

## Criteria for Tree Selection

 **Native Species:** Whenever possible, species of trees native to the region are preferable to non-native species. Native species are better suited to the local climate, require less maintenance, and provide habitat and food in a natural sequence for birds, butterflies, and other animals native to the area.

 **Location:** Different tree species are suitable for moist or dry soil and for sunny or shady areas. A tree in the wrong location will not thrive.

 **Space Availability:** The planting area should be wide enough to accommodate the width and height of the tree at maturity.

 **Overhead Wires:** Where overhead utility wires exist, plant smaller recommended tree species.

 **Ease of Maintenance:** Trees that require less pruning and watering are preferred. Avoid trees with short life-spans (e.g., ornamental pear or crepe myrtle) or those with weak wood (e.g., silver maple).

 **Consistency with Street Names:** If your street is named after a tree species, consider planting that same species of tree in your yard (e.g., Maple Avenue, Poplar Drive, Birch Street, Oak Street, etc.)

	Choose These Trees Instead	Avoid These Trees
Small Deciduous Trees	<p><b>Fringe Tree</b> — <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> Fragrant white flowers (May)</p> <p><b>Redbud</b>—<i>Cercis canadensis</i> Delicate pink/purple flowers (April), heart-shaped leaves</p> <p><b>Serviceberry</b>—<i>Amelanchier</i> White flowers (April), edible berries (June)</p>	<p><b>Bradford Pear</b> — Starts to split after 8 years, highly invasive</p> <p><b>Flowering Dogwood</b>—Prone to deadly, contagious fungal disease</p> <p><b>All Japanese Cherries</b>—Hybridizes native trees on public land and is short-lived in the urbanized environment</p>
Medium Deciduous Trees	<p><b>Sourwood</b>—<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> Aromatic white clumps of flowers (July)-very slow growing</p> <p><b>Paw Paw</b>—<i>Asimina triloba</i> Edible fruit (October), large tropical leaves</p> <p><b>Yellowwood</b>—<i>Cladrastis</i> Aromatic white clumps of flowers (May)</p> <p><b>Sweetbay Magnolia</b>—<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> Fragrant white flowers, sculptured shape</p>	<p><b>White Mulberry</b>—Highly invasive, branches split</p> <p><b>Mimosa</b>—Highly invasive, wood splits easily, and prone to fungal disease</p> <p><b>White Birch</b>—Prone to borers and short-lived in Northern Virginia</p> <p><b>Golden Rain Tree</b>—Highly invasive onto other properties</p>
Large Deciduous Trees	<p><b>Tupelo</b>—<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> Called the Sugar Maple of the South for its brilliant red autumn colors</p> <p><b>River Birch</b>—<i>Betula nigra</i> Paper-like bark, beautiful form</p> <p><b>Scarlet/Willow/Red/White/Black Oaks</b>—<i>Quercus</i> Native to this region</p>	<p><b>Norway Maple</b>—Toxic to other plants nearby, highly invasive</p> <p><b>Silver Maple</b>—Shallow roots, requires expensive maintenance</p> <p><b>Hybrid Poplar</b>—Highly invasive, weak-wooded</p> <p><b>Paulownia/Empress Tree</b>—Highly invasive, weak-wooded</p>
Evergreens	<p><b>Eastern Red Cedar</b>—<i>Juniperus virginiana</i></p> <p><b>American Holly</b>—<i>Ilex opaca</i> Classic Christmas holly—grows to large size</p> <p><b>Loblolly Pine</b>—<i>Pinus taeda</i> Similar to white pine, better adapted here</p> <p><b>Virginia Pine</b>—<i>Pinus virginiana</i> The native pine</p>	<p><b>Leyland Cypress</b>—Short-lived, develops canker disease</p> <p><b>Hemlock</b>—Deadly aphids require spraying 2-3 times per year</p> <p><b>Austrian and White Pines</b>—Prone to diseases and insect pests, easily breaks in ice storms</p> <p><b>All Spruces</b>—Attracts mites, requires spraying in city environment</p>