

# Tree Species Selection Guide: Medium



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>balsamea</i>		Balsam fir	Conifer	14 m	7 m			●		Fragrant, glossy dark-green needles, dark-violet young cones.	2	
<i>Abies</i>	<i>fraseri</i>		Fraser fir	Conifer	12 m	6 m					Moderate growth rate, deep green needles with blueish-silver tint.	2	
<i>Abies</i>	<i>concolor</i>		White fir	Conifer	14 m	7 m		●		●	Fast-growing, light green needles that are longer than most conifers. Requires good drainage.	2	
<i>Acer</i>	<i>miyabei</i>	Rugged Ridge	Rugged Ridge maple	Deciduous	15 m	12 m		●		●	Moderately fast growing forms an oval canopy. Rough, corky bark, yellow fall colour.		
<i>Acer</i>	<i>rubrum</i>	Armstrong	Armstrong maple	Deciduous	15 m	6 m		●	●		Broadly columnar form of <i>Acer rubrum</i> . Fast-growing.	8	
<i>Acer</i>	<i>rubrum</i>		Red maple	Deciduous	12 m	12 m		●	●		Fast growing, green foliage turning yellow/orange/red in fall, adaptable, tolerant of compacted soils.	8	
<i>Acer</i>	<i>saccharum</i>	Legacy	Legacy sugar maple	Deciduous	13 m	13 m		●			See <i>Acer saccharum</i> on Large Tree Species Recommendations. Resists heat, late fall colour.	7	1
<i>Acer</i>	<i>truncatum</i>	Crimson Sunset	Pacific Sunset maple	Deciduous	11 m	11 m		●			See <i>Acer truncatum</i> on Small Tree Species Recommendations. Deep purple leaves, full-sized tree at maturity. Good heat tolerance, rusty orange/red fall colour.		
<i>Aesculus</i>	<i>indica</i>		Indian horse chestnut	Deciduous	15 m	15 m		●		●	Bronze-green new growth, orange fall colour. Panicles of flowers (white, yellow, pink). Abundant seed production. Prefers moist, well-drained soils.		
<i>Aesculus</i>	<i>X carnea</i>	Briotii	Red horse chestnut	Deciduous	12 m	10 m		●		●	Slow growing flowering tree. Rich pink to red flowers in panicles favored by hummingbirds. Prefers full sun and moist, well-drained soils. Large spiky seeds.		

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>Arbutus</i>	<i>menziesii</i>		Arbutus	Broadleaf evergreen	15 m	7 m	●	●	●	●	Moderate growth rate, variable in mature height. Dynamic smooth bark changing colours from light green to deep red. Small white flower panicles. Requires well-drained soil and good air circulation.	3	
<i>Betula</i>	<i>nigra</i>	Dura Heat	Dura Heat birch	Deciduous	12 m	9 m		●			Fast-growing, exfoliating creamy bark, yellow fall colour. Heat tolerant, wet soils tolerant.	9	
<i>Carpinus</i>	<i>betulus</i>	Fastigiata	Pyramidal hornbeam	Deciduous	12 m	9 m		●	●	●	Columnar becoming oval at maturity. Moderately slow growing. Smooth, silvery bark, dark green leaves. Very adaptable to the urban environment.		
<i>Castanea</i>	<i>mollissima</i>		Chinese chestnut	Deciduous	12 m	12 m		●		●	Fast growing large at maturity nut producing tree. Prefers well-drained soil. Plant away from human activity due to prolific chestnut production.	6	1
<i>Catalpa</i>	<i>speciosa</i>		Northern catalpa	Deciduous	15 m	12 m		●		●	Fast growing, broadly rounded form with large rounded leaves. White flowers with yellow and purple spots in panicles (early summer). Ideal in open, sunny areas. Does not tolerate permanently wet sites.	6	
<i>Celtis</i>	<i>occidentalis</i>		Common hackberry	Deciduous	12 m	12 m		●		●	Vase-shaped at maturity, moderately fast growth rate. Yellow fall colour. Highly adaptable.		
<i>Cercidiphyllum</i>	<i>japonicum</i>		Japanese katsura tree	Deciduous	15 m	12 m		●			Moderately fast growing, broadly-oval form at maturity. Foliage is soft green with a bronze tinge in spring. Fall foliage smells of burnt sugar, is yellow/orange in colour. Requires even moisture, intolerant of drought or soggy soils.	6	1
<i>Cladrastis</i>	<i>kentukea</i>		American yellowwood	Deciduous	13 m	13 m		●		●	Moderate growth rate. Smooth grey bark, bright yellowish-green foliage at emergence, bright yellow fall colour. Panicles of pea-shaped white flowers. Requires well-drained soils and prefers full sun.	5	
<i>Cladrastis</i>	<i>kentukea</i>	Perkins Pink	Perkins Pink American yellowwood	Deciduous	13 m	13 m		●		●	See <i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> . Pink flowers.	5	
<i>Cornus</i>	<i>nuttallii</i>		Pacific dogwood	Deciduous	12 m	6 m	●	●			Native species. Moderately fast-growing developing an upright-oval form at maturity. Yellow/orange/red fall colour, large white oval bracts surround flowers. Intolerant of irrigation or soggy soils. Prone to anthracnose foliar blight.		
<i>Corylus</i>	<i>colurna</i>		Turkish filbert	Deciduous	12 m	12 m		●		●	Moderate growth rate, conical form at maturity. Showy exfoliating bark, yellow fall colour. Produces edible nuts.	7	



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<i>Fagus</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>	Riversii	Riversii beech	Deciduous	15 m	9 m		●	●		See <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> on Large Tree Species Recommendations. Purple-leaved emerging leaves, slower-growing.		
<i>Fraxinus</i>	<i>americana</i>	Autumn Applause	Autumn Applause ash	Deciduous	12 m	7 m		●		●	Slower growing form of <i>Fraxinus americana</i> becoming upright-oval form. Fall colour reddish on outside and yellowish in interior. Moderately drought tolerant, prefers moist soil.	7	1
<i>Gleditsia</i>	<i>triacanthos</i>		Honey locust	Deciduous	15 m	12 m		●	●	●	Fast growing, broadly oval crown. Bright and deep green foliage in summer, bright yellow fall colour. Very adaptable to a range of urban growing conditions.	7	1
<i>Gleditsia</i>	<i>triacanthos</i>	Shademaster	Shademaster locust	Deciduous	15 m	12 m		●	●	●	See <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> . Fast growing, vase-shaped form at maturity.	7	1
<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>accuminata</i>	Yellow Bird	Yellow Bird magnolia	Deciduous	12 m	8 m		●			Fast growing forming a broad-rounded crown at maturity. Deep yellow flowers. Prefers moist, well-drained soils.	6	
<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>kobus</i>		Kobus magnolia	Deciduous	12 m	12 m		●	●		Conical, moderately-fast growing. Yellow fall colour. Fragrant white flowers on mature trees in early spring. Prefers moist, well-drained soil.	6	
<i>Malus</i>	<i>fusca</i>		Pacific crabapple	Deciduous	12 m	12 m	●	●	●		Native species. Slow growing. White to pink fragrant flowers in clusters lead to small edible (but tart) yellow apples. Prefers wetter sites.	3	
<i>Nyssa</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>		Tupelo	Deciduous	13 m	8 m		●	●	●	Medium-growth rate, becomes rounded at maturity. Dark green lustrous foliage turns yellow/orange/red in fall. Prefers moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates soggy soils.	8	1
<i>Ostrya</i>	<i>virginiana</i>		Ironwood	Deciduous	12 m	9 m		●	●	●	Medium-growth rate, becomes rounded at maturity. Shaggy bark, yellow fall colour. Drought tolerant, and tolerant of wet sites.		
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>densiflora</i>		Japanese red pine	Conifer	15 m	12 m		●			Moderately slow-growing, broadly rounded with irregular branching at maturity. Prefers moist, well-drained soil and full sun.	4	
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>thunbergii</i>		Japanese black pine	Conifer	12 m	12 m		●			Moderately fast-growing, irregular branching and broadly rounded at maturity. Salt resistant, prefers moist, well-drained soil.	4	
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>contorta</i>	Contorta	Shore pine	Conifer	12 m	12 m	●	●			Native species. Moderately slow-growing, irregular branching. Tolerant of a variety of soils, including infertile ones.	8	
<i>Populus</i>	<i>tremuloides</i>		Quaking aspen	Deciduous	12 m	5 m	●	●	●		Native species. Moderate growth rate, narrow-oval form. Yellow fall foliage. Prefers cooler site with moist, well-drained soils. Prone to produce suckering.		
<i>Quercus</i>	<i>frainetto</i>		Hungarian oak	Deciduous	15 m	10 m		●		●	Moderate growth rate, broadly-round at maturity. Adaptable to all soil types, tolerates dry summer soils.	8	



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<i>Quercus</i>	<i>robur</i>	Fastigiata	Pyramidal English oak	Deciduous	13 m	4 m		●		●	See <i>Quercus robur</i> on Large Tree Species Recommendations. Pyramidal form.	8	
<i>Robinia</i>	<i>pseudoacacia</i>	Frisia	Golden Black Locust	Deciduous	15 m	7 m		●		●	See <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> on Large Tree Species Recommendations. Bright yellow foliage, upright form.		
<i>Salix</i>	<i>lasiandra</i>		Pacific willow	Deciduous	11 m	18 m	●	●		●	Native species. Fast growing. Suitable in all soils. Prone to suckering and will form a thicket without periodic pruning. Good candidate for wet sites and naturalizing.	10	1
<i>Ulmus</i>	<i>americana</i>	Brandon	Brandon elm	Deciduous	12 m	7 m		●	●	●	Fast-growing, vase-shaped in maturity. Yellow fall colour. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Adaptable to wet and dry sites, tolerant of urban conditions.	5	
<i>Ulmus</i>	<i>parvifolia</i>		Lacebark elm	Deciduous	11 m	11 m		●		●	Moderate-growth forms an oval crown. Showy bark at maturity. Yellow to burgundy fall foliage. Highly adaptable to urban growing conditions.	9	
<i>Zelkova</i>	<i>serrata</i>	Green Vase	Green Vase zelkova	Deciduous	13 m	7 m		●			See <i>Zelkova serrata</i> . Upright narrow form.	8	
<i>Zelkova</i>	<i>serrata</i>		Japanese zelkova	Deciduous	15 m	15 m		●			Moderate growth rate, vase-form at maturity. Mature bark exfoliates in patches revealing greens, oranges, tans. Yellow to orange fall foliage colours. Adaptable to urban soils but prefers adequate moisture.	8	