

PRE-APPROVED DECIDUOUS TREES

GENERAL

The intent of the City's landscaping code is to provide a well-balanced, aesthetically pleasing environment for the residents of Mount Vernon. One of the ways the City ensures the intent of this code is met is to specify the types of deciduous trees required to be installed. The Mount Vernon Municipal Code (MVMC) requires trees planted next to streets, within parking lots, and other circumstances be selected from the trees on this list. However, if an applicant wishes to plant tree(s) different than those found on these lists, they are required to submit documentation from a landscape architect or arborist verifying that the alternative tree is appropriate for the location.

TREE SIZE AND CROWN

The City requires minimum 2" caliper stock for deciduous trees. The lowest branches of the crown shall be at least 5 feet above grade.

TREE QUALITY

All trees shall meet or exceed the most recent American Standards for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1). They shall have a central leader or maintain the proper spreading form of that species. They shall exhibit vigorous growth in leaf, twig or bud condition, and be of healthy color and size. The trunks and limbs shall be free of damage, deadwood, and disease. The root systems shall meet or exceed the Standards for their size and shall be free of excessive circling or dead roots. The City shall have the opportunity to inspect trees for acceptance before installation.

WATERING

Immediate and regular watering of newly planted trees is critical to their growth and establishment. Newly planted trees should be thoroughly watered right after planting and then at least 2 times per week for the first month of the growing season. Then water at least once per week through the balance of the first summer until October. Watering once per month is also beneficial the second growing season for long-term establishment. Tree watering bags such as Treegator[®] or equivalent are excellent devices to maintain regular and focused application to the root zone.

PLANTING SPACE SOIL AND DRAINAGE

Deciduous trees utilize the entire planting strip (and more) to grow to any reasonable size. In fact, studies have indicated that for a tree to grow to a functional large canopy size tree, it would need a minimum soil area that measures 20 feet x 20 feet x 3 feet deep.

The entire planting strip must consist of un-compacted and acceptable soils. The planter strips shall be naturally well draining, or sub-surface perforated drain pipe surrounded by drain rock shall be installed 40-inches deep to ensure drainage. The ridged perforated drain pipe should be connected to a storm drain. Roots might eventually grow under and beyond the sidewalk if soil conditions are favorable, but that is not always the case and the planter strip is the first area it will grow into. Other techniques used to expand the soil area available to the tree should be considered. Inadequate soil volume will result in root development that fills the soil area in 5-10 years, like a root bound house plant, leading to decline.

PLANTING SPACE AND WIDTH

Planting trees in planter widths narrower than four feet is generally not recommended. However, when no alternative is possible, consult the City Arborist for planting and species recommendations. Narrow planter widths severely limit the health and longevity of tree plantings. The following are general tree planting guidelines to follow:

- Small Trees-No less than 4-foot wide planting strip.
- Medium Trees-No less than 5-foot wide planting strip.
- Large Trees-No less than 8-foot wide planting strip.

TREE INSTALLATION

All wrapping materials shall be removed from the root ball before planting. The root crown of the tree shall be placed at 1-inch above grade, no higher. A water dam 2-inches high shall be placed around the tree, 18-inches from the trunk. A rectangular area, measuring 5 feet by 5 feet between curb and sidewalk, shall be free of grass and covered with 3-inches of arborist woodchips or woody mulch.

ROOT BARRIERS

Use of root barriers is almost always required. Waivers from installation of root barriers are required, to be approved in writing, before trees are installed. Root barriers do not guarantee protection from hard surface damage, but have been shown to delay lifting of sidewalks and curbs from roots for many years when properly installed.

Root barrier installation is most effective and beneficial when installed tightly along the edge of a sidewalk and/or curb on either side of the tree to allow the tree roots some growing room before roots contact the root barrier. Soil volume is critical for long-term tree health and stability.

Placing root barrier around the root ball at planting severely restricts the growth of the tree and is not recommended. The tree may not become anchored and stable especially if there is poor draining or impervious soil below the root barrier.

Root barrier typically comes in 12-inch, 18-inch and 24-inch depths. Recommended depth to install usually depends on tree species, soils and distance between tree and barrier.

MOUNT VERNON RECOMMENDED DECIDUOUS TREE VARIETIES

This deciduous tree list represents a wide diversity of tree species, growth habits, form, color, and other characteristics. The City of Mount Vernon encourages the planting of a wide variety of trees to expand the benefits that trees provide, as well as reduce disease and insect challenges. To increase tree canopy in the City, when possible and desirable, select the largest maturing tree species that fit the above and below ground limitations of the site.

The following lists of trees are organized into these categories:

- Small trees to 30' with a spreading habit; and small trees to 30' with a narrow habit.
- Medium trees to 45' with a spreading habit; and medium trees to 45' with a narrow habit.
- Large trees over 45' with a spreading habit.

SMALL TREES TO 30' SPREADING HABIT**

(Trees appropriate under utility lines identified with: 'UT')

- Golden Raindrops® Crabapple (*Malus transitoria* 'Schmidtcutleaf') (UT)
- Snowcone® Japanese Snowbell, (*Styrax japonicus* 'JFS-D')(UT)
- Krauter Vesuvius Flowering Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Krauter Vesuvius', 'Newport', Thundercloud')
- Cascade Snow Cherry (*Prunus* 'Berry') good disease resistance.
- Kwanzan Oriental Cherry (*Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan')
- Royal Burgandy Cherry (*Prunus serrulata* 'Royal Burgandy') —good disease resistance (UT)
- American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) & cultivars Ball o' Fire™ (UT), Native Flame® (UT), Firespire® (UT), Fire King™ (UT), Palisade®, Wisconsin Red™ (UT).
- Japanese Hornbeam (*Carpinus japonica*)
- Lavalie Hawthorn (*Crataegus x lavaliei*) vase shape (UT)
- Crimson Cloud Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata* 'Crimson Cloud') (UT)
- Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*) (UT)
- Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) and 'Forest Pansy'
- Chinese Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa chinensis*) cultivars, 'Eddie's White Wonder', Venus®, Starlight®
- Tree Lilac (*Syringa pekinensis*) cultivars China Snow®, Summer Charm®, Great Wall™
- City Sprite® Zelkova, (*Zelkova serrata* 'JFS-KW1') (UT)

SMALL TREES TO 30' NARROW HABIT**

(Trees appropriate under utility lines identified with: 'UT')

- American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana* Rising Fire®)
- Summer Sprite® Linden (*Tilia cordata* 'Halka') (UT)
- Red Cascade™ Mountain Ash (*Sorbus Americana* 'Dwarfcrown') (UT)
- Sourgum Gumdrop, (*Nyssa sylvatica*, Gum Drop®)
- *Tschonoskii Flowering Crab* (*Malus Tschonoskii*)
- Snow Goose Cherry, (*Prunus* 'Snow Goose')
- Persian Spire Parrotia, (*Parrotia persica* cv. Persian Spire')(UT)
- Sugar Cone Maple, (*Acer saccharum* 'Sugar Cone' (UT)
- Apollo® Sugar Maple, (*Acer saccharum* 'Barrett Cole')
- Hanna's Heart® Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Hanna's Heart')

MEDIUM TREES TO 45' SPREADING HABIT**

- Urban Sunset® Maple (*Acer truncatum* x *A. platanoides* 'JFS-KW-187')(less broad than next two maples)
- Norwegian Sunset® Maple (*Acer truncatum* x *A. platanoides* 'Keithsform')
- Pacific Sunset® Maple (*Acer truncatum* x *A. platanoides* 'Warrenred')
- Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and cultivars: 'Autumn Flame', 'Autumn Spire', 'Brandywine', 'Northwood', 'October Glory', Redpoint®, Red Sunset®, And others.
- Forest Green® Hungarian Oak, (*Quercus frianetto* 'Schmidt')
- Persian Persica (*Parrotia persica*)
- Canada Red Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana* 'Canada Red')
- Green Vase® Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* 'Green Vase')
- Village Green™ Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* 'Village Green')
- American Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
- Elms (*Ulmus* spp.), any medium maturing height Dutch Elm Disease Resistant variety including: Emerald Sunshine® (*Ulmus propinqua* 'JFS-Bieberich' 'Frontier' (*Ulmus* 'Frontier') has purple fall color. 'New Horizon' (*Ulmus japonica* x *pumila* 'New Horizon'), Triumph™ (*Ulmus* 'Morton Glossy') And others
- Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
- Kobus Magnolia (*Magnolia kobus*)
- Sour Gum or Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) cultivars only: Afterburner®, 'Forum', Fire Starter®, Forest Fire™, Green Gable™, Northern Splendor™, Red Rage®, Red Splyndor®, 'Wildfire'.
- Worplesdon Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon')

MOUNT VERNON RECOMMENDED DECIDUOUS TREE VARIETIES – CONTINUED

MEDIUM TREES TO 45' NARROW HABIT**

(Narrow habit is a relative term, some of the listed varieties widen as they age)

- Karpick® Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Karpick')
- Armstrong Red maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Armstrong')
- Bowhall Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Bowhall') (same as *Acer rubrum* 'Scanlon')
- Red Rocket Red maple, (*Acer rubrum* 'Red Rocket')
- Norway Maple, *Acer platanoides* cultivars: 'Columnar' Emerald Queen™, Easy Street™.
- Persian Ironwood cultivars (*Parrotia persica*) Ruby Vase®, Venessa®, Golden Bell Tower™.
- Emerald Sentinel® Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Clydesform')
- Musashino Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* 'Musashino')
- Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) male cultivars: 'Fastigiata', Golden Colonnade®, 'Maygar', Princeton Sentry®, Goldspire, Skytower, and others.
- Dawyck Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) 'Dawyck', 'Dawyck Purple' and 'Green'.
- Slender Silhouette® Sweetgum, (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Slender Silhouette')
- Pyramidal European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata')
- Green Pillar Pin Oak, (*Quercus palustris* 'Pringreen')
- Crimson Spire™ Oak (*Quercus robur* x *Q. alba* 'Crimschmidt') (keeps brown leaves in winter)
- Streetspire® Oak, (*Quercus robur* x *Q. alba* 'JFS-QW1QX') (loses leaves in winter)
- Skinny Genes® Oak (*Quercus robur* x *Q. alba* 'JFS-KW2QX')
- Kindrid Spirit® Oak, (*Quercus robur* x *Q. bicolor* 'Nadler')
- Regal Prince® Oak (*Quercus robur* x *Q. bicolor* 'Long')

LARGE OVER 45' SPREADING HABIT**

- Ginkgo biloba, Presidential Gold®, 'Autumn Gold',
- English Oak (*Quercus robur*)
- Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
- Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
- Freemanii maples, (*Acer x freemanii*) including cultivars: Autumn Blaze®, Autumn Fantasy®, Celebration®, 'Marmo'.
- London Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) cultivars: Exclamation!™, Ovation®
- European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)
- Elm (*Ulmus* spp.) any medium maturing height Dutch Elm Disease Resistant variety including: Accolade® (*Ulmus japonica* x *Ulmus wilsoniana* 'Morton') 'Pioneer', 'Princeton', and others.
- Silver Linden (*Tilia tomentosa*) and cultivars: Green Mountain®, 'Silver Lining', 'Sterling', 'Szeleste'
- Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) Espresso™, True North™
- Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

**Always select the tree variety that fits the available growing space above and below ground. Also consider any limitations and attributes of the species in relationship to the site and growing conditions. Even trees on this list may not be appropriate in some locations. New varieties are continually becoming available, as such, the lists provided herein are reviewed and updated periodically by the City.

The purpose of this handout is to assist the public in complying with detailed permit submittal requirements. It is NOT a complete list of permit or code requirements and should NOT be used as a substitute for applicable laws and regulations. It is the responsibility of the owner/design professional to review the submittal for completeness and applicability to other codes. Only complete applications can be accepted by the City for review.

The City's consulting arborist, James Barborinas, with Urban Forestry Services | Bartlett Consulting has provided this list of tree selections, updated last in 2021.



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SUGGESTED PLANTINGS FOR EVERGREEN TREES AND SHRUBS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Following is the City's approved list of evergreen trees and shrubs referenced in Mount Vernon Municipal Code 17.93.020(A). It is strongly suggested that this list be utilized because of the unique soils, geology, and weather patterns of Mount Vernon.

If this list is not used, the applicant must have a landscape architect, an arborist, or other similarly qualified professional document that the plant materials that have been chosen are suitable.

Minimum evergreen tree size is seven feet in height and evergreen trees are required to be full and bushy. The minimum shrub size shall be two-gallon or equivalents [MVMC 17.93.020(B)].

EVERGREEN TREES

- Cedar, Atlas
- Cedar, Deodora varieties
- Cypress, Japanese Obtusa
- Cypress, Weeping Alaskan
- Fir, Douglas
- Hemlock, Canadian
- Hemlock, Mountain
- Pine, Austrian
- Pine, Austrian Dwarf
- Pine, Bristlecone
- Pine, Japanese Black
- Pine, Japanese Tanyosho
- Pine, Mugho Dwarf
- Spruce, Omorika
- Thuja, Emerald Green

EVERGREEN SHRUBS

- Andromeda, Mountain Fire
- Cotoneaster, varieties
- Ilex, Crenata and Convexa
- Laurel, Varieties
- Mahonia, Aquifolia
- Photinia, Fraseri
- Pyracantha, Orange Glow
- Rhododendron, Varieties
- Skimmia, Japanese Dwarf
- Viburnum, Davidiu

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

- Barberry, Varieties
- Euonymus, Alastus Compacta
- Forsythia, Lynnwood Gold
- Lilac, Varieties
- Potentilla, Varieties
- Viburnum, Varieties