

# Tree Species Selection Guide: Small



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>Acer</i>	<i>dauricum</i>		David's maple	Deciduous	10 m	6 m			●		Soft yellow/orange fall colour, moderate growth rate, smooth light green striped bark. Prefers moist, well-drained soil.	6	
<i>Acer</i>	<i>truncatum</i>		Shantung maple	Deciduous	6 m	7 m		●	●	●	Moderate growth rate, glossy deep green foliage. Bright red/yellow/orange fall colour. Adaptable urban tree.		
<i>Acer</i>	<i>griseum</i>		Paperbark maple	Deciduous	7 m	6 m		●	●	●	Moderately slow-growing. Highly ornamental exfoliating thin bark. Bright orange-red fall colour. Tolerates heat and drought, suitable for narrow planting sites.		
<i>Chitalpa</i>	<i>tashkentensis</i>		Chitalpa	Deciduous	6 m	6 m		●	●	●	Fast growing, round at maturity form. Smooth grey bark, long ovate leaves. Flowers are racemes of pink/lavender/white and persist into summer.	1	
<i>Cornus</i>	<i>kousa</i>	Satomi	Satomi dogwood	Deciduous	5 m	4 m		●	●		Vase-shaped at maturity, and moderately slow-growing. Fall colour is yellow-orange-red. Foliage demonstrates better resistance to anthracnose than other dogwoods. Pink flower bracts are long lasting. Attractive bark and a unique red fruit.		
<i>Cornus</i>	<i>X Venus</i>	Venus	Venus dogwood	Deciduous	8 m	6 m		●			Hybrid of <i>Cornus kousa</i> , <i>Cornus florida</i> , and <i>Cornus nuttallii</i> . Good resistance to anthracnose. Large white flower bracts.		
<i>Crataegus</i>	<i>douglasii</i>		Black hawthorn	Deciduous	8 m	8 m	●	●		●	Native species. White, saucer-shaped flowers in clusters leading to small black fruit. A favourite for small birds for forage and as refuge.	3	
<i>Davidia</i>	<i>involucrata</i>		Hankerchief tree	Deciduous	8 m	8 m		●	●		Rounded at maturity with a slow to moderate growth rate. Large rounded leaves persist late in fall. White flower bracts are its most notable feature. Seeds are abundant in fall turning green to purple-tinged. Requires moist, well-drained soil and is adaptable to full sun or partial shade.	5	

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>Frangula</i>	<i>purshiana</i>		Cascara	Deciduous	8 m	7 m	●	●	●		Native species. Moderately fast growing, upright spreading form. Smooth grey bark when young. Yellow/orange fall colour. Adaptable to most growing conditions.	9	1
<i>Koelreuteria</i>	<i>paniculata</i>		Goldenraintree	Deciduous	10 m	10 m		●	●	●	Moderate growth rate forms a broadly rounded crown at maturity. New foliage growth emerges reddish, turning bright green. Yellow/orange fall colour. Bright yellow flowers in summer. Adaptable to heat and drought, prefers well-drained soils.	4	
<i>Mackia</i>	<i>amurensis</i>		Amur mackia	Deciduous	8 m	6 m		●		●	Slow-growing, vase-shaped at maturity. Fragrant white flowers in summer. Adaptable to poor soils and drought, intolerant of soggy soils.	3	
<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>x Galaxy</i>		Galaxy magnolia	Deciduous	9 m	5 m		●	●		Moderately-fast growing, forms a round crown at maturity. Fragrant purple flowers. Prefers moist, well-drained soil.		
<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>grandiflora</i>	Victoria	Victoria magnolia	Broadleaf evergreen	9 m	9 m		●		●	Fast-growing, rounded form. Thick, leathery deep evergreen foliage. Large, fragrant white flowers for starting in late spring. Heat and drought tolerant once established. Prone to branch breakage in heavy, wet snowfalls.	4	
<i>Oxydendrum</i>	<i>arboreum</i>		Sourwood	Deciduous	8 m	6 m		●	●		Erratically pyramidal to upright oval, slow-growing. Red fall colour. Panicles or white flowers cover the tree through summer. Prefers moist, well-drained soils.		
<i>Parrotia</i>	<i>persica</i>		Persian ironwood	Deciduous	9 m	7 m		●	●	●	Moderate growth rate, low branched and often multi-stemmed. Smooth, exfoliating bark. Fall colour brings a mix of yellow, orange, red and purple. Adaptable to a broad range of urban growing conditions.	4	
<i>Parrotia</i>	<i>persica</i>	Ruby Vase	Ruby Vase persian Ironwood	Deciduous	9 m	7 m		●	●	●	See <i>Parrotia persica</i> . Vase-shaped form at maturity.	4	
<i>Phellodendron</i>	<i>amurense</i>		Amur cork tree	Deciduous	10 m	10 m		●			Medium-fast growing, broadly-vase shaped at maturity. Yellow fall colour. Female trees produce drupes of black fruits that ripen in fall and create considerable litter. Prefers moist, well-drained soil.		
<i>Pistacia</i>	<i>chinensis</i>		Chinese pistache	Deciduous	9 m	9 m		●		●	Medium growth rate with a rounded crown. Fall foliage turns yellow, orange, red. Heat tolerant, withstands drought, prefers well-drained soil.	8	1
<i>Prunus</i>	<i>sargentii</i>		Sargent's cherry	Deciduous	10 m	9 m		●			Moderately fast-growing, broadly vase-shaped at maturity. New growth emerges with a reddish tint. Bright orange, red, reddish purple fall colour. Early spring flowers are white to bright pink. Adaptable to urban conditions, prefers well-drained soils.	6	



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<i>Quercus</i>	<i>ilex</i>		Holly oak	Broadleaf evergreen	10 m	10 m		●	●	●	Moderately-slow growing, rounded at maturity. Leathery deep green with silvery-white underside evergreen foliage. Adaptable to dry and wet soils. Susceptible to winter injury when sited without protection from buildings or adjacent trees.	9	
<i>Sorbus</i>	<i>x hybridia</i>		Oakleaf mountain ash	Deciduous	10 m	8 m		●			Moderate growth rate, broadly-oval at maturity. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Fruit drop requires placement away from public thoroughfares.		
<i>Stewartia</i>	<i>pseudocamilia</i>		Japanese stewartia	Deciduous	8 m	6 m		●	●		Slow growing, pyramidal becoming moderately broad form at maturity. Showy bark with age has hues of gray, orange, brown, and red-brown. Fall foliage colours of yellow, red, purple in late fall. White flowers in early summer. Prefers partial shade and moist, well-drained soils with adequate organic matter.	3	
<i>Styrax</i>	<i>obassia</i>		Fragrant snowbell	Deciduous	8 m	8 m		●	●		Fast-growing, rounded form. Yellow fall colour. White, fragrant bell-shaped flowers form with emerging foliage in spring. Prefers moist, well-drained soils with adequate organic matter.		
<i>Taxus</i>	<i>brevifolia</i>		Pacific yew	Deciduous	7 m	5 m	●		●		Native species. Slow-growth, conical becoming open and irregular with age. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Good candidate for naturalizing at shaded sites.	10	1