

Tree Species Selection Guide: Large



When selecting a species to plant on private property, follow the **Right Tree, Right Place** method for the best possible results:

- Measure or estimate how much space is available horizontally above and below ground, and vertically above ground.
- Determine how much sun reaches this space and evaluate the soil conditions (i.e. is the soil dry and hard to dig, continuously wet, or something in between).
- Consider what functions you'd like from a tree as it reaches maturity, such as wildlife benefits, native species, shade, stormwater disruption, fall colour, flowering, screening, noise buffering, and reduction of airborne particulate, or other health considerations such as pollen production.
- Take into consideration preventative maintenance requirements (e.g. proximity to property lines and structures, leaf and seed litter, establishment care, watering, and potential disruption to hard surfaces or underground utilities) unique to your site.
- ISA Certified Arborists or Red Seal Landscape Horticulturists with knowledge of local conditions and common tree species are an excellent resource to plan and plant the right species in the right place.



Genus	Species	Cultivated Variety	Common Name	Class	Height	Spread	Native Species	Full Sun	Shade Tolerant	Drought Tolerant	Attributes	OPALS Rating Monoecious or Male	OPALS Rating Female
<i>Abies</i>	<i>nordmanniana</i>		Nordmann fir	Conifer	18 m	7 m		●			Broad pyramidal habit, moderately-fast growing. Dark green needles. Reasonable heat tolerance. Requires ample space.	2	
<i>Acer</i>	<i>macrophyllum</i>		Big Leaf maple	Deciduous	21 m	18 m	●	●	●		Native species. Large foliage, fast growing, yellow fall colour, racemes of light yellow flowers. Best suited for restoration and naturalizing of open spaces and wet soils.	8	
<i>Acer</i>	<i>saccharum</i>		Sugar maple	Deciduous	16 m	16 m		●			Slow to moderate growth rate, medium to dark green leaves turning yellow/orange in fall. Prefers moist, well-drained soils.	7	
<i>Alnus</i>	<i>rubra</i>		Red alder	Deciduous	18 m	9 m	●	●	●		Native species. Fast growing, pyramidal form. Good candidate for naturalizing and restoration. Brittle wood and frequent limb breakage preclude its use near homes.	9	
<i>Calocedrus</i>	<i>deccurens</i>		Incense cedar	Conifer	21 m	5 m		●		●	Narrow pyramidal form, moderate growth rate, large at maturity. Reddish brown bark. Very tolerant of drought and poor soils. Wet soils should be avoided.	7	
<i>Catalpa</i>	<i>bignonioides</i>		Southern catalpa	Deciduous	18 m	15 m		●	●		Fast growing, broadly rounded form with large rounded leaves. White flowers with yellow spots in panicles (early summer). Ideal in open, sunny areas with well-drained soil.	6	
<i>Cryptomeria</i>	<i>japonica</i>		Japanese cedar	Conifer	18 m	9 m		●			Moderate to fast growth rate conical form at maturity. Stringy reddish-brown bark, blue-green needles that may take on a bronze hue in colder winters. Good for screening. Prefers moist, well-drained soil and open sunny spaces.	10	
<i>Cupressus</i>	<i>nootkatensis</i>		Yellow cedar	Conifer	18 m	7 m	●	●			Fast growing, conical crown at maturity. Prefers moist, well-drained soils in full sun.	8	

The OPALS (Ogren Plant Allergy Scale) system is used to rate a plant's propensity to cause allergic reactions. Choosing plants with a lower OPALS rating (5 or less) may help reduce pollen-related allergies.



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<i>Fagus</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>	Asplenifolia	Fern leaved beech	Deciduous	18 m	15 m		●	●		See <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> . Fine textured, incised foliage forming a dense oval-rounded crown at maturity.	6	
<i>Fagus</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>	Pendula	Weeping beech	Deciduous	20 m	20 m		●	●		See <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> . Weeping habit.	6	
<i>Fagus</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>		European beech	Deciduous	20 m	20 m		●	●		Oval to rounded form and a slow to moderate growth rate. Smooth grey bark with copper/bronze fall foliage. Seeds are bristle covered and woody. Prefers well-drained soils. Requires ample room.	6	
<i>Fraxinus</i>	<i>americana</i>	Autumn Purple	Autumn Purple white ash	Deciduous	18 m	18 m		●		●	Fast growing broadly oval form. Fall colour is yellow/orange/red/purple. Moderately drought tolerant, prefers moist soil.	7	1
<i>Fraxinus</i>	<i>latifolia</i>		Oregon ash	Deciduous	25 m	16 m	●	●	●		Native species. Fast growing. Yellow fall colour. Best suited at wet, open spaces and for naturalizing.		
<i>Fraxinus</i>	<i>pennsylvanica</i>		Green ash	Deciduous	18 m	13 m		●	●	●	Fast growing, broadly oval crown at maturity. Fall colour is bright yellow. Adaptable to a wide range of growing conditions.	7	1
<i>Ginkgo</i>	<i>biloba</i>	Princeton Sentry	Princeton Sentry ginkgo	Deciduous	16 m	7 m		●		●	See <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> . Upright fastigiate form.	7	2
<i>Ginkgo</i>	<i>biloba</i>		Maidenhair tree	Deciduous	18 m	11 m		●		●	Slow growing, variable in form. Yellow to gold fall colour. Fleshy fruit borne on female trees have a putrid odor and should be placed away from thoroughfares. Highly adaptable to urban growing conditions.	7	2
<i>Gymnocladus</i>	<i>dioicus</i>		Kentucky coffeetree	Deciduous	16 m	12 m		●	●	●	Moderately slow-growing, develops an oval crown. Yellow fall colour. Tough, adaptable urban tree that tolerates drought and wet soils.	8	1
<i>Gymnocladus</i>	<i>dioicus</i>	Espresso	Espresso coffeetree	Deciduous	16 m	12 m		●	●	●	See <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> . Faster growing and providing better branching habit at an earlier age than other cultivars. Lush foliage.	8	1
<i>Juglans</i>	<i>nigra</i>		Black walnut	Deciduous	18 m	18 m		●			Fast-growing, forms an oval crown at maturity. Heavy cropping of edible nuts and large canopy requires ample space clear of public thoroughfares. Juglone is contained in leaves and roots and may suppress the growth of other adjacent plants. Greenish-yellow fall colour. Broadly tolerant and adaptable to urban growing conditions.	8	



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<i>Juglans</i>	<i>regia</i>		English walnut	Deciduous	18 m	18 m		●			Rounded at maturity, moderately fast-growing. Edible nut crops become abundant and requires appropriate planting locations away from public thoroughfares. Prefers moist, well-drained soils.	8	
<i>Larix</i>	<i>decidua</i>		European larch	Deciduous conifer	18 m	9 m		●			Fast-growing, pyramidal form. Light green needles turn deep green in summer, and yellow in the fall before dropping. Tolerant of wet soils, prefers full sun.	2	
<i>Liquidambar</i>	<i>styraciflua</i>		Sweetgum	Deciduous	18 m	12 m		●		●	Broadly-oval at maturity, fast growing. Fall colours range from yellow and orange to red and dark purple. Seeds are spiny balls. Adaptable to urban growing conditions. Prone to large, shallow roots and should be located appropriately.	6	
<i>Liquidambar</i>	<i>styraciflua</i>	Worplesdon	Worplesdon sweetgum	Deciduous	18 m	12 m		●		●	See <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> . Pyramidal form. Orange/red/purple fall colour.	6	
<i>Liriodendron</i>	<i>tulipifera</i>	Arnoldii	Arnold tulip tree	Deciduous	20 m	6 m					See <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> . Pyramidal form.	3	
<i>Liriodendron</i>	<i>tulipifera</i>		Tulip tree	Deciduous	16 m	12 m		●			Moderately-fast growing, forms an oval crown at maturity. Bright yellow fall colour, showy yellow flowers appear in foliage in late spring. Requires ample space to grow. Prone to aphids and dripping honeydew. A poor candidate for dry sites.	3	
<i>Metasequoia</i>	<i>glyptostroboides</i>		Dawn redwood	Deciduous conifer	20 m	7 m		●	●	●	Fast growing, single-trunked, pyramidal form. Needles emerge light green, becoming darker green in summer and rusty-orange in fall. Adaptable to most sites.		
<i>Picea</i>	<i>abies</i>		Norway spruce	Conifer	16 m	9 m		●			Moderately-fast growing, broadly pyramidal in form. Cones may reach 15cm in length. Quite adaptable to urban conditions. Requires adequate space.	3	
<i>Picea</i>	<i>orientalis</i>		Oriental spruce	Conifer	16 m	6 m		●			Moderately slow-growing, pyramidal form. Short greenish black needles. Relatively adaptable to urban sites.	3	
<i>Pseudotsuga</i>	<i>menziesii</i>		Douglas fir	Conifer	30 m	9 m	●	●			Native species. Fast-growing, pyramidal form. Prefers moist, well-drained soil. Requires ample space vertically and horizontally.	3	



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<i>Quercus</i>	<i>garryana</i>		Garry oak	Deciduous	18 m	18 m	●	●		●	Native species. Slow-growing forming an upright-oval crown at maturity. Dark green, leathery foliage turning brown in fall. Acorn crops may be heavy at maturity and should be considered when selecting a planting site. Highly adaptable to wet winter and dry summer soils. A good candidate for dry hillsides.	8	
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>robur</i>		English Oak	Deciduous	16 m	16 m		●		●	Slow-growing, broad-rounded at maturity. Adaptable to urban soils. Requires ample space.	8	
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>bicolor</i>		Swamp white oak	Deciduous	18 m	18 m		●	●	●	Moderate-growth forms a rounded crown at maturity. Yellow-bronze to russet-red fall colour. Tolerates heavy clay-based soils, excellent heat and drought tolerance. Requires ample space.	8	
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>coccinea</i>		Scarlett oak	Deciduous	18 m	15 m		●		●	Moderately-slow growing, broadly rounded at maturity with upright-spreading branches. Dark green foliage turns scarlett to red-purple in fall. High heat and drought tolerance. Requires ample space.	8	
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>dentata</i>		Japanese Emperor oak	Deciduous	18 m	9 m		●	●	●	Fast growing forming a moderately-oval crown at maturity. Large leaves. Prefers moist, well-drained soils, otherwise adaptable to urban conditions.	8	
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>macrocarpa</i>		Bur oak	Deciduous	21 m	18 m		●		●	Slow growing, broad-rounded at maturity. Large acorns. Adaptable to urban growing conditions. Ample space is required.	8	
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>phellos</i>		Willow oak	Deciduous	18 m	12 m		●		●	Moderately-fast growing, broad-rounded at maturity. Willow-like foliage. Highly adaptable to urban soils. Provide appropriate space for canopy growth.	8	
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>rubra</i>		Red oak	Deciduous	18 m	18 m		●		●	Fast-growth, rounded form. Yellow, red fall colour. Prefers well-drained soil, otherwise adaptable to most urban conditions. Requires ample space.	8	
<i>Robinia</i>	<i>pseudoacacia</i>		Black locust	Deciduous	18 m	9 m		●		●	Fast-growing, irregular-vase shaped. Fragrant white flowers in recemes in late spring. A tough, adaptable plant that fixes nitrogen growing on poor, wet, and dry soils. Prone to suckering, new growth has sharp spines.		
<i>Styphnolobium</i>	<i>japonicum</i>		Japanese pagodatree	Deciduous	18 m	12 m		●		●	Moderately-fast growing, oval form. Creamy white flowers in summer form on long panicles. Can be difficult to establish. Requires good drainage, is drought tolerant after establishment. Tolerant of urban growing conditions.		



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<i>Taxodium</i>	<i>distichum</i>		Baldcypress	Deciduous conifer	21 m	9 m		●		●	Moderately-fast growing, pyramidal becoming oval at maturity. Reddish-brown stringy bark. Sage-green summer foliage turns russet-orange in fall. Well adapted to drier urban soils. Excellent coniferous candidate for rain gardens. Root "knees" develop in event moist, wet soils.	8	
<i>Tilia</i>	<i>cordata</i>		Little leaf linden	Deciduous	16 m	10 m		●			Moderate growth-rate, forms a broadly pyramidal crown at maturity. Bright yellow fall colour. Fragrant flowers are a favourite of pollinating insects. Adaptable to urban soils including heavy clay. Susceptible to aphids and accompanying sooty mold.	6	
<i>Tilia</i>	<i>americana</i>			Deciduous	20 m	12 m		●			Moderately-fast growing, becomes rounded at maturity. Large leaves, yellow fall colour. Adaptable to urban soils. Requires ample space.	6	