



City of Fitchburg

Urban Tree Guide

Suggested trees for
local planting

Suggested Urban Trees

This list provides information for selecting trees to plant in urban settings, especially along urban streets.

Although smaller trees are included, the focus is on large trees intended to provide shade and high canopy coverage for street terrace or right-of-way applications. The trees were chosen for hardiness, wide range of soil acidity tolerance, drainage and compaction tolerance, disease resistance and urban stress tolerance. Other features or potential problems are noted.

Height at Maturity: Under 30ft



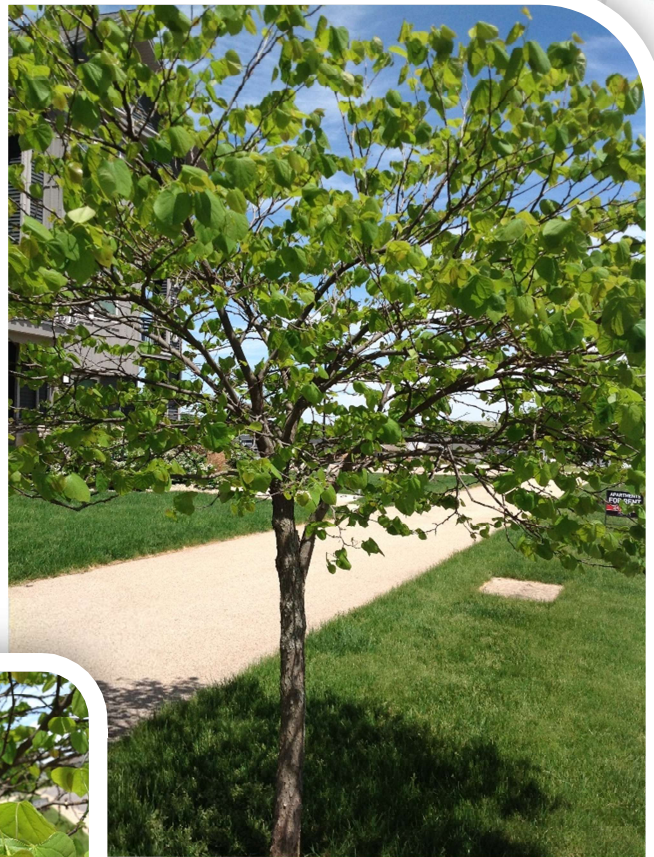
***Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Robin Hill'** – Robin Hill Apple Serviceberry

Native; white flowers in the spring and purple fruit in the fall, colorful fall foliage, bark and branches are attractive, neutral or acid soils preferred, low tolerance for compacted, poorly drained soils, medium tolerance to salt.

Not recommended as a street tree.

Cercis Canadensis -- Eastern redbud

Reddish purple buds open to rosy-pink before leaves appear, picturesque small tree, approx. 20 ft at age 30, neutral or acid soils preferred, look for Columbus, WI strain to assure hardiness.



Cercis Canadensis –
Eastern redbud

***Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King'** – Winter King Thorn

Native; white flowers, red fruit, attractive fall foliage, crown width at maturity will be equal to or greater than the height.

Crataegus crusgalli var. inermis –
Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn

White flowers, thornless stems, red fruit throughout fall and winter; dark green foliage followed by orange leaves in the fall; thrives in full sun



Crataegus viridis – Winter King Thorn

Malus spp – Flowering Crabapple

The most common problems include apple scab, fireblight, cedar apple rust, frog-eye leaf spot, eastern tent caterpillar, spider mites, Japanese beetles, gypsy moth, prone to basal suckers and watersprouts, poor form, fruit mess, rabbit or vole injury susceptible. Despite these problems, there are some disease resistant crabapple cultivars that can be used in the landscape. If you choose to plant a flowering crab, be sure to select disease resistant cultivars.



Malus spp –
Flowering Crabapple

***Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk'** -- Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac

White flowers in the spring, bark and branches are attractive, neutral or acid soils preferred, low tolerance for compacted, poorly drained soils, medium tolerance to salt.



Syringa reticulata –
Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac

Height at Maturity: 30 – 45ft



Acer truncatum – Shantung Maple

Attractive fall foliage, disease and insect pests are seldom serious.

Betula nigra 'Heritage' -- River birch

Native; tree form: grows rapidly when established; salmon-white peeling bark; leaves are glossy dark green; briefly yellow in fall; susceptible to leaf miner and chlorosis (yellowing of leaves) if pH is too high; prefers moist but well drained acid soils. **Not recommended as a street tree.**



Tilia cordata 'Halka' Summer Sprite -- Littleleaf Linden

Tilia cordata 'Halka' Summer Sprite -- Littleleaf Linden

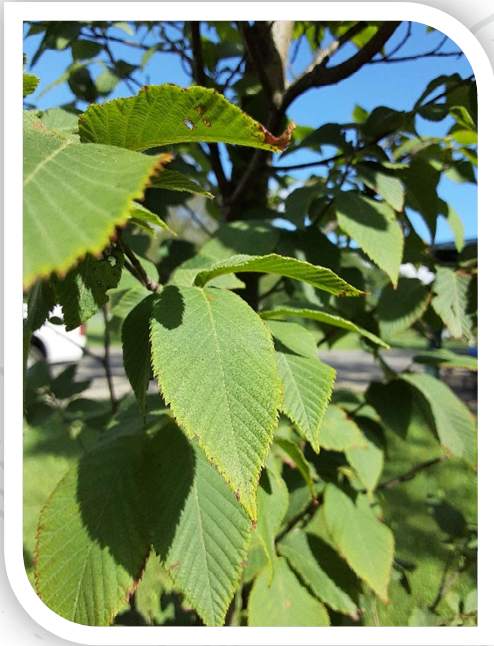
Dwarf only 15 ft tall; produces small, compact leaves; dense pyramid shape; slow to grow, but great for smaller spaces.

Cladrastis kentukea – Yellowwood

Produces white flowers in spring and pealike pods in summer; clustered leaflets; distinct yellow wood with smooth, grey bark; thrives best in rich soil; yellow coloring in the fall; produces shade in smaller spaces; somewhat susceptible to ice storm damage



Cladrastis kentukea – Yellowwood



Ostrya virginiana –
Ironwood

Ostrya virginiana – Ironwood

Durable understory tree that does well in shaded areas; ribbed, double-toothed leaves; greyish, jagged bark; resistant to most diseases and insect complications; slow growing; produces extremely durable wood; pyramidal form; produces golden leaves in the fall

Carpinus caroliniana – American Hornbeam

Does well in shaded areas; dark green leaves that change to yellow, orange, and red in the fall; muscular-looking bark; resistant to most diseases and insect complications; slow growing; tolerates flooding and moist soil

Cercidiphyllum japonicum – Katsuratree

Native to Japan, but does well in midwestern landscapes; heart-shaped leaves that turn reddish-gold in the fall; thrives in moist but well-drained soil and full sun exposure; moderate to fast growth rate; produces a distinct sugary smell in autumn



Cercidiphyllum japonicum –
Katsura tree

Height at Maturity: Over 45ft



***Acer x freemanii* 'Celzam'** -- Celebration Freeman Maple

Broadly ovate, has a compact upright crown with strong crotch angles; adaptable over a wide range of climate and soils, from wet to dry but neutral or acid soil preferred; disease resistant foliage and less prone to storm damage; long lasting, dependable colorful autumn foliage.

***Acer x freemanii* 'Armstrong'** -- Armstrong Freeman Maple

Upright narrow, has a dense crown with ascending branches and a central leader; grows best in full sun well-drained soils, tolerant of temporary wet conditions, 5-lobed leaves have a silvery underside, fall color is an orange-red, depending upon the season.

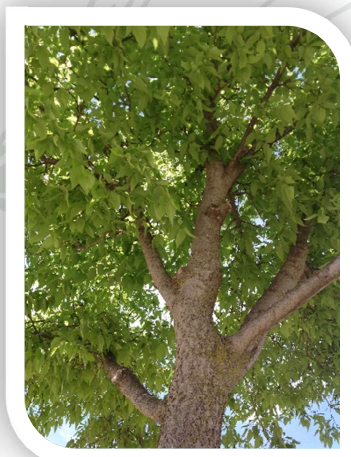
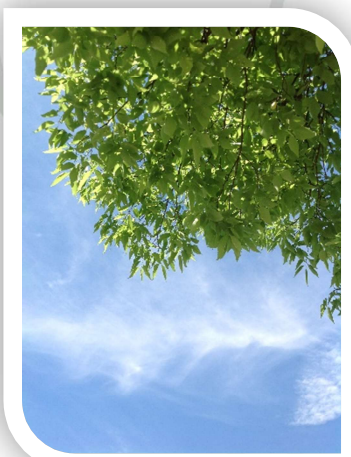
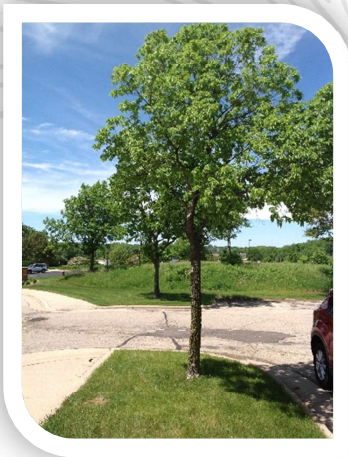
Acer saccharum – Sugar Maple

Round or oval shape; dense crown with leaves that turn yellow, red, and burnt orange in the fall; thrives in full sun and partial shade with well-drained soil; low salt resistance; needs space for roots to spread

A Note About Maples:

Maples are the most common tree in the City of Fitchburg. To promote plant diversity, consider other tree species in addition to maples.

***Celtis occidentalis* 'Prairie Pride'** -- Common Hackberry



***Celtis occidentalis* 'Prairie Pride'** -- Common Hackberry

Crown broadly globose and compact, ascending branches with yellow fall foliage; bark develops attractive corky warts; tolerates drought and alkaline soils, wet to dry sites, soil compaction, salt, and pollution; susceptible to nipple gall on leaves; recovers slowly from transplant.

***Celtis occidentalis* 'Prairie Sentinel'** -- Common Hackberry

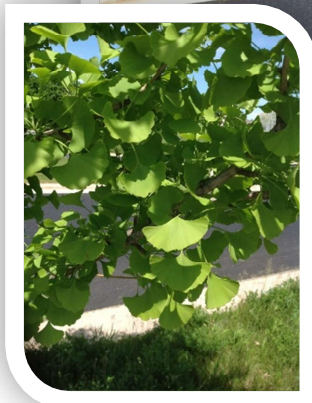
A columnar form of hackberry which grows to about 45 feet tall but only gets 12 feet wide. This tree has the characteristic toughness of the species trees and is narrow enough to be used in tough urban landscapes or areas where there isn't much room, but a tree is needed. "Prairie Sentinel" has yellow fall color and bears fruits that attract wildlife. It is drought tolerant and hardy in zones 4 to 9.

Corylus colurna -- Turkish filbert

Conical, symmetrical crown; withstands a range of adverse conditions; no serious diseases or pests; little maintenance required; leaves not particularly attractive in the fall, does produce nuts which can be a problem in the fall.

***Ginkgo biloba* 'Autumn Gold' or 'Princeton Sentry'** -- Ginkgo, male cultivars

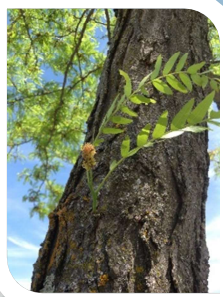
Variable and irregular, large spreading branches; slow growth for about 15 years then medium; tolerates wide range of soils, salt and pollutants; very disease resistant and low maintenance; partial to full sun; colorful autumn foliage, leaves are distinctive.



Ginkgo biloba – Autumn Gold or Princeton Sentry

***Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Skyline' or 'Street Keeper'** -- Thornless Honeylocust

Broadly ovate to irregularly vase-shaped with a lacy texture; adaptable to a wide range of soils; tolerates salt, heat, drought, compaction and other adverse urban conditions; the most common problems include nectria canker, thyonectria canker, honeylocust plant bug, honeylocust leaf hopper, prone to produce surface roots and basal suckers, sunscald on trunk, transplants readily; lacy crown allows more light to reach surrounding turf. 'Street Keeper' is a more upright form.



Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis* 'Street Keeper' --
Thornless Honeylocust



Platanus x acerifolia
'Morton Circle' --
London Planetree



***Platanus x acerifolia* 'Morton Circle'** -- London Planetree

Large, toothed leaves that resemble those of sugar and red maples; reddish gold coloring in the fall; mottled, flaking bark; produces pendant seed balls that are enjoyed by native wildlife; thrives in a variety of soils and partial shade

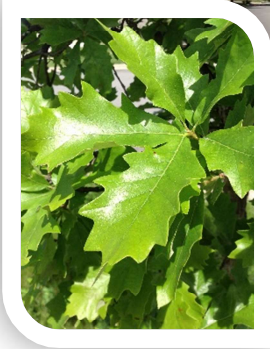
***Gymnocladus dioicus* 'Espresso'** –
Espresso Kentucky Coffeetree

Native, no pest problems, the male tree bears no fruit, colorful autumn foliage; irregularly ovate canopy; provides open, light shade in summer; slow recovery after transplanting then medium to fast growth rate; adaptable to urban conditions including alkaline soils, salt and drought; no pest problems; colorful autumn foliage.

***Quercus x bebbiana* Schneid.** -- 'Bebb Oak'
A naturally occurring hybrid of white oak and bur oak; native, disease seldom serious, massive tree with stout branches, bark and branches are attractive; slow grower; ovate becoming broadly globose with age; durable tree that tolerates urban stresses and a wide range of soils; does produce acorns; transplant B&B in spring.



Gymnocladus dioicus
-- Espresso Kentucky Coffeetree



Quercus bicolor -- Swamp White Oak

Quercus bicolor -- Swamp White Oak

Broadly ovate to globose; native to moist or swampy sites, tolerates imperfect drainage after establishment; tolerates drought, salt and soil compaction in urban environments; partial to full sun; chlorotic on alkaline soil and susceptible to some diseases and pests which seldom cause serious problems, less susceptible to oak wilt than red/black oaks; acorns can be a litter problem during mass fruitings; transplant B&B in spring.

Quercus macrocarpa -- Burr Oak

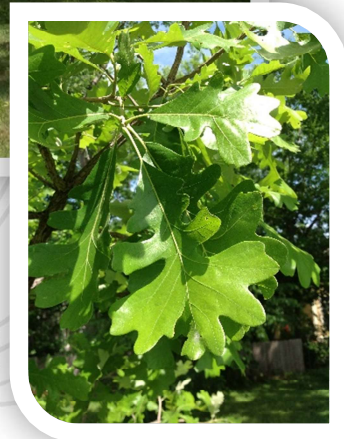
Native; massive tree with stout branches, bark and branches are attractive; slow grower; ovate becoming broadly globose with age; durable tree that tolerates urban stresses and a wide range of soils, from moist to dry and acid to alkaline, although it's naturally occurring on alkaline soils; diseases and insects seldom cause serious problems; produces acorns; transplant B&B in spring.

Quercus x 'Pyramich' 'Skymaster' -- Hybrid Oak

Narrowly ovate crown, disease seldom serious, does produce acorns; transplant B&B in spring.

Quercus muehlenbergii -- Chinquapin Oak

Native, disease seldom serious, does produce acorns; transplant B&B in spring.



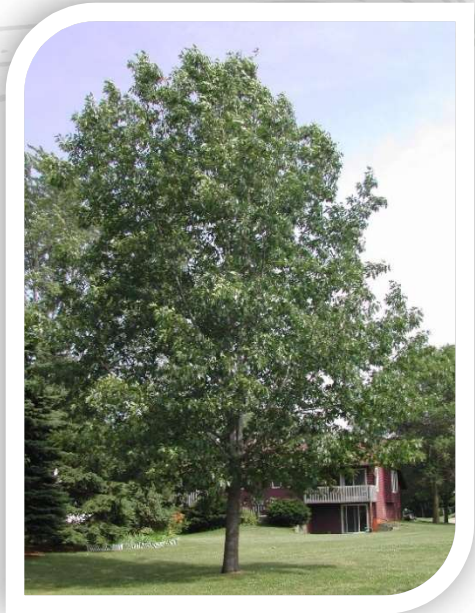
Quercus rubra -- Northern Red Oak

Quercus robur x Quercus bicolor 'Long' -- 'Regal Prince' Hybrid Oak

Disease seldom serious, does produce acorns; transplant B&B in spring; columnar form.

Quercus rubra -- Northern Red Oak

Native; broadly ovate, somewhat open canopy; slow growth initially after transplanting then becomes fast; native to moist sites but prefers well drained, acid soils and partial to full sun; tolerates urban stresses -- salt, compacted soil and pollutants; susceptible to some diseases and pests which seldom cause serious problems; acorns can be a litter problem during mass fruitings; transplant B&B in spring.



Quercus rubra -- Northern Red Oak

Quercus x schuettei -- 'Schuettei Oak'

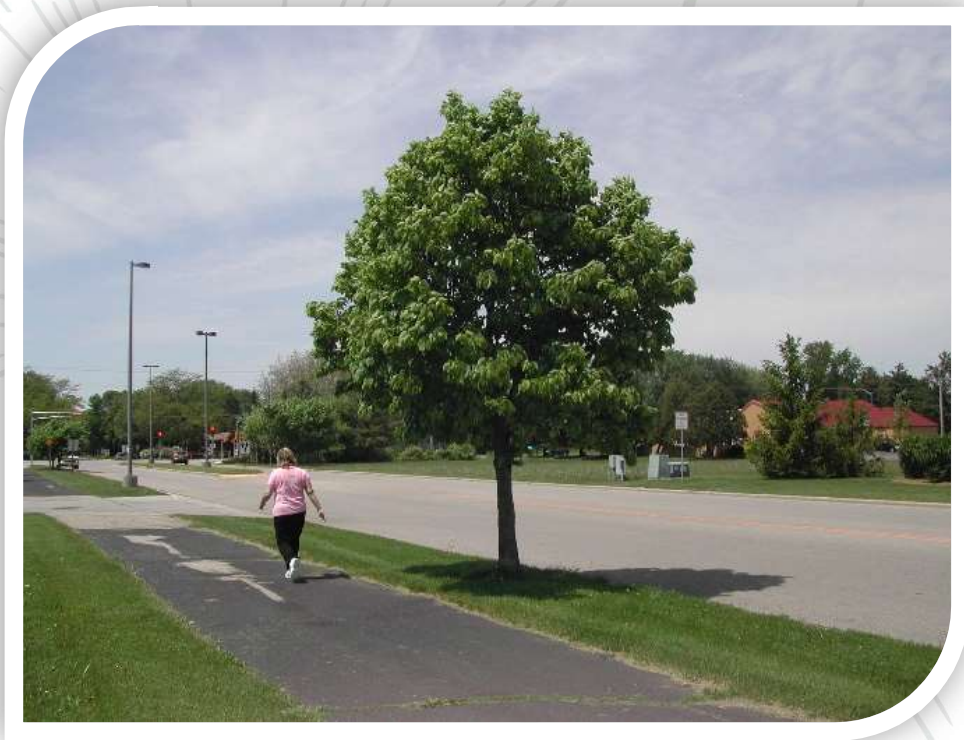
Naturally occurring hybrid of swamp white oak and bur oak; native, disease seldom serious, massive tree with stout branches, bark and branches are attractive; slow grower; ovate becoming broadly globose with age; durable tree that tolerates urban stresses and a wide range of soils; does produce acorns; transplant B&B in spring.

Tilia americana 'McKSentry' – American Sentry Linden

Toothy, heart-shaped leaves that turn yellow in the fall; narrow and pyramidal form; produces fragrant flowers in late June; smooth grey bark; Japanese Beetle resistant

Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' – Littleleaf Linden

Conical shape, symmetrical vigorous growth, straight trunk and tolerant to urban conditions; broadly adaptable to pH, compaction and light; somewhat sensitive to salt, drought, and Japanese Beetle



Tilia americana 'American Sentry' –
American Sentry Linden

Liriodendron tulipifera – Tuliptree

As a member of the magnolia family, this tree produces distinct, gold and orange goblet-shaped flowers in spring; features aromatic stems and four-tipped leaves; thrives in full sun and most soil types; fast growing; oval form

Ulmus x 'New Horizon' (*Ulmus japonica* x *Ulmus pumila*)

Urban tolerant, excellent resistance to DED and elm leaf miner and high tolerance to Verticillium wilt; upright habit, strong branch structure, and a dense crown with dark green leaves; hardy through USDA zone 4.



Liriodendron tulipifera –
Tuliptree

Ulmus x 'Frontier' (*Ulmus carpinifolia* x *Ulmus parvifolia*)

Released in 1990 by the USDA; high degree of resistance to DED, moderate resistance to elm leaf beetle, and high tolerance to the phytoplasma-caused elm yellows. Emerging leaves in spring are red, gradually changing to yellow-green in summer, finally turning red-purple in autumn; pyramidal instead of vase-shaped as it matures; sustained some low-temperature injury in Minnesota, reliably hardy only through USDA zone 5.

Other disease resistant ***Ulmus x*** hybrids that have met with some success:

- **'Regal', 'Homestead', and Morton 'Accolade', 'Cathedral'** (*Ulmus pumila* x *Ulmus japonica*)
- **'Independence'** (*Ulmus americana* 'Moline' x *Ulmus Americana*)
- **'Patriot'** (*Ulmus* 'Urban' x *Ulmus wilsoniana* 'Prospector')
- **'Prospector'** (*Ulmus wilsoniana*)
- **'Regal'** (*Ulmus* 'Commelin' x *Ulmus* 'Hoersholmiensis').

Evergreens



Thuja occidentalis -- American Arborvitae or Northern White Cedar

Arborvitae are native to Wisconsin; grow slow to moderately fast; are generally columnar to broadly conical; selected at screens or windbreaks; heights seldom exceed 30'; tolerates limestone soils, compaction, heat, and drought; susceptible to some pests but not a serious problem; deer browsing can be a problem; prefers moist, deep well-drained soils and full sun; readily transplanted from containers.

Cultivars to consider:

- **'Emerald'** -- 10-15' tall, 3-4' wide, dense, doesn't discolor in winter.
- **'Nigra'** -- 20-30' tall, 4-8' wide, dense, moderate growth, doesn't discolor.
- **'Pyramidalis'** -- 20-30' tall, 5-8' wide; bronze, yellow-green tips in winter.
- **'Techny'** -- 12-18' tall, 4-8' wide, multiple trunks, slow growth, doesn't discolor.
- **'Wintergreen'** -- 20-30' tall, 5-10' wide, rapid growth, coarser foliage, doesn't discolor, strong central leader.

Abies concolor -- White Fir

Native to the United States; gray-green foliage; moderate growth rate, broadly conical; height up to about 70'; tolerates dry soil, heat; no serious pests; a good alternative to Colorado Blue Spruce.

Picea glauca -- White Spruce

Native to Wisconsin; light green foliage; moderate growth rate; broadly conical; height up to about 50'; prefers moist soils, sun; no serious pests.

- **Variety:** *densata* -- Black Hills Spruce; narrow, dense habit; slow growth rate; conical; height up to about 20'; tolerates dry soil; no serious pests.



Picea glauca -- White Spruce

Picea omorika -- Serbian spruce

Non-native; slow growth rate; narrow habit, pendulous branchlets; height to about 50'; prefers sun; few pests.

Pinus cembra -- Swiss stone pine

Non-native; slow growth rate; narrow habit; height to about 50', prefers sun, few pests.



Picea densata – Black Hills Spruce

Additional Tree-Selection Resources:

- [Morton Arboretum Plant Selector](#)
- [Alternatives To Ash Trees \[PDF\]](#)
- [Choosing The Right Landscape Plants: Factors To Consider, UWEX \[PDF\]](#)
- [Replanting With Diversity \[PDF\]](#)
- [Recommended Large Street Trees \[PDF\]](#)
- [Recommended Small Street Trees \[PDF\]](#)
- [Recommended Large Park Trees \[PDF\]](#)