvanica</i> , etc.)	25'x30'	There is an insect that is slowly making its way west that has devastated Ash populations in the Midwest and Northeast of the U.S. They are otherwise tough and great urban trees. We recommend using these tree species sparingly in Tacoma and mixing other genera* with your planting to increase diversity.
Ornamental Pears ( <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> )	35'x15'	This species and its cultivated varieties have also been popular and were overplanted. (Are you sensing a theme here?) We recommend using these tree species sparingly in Tacoma and mixing other genera* with your planting to increase diversity.
<b>For planting strips 8' and up:</b>		
American Elm ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> )	100'x40'	This species was widely used as a shade and street tree because it has great growth habits and tolerates urban stresses. Unfortunately, Dutch Elm Disease (DED) has ravaged this species. There are many new varieties of other Elm species that are DED resistant and those are encouraged to be planted in the right place instead of American elms.
Port Orford Cedar/Lawson Cypress ( <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> ): WCN	100'x20'	A beautiful tree. This species is seriously threatened by a root disease caused by an introduced fungal pathogen-Phytophthora root rot. It's best to not plant in soils known to contain this

		pathogen and to make sure the soils stay moist but are well-drained to reduce stresses on the tree.
Garry Oak/Oregon White Oak ( <i>Quercus garryana</i> ): WWN, DT, HF		A great slow growing native species which is very drought tolerant. The problems with this species are that they can be difficult to locate to purchase and they are sensitive to transplanting. The best time to transplant is while the tree is dormant.
Pacific Madrone ( <i>Arbutus menziesii</i> ): WWN, DT, HF		The same information about the Garry Oak applies to the Pacific Madrone. Both species do not prefer to be doted on, are difficult to locate and transplant.
<b>For planting strips 10' and up:</b>		
American Sweetgum ( <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> ):DT	70'x40'	These species are overplanted, have shallow root systems, and grow fast (which means weaker wood). With all of that being said, they are still popular trees. They should not be planted in strips smaller than 10' width.
<b>For planting strips 12' and up:</b>		
Ornamental Cherries ( <i>Prunus serrulata</i> , <i>P. subhirtella</i> , etc.)	28'x28'	These species are overplanted, short-lived, have shallow root systems, rot-easily and don't respond well to pruning. With all of that being said, they are still popular trees. They should not be planted in strips smaller than 12' width.
Red Maple and cultivars ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )	25'x25'	This species and its cultivated varieties need ample room for their roots. This species has also largely been overplanted. We recommend picking the right location for this species and mixing other genera* in with your planting to increase diversity.
Norway Maples and cultivars ( <i>Acer platanoides</i> )	40'x25'	This species and its cultivated varieties need ample room for their roots. This tree is thought to have naturalized to our area. This means the tree readily seeds in natural areas and could become invasive.

\*Genera (plural for genus) is a taxonomic category ranking below a family and above a species and generally consisting of a group of species exhibiting similar characteristics. The genus is the first part of the Latin or taxonomic name of a living thing, in this case, trees. Example: *Acer platanoides* *Acer* is the genus for Norway Maple.