



# Tacoma Residential Recommended Street Tree List



This table is arranged by planting strip width; take a moment to go measure your strip and locate the appropriate size in the table to find the trees best suited for your planting strip. Not every tree that is approved to be planted in the right-of-way is on this list, and some trees are purposely left off the list for various reasons. Many trees also have cultivars that aren't listed but are noteworthy. Don't see the tree you want to plant? Please contact us at 253.591.2048 or [trees@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:trees@cityoftacoma.org) for questions.

DT – Drought Tolerant

WWN - Western Washington Native

HF – Hard to Find

WCN – West Coast Native

Highlighted – Overhead Utility Friendly

T – May need training, multi-stemmed

Common Tree Name ( <i>Botanical name</i> )	Size (H xW)	Notable Features	Other comments	Form
<b>For planting strips 4' wide and up:</b>				
Mountain hemlock ( <i>Tsuga mertensiana</i> ):WWN, DT	10'x4'	Evergreen	Not for use on corners	C
Swamp magnolia ( <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> )	15'x15'	Will take damp soils	Fragrant flowers	O
Skyrocket juniper ( <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Skyrocket' or other upright cultivars):DT	15'x5'	Evergreen	Narrow, bluish leaves	C
Vine maple ( <i>Acer circinatum</i> ):WCN, T	15'x6'	Yellow-Red Fall Color	Prefers part sun/shade	O
Serviceberries ( <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> & <i>A. canadensis</i> ):T	15'x6'	Yellow-Red Fall Color	Edible berries	O
Amur maple ( <i>Acer ginnala</i> ):T	18'x20'	Yellow-Red Fall Color	Easy to transplant	R
Crape myrtle ( <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> ):DT, T	20'x10'	Variety of flower & leaf colors	Prefers hot, sunny & dry	O
Sentinel crabapple ( <i>Malus</i> 'Sentinel')	20'x12'	White fragrant flower	Bright red fruit	V
Witchhazel ( <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> , <i>H. mollis</i> ):T	20'x15'	Fragrant late winter flower	Open airy growth	V
Star magnolia ( <i>Magnolia stellata</i> ):T	20'x15'	White spring flowers	Slow growth	R
Golden Desert ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 'Aureafolia')	20'x18'	Golden foliage		R
Loebner magnolia ( <i>Magnolia x loebneri</i> ):T, HF	20'x20'	White spring flowers	Fragrant flowers	R
Butterfly magnolia ( <i>Magnolia</i> 'Butterfly')	20'x20'	Yellow Flowers		R
Sourwood ( <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> ):DT, HF	25'x20'	Red Fall Color	White summer flowers	O
Stewartias: ( <i>S. koreana</i> , <i>pseudocamilla</i> , <i>mondadelpha</i> )	25'x20'	White summer flower	Winter interest	V
Red chokecherry ( <i>Prunus virginiana</i> 'Canada Red')	25'x20'	Red leaves	Edible fruit, wildlife attract.	O



C-Columnar



O- Oval



P- Pyramidal



R- Round



V- Vase

Amur maackia ( <i>Maackia amurensis</i> )	25'x25'	White summer flower	Peeling bark with maturity	R
Japanese tree lilac ( <i>Syringa reticulata</i> )	25'x20'	White fragrant flower	Yellow fall color	O
Chinese dogwood ( <i>Cornus kousa</i> )	25'x25'	White or pink flowers	Likes afternoon shade	V
Dogwoods: <i>Cornus</i> 'Milky Way', 'Stellar Pink', 'Cherokee Brave', 'Celestial', etc.	25'x25'	White spring flowers	Choose disease resist. varieties	V
Japanese snowbell ( <i>Styrax japonicus</i> )	25'x25'	White summer flower	Winter interest	V
Redbuds ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> , <i>C. siliquastrum</i> )	25'x30'	Dark pink spring flowers	Airy form, rounded shape	R
Trident maple ( <i>Acer buergeranum</i> )	28'x28'	Yellow-Red Fall Color	Bronze-Purple new leaves	R
Kobus magnolia ( <i>Magnolia kobus</i> ):DT	35'x15'	White spring flowers	Slow growth	O
Incense cedar ( <i>Calocedrus decurrens</i> ):WCN, DT	40'x10'	Evergreen	Slow-medium growth	P
Hardy silver gum ( <i>Eucalyptis gunnii</i> ):DT	40'x15'	Evergreen, fragrant	Can expr damage w/cold	O
Zelkova ( <i>Zelkova serrata</i> ):DT	65'x40'	Red Fall Color	Great street tree	V
Deodar cedar ( <i>Cedrus deodara</i> ):DT	70'x30'	Evergreen	A tough tree	P
<b>For planting strips 6' wide and up:</b>				
Japanese maple ( <i>Acer palmatum</i> )	20'x20'	Variable Fall Color	Slow-medium growth	R
Paperbark maple ( <i>Acer griseum</i> )	25'x14'	Red Fall Color	Red paper-like bark	O
American smoke tree ( <i>Cotinus obovatus</i> ):DT, HF	25'x20'	Variable Fall Color	Airy-textured flowers	R
Umbrella pine ( <i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i> )	25'x20'	Evergreen	Handsome conifer	P
Dove tree ( <i>Davidia involucreta</i> )	30'x25'	Large white flowers when mature		O
Alaska yellow cedar ( <i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i> )WCN	35'x12'	Evergreen	Weeping cultivars exist	P
Carolina silverbell ( <i>Halesia monticola</i> ):HF	35'x30'	White spring flowers	Can take semi-shade	R
Golden Rain tree ( <i>Koelrueteria paniculata</i> )	35'x30'	Yellows summer flower	New growth pink	R
Japanese white pine ( <i>Pinus parviflora</i> )	40'x30'	Evergreen	Bluish needles, nice form	P
Evergreen magnolia ( <i>Magnolia grandifolia</i> )	40'x35'	Evergreen-white summer flowers	Can expr damage w/snow	O
Yellowwood ( <i>Cladastris kentukea</i> ):HF	40'x40'	White summer flower	Can expr damage w/storms	R
Hinoki cypress ( <i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i> )	50'x15'	Evergreen	Can be wind sensitive	P
Sawara false cypress ( <i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i> )	50'x15'	Evergreen	Many cultivars available	P
Bald cypress ( <i>Taxodium distichum</i> ):DT	50'x15'	Deciduous conifer	Adaptable to many soils	P

Katsura ( <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i> )	50'x25'	Purple new leaves	Brown sugar fall smell	O
Willow oak ( <i>Quercus phellos</i> )	50'x35'	Fine textured	Great street tree	R
Red & Scarlet oaks ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> , <i>Q. coccinea</i> , <i>Q. nuttali</i> )	50'x40'	Red Fall Color	Great street trees	P
Cork oak ( <i>Quercus suber</i> )	60'x25'	Evergreen	Great rugged bark	P
Pin oak ( <i>Quercus palustris</i> )	70'x40'	Yellow-Red Fall Color	Great street tree	P
Ginkgo/Maidenhair tree ( <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> )	70'x40'	Yellow Fall Color	Gets better with age!	P
Tanoak ( <i>Lithocarpus densiflorus</i> ):DT, HF	75'x90'	Evergreen	Prefers hot, sunny & dry	R
<b>For planting strips 8' and up:</b>				
Carriere hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus x lavalleyi</i> )	20'x15'	White spring flowers	Wildlife attractant	V
Thornless Cockspur hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus crusgalli</i> var. <i>inermis</i> )	25'x25'	Red-purple fall color	Wildlife attractant	V
Winter King hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus viridis</i> 'Winter King')	25'x25'	Yellow Fall Color	Sharp Thorns	R
Blue Ice Smooth Arizona cypress ( <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>glabra</i> 'Blue Ice'):DT	30'x15'	Evergreen	Prefers hot, sunny & dry conditions	P
Shore pine ( <i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>contorta</i> ):DT, WCN	30'x15'	Evergreen	Native to shore areas	P
Persian ironwood ( <i>Parrotia persica</i> ):DT	30'x20'	Yellow Fall Color	Flaky bark with age	P
Silk tree ( <i>Albizia julibrissin</i> )	30'x30'	Pink Fragrant Fuzzy Flowers- Seeds Easily		V
Saucer magnolia ( <i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i> )	30'x30'	Pink spring flowers	Can be a little messy	R
Pillar crabapple ( <i>Malus tschonoskii</i> )	35'x30'	Great fall color	White spring flowers	C
Jacquemont birch ( <i>B.utilis</i> var. <i>jacquemontii</i> )	40'x30'	Yellow Fall Color	Great winter interest	O
Italian alder ( <i>Alnus cordata</i> ):DT	40'x30'	Yellow-Brown fall color	Pyramidal Shape	O
Golden locust ( <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 'Frisia'):DT	40'x30'	Golden foliage	Fast growth	R
Swedish whitebeam ( <i>Sorbus aria</i> )	40'x30'	White spring flowers	Wildlife attractant-red fruit	R
Black tupelo ( <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> )	40'x35'	Yellow-Red Fall Color	Best for residential areas	O
<b>Fruitless</b> mulberry ( <i>Morus</i> - Fruitless Cultivars)	40'x40'	Fast growth		P
Antarctic beech ( <i>Nothofagus antartica</i> ):DT, HF	45'x25'	Yellow Fall Color	Attractive bark	R
Swamp white oak ( <i>Quercus bicolor</i> )	45'x45'	Well adapted to wet soils		R

Serbian spruce ( <i>Picea omorika</i> )	50'x25'	Evergreen	Great street tree	P
Oriental spruce ( <i>Picea orientalis</i> ):HF	50'x25'	Evergreen	Short needles-fine texture	P
Oregon myrtle ( <i>Umbellularia californica</i> ):DT,WCN	50'x25'	Evergreen	Native to OR and CA	O
Lawson cypress ( <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> )DT,WCN	50'x35'	Evergreen		P
Hackberry ( <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> ):DT	50'x40'	Wildlife attractant-purple berries		R
River birch ( <i>Betula nigra</i> )	55'x50'	Yellow Fall Color	Great winter interest	O
Paper bark birch ( <i>Betula papyrifera</i> )	60'x30'	Yellow Fall Color	Great winter interest	O
Spanish fir ( <i>Abies pinsapo</i> ):DT, HF	60'x30'	Evergreen		P
Pagoda tree ( <i>Sophora japonica</i> ): HF	60'x40'	White summer flower	Great street tree	V
<b>For planting strips 10' and up:</b>				
American sweetgum ( <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> )	70'x40'	Red Fall Color	Fruit can be messy	P
Plume cedar ( <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> 'Elegans')	30'x10'	Purple winter color	Not for use on corners	O
Mugo pine ( <i>Pinus mugo</i> ):DT, WCN	20'x20'	Evergreen	Growth size is variable	O
Cornelian cherry ( <i>Cornus mas</i> ):T	25'x20'	Fragrant yellow flower	Suckering may occur	V
Hedge maple ( <i>Acer campestre</i> )	28'x28'	Yellow Fall Color	Slow growth	O
Sycamore maple ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )	45'x45'	Flaky Bark	Shade Tree	O
Shingle oak ( <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> ):HF	55'x50'	Yellow-Red Fall Color	Slow-medium growth	R
Norway spruce ( <i>Picea abies</i> )	60'x30'	Evergreen	Can have insect problems	P
Sugar maple ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )	60'x40'	Yellow Fall Color	Shade Tree	R
Dawn redwood ( <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> )	70'x25'	Deciduous conifer	Needs little pruning	P
Western red cedar ( <i>Thuja plicata</i> ):WWN, DT	70'x20'	Evergreen	Prefers moist soils	P
<b>For planting strips 12' and up:</b>				
Eur. or Am. beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica, F. grandiflora</i> )	60'x40'	Edible nuts	Stately tree	O
Accolade elm ( <i>Ulmus japonica x wilsoniana</i> 'Morton')	70'x60'	Yellow Fall Color	Arching limbs, graceful	V
Tulip tree ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> )	80'x40'	Late spring yellow flower	Yellow fall color	O
Giant redwood ( <i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> ):WCN,DT	100'x25'	Evergreen	Native to OR and CA	P
Coastal redwood ( <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> ):WCN	100'x25'	Evergreen	Native to CA	P