



# Underutilized Trees for the Urban Landscape

The trees listed in this document tolerate the challenging urban environment, withstand conditions brought on by climate change, and are likely to survive the cold winters of Minnesota. The list represents diverse, underutilized selections. It is important to expand the range of trees planted to better prepare for invasive insect pests, diseases, and severe weather events.

## Guide to the document, abbreviations, and symbols

Recommended trees are listed on the back side of this document. Size, height (feet), width (feet), hardiness zone, native status, attributes, and tolerances are listed or indicated by an abbreviation or a symbol.

### Size

The mature tree canopy should be considered when selecting a tree.

- Small tree (S): up to 25 feet tall
- Medium tree (M): 25 to 40 feet tall
- Large tree (L): over 40 feet tall

### Hardiness

Hardiness affects the ability of a tree to succeed in location. Determine your hardiness zone by using the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (<https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>).

### Native status

Native trees are those that have grown naturally in either Minnesota or in North America for many years. However, non-native trees (N) may perform just as well or may be even more tolerant of the urban landscape.

- Native to Minnesota (MN)
- Native to North America (NA)

### Attributes

Trees add interest and beauty. They also perform ecosystem services by providing:

-  Attractive flowers
-  Showy fruit
-  Edible fruit
-  Fall color
-  Unique bark or interesting branch architecture
-  Appealing to wildlife

### Tolerances

Some trees are adapted to sandy soil and occasional drought. Other trees are acclimated to clay soil and intermittent flooding. Some trees can withstand more acidic (low pH) or alkaline (high pH) soil.

Tolerant of:

-  Dry conditions, occasional drought
-  Wet conditions, intermittent flooding
-  Soil with low pH
-  Soil with high pH
-  Part shade to shade
-  Road salt

Tree	Scientific Name	Size	Height	Width	Zone	Native	Attributes	Tolerances
American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	S, M	20-30	20-30	3-9	MN		
American persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	M, L	35-60	20-35	4-9	NA		
American smoketree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	S, M	20-30	10-20	4-8	NA		
Bald cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	L	50-70	20-30	4-11	NA		
Bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	L	50-70	40-50	4-9	MN		
Black tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	M, L	30-50	20-30	4-9	NA		
Chinese fringe tree*	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	S	15-25	15-25	5-8	N		
Chinkapin oak	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	L	40-50	50-60	5-7	MN		
Cucumber magnolia	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	L	50-80	50-80	4-8	NA		
European hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	M, L	40-60	30-40	4-8	N		
European horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	L	50-75	40-65	3-7	N		
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	L	70-75	25-30	3-6	N		
EXCLAMATION!™ London planetree	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> 'Morton Circle'	L	55-65	40-50	4-8	N		
Fragrant snowbell*	<i>Styrax obassia</i>	S, M	20-30	15-25	5-8	N		
Fringe tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	S	12-20	12-20	4-9	NA		
Golden Glory cornelian cherry dogwood	<i>Cornus mas</i> 'Golden Glory'	S	15-20	15-20	4-8	N		
Goldenraintree*	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	M	30-40	30-40	5-8	N		
Japanese white pine	<i>Pinus parviflora</i>	M, L	25-50	25-50	4-7	N		
Katsuratree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	L	40-60	20-30	4-8	N		
Kousa dogwood*	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	S, M	20-30	20-30	5-8	N		
Lacebark pine*	<i>Pinus bungeana</i>	M, L	30-50	20-35	4-7	N		
Manchurian maple	<i>Acer manschuricum</i>	S	20-30	15-25	4-7	N		
Northern catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	L	40-60	20-40	4-8	NA		
Northern pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	L	70-100	40-75	4-9	NA		
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	S	15-20	15-20	5-8	NA		
Sargent cherry	<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	S, M	20-30	20-30	4-7	N		
Scholar tree	<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>	L	50-75	50-75	4-7	N		
Serbian spruce	<i>Picea omorika</i>	L	50-60	20-25	4-7	N		
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	L	60-80	30-50	4-9	MN		
Shellbark hickory	<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	L	60-80	40-60	4-9	NA		
Shingle oak	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	L	50-60	50-60	4-8	NA		
Silver linden	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	L	50-70	30-50	4-7	N		
Sweet birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>	L	40-50	35-40	3-7	NA		
Sweet gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	L	60-75	40-50	5-9	NA		
Swiss stone pine	<i>Pinus cembra</i>	M, L	30-40	15-25	3-7	N		
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	L	75-100	50-70	5-9	NA		
Three-flowered maple	<i>Acer triflorum</i>	S, M	20-30	20-30	4-7	N		
Tulip tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	L	70-90	30-50	4-9	NA		
Turkish hazelnut	<i>Corylus colurna</i>	L	40-50	15-35	4-7	N		
Umbrella magnolia	<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	S, M	15-30	15-30	4-8	NA		
Vernal witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	S	6-10	10-15	4-8	NA		
White fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>	M, L	30-50	15-30	3-7	NA		
Winter King green hawthorn	<i>Crataegus viridis</i> 'Winter King'	S, M	20-35	20-35	4-7	NA		
Yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	L	60-75	60-75	3-7	MN		
Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	M, L	30-50	40-55	4-8	NA		

\*Tree not extensively growing in Minnesota currently, but may grow well here with the changing climate.