

San Francisco Street Tree Species List

San Francisco Urban Forestry Council

The Urban Forestry Council annually reviews and updates this list of trees in collaboration with public and non-profit urban forestry stakeholders, including San Francisco's Department of Public Works Urban Forestry Division and Friends of the Urban Forest.

It is important to carefully match the conditions of your site with the tree you choose, no tree is perfect for every potential tree planting location in San Francisco.

This list should be used as a guideline for choosing which street tree to plant, 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.

Small Evergreen
<i>Arbutus</i> x 'Marina' – fruit drop can range from low volume to significant
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> – has sticky flowers
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'St. Mary,' 'Little Gem'
<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>
Small Deciduous
<i>Prunus serrulata</i> 'Kwanzan' – prefers wind protection
Medium Evergreen
<i>Melaleuca linarifolia</i>
Tall Evergreen
<i>Lagunaria patersonii</i>
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i> (formerly <i>Tristania conferta</i>)
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Sam Sommers,' 'Majestic Beauty,'
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> – can self-sow, take care when planting near natural areas
Tall Deciduous
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Autumn Gold', 'Princeton Sentry' 'Saratoga' – slow grower
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Drake' 'Sempervirens' – fast grower, initially high maintenance

Species that perform well in certain locations with special considerations

Small Evergreen
Callistemon citrinus – low, wide canopy, needs wide sidewalk, sticky flowers
Cordyline australis – needs very large basin, take care when planting 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 – fast grower, dense, irregular form, high maintenance
Tristaniopsis laurina ‘Elegant’ – grows slowly, irregular form, mod-high maintenance
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
Medium Evergreen
Acacia baileyana ‘Purpurea’ – fast grower, high maintenance
Eucalyptus polyanthemos – needs a large basin, fast grower, high maintenance
Geijera parvifolia – prefers heat, wind protection
Jacaranda mimosifolia – uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection, good drainage
Maytenus boaria – needs a very large basin, produces many invasive root suckers
Melaleuca ericifolia – roots poorly, may need staking for many years
Melaleuca quinquenervia – grows fast, dense, irregular form, prefers wind protection
Melaleuca styphelioides – can root poorly, and prickly leaves
Metrosideros excelsus – needs a very large basin, and very wide sidewalks
Olea europaea – needs a very large basin, prefers wind protection
Phoenix dactylifera – needs a large basin and wide sidewalk
Podocarpus gracilior – better as a shrub, gets pests
Syagrus romanzoffianum – needs heat, wind protection
Medium Deciduous
Aesculus carnea – gets windburn easily in summer even in protected sites
Celtis sinensis – uneven performer, prefers heat, wind protection
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

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

Species that need further evaluation

Small Evergreen
Michelia champaca – needs wind protection, wide sidewalk, gets powdery mildew
Prunus lyonii
Prunus ilicifolia
Small Deciduous
Magnolia soulangeana ‘Rustica Rubra’
Medium Evergreen
Brachychiton populneum – prefers heat, wind protection
Chorisia speciosa – prefers heat, wind protection
Elaeocarpus decipiens
Pittosporum eugenoides
Pittosporum rhombifolium
Schinus molle – needs a very large basin, prefers heat
Medium Deciduous
Carpinus betulus ‘Fastigiata’ – needs wind protection
Corylus colurna, Turkish hazel
Sorbus aucuparia (or other species)
Tall Evergreen
Quercus ilex – needs wind protection, sidewalk space, gets powdery mildew
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