Tree Board
City of Rochester, Indiana

Tree Species Recommendations

This list is provided as a guide to the most appropriate species for tree planting in urban areas. No single tree species is adequate for every site. Each site should be evaluated and restrictions of tree species considered. These restrictions include root space, soil type, drainage, exposure, overhead obstacles, and proximity to buildings and other obstacles.

While the trees appearing on this list have a wide range of requirements and tolerances, all of these trees should do well in the urban forests of Rochester, Indiana when properly matched to a specific site. Before selecting a particular species or cultivar, further research should be done to ensure that the site satisfies the requirements of the tree. Some species listed here may not be readily available at local nurseries or in sizes adequate for street tree planting.

This list is not definitive and serves only as a guideline for tree selections. Requests for additions to or variances from this list should be made to the Tree Board.

Trees marked with * are non-native species

SMALL TREES with narrow crowns
Suitable for tree lawns at least 5' wide and under power lines

Amelanchier species - Serviceberry
Cornus kousa - Kousa Dogwood*
Prunus serrulata - 'Kwanzan' Cherry*
Syringa reticulata - Japanese Tree Lilac*

SMALL TREES with broad crowns
Suitable for tree lawns at least 8' wide and under power lines

Carpinus caroliniana - American Hornbeam
Cercis canadensis - Eastern Redbud
Chionanthus virginicus - Fringetree
Cornus alternifolia - Pagoda Dogwood
Cotinus obovatus - American Smoketree
Crategus crus-galli inermis - Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn
Halesia carolina – Silverbell
Maackia amurensis - Amur Maackia*
Styrax japonica - Japanese Snowbell*

MEDIUM TREES
Suitable for tree lawns at least 6' wide, but not under power lines

Aesculus x carnea - 'Briotii' Rubyred Horsechestnut*
Carpinus betulus - European Hornbeam*
Cladrastis kentukea -Yellowwood
Tetradium danielli (Evodia danielii) – Korean evodia (bee bee tree)*

Fagus sylvatica - ‘Roseo-marginata’ Tricolor Beech*
Gleditsia triacanthos inermis - ‘Impcole’ Imperial Honeylocust
Nyssa sylvatica – Sourgum/Blackgum/Black Tueplo
Ostrya virginiana - American Hophornbeam
Oxydendrum arboretum - Sorrel tree / Sourwood

LARGE TREES
Suitable for continuous tree lawns at least 5’ wide, but not under power lines

Betula nigra - River Birch
Celtis occidentalis - Hackberry
Corylus colurna - Turkish Filbert*
Diospyros virginiana - Persimmon
Fagus sylvatica - European Beech*
Eucommia ulmoides - Hardy Rubber Tree*
Ginkgo biloba - Ginkgo* (male only)
Gleditsia triacanthos inermis – Thornless Honeylocust
Gymnoclanus dioica - Kentucky Coffeetree
Liquidambar styraciflua - Sweetgum
Liriodendron tulipifera - Tuliptree
Magnolia acuminata - Cucumber Magnolia
Metasequoia glyptostroboides - Dawn Redwood*
Quercus bicolor - Swamp White Oak
Quercus coccinea - Scarlet Oak
Quercus imbricaria - Shingle Oak
Quercus macrocarpa - Bur Oak
Quercus muehlenbergii - Chinkapin Oak
Quercus robur - ‘Fastigiata’ English Oak*
Quercus rubra - Northern Red Oak
Sophora japonica 'Regent'- Japanese Pagodatree*
Taxodium distichum - Bald Cypress
Tilia tomentosa - Silver Linden*
Ulmus species - Elm cultivars(*)
Zelkova serrata - Japanese Zelkova*

ADDITIONAL TREES FOR OPEN SPACE/YARD
While not suitable for tree lawns, they are well suited for larger areas

Abies species - Firs
Aesculus species - Ohio buckeye/Chestnut
Carya species - Hickory/Pecan
Catalpa speciosa - Northern Catalpa
Cercidiphyllum japonicum - Katsuratree*
Fagus grandifolia - American Beech
Juglans nigra - Black Walnut
Juniperus virginiana - Eastern Redcedar
Magnolia species - Magnolia
Malus species - Crabapple/Apple
Picea species - Spruce

Pinus species - Pine
Platanus x acerifolia - London Planetree*
Thuja occidentalis - White Cedar
Tsuga species - Hemlock

UNDESIRABLE TREES AND COMMENTS
Acer negundo - Boxelder: pervasive, shallow roots, weak wood
Acer rubrum - Red Maple: shallow roots, easily damaged, chlorotic
Acer saccharinum - Silver Maple: pervasive, shallow roots, weak wood
Acer species – Maples: Asian longhorned beetle, overuse
Ailanthus altissima - Tree of Heaven: seeds, suckers, weak wood, invasive
Betula papyrifera - Paper Birch: insects
Betula pendula - Euorpean White Birch: insects
Elaeagnus angustifolia - Russian Olive: form, disease, thorns, invasive
Fraxinus species - Ash: Emerald ash borer
Ginkgo biloba - Female Ginkgo: fruit (odor)
Morus species - Mulberry: fruit, shallow roots
Paulownia tomentosa - Paulownia: weak wood, prolific seeds
Picea species - Spruce: shallow roots, needlecast diseases
Pinus species - Pine: shallow roots, low branches, salt spray
Pyrus calleryana – Flowering or Callery Pear: weak branching, low branches, invasive
Populus alba - White Poplar: suckers, shallow roots, weak wood
Populus deltoides - Cottonwood: weak wood, shallow roots, seeds
Populus nigra - Lombardy Poplar: insects, disease, short-lived
Pseudotsuga menziesii - Douglas Fir: disease issues
Quercus palustris - Pin Oak: soil pH problems, yellowing, low branches
Salix species - Willow: weak wood, shallow roots
Sorbus species - Mountain Ash: insect, disease
Tilia species - Linden: Japanese beetle
Ulmus americana - American Elm: insects, disease
Ulmus pumila - Siberian Elm: weak wood, seeds