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 City. Email 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 (619) 236-5500 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 http://selectree.calpoly.edu/ for an online guide complete with photos or you can visit your local nursery to take a firsthand look at the tree and get planting tips.

If you have additional questions about selecting the right tree for your location, call (619) 236-5500.

- Revised 10-2013
City of San Diego
STREET TREE SELECTION GUIDE

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Drought</th>
<th>Native</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acacia pendula***</td>
<td>Weeping Acacia</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>Acacia subporosa</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arbutus unedo++</td>
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<td>Archontophoenix</td>
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<tr>
<td>cunninghamiana</td>
<td>King Palm</td>
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<td>-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bauhinia blakeana*</td>
<td>Hong Kong Orchid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Callistemon citrusnus~#</td>
<td>Lemon Bottle Brush</td>
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<td>20+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Callistemon salignus</td>
<td>White Bottlebrush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cercis canadensis***</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>Cercis mexicana***</td>
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<td>Cercis occidentalis***</td>
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<td>Cercoarpus betuloides</td>
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<td>Chiionanthus retusus</td>
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<td>Lagerstroemia indica*</td>
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<td>-20</td>
<td>D/F</td>
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<td>Lyonathamnus floribundus***</td>
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<td>-20</td>
<td>P</td>
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</table>

### Legend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D - Deciduous</td>
<td>SC - Small Canopy Form: 15’ to 25’ spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>E - Evergreen</td>
<td>LC - Large Canopy Form: 25’ and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F - Flowering</td>
<td>U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form: 15’ to 25’ spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P - Palm Species</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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See last page for Additional Notes
- Revised 10-2013
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Drought</th>
<th>Native</th>
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<td>Acacia baileyana</td>
<td>Bailey Acacia</td>
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<td>Brachychiton acerifolius</td>
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<td>Brahea armata***</td>
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<td>Brahea brandegii***</td>
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<td>Butia capitata***</td>
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<td>Calodendrum capense~</td>
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<td>Dypsis decaryi</td>
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<td>Eriobotrya deflexa*</td>
<td>Bronze Loquat</td>
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<td>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</td>
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<td>-25</td>
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<td>Eucalyptus gunnii</td>
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<td>E/F</td>
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<td>Eucalyptus torquata*</td>
<td>Coral Gum</td>
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<td>-20</td>
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<td>Fraxinus oxycarpa</td>
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<td>Tabebuia ipi*</td>
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**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.

See last page for Additional Notes.

Revised 10-2013
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Drought</th>
<th>Native</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrocarpus gracilior~</td>
<td>African Fern Pine</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arbutus menziesii</td>
<td>Madrona</td>
<td>LC</td>
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<td>40+</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calocedrus decurrens</td>
<td>Incense Cedar</td>
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<td>-40</td>
<td>E</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Cupressus forbesi***</td>
<td>Tecate Cypress</td>
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<td>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</td>
<td>Silver Dollar Gum</td>
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<td>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</td>
<td>White Ironbark</td>
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<td>60+</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koelreuteria bipinnata</td>
<td>Chinese Lantern</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>D/F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koelreuteria paniculata</td>
<td>Golden Rain</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>D/F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia grandiflora</td>
<td>Southern Magnolia</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>E/F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olea europaea~</td>
<td>Olive “fruitless”</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanus acerifolia</td>
<td>London Plane</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Bloodgood*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Drought</th>
<th>Native</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pinus canariensis</td>
<td>Canary Island Pine</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinus pinea~</td>
<td>Italian Stone Pine</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinus muricata***</td>
<td>Bishop Pine</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantanus racemosa***</td>
<td>California Sycamore</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>60+</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spathodea campanulata</td>
<td>African Tulip</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>D/F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipuana tipu</td>
<td>Tipu Tree</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>40+</td>
<td>D/F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Root Barriers Recommended for all applications

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

**Legend**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D - Deciduous</td>
<td>SC - Small Canopy Form</td>
<td>15’ to 25’ spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E - Evergreen</td>
<td>LC - Large Canopy Form</td>
<td>25’ and larger spread. Minimum spacing = 30 feet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F - Flowering</td>
<td>U - Vertical / Upright Canopy Form</td>
<td>15’ to 25’ spread. Minimum spacing = 20 feet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P - Palm Species</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **See last page for Additional Notes**
- **Revised 10-2013**
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

Drought = Trees in this category will survive once established, with minimal or no supplemental watering.

Revised: 10-2013