SACRAMENTO TREE FOUNDATION

The Shady Eighty: Trees for a Cooler Sacramento Region

A regional tree list to help you choose the best tree for your yard

The Sacramento Tree Foundation is a community benefit organization building healthy, livable communities in the Sacramento region by growing the best urban forest in the nation.

This guide includes 80 of the best trees for the Sacramento region – trees that will thrive in our special climate, in our soils, and are relatively free of pests and diseases. While there are many other trees that could be included in this list, these 80 trees were chosen by Sacramento Tree Foundation experts and reviewed by our Technical Advisory Committee to guide your tree selection process.

The descriptions in this guide will help you select a tree for the place you have in mind – ensuring your new tree can grow to its full potential without causing complications in the future.

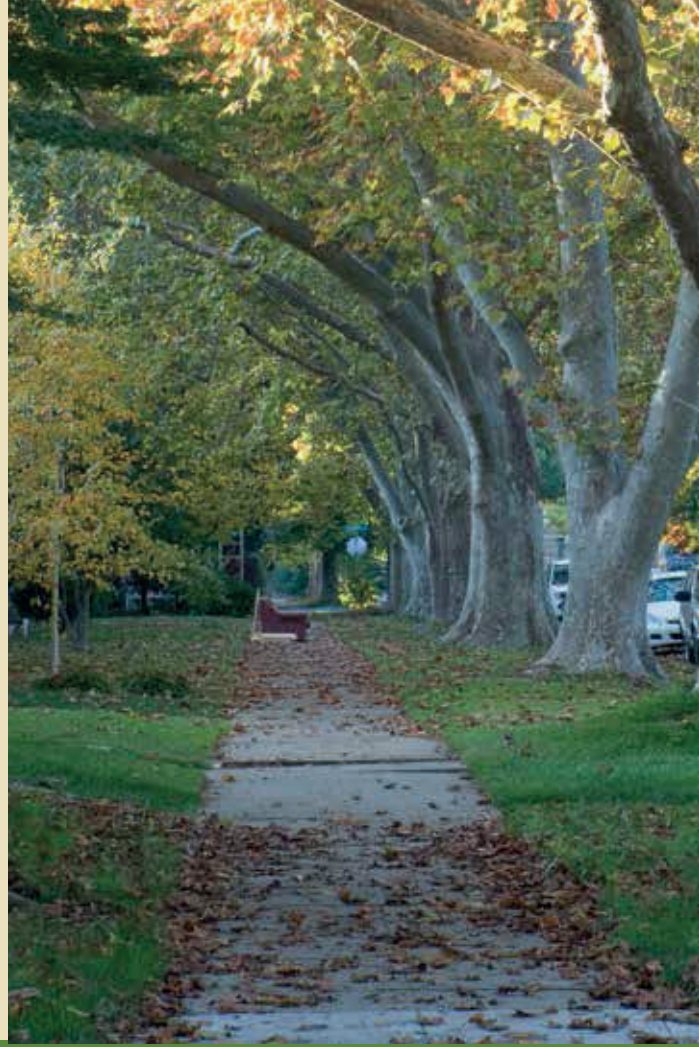
Before you plant, investigate the place you will be planting the tree and learn:

- How much water is available for the tree?
- Is the location sunny or shaded?
- What is the soil type? Visit sactree.com/soils to learn more.
- Is there enough space to plant away from sidewalks, driveways, foundations, and other trees?

Before you select a tree, make sure there is enough room for the tree once it is fully grown:

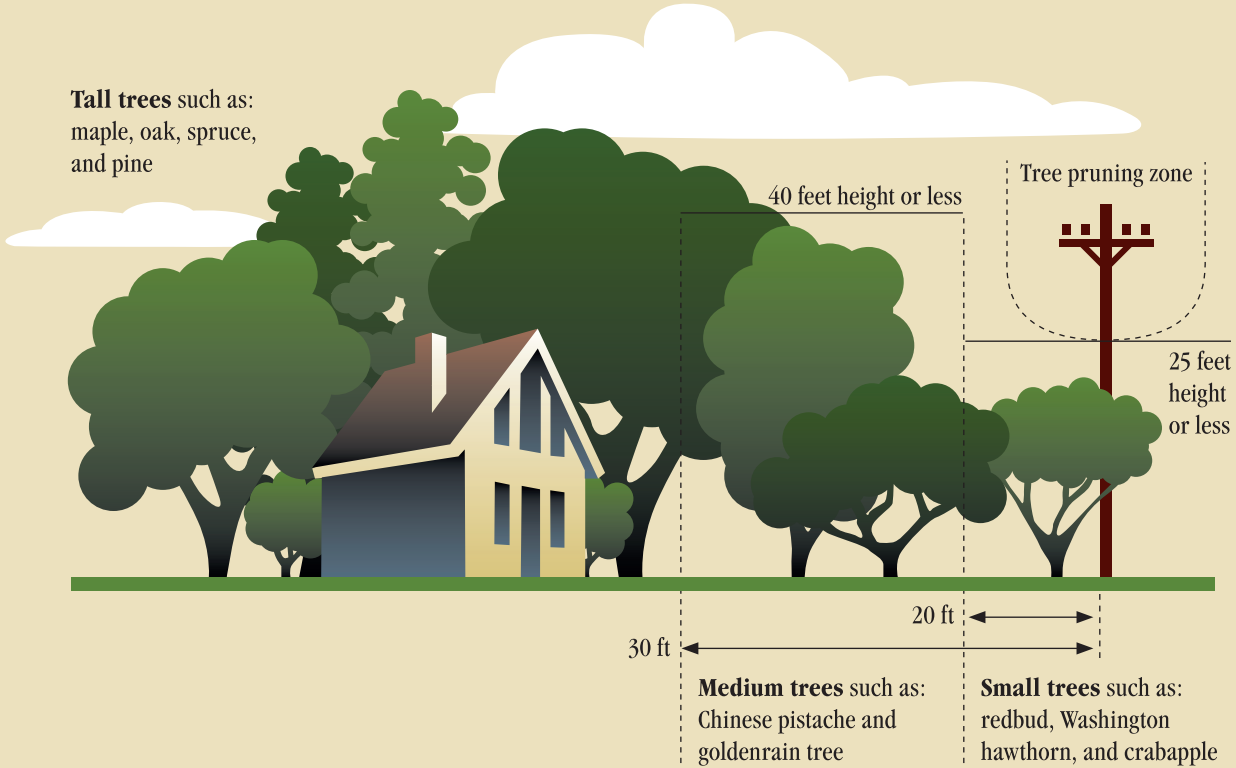
Trees are grouped into three sizes:

- Large Trees – 46 feet and taller (example: Valley Oak)
- Medium Trees – 26 to 45 feet tall (example: Trident Maple)
- Small Trees – up to 25 feet tall (example: Eastern Redbud)
- Large trees should be planted at least 30 feet from other trees and power lines, at least 15 feet from building foundations, and at least 8 feet from sidewalks and driveways
- Medium trees should be planted at least 20 feet from other trees and power lines, at least 15 feet from building foundations, and at least 6 feet from sidewalks and driveways.
- Small trees should be planted at least 12 feet from other trees, at least 3 feet from power lines, and 6 feet from building foundations, sidewalks and driveways.
- Call 811 a few days before you dig to locate any underground utilities.



Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

Consider overhead and underground utility lines



How to Use This Guide

For each tree, we have included the common and scientific names along with useful icons to help you select the best tree for your location.

Icon Key:

WATER NEEDS

= Low = Moderate = High

GROWTH RATE

= Slow = Moderate = Fast

TREE TYPE

Trees are great at filtering air pollution. Evergreen trees keep their leaves all year and make a great choice for planting between busy roadways and your home, school, or workplace.

Trees are also great at reducing air conditioning use and saving energy around your home. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall and allow the sun to warm your home in the winter.

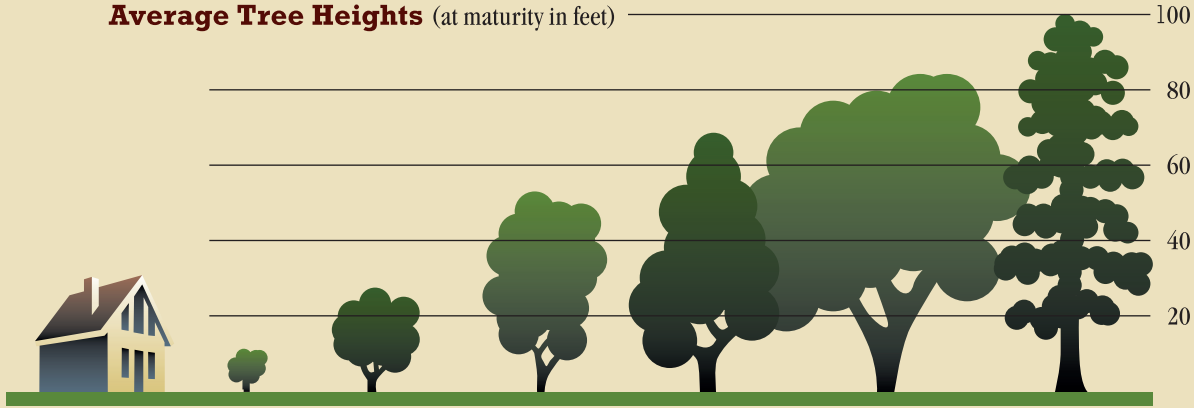
= Deciduous = Evergreen

BVOC (AIR QUALITY)

All trees help clean our air but some also emit biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) which can slightly contribute to ozone formation and smog. Planting trees with low BVOCs will improve our air quality the most.

= Good = Better = Best

Average Tree Heights (at maturity in feet)



Shrubs	Hawthorn Crabapple Redbud	Chinese Pistache Shantung Maple Tupelo	Pin Oak Zelkova Red Maple Ginkgo	Valley Oak Red Oak Tulip tree Many Pines Deodar Cedar	Redwood Jeffrey Pine

Tree Shapes

Round Pyramidal Oval Spreading Columnar Vase Weeping

FALL COLOR

This colorful leaf indicates trees with showy fall color.

= Yellow Leaves = Orange Leaves = Red Leaves

FLOWERS

= Yes

TREE SHAPE

Shapes of the tree crown at maturity.

= Round = Pyramidal = Oval = Spreading
= Columnar =Vase =Weeping

SMUD AVAILABILITY = SMUD

These trees are available to SMUD customers for free through the Sacramento Shade Tree Program which focuses on shading your home to save energy. Contact Sacramento Tree Foundation for more information (916) 924-8733 or visit sactree.com.

Subject to availability.

GREEN ACRES AVAILABILITY = Green Acres

These trees are available at your local Green Acres Nursery store. To find a store near you, visit idiggreenacres.com.

Subject to availability.

For more in-depth information on each tree,
visit selectree.calpoly.edu
or attend an expert-led tree tour at local parks
sactree.com/treetours

GENUS AND SPECIES + CULTIVAR (IF ANY)	COMMON NAME	WATER NEEDS	SIZE	GROWTH RATE	EVERGREEN OR DECIDUOUS	BVOC (AIR QUALITY)	FALL COLOR	FLOWERS	SHAPE	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	NOTES	HEIGHT	CROWN DIAMETER
Acer buergerianum	Trident maple	💧💧	M	↑ (orange)	Deciduous	★★	red, orange, yellow		Round	SMUD	Green Acres	Attractive peeling bark at maturity	25-35	20-25
Acer campestre	Hedge maple	💧💧	M	↑ (red) / ↑ (orange)	Deciduous	★★	yellow		Round	SMUD		Dense canopy with dark green leaves	25-35	30-35
Acer macrophyllum	Bigleaf maple	💧💧💧	L	↑ (green)	Deciduous	★★	yellow		Half-round			Native; best in foothills	30-75	30-50
Acer palmatum	Japanese maple	💧💧	S	↑ (red) / ↑ (orange)	Deciduous	★★	red, orange, yellow		Round	SMUD	Green Acres	Leaves can scorch in hot sun	15-25	15-25
Acer rubrum	Red maple	💧💧💧	L	↑ (orange) / ↑ (green)	Deciduous	★★	red, orange, yellow		Oval	SMUD	Green Acres	Named for red-colored leaf stem	40-50	30-40
Acer rubrum x *freemanii* 'Armstrong'	Columnar red maple	💧💧💧	L	↑ (orange)	Deciduous	★★	red, orange, yellow		Columnar	SMUD	Green Acres	Very narrow maple; fall color not as showy	40-50	15-20
Acer truncatum	Shantung maple	💧💧/💧	M	↑ (orange) / ↑ (green)	Deciduous	★★	red, orange, yellow		Round	SMUD		Lower water user than other maples	25-30	20-30
Acer truncatum 'Pacific Sunset'	Pacific Sunset Shantung maple	💧💧	M	↑ (green)	Deciduous	★★	red, orange		Round		Green Acres	Heat tolerant; glossy leaves; spreading canopy	25-30	25-30
Aesculus californica	California buckeye	💧	M	↑ (orange)	Deciduous	★★		Flower	Half-round			Native; dormant in summer to conserve water	30-50	30-45
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry tree	💧	M	↑ (red) / ↑ (orange)	Evergreen	★		Flower	Round		Green Acres	Messy flowers and fruit; attractive red bark; best in valley	20-30	20-30
Brachychiton populneus	Bottle tree	💧💧	L	↑ (orange)	Evergreen	★★★		Flower	Triangle			Unusual wide trunk; best in valley	30-50	30
Calocedrus decurrens	California incense cedar	💧💧/💧	L	↑ (red) / ↑ (orange)	Evergreen	★★			Triangle		Green Acres	Native; fragrant needles; best in foothills	70-90	15-25

Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'	Pyramidal European hornbeam	💧💧	M	↑/↑	🍃	★★★	🍂		●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Dense columnar to oval canopy	30-40	15-20
Cedrus deodara	Deodar cedar	💧💧	L	↑	🌲	★★★			▲		GREEN ACRES	Low water user; beautiful wide pyrimidal form	50-80	40-50

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CEDRUS DEODARA
DEODAR CEDAR

AESCULUS CALIFORNICA
CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE

ACER TRUNCATUM
SHANTUNG MAPLE

GENUS AND SPECIES + CULTIVAR (IF ANY)	COMMON NAME	WATER NEEDS	SIZE	GROWTH RATE	EVERGREEN OR DECIDUOUS	BVOC (AIR QUALITY)	FALL COLOR	FLOWERS	SHAPE	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	NOTES	HEIGHT	CROWN DIAMETER
Celtis australis	European hackberry	💧💧/💧	L	↑/↑	🍃	★★★	🍂		●	SMUD		Dark berries; tough, resilient; susceptible to aphids; best in valley	40-70	30-35
Ceratonia siliqua	Carob tree	💧	M	↑	🌲	★			●			Seed pods (a chocolate substitute); best in valley	30-40	30-35
Cercis canadensis	Eastern redbud	💧💧	S	↑/↑	🍃	★★★	🍂	✿	●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Heart-shaped leaves; deep pink flowers	20-30	20-30
Cercidium x 'Desert Museum'	Palo Verde 'Desert Museum'	💧	S	↑	🍃	★★		✿	●		GREEN ACRES	Yellow flowers; distinct green bark; best in valley	20-30	20-30
Chilopsis linearis	Desert willow	💧	S	↑/↑	🍃	★★	🍂	✿	●		GREEN ACRES	Pink flowers; prefers well-draining soils	15-25	15-25
Chionanthus retusus	Chinese fringe tree	💧💧/💧	S	↑	🍃	★★★	🍂	✿	●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Fragrant, white flowers; peeling bark when mature	15-25	15-20
Chitalpa tashkentensis 'Pink Dawn'	Pink dawn chitalpa	💧💧/💧	M	↑	🍃	★★★	🍂	✿	●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Clusters of pink flowers; best in well-draining soils	25-30	15-20
Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor	💧💧	L	↑	🌲	★★★			◗		GREEN ACRES	Fragrant leaves; dark berries; best in valley	45-60	50-75
Crataegus phaenopyrum	Washington hawthorn	💧💧	S	↑	🍃	★★★	🍂🍂🍂	✿	●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	White flowers; showy red berries in winter; thorns	20-35	20-25
Eriobotrya deflexa	Bronze loquat	💧💧	S	↑	🌲	★★★		✿	●		GREEN ACRES	Fragrant, white flowers; sensitive to frost, best in valley	15-20	10-20
Eriobotrya japonica	Loquat	💧	M	↑	🌲	★★★		✿	●		GREEN ACRES	White flowers and edible fruit	15-30	15-25
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	💧💧💧	L	↑	🍃	★★★	🍂		●			Native; tolerates poor-draining soils	60-80	40-60

Geijera parviflora	Australian willow	💧💧	S	↑	🌲	★★		●	◠		Graceful form; white flowers; best in valley	25-30	15-20
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair tree	💧💧	L	↑	🍃	★★	🍂		●		Males have no fruit; fan-shaped leaf; showy gold fall color	50-75	40-60

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CRATAEGUS PHAENOPYRUM
WASHINGTON HAWTHORN

CERCIS CANADENSIS
EASTERN REDBUD

CHIONANTHUS RETUSUS
CHINESE FRINGE

GENUS AND SPECIES + CULTIVAR (IF ANY)	COMMON NAME	WATER NEEDS	SIZE	GROWTH RATE	EVERGREEN OR DECIDUOUS	BVOC (AIR QUALITY)	FALL COLOR	FLOWERS	SHAPE	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	NOTES	HEIGHT	CROWN DIAMETER
Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold'	Autumn Gold ginkgo	💧💧	L	↑	Deciduous	★★	Yellow		Triangle	SMUD	Green Acres	Fruitless male cultivar	35-50	25-35
Ginkgo biloba 'Princeton Sentry'	Princeton Sentry ginkgo	💧💧	L	↑	Deciduous	★★	Yellow		Columnar			Fruitless male cultivar; narrow form	40-45	15
Gymnocladus dioicus 'Espresso'	Espresso Kentucky coffee tree	💧💧	L	↑/↑	Deciduous	★★★	Yellow		Oval			Seedless variety; attractive winter form	60-75	40-45
Koelreuteria bipinnata	Chinese flame tree	💧💧/💧	M	↑/↑	Deciduous	★	Yellow	Yellow	Vase	SMUD		Yellow flowers; pinkish/tan papery seed pods; best in valley	20-40	20-30
Koelreuteria paniculata	Goldenrain tree	💧💧/💧	M	↑/↑	Deciduous	★	Yellow	Yellow	Vase	SMUD	Green Acres	Yellow flowers; copper papery seed pods	20-40	20-30
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape myrtle	💧	S	↑/↑	Deciduous	★★★	Orange	Various	Inverted triangle	SMUD	Green Acres	Flowers in various colors; attractive bark; susceptible to aphids	20-25	20-25
Laurus nobilis	Sweet bay	💧	M	↑/↑	Evergreen	★★★		Yellow	Triangle		Green Acres	Yellow flowers and berries; leaves used in cooking	20-40	20-40
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip tree	💧💧💧	L	↑	Deciduous	★	Yellow	Orange	Oval		Green Acres	Tulip-like greenish-orange flowers in spring	60-85	35-50
Magnolia grandiflora	Southern magnolia	💧💧	L	↑/↑	Evergreen	★★		White	Oval		Green Acres	Leathery leaves; fragrant, white flowers	60-80	40-50
Magnolia soulangeana	Saucer magnolia	💧💧	M	↑	Deciduous	★★	Yellow	Pink/White	Inverted triangle	SMUD	Green Acres	Showy pink and white flowers in spring	20-25	20-30
Malus floribunda	Japanese flowering crabapple	💧💧	S	↑	Deciduous	★★★	Yellow	Pink	Vase	SMUD	Green Acres	Light pink flowers; yellow or red fruit	15-20	15-20
Malus x 'Prairifire'	Prairifire crabapple	💧💧	S	↑	Deciduous	★★★	Orange/Red	Pink	Round	SMUD	Green Acres	Deep pink flowers and red fruit	15-20	15-20

Metasequoia glyptostroboides	Dawn redwood	💧💧💧	L	↑	🌿	★★		▲			Unusual deciduous redwood	65-90	15-30
Nyssa sylvatica	Tupelo	💧💧/	M	↑	🌿	★	🍂	▲	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Dry berries; reliable red fall color	30-45	15-30

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MALUS X 'PRAIRIFIRE'
PRAIRIFIRE CRABAPPLE

KOELREUTERIA BIPINNATA
CHINESE FLAME TREE

GINKGO BILOBA 'AUTUMN GOLD'
AUTUMN GOLD GINKGO

GENUS AND SPECIES + CULTIVAR (IF ANY)	COMMON NAME	WATER NEEDS	SIZE	GROWTH RATE	EVERGREEN OR DECIDUOUS	BVOC (AIR QUALITY)	FALL COLOR	FLOWERS	SHAPE	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	NOTES	HEIGHT	CROWN DIAMETER
Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'	Swan Hill olive	💧	M	↑/↑	🌲	★★★			●			Fruitless, low-pollen variety	25-30	30-35
Ostrya virginiana	American hophornbeam	💧💧	M	↑	🌿	★★	🍂		●			Attractive bark; can grow in rocky soils	30-40	25-30
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island pine	💧	L	↑/↑	🌲	★★			▲			Slender pyramidal when young; dark reddish bark	50-80	20-35
Pinus eldarica	Afghan pine	💧	L	↑/↑	🌲	★			▲			Dense, tall form; tolerates poor soil	30-60	25-30
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo pine	💧	L	↑/↑	🌲	★★★			●			Cones persist on tree; best in valley	30-60	25-60
Pinus jeffreyi	Jeffrey pine	💧	L	↑/↑	🌲	★			⬮			Native: best in foothills; bark smells like vanilla; cones	80-130	20-25
Pinus nigra	Austrian black pine	💧💧/💧	L	↑/↑	🌲	★★			▲		GREEN ACRES	Dense canopy with dark green needles	40-60	20-30
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese pistache	💧	M	↑	🌿	★	🍂🍂🍂		●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Separate male and female trees; females have pink berries	30-50	30-50
Platanus racemosa	California sycamore	💧	L	↑	🌿	★			●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Native; widely adaptable; pyrimidal when young	40-80	30-50
Platanus x *hispanica*	London plane	💧	L	↑	🌿	★			●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Attractive bark; ball shaped seed clusters	40-80	30-60
Podocarpus gracilior	Fern pine	💧💧	S	↑	🌲	★★★			⬮		GREEN ACRES	Sensitive to frost; best in valley	50-65	25-35
Pyrus kawakamii	Evergreen pear	💧💧	S	↑	🌿	★★★	🍂	🌸	◗		GREEN ACRES	White flowers and dry fruit	15-30	15-30

Quercus buckleyi	Texas red oak	💧	L	↑	🌿	★	🍂	●		Showy fall color; lower water user	50-100	35-70
Quercus castaneifolia	Chestnut leaf oak	💧	L	↑/↑	🌿	★	🍂	●	SMUD	Bitter acorns do not attract wildlife	50-100	35-70

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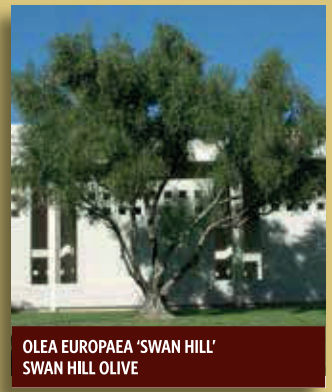
PISTACIA CHINENSIS
CHINESE PISTACHE

PINUS CANARIENSIS
CANARY ISLAND PINE



OLEA EUROPAEA 'SWAN HILL'
SWAN HILL OLIVE

GENUS AND SPECIES + CULTIVAR (IF ANY)	COMMON NAME	WATER NEEDS	SIZE	GROWTH RATE	EVERGREEN OR DECIDUOUS	BVOC (AIR QUALITY)	FALL COLOR	FLOWERS	SHAPE	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	NOTES	HEIGHT	CROWN DIAMETER
Quercus cerris	Turkey oak	💧	L	↑	🍃	★			●			Attractive ridged bark	30-50	30-60
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet oak	💧💧	L	↑	🍃	★	🍂		●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Bright red fall color; holds brown leaves until spring	60-75	40-60
Quercus douglasii	Blue oak	💧	L	↑	🍃	★			●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Native; tolerates heat and drought	30-50	40-70
Quercus ilex	Holly oak	💧	L	↑	🌲	★			●		GREEN ACRES	Dark green leaves; dense canopy	50-70	50-60
Quercus lobata	Valley oak	💧	L	↑	🍃	★★			◗	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Native; tolerates heat and drought; sculptural mature form	40-90	50-90
Quercus macrocarpa	Bur oak	💧💧/💧	L	↑/↑	🍃	★	🍂🍂		●	SMUD		Lobed leaves; very large acorns	70-90	60-80
Quercus phellos	Willow oak	💧💧/💧	L	↑/↑	🍃	★	🍂🍂		⬮	SMUD		Fast growing oak; unusual narrow elongated leaves	60-75	40-50
Quercus robur 'Fastigiata'	Upright English oak	💧💧/💧	L	↑	🍃	★	🍂		▮			Narrow form; coppery fall color	25-75	40-75
Quercus rubra	Red oak	💧💧	L	↑/↑	🍃	★	🍂		●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Dark red fall color; very adaptable; susceptible to aphids	60-70	50-60
Quercus shumardii	Shumard oak	💧💧	L	↑/↑	🍃	★	🍂🍂		●	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Acorns attract wildlife	60-70	50-60
Quercus suber	Cork oak	💧	L	↑/↑	🌲	★★★			●		GREEN ACRES	Interesting cork bark	50-70	50-70
Quercus wislizenii	Interior live oak	💧	L	↑/↑	🌲	★			◗		GREEN ACRES	Native; drought tolerant; dark green glossy leaves	40-70	50-60

Styrax japonicus	Japanese snowbell	💧💧	S	↑/↑		★★★		●	▼	SMUD	GREEN ACRES	White flowers in spring	20-30	15-25
Tilia americana	American linden	💧💧/	L	↑/↑		★★★		●	●	SMUD		Fragrant, light yellow flowers	50-100	35-50

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QUERCUS LOBATA
VALLEY OAK

QUERCUS COCCINEA
SCARLET OAK

QUERCUS PHELLOS
WILLOW OAK

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Tilia cordata	Littleleaf linden	💧💧/💧💧	M	↑/↑		★★★				SMUD		Fragrant, light yellow flowers can be used in tea	30-50	15-30
Ulmus japonica x *wilsoniana* 'Triumph'	Triumph elm	💧💧/💧	L	↑/↑		★★★						Resistant to Dutch elm disease	50-60	40-50
Ulmus parvifolia 'Frontier'	Frontier elm	💧💧	M	↑/↑		★★★					GREEN ACRES	Resistant to Dutch elm disease; burgundy fall color	40	30
Ulmus propinqua 'Emerald Sunshine'	Emerald Sunshine elm	💧💧/💧	M	↑		★★★					GREEN ACRES	Resistant to Dutch elm disease	35	25
Ulmus wilsoniana 'Prospector''	Prospector elm	💧💧	M	↑/↑		★★★					GREEN ACRES	Resistant to Dutch elm disease	40	30
Umbellularia californica	California laurel	💧💧	L	↑		★★						Native; fragrant leaves	25-70	25-40
Vitex agnus-castus	Chaste tree	💧	S	↑		★				SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Bluish-purple flowers; prefers well-draining soil; multi-trunked	10-15	15-20
Zelkova serrata	Zelkova	💧💧/💧	L	↑		★★★				SMUD		Beautiful umbrella-like canopy; low litter	50-60	50-75
Zelkova serrata 'Musashino'	Columnar Zelkova	💧💧/💧	L	↑		★★★				SMUD		Narrow Zelkova variety	45-50	15
Zelkova serrata 'Village Green'	Village Green Zelkova	💧💧/💧	L	↑		★★★				SMUD	GREEN ACRES	Slightly smaller Zelkova variety	40	40

Icon Key:

WATER NEEDS: = Low = Moderate = High

GROWTH RATE: = Slow = Moderate = Fast

TREE TYPE: = Deciduous = Evergreen

BVOC (AIR QUALITY): = Good = Better = Best

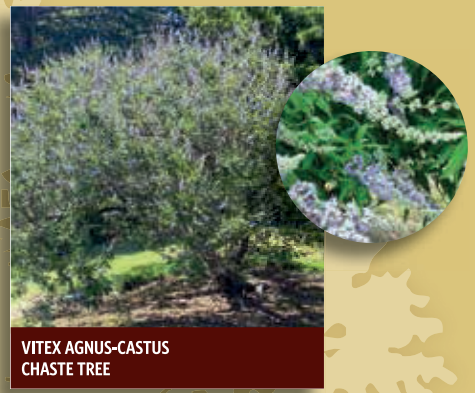
FALL COLOR: = Yellow Leaves = Orange Leaves = Red Leaves

FLOWERS: = Yes

TREE SHAPE: = Round = Pyramidal = Oval = Spreading = Columnar =Vase =Weeping

SMUD AVAILABILITY: SMUD = Yes

GREEN ACRES AVAILABILITY: GREEN ACRES = Yes



VITEX AGNUS-CASTUS
CHASTE TREE

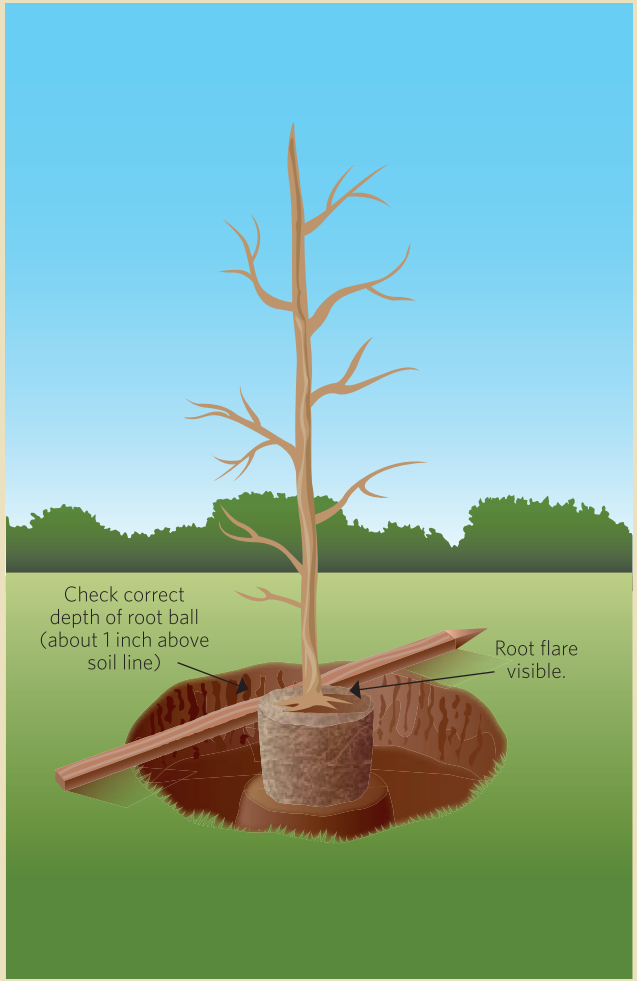
ZELKOVA SERRATA
ZELKOVA

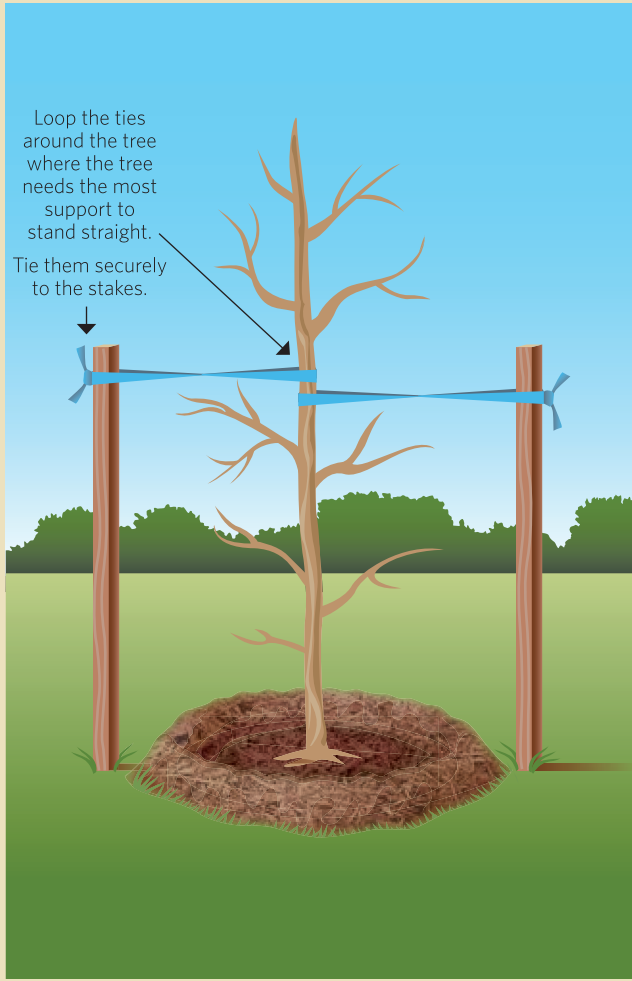
TILIA CORDATA
LITTLE LEAF LINDEN

Index of Trees by Common Name

How to Plant Your Young Tree

- Remove all grass and weeds in a 4-foot wide circle around the spot where you will plant. Grass will not be reused.
- Dig the hole 4 feet wide and about 10 inches deep.
- When you place the tree in the hole, the top of the root ball and the root flare should be about 1 inch above the soil line. Remember: “Plant it low, it won’t grow. Plant it high, it will thrive.”
- Dig a deeper ring inside the hole around the edge to create a solid pedestal of soil in the center. The pedestal will prevent the tree from sinking over time and helps water drain properly.
- Score the sides of the hole with a shovel so they are not smooth. This will help the roots grow out into the soil.
- Thoroughly loosen and extend roots along the sides and bottom of the root ball. If there are any roots growing in a circle, cut them so they can grow straight.





- By loosening, straightening, and cutting these roots, you allow them to grow out and anchor the tree rather than growing around in circles, which can strangle the tree.

- Place the root ball on the pedestal and check the height of the root flare again – it should be about 1 inch above the surrounding ground level.
- Refill the hole around the root ball with the soil you originally removed and be careful not to bury the top. The soil from the top of the root ball and the root flare should be exposed.
  - Covering the trunk with soil may cause decay and allow soil-borne diseases to kill the tree.
- Remove the nursery stake which is tied tightly against the trunk of the tree.
- Support the tree if necessary by placing two stakes on opposite sides of the tree. Place them about 18 inches away from the trunk.
- Loop ties around the tree where it needs the most support to stand straight. Ties should be loosely looped once around the tree and tied securely to the stakes.
- Add your new tree(s) to the 5 Million Tree Calculator at 5milliontrees.com and to our interactive, regional urban forest map at GreenprintMaps.com.

Thank you to the following organizations for the use of their photos in this publication:

Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute
selectree.com

J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.
jfschmidt.com

Jerry Sortomme
gardensoft.com

Oregon State University
oregonstate.edu

How to Care for Your Young Tree

Caring for your young tree will make a big difference. With proper care, your tree will grow faster, live longer, and provide the most benefit to your community.

Add mulch around your tree

- Spread wood chip mulch around the base of your tree so it looks like a fluffy "mulch doughnut": keep it 4 inches away from the trunk, spread it out 4 feet wide, and pile it 6 inches thick.
- Adding wood chip mulch underneath your tree will:
  - Keep moisture in the soil
  - Protect roots from extreme temperatures
  - Discourage weeds
  - Reduce soil compaction so roots can breathe
  - Slowly decompose to provide nutrients to the soil
- Do not use weed trimmers, lawn mowers, or herbicides near the base of your tree. These can damage the thin bark and make your tree vulnerable to diseases and pests that could kill your tree.

Water your tree responsibly

- For the first three years, your young tree needs 10-15 gallons of water per week during dry months.

toward the surface, creating potential root problems in the future. Watering with a slow soak encourages roots to grow down.

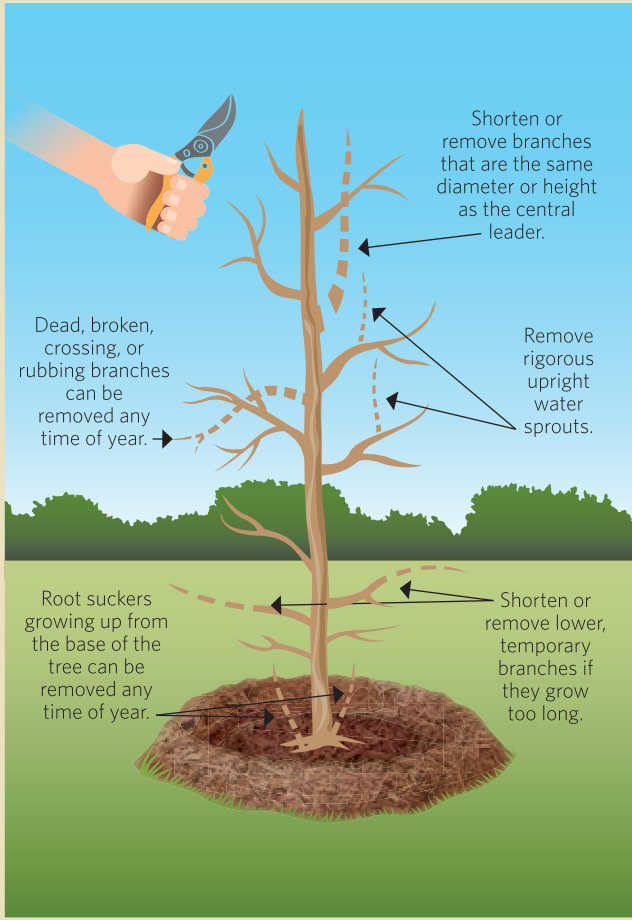
Prune your young tree

- During the first 2 years, leave lower branches on your tree to encourage growth and prevent the sun from scalding the trunk.
- After the second year, begin shaping your tree for good structure with simple pruning cuts.
- Some branches should be removed any time of year:
  - Dead, broken, or crossing branches
  - Root suckers growing up from the base of the tree
  - Water sprouts growing upright
- Other pruning cuts are best done during the winter months.
- Be sure there is always one central leader (the main stem growing vertically).

ADD MULCH AROUND YOUR TREE.

- Check the soil first:
  - Use a screwdriver or small shovel to check the soil 6-8 inches below the surface.
  - If the soil feels dry and crumbly, it's time to water with a slow soak.
  - If the soil feels soggy or sticky, let it dry before watering again.
- Water with a slow soak near the base of the tree:
  - Slowly soaking the soil will allow water to reach the roots 12-18 inches below the surface.
  - You can use:
    - A hose on a slow trickle near the base of the tree for 1-2 hours
    - A soaker hose coiled outward from the base of the tree for 1-2 hours
    - A bucket with a small hole (1/8") drilled near the bottom and placed near the base of the tree. Fill the bucket with water and allow it to slowly drip into the soil.
- As your tree grows, focus watering around the drip line (the soil beneath the edge of the leaves) to provide water to the expanding root system.
- Lawn sprinklers will not provide enough water for your tree. Sprinklers leave water on the surface and encourage roots to grow

- Shorten or remove branches that are the same diameter or height as the central leader – this will create good structure and help the central leader grow fastest.
- Thin out branches that are closely spaced. Consider how large the branches will be when the tree is mature to determine how much space to create.
- Remove lower, temporary branches after a couple years as the tree grows taller and stronger.
- Do not remove more than 25% of the tree's live branches in a one-year period.
- Find a complete pruning guide or attend a pruning class at sactree.com/prune.



The Sacramento Tree Foundation is a community benefit organization building healthy, livable communities in the Sacramento region by growing the best urban forest in the nation. By planting and caring for trees, you'll be doing your part to clean the air, save energy, and build healthy neighborhoods.

Planting trees isn't just about changing the landscape – it's about changing lives.

Why Plant a Tree?

We all appreciate trees for their beauty, but trees give us so much more:

- The air we breathe. Trees clean the air as they absorb pollutants and produce oxygen for us to breathe.
- The water we drink. Trees clean and store storm water, which helps reduce flood risk and keep pollutants out of our streams and rivers.
- The energy we conserve. Trees shade our homes and reduce our energy use by keeping us cool during the hot summer months.
- The way we live. Trees improve our physical and mental health and bring people together. Neighborhoods with green spaces are safer, more welcoming, and full of vitality.

To learn more about trees, please visit **sactree.com**

Sacramento Tree Foundation

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This tree selection guide for the Sacramento region is:

This Tree Guide is brought to you in partnership with:

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