

*Ficus microcarpa*

According to Mike Sullivan, author of 'The trees of San Francisco,' ficus was the most heavily planted street tree up until the late 1980's — there are many examples around town. Most of the ficus population is mature since this species is rarely planted now. 'The roots are extremely invasive, causing sidewalks to buckle... and the dense foliage can block light and air (and views)!'



All three trees are approximately the same diameter at breast height, yet they look dramatically different. In the image on the left, the canopy has been raised to clear the street, but the foliage is very dense. The tree in the image on the right has been excessively thinned, leaving large stubs that potentially will not heal well. The tree in the middle is one of many street trees adjacent to the property that takes up the entire block at 555 California Street. The trees are regularly maintained — properly thinned. There are branches and twigs along the main branches, yet air and light can pass through the canopy. Go and check out the 'Tree of the Month!'