

**San Francisco Street Tree Species List – a collaboration
with SF Bureau of Urban Forestry and
Friends of the Urban Forest
On behalf of the Urban Forest Council Planning and
Policy Committee, 2006**

Disclaimer: These lists contain trees that can work as sidewalk trees in San Francisco. Every planting site has unique conditions. A lot of factors go into choosing a tree. This list can help you decide but should not be used without the help of a tree professional.

Species that have low to moderate maintenance requirements and grow well in many of San Francisco’s microclimates, soils, and sidewalk situations.

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| Small Evergreen |
| Arbutus x ‘Marina’ – fruit drop can range from low to high |
| Callistemon viminalis |
| Magnolia grandiflora ‘St. Mary,’ ‘Little Gem’ |
| Tristaniopsis laurina |
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| Small Deciduous |
| Prunus serrulata ‘Kwanzan’ |
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| Medium Evergreen |
| Melaleuca linarifolia |
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| Tall Evergreen |
| Lagunaria patersonii |
| Lophostemon confertus (formerly Tristania conferta) |
| Magnolia grandiflora ‘Sam Sommers,’ ‘Majestic Beauty,’ |
| Pittosporum undulatum – can self-sow, take care when planting near natural areas |
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| Tall Deciduous |
| Ginkgo biloba ‘Autumn Gold,’ ‘Saratoga’ – slow grower |
| Ulmus parvifolia ‘Drake’ ‘Sempervirens’ – fast grower |

Species that perform well in certain locations, with special considerations, as noted.

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| Small Evergreen |
| Callistemon citrinus – low, wide canopy, needs wide sidewalk, sticky flowers |
| Cordyline australis – needs very large basin, not recommended near natural areas |
| Cupaniopsis anacardioides – uneven performer, needs heat, wind protection |
| Eriobotrya deflexa – needs wind protection, does not perform well in sandy soils |
| Laurus nobilis ‘Saratoga’ – uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, gets pests |
| Leptospermum laevigatum – poor rooter, may need long-term or permanent staking |
| Michelia doltsopa – uneven performer, grows very slowly, prefers heat, wind protection |
| Pittosporum crassifolium – tolerates wind and fog. Can leak sap from trunk. |
| Pyrus kawakamii – does not flower well in our climate, susceptible to fireblight |
| Rhus lancea |
| Tristaniopsis laurina ‘Elegant’ – grows slowly, higher maintenance than straight species |
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| Small Deciduous |
| Acer buergeranum – prefers heat, wind protection |
| Crataegus phaenopyrum – subject to pests, has thorns, may be susceptible to fireblight |
| Crataegus laevigata – needs wind protection |
| Prunus cerasifera ‘Krauter Vesuvius’ – wind protection, susceptible to shot hole fungus |
| Pyrus calleryana ‘Chanticleer’ – needs wind protection, susceptible to fireblight |
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| Medium Evergreen |
| Acacia baileyana ‘Purpurea’ – fast growing, high maintenance |
| Eucalyptus polyanthemos – needs space, fast growing, high maintenance |
| Geijera parvifolia – prefers heat, wind protection |
| Jacaranda mimosifolia – uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage |
| Maytenus boaria – needs space for roots, produces many suckers, high seed production |
| Melaleuca ericifolia – roots poorly, needs staking for many years |
| Melaleuca quinquenervia – grows fast, densely, needs wind protection |
| Melaleuca stypelioides – can root poorly, and prickly leaves |
| Metrosideros excelsus – needs very large basin, and very wide sidewalks |
| Olea europaea – needs a very large basin, prefers wind protection, |
| Phoenix dactylifera – needs space due to height and width |
| Podocarpus gracilior – better as a shrub, gets pests |
| Syagrus romanzoffianum – needs heat, wind protection |
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| Medium Deciduous |
| Aesculus carnea – gets windburn easily in summer even in protected sites |
| Celtis sinensis – prefers heat, wind protection, uneven performer |
| Koelreuteria paniculata – uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection |
| Pistacia chinensis ‘Keith Davey’ – prefers heat, wind protection |
| Pyrus calleryana ‘Aristocrat’ ‘New Bradford’ – needs wind protection, susceptible to fireblight |

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| Tall Evergreen |
| Ceratonia siliqua – needs a very large basin, good drainage |
| Corymbia ficifolia – needs a very large basin, wide sidewalk |
| Eucalyptus nicholii – needs a very large basin, wide sidewalk, fast growing, high maintenance |
| Hymenosporum flavum – uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage |
| Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius – prefers heat, wind protection |
| Magnolia grandiflora ‘Russet’ – needs large basin |
| Phoenix canariensis – needs large basin |
| Quercus agrifolia – uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage |
| Quercus suber - needs space, good for medians |
| Washingtonia robusta – prefers some warmth |
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| Tall Deciduous |
| Acer rubrum – prefers heat, wind protection |
| Gleditsia triacanthos ‘Shademaster’ – prefers heat, wind protection, fast growing |
| Liquidambar styraciflua – needs space for canopy and roots |
| Liriodendron tulipifera – uneven performer, gets pests, prefers heat and wind protection |
| Platanus x acerifolia ‘Bloodgood,’ ‘Yarwood’ – prefers wind protection, susceptible to anthracnose and powdery mildew |
| Tilia cordata – slow grower, needs wind protection |

Species that need further evaluation

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| Small Evergreen |
| Michelia champaca – needs wind protection, wide sidewalk, gets powdery mildew |
| Prunus lyonii |
| Prunus ilicifolia |
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| Small Deciduous |
| Magnolia soulangeana ‘Rustica Rubra’ |
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| Medium Evergreen |
| Brachychiton populneum – prefers heat, wind protection |
| Chorisia speciosa – prefers heat, wind protection |
| Elaeocarpus decipiens |
| Pittosporum eugenioides |
| Pittosporum rhombifolium |
| Schinus molle – needs a very large basin, prefers heat |
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| Medium Deciduous |
| Carpinus betulus ‘Fastigiata’ – needs wind protection |
| Corylus colurna, Turkish hazel |
| Sorbus aucuparia (or other species) |
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| Tall Evergreen |
| Quercus ilex – needs wind protection, sidewalk space, gets powdery mildew |
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| Tall Deciduous |
| Acer x freemanii |
| Ginkgo biloba ‘Princeton Sentry’ – more upright form |
| Platanus x acerifolia ‘Colombia’ |
| Quercus frainetto ‘Forest Green’ |
| Quercus phellos |
| Ulmus parvifolia x carpinifolia ‘Frontier’ |
| Ulmus wilsoniana ‘Prospector’ |
| Ulmus japonica x wilsoniana ‘Accolade’ |
| Zelkova serrata – needs wide sidewalk, warmth |