



## City of San Diego

# STREET TREE SELECTION GUIDE

This guide provides information for selecting street trees. Trees are vital part of San Diego's infrastructure, contributing energy savings, filtering Stormwater runoff and enhancing property values. This guide encourages choices compatible with the planting locations, minimizing damage to other public improvements and promotes species diversity. Read all notes thoroughly prior to making any selection.

## A Few Tree FAQs

**Q. What if I want to select a tree that's not on the list?**

A. You may select a tree that's not on the list, with written approval from the Street Division. Email [dpotocki@sandiego.gov](mailto:dpotocki@sandiego.gov) with your proposed selection.

**Q. What about native trees?**

A. The City of San Diego encourages the use of native trees and highly recommends them for areas where growing space and soil type are conducive to healthy native tree development.

**Q. My neighborhood has a Master Street Tree Plan. Does this affect my choice?**

A. Tree species must be consistent with the approved Master Street Tree Plans or other applicable documents. These plans have been developed for many communities. Check in the Landscape Standards of the Land Development Code from City of San Diego Development Services before making your selection.

**Q. Palm tree or shade tree – does it matter?**

A. For new development, the Land Development Code: Landscape Regulations specify that palm trees may only be used when identified in the applicable community plan. When palm trees are used, they are required at a higher quantity than shade trees. Choosing the right species and location of a tree affects its long term success and the benefits provided. In general, canopy shade trees are more preferred than palm trees; however if space is limited or special circumstances exist, palm trees are better than no tree.

**Q. Do I need a permit to plant a tree?**

A. All Street Tree plantings require a "NO FEE Street Tree Permit" prior to planting. Call Street Division at (619) 527-7500 to request a permit application.

**Q. Who decides what trees go into the Tree Selection Guide**

A. Tree selection criteria is developed by the City with input from the Community Forest Advisory Board.

**Q. How can I find out what a tree will look like before I select it?**

A. You can go to [selecttree.cagr.calpoly.edu](http://selecttree.cagr.calpoly.edu) for an online guide complete with photos or you can visit your local nursery to take a first hand look at the tree and get planting tips.

If you have additional questions about selecting the right tree for your location, call **(619) 527-7500**.

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{In areas with contiguous sidewalks (sidewalks that extend all the way to the curb), trees shall be planted a minimum of two feet from sidewalk. In unimproved right-of-ways, contact the Street Division for more information.}

Root Barriers Recommended but Not Required unless specified.

**The following trees are recommended for parkways 2 feet and larger, and 3'x3' cutouts. See notes for specific maintenance requirements:**

### SMALL AND UPRIGHT TREES:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Acacia pendula***	Weeping Acacia	SC	20	20	E		
Acacia subporosa	River Wattle	SC	25	25	E		
Acacia stenophylla**	Shoestring Acacia	SC	30	20	E		
Acer palmatum+	Japanese Maple	SC	20	20	D		
Albizia julibrissin	Silk Tree	SC	30+	-25	D/F	Yes	
Arbutus unedo++	Strawberry Tree	SC	30	20	E/F		
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	King Palm	U	40+	-20	P	Yes	
Bauhinia blakeana*	Hong Kong Orchid	SC	20+	-20	D/F		
Callistemon citrinus~#	Lemon Bottle Brush	U	-25	20+	E/F	Yes	
Callistemon salignus	White Bottlebrush	SC	25	25	E/F		
Cercis canadensis***	Eastern Redbud	SC	25	25	E/F		
Cercis mexicana***	Mexican Redbud	SC	25	25	D/F		
Cercis occidentalis***	Western Redbud	SC	25	25	D/F	Yes	Yes
Cercocarpus betuloides	Mountain Ironwood	SC	20	-20	E/F	Yes	Yes
Chiisanthus retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree	SC	-20	-20	D/F		
Heteromeles arbutifolia***	Toyon	SC	25	25	E	Yes	Yes
Hymenosporum flavum***	Sweetshade	SC	35	20	E/F		
Lagerstroemia indica*	Crape Myrtle	SC	-20	-20	D/F	Yes	
Lyonathamnus floribundus***	Catalina Ironwood	SC	50	35	E/F	Yes	Yes
Photinia fraserii***	Fraser Photinia	SC	20	20	E/F		
Raphiolepis	'Majestic Beauty'	SC	-20	-20	E/F	Yes	
Syagrus romanzoffianum++	Queen Palm	U	40+	-20	P	Yes	

### Legend

#### Type

**D - Deciduous**

**E - Evergreen**

**F - Flowering**

**P - Palm Species**

#### Form

**SC - Small Canopy Form:** 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.

**LC - Large Canopy Form:** 25' and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.

**U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form:** 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet

See last page for Additional Notes

- Revised 2012

## City of San Diego STREET TREE SELECTION GUIDE

The following selections are recommended for 4.0 to 7 foot parkways and larger or in 5' by 5' cutouts.

Root Barriers Recommended for all applications

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Acacia baileyana	Bailey Acacia	SC	30+	-20	E	Yes	
Agonis flexuosa*	Peppermint	LC	-30	-20	E	Yes	
Arbutus 'Marina'***	Marina Madrone	MC	35	30	E/F		
Bauhinia purpurea*	Purple Orchid tree	SC	-30	-20	D/F	Yes	
Bauhinia v. candida*	White Orchid tree	SC	-30	-20	E/F	Yes	
Brachychiton acerifolius	Flame tree	U	40+	-25	D/F	Yes	
Brahea armata***	Mexican Blue Palm	U	35		P		
Brahea edulis***	Guadalupe Palm	U	35		P	Yes	
Brahea brandegii***	Hesper Palm	U	+65		P		
Butia capitata***	Pindo Palm	U	25		P		
Calodendrum capense~	Cape Chestnut	LC	30+	40+	D/F	Yes	
Callistemon viminalis~#	Bottle Brush	U	30+	-20	E/F	Yes	
Cassia leptophylla*	Gold Medallion tree	SC	-30	-25	D/F		
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow	LC	30+	-40	D/F	Yes	Yes
Chionanthus virginicus	White Fringe Tree	SC	30+	-25	D/F		
Chitalpa tashkentensis	Chitalpa	SC	30	30	D	Yes	
Dypsis decaryi	Triangle Palm	U	-40		P		
Eriobotrya deflexa*	Bronze Loquat	SC	-20	-20	E		
Eucalyptus erythrocorys	Red Cap Gum	SC	-25	-25	E	Yes	
Eucalyptus gunnii	Cider Gum	LC	-60	40	E/F	Yes	
Eucalyptus torquata*	Coral Gum	SC	-20	-20	E		
Fraxinus oxycarpa	Raywood Ash	SC	30+	-25	D	Yes	
Geijera parvifolia*	Australian Willow	LC	35+	-40	E/F	Yes	
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree	U	40+	-40	D		
Jacaranda mimosifolia	Jacaranda	LC	40+	-40	D/F		
Lophostemon confertus	Brisbane Box	LC	-60	-40	E	Yes	
Magnolia grandiflora	St. Marys* Magnolia	SC	25+	-20	E/F		
Melaleuca linarifolia~	Flaxleaf Paperbark	LC	-40	-40	E/F	Yes	
Melaleuca quinquenervia~	Cajeput Tree	LC	-40	-40	E/F	Yes	
Metrosideros excelsus*~	New Zealand Chris.	SC	-20	-20	E/F	Yes	
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	LC	40+	40+	D	Yes	
Pittosporum undulatum	Victorian Box	SC	-25	-25	E/F	Yes	
Podocarpus macrophyllus	Yew Pine	U	30+	-20	E		
Pittosporum phillyraeoides	Willow Pittosporum	U	-25	15	E	Yes	
Pittosporum tenuifolium***	Tarata Pittosporum	SC	35	25	E/F		
Pyrus calleryana*	Bradford Pear	SC	-30	-20	D/F		
Pyrus kawakamii	Evergreen Pear	SC	-30	-25	E/F		
Quercus ilex	Holly Oak	LC	-50	-50	E	Yes	
Quercus suber	Cork Oak	LC	-40	-40	E	Yes	
Rhus lancea	African Sumac	SC	-30	-25	E	Yes	
Sapium sebiferum	Chinese Tallow Tree	SC	30+	-25	D		
Stenocarpus sinuatus*	Firewheel Tree	U	30+	15	E/F		
Tristania laurina#	Elegant Brisbane	SC	25	25	E/F		
Tabebuia ipi*	Pink Trumpet	SC	30+	-25	D/F	Yes	
Washingtonia robusta~	Mexican Fan Palm	U	40+	20	P	Yes	

### Legend

<u>Type</u>	<u>Form</u>
D - Deciduous	SC - Small Canopy Form: 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.
E - Evergreen	LC - Large Canopy Form: 25' and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.
F - Flowering	U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form: 15' to 25' spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet
P - Palm Species	

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- Revised 2012

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### LARGE TREES

The following selections are recommended for **7.0 foot to 10 foot** parkways or larger and minimum 40 square foot cutouts.

Root Barriers Recommended for all applications

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Afrocarpus gracilior~	African Fern Pine	LC	40+	-40	E		
Arbutus menziesii	Madrona	LC	40+	40+	E	Yes	Yes
Calocedrus decurrens	Incense Cedar	LC	40+	-40	E	Yes	Yes
Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar	LC	40+	40+	E	Yes	
Cupressus forbesi***	Tecate Cypress	LC	25+	25	E		
Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Silver Dollar Gum	LC	40+	-40	E	Yes	
Eucalyptus leucoxylon	White Ironbark	LC	60+	40	E	Yes	
Koelreuteria bipinnata	Chinese Lantern	LC	-40	-40	D/F		
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain	LC	-40	-40	D/F	Yes	
Magnolia grandiflora	Southern Magnolia	LC	-40	-40	E/F		
Olea europaea~	Olive "fruitless"	SC	-40	-25	E	Yes	
Platanus acerifolia "Bloodgood"	London Plane	LC	40+	40+	D		
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island Pine	U	40+	-25	E	Yes	
Pinus pinea~	Italian Stone Pine	LC	40+	40+	E	Yes	
Pinus muricata***	Bishop Pine	LC	50	40	E		Yes
Plantanus racemosa***	California Sycamore	LC	60+	40+	D		Yes
Spathodea campanulata	African Tulip	LC	40+	30	D/F		
Tipuana tipu	Tipu Tree	LC	40+	40+	D/F		

The following selections are recommended for **10-foot** or larger parkways and **10-foot** or larger center medians.

Root Barriers Recommended for all applications

Botanical Name	Common Name	Form	Height	Spread	Type	Drought	Native
Liriodendron tulipifera***	Tulip Tree	LC	>66	30	D		
Pinus torreyana	Torrey Pine	LC	80+	80+	E	Yes	Yes
Quercus agrifolia***##	Coast Live Oak	LC	65	50	E	Yes	Yes
Quercus engelmannii***##	Mesa Oak	LC	50	45	D	Yes	Yes
Quercus virginiana+##	S. Live Oak	LC	50	40	D/E		

#### Legend

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- **See last page for Additional Notes**
- **Revised 2012**

## Tree Selection Tips and Notes

**Additional Notes**(symbols in left margin relate to symbols that appear adjacent to various tree selections)

- + Prefers a moist, well-drained loam to which plenty of humus has been added.
- ++ Fruit production.
- \* Approved for use under power lines and/or Public View Corridors  
note: Palm species may also be approved for view corridors.
- \*\* Tree has been identified by the San Diego Regional Asthma Coalition as an Allergy Producer
- ~ Tolerates Direct Coastal Exposure (Typically 1000' from shoreline)
- # Root Barriers are required when used in less than three foot parkway and where specified
- ## Non-Irrigated Settings Recommended
- \*\*\* Specific maintenance needs – may require supplemental watering following establishment. See local nursery for more information.
- Minimum Size Required Canopy Shade Tree**= 24" Box
- Minimum Size Non-Required Canopy Shade Tree** = #15 (15 Gallon) Container
- Minimum Size Palm Species** = 10' BTH (14' BTH at Bus Stop or Red Curb)
- Required Canopy Shade Tree** = Trees to be planted in street right of way as part of a Development Permit
- BTH** = Brown Trunk Height = height from ground level to live fronds

**Revised: 2012**