

CITY OF DES MOINES

Recommended Tree Species



The City of Des Moines Forestry Division has created a convenient list of recommended tree species for residents to reference when planting new trees in the City.

This is a helpful tool for our community as we continue crucial efforts to expand and improve the urban tree canopy in Des Moines.

City of Des Moines Forestry follows the "30-20-10 rule" to ensure diversity in the city's tree canopy. It requires that no more than 30 percent of one family, 20 percent of one genera, or 10 percent of one species be planted on a site.

For questions regarding this list, email Urban Forestry Project Manager Dan Just at DRJust@dmgov.org.

Already chosen a species? If you're viewing this online, press "Control + F" to find out where it fits in our list. Just type the name into the search bar!

UNDERSTORY

Under 45' at maturity; overhead utility compatible

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	Trident Maple - S, P
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Hedge Maple - S, P
<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark Maple - S, P
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Shadblow Serviceberry - S, P
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny Serviceberry - S, P
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw - P
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American Hornbeam - S, P
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European Hornbeam - S, P
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud - S, P
<i>Chioanthus retusus</i>	Chinese Fringetree - S, P
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Yellowwood - S, P
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda Dogwood - S, P
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood - S, P
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelia-cherry dogwood - S, P
<i>Corylus columna</i>	Turkish Filbert - S, P
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	Smoke Tree - P
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> var. <i>inermis</i>	Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn - S, P
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.	Hawthorn Spp. - P
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree - S, P
<i>Magnolia X soulangeana</i>	Saucer Magnolia - S, P
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	Star Magnolia - S, P
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweet Bay Magnolia - S, P
<i>Magnolia acuminate</i> x <i>M. denudata</i>	Butterflies Magnolia - S, P
<i>Malus</i> spp.	Flowering Crabapple - S, P
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American Hophornbeam - S, P
<i>Parrotia persica</i>	Persian Ironwood - S, P
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache - S, P
<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Kwanzan Cherry - S, P
<i>Prunus subhirtella</i>	Rosebud Cherry - S, P
<i>Prunus okame</i>	Okame Cherry - S, P
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Common Chokecherry - S, P
<i>Prunus yedoensis</i>	Yoshino Cherry - S, P
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese Tree Lilac - S, P

SPECIFICATIONS

IDENTIFIER

Street Tree - A tree that is acceptable to plant in Des Moines' public space (right of ways or tree pits)	"- S"
Park Tree - A tree that can be planted in an open space with adequate room to grow (parks or private property)	"- P"
Reduce Planting - A tree that has a heavy population in Des Moines.	Shaded

EVERGREENS

Used as screening near roadways; DO NOT plant under utilities

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir - P
<i>Abies concolor</i>	White Fir - P
<i>Abies fraseri</i>	Fraser Fir - P
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar - P
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce - P
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce - P
<i>Picea pungens</i>	Colorado Spruce - P
<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	Jack Pine - P
<i>Pinus flexis</i>	Limber Pine - P
<i>Pinus koraiensis</i>	Korean Pine - P
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Ponderosa Pine - P
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine - P
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Northern White Cedar - P
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern Hemlock - P

OVERSTORY

Over 45' at maturity; DO NOT plant under utilities

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple - P
<i>Aesculus flava</i>	Yellow Buckeye - S, P
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye - S, P
<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	Red Horse Chestnut - S, P
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut - S, P
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red Buckeye - S, P
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Birch - S, P
<i>Betula lenta</i>	Sweet Birch - S, P
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch - S, P
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper Birch - P
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon - P
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut hickory - P
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Pecan - P
<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	Shellbark Hickory - P
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory - P
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut Hickory - P
<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Southern Catalpa - S, P
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Northern Catalpa - S, P
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry - S, P
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugar Hackberry - S, P
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Katsura Tree - S, P
<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	Hardy Rubber Tree - S, P
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech - S, P
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech - S, P
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (male only)	Ginkgo (male only) - S, P
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>	Thornless Honeylocust - S, P
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree - S, P
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> 'Espresso' or 'Stately Manor'	Kentucky Coffeetree - S, P (Fruitless)
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly - P
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut - P
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut - P
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch - P
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack - P
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tuliptree - S, P
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum - P
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> 'Rotundiloba'	Sweetgum - S, P (Fruitless)
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Amur Maackia
<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	Osage Orange - P
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumber Magnolia - S, P
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood - S, P
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Blackgum - S, P
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	American Sycamore - P
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Planetree - S, P
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern Cottonwood - P
<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Bigtooth Aspen - P

<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking Aspen - P
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American Plum - P
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir - P
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	Northern Pin Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Southern Red Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	Overcup Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>	Chinkapin Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus nuttallii</i>	Nuttall Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus prinus</i>	Chestnut Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post Oak - S, P
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak - S, P
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust - P
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow - P
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow - P
<i>Salix matsudana</i>	Corkscrew Willow - P
<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>	Japanese Pagoda - S, P
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress - S, P
<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	Pond Cypress - S, P
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Linden - S, P
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden - S, P
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Bigleaf Linden - S, P
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Linden - S, P
<i>Ulmus americana</i> 'New Harmony' or 'Jefferson' or 'Valley Forge'	Elm cultivar(s) - S, P
<i>Ulmus carpinifolia</i>	Smoothleaf Elm - S, P
<i>Ulmus japonica x wilsoniana</i>	ACCOLADE® Elm - S, P
<i>Ulmus 'New Horizon'</i>	New Horizon Elm - S, P
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Lacebark Elm - S, P
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese Zelkova - S, P

DO NOT PLANT LIST

Species that are invasive or tend towards failure

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.	Ash
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Princess or Empress Tree
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery Pear
<i>Ulmus americana</i> 'princeton'	Princeton Elm
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian Elm