



City of Mill Creek Approved Street Tree List

Effective July 25, 2013

In accordance with Mill Creek Municipal Code Section 17.34.040.H.1.k Landscaping Design, “street trees shall be a species listed on the latest edition of the City of Mill Creek “Approved Street Tree List,” which shall be maintained by and is available from the Department of Community Development. If a tree species, which is not listed on the City’s Approved Street Tree list, is desired, a request may be submitted to the Mill Creek Design Review Board for approval; however, the tree species must at a minimum be: urban tolerant, not likely to cause infrastructure damage, and able to be pruned to a height that would avoid conflicts with pedestrians and vehicle traffic.”

Tom Rogers, AICP
Director of Community Development

Distributed by:
City of Mill Creek Community Development
15728 Mill Creek, WA 98012
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Approved Street Tree List

Street trees provide many benefits including improved water quality and air quality, as well as psychological and aesthetic benefits. However, trees have been known to cause problems, usually when the wrong species is planted in the wrong place. To assist businesses and developers in choosing appropriate trees for urban planting sites, staff has created an Approved Street Tree List, which is referenced in the Code. The List was compiled from numerous research sources and was vetted and approved by the City's Public Works Department, two plant wholesalers and Certified Arborist and Design Review Board Member, Jessica Bloom.

Street tree spacing shall be based on the species type and shall adhere to the following guidelines:

- In a planting strip street trees should not be planted:
 - Within thirty feet (30') of the intersection,
 - Within fifteen feet (15') from power poles and street lights, or
 - Within five feet (5') from underground utility boxes/meters or driveways.
- When planting under overhead power lines choose trees that will not exceed twenty-five feet (25') at mature height.
- Minimum size at time of planting shall be 1.5 inch to 3 inch caliper.

In commercial areas consider tree shape and whether or not proposed trees will obscure signage or desired views to the property.

Street tree branches that extend over the sidewalk and/or roadway should be kept trimmed to a height of eight feet (8') above the sidewalk and fourteen feet (14') above a roadway.

It is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain the street tree(s) in perpetuity, including watering during the drier seasons, mulching and pruning. Proper planting and pruning techniques will increase the aesthetic appearance and value of the street trees. **Using an ISA Certified Arborist to prune street trees is strongly encouraged.** For more information refer to the ISA website: <http://www.treesaregood.org/treecare/treecareinfo.aspx>.

Do not plant a tree before determining where underground utilities are located. To request the location of underground utilities, please call 1-800-424-5555 or 811 or visit: <http://www.callbeforeyoudig.org/iticletpickstates.html>.

When planting in a planting strip (five feet or less) a vertical barrier treatment to reduce root growth under pavement should be installed.

Omitted Tree Species

Many tree species were specifically not included in the Approved Street Tree List for various reasons such as: destructive root system, messy fruit, low survival rates, poor branching pattern, etc. Although the City tried to include a wide variety of tree species, there are undoubtedly appropriate trees that were unintentionally omitted. If there is a tree species not included on the Approved Street Tree List that you feel should be included, please contact Planning Specialist Sherrie Ringstad at (425) 921-5717.

Discouraged Trees

The following tree species are discouraged:

- *Acer negundo*, *Acre saccharinum*, *Acer macrophyllum* (boxelder, silver maple, and big leaf maple) – Break badly in storms.
- *Ailanthus altissima* (tree of heaven) – Roots are invasive, brittle wood, suckers freely.
- *Alnus rubra* (red alder) – Brittle wood. Favorite of tent caterpillars.
- *Betula alba* (white birch) – Regular aphid infestations – probably will not kill the tree, but sticky “honeydew” drips and makes a mess. Do not plant where people park their cars. While many trees get aphids, birch is always more heavily attacked.
- *Juglans nigra*, *J. regia* (black walnut, English walnut) – Messy fruit and *J. nigra* roots are destructive.
- *Liquidambar styraciflua* (sweetgum) – Roots are particularly destructive to sidewalks. *They need an especially wide planting strip.*
- *Populus trichocarpa* (black cottonwood) Wood very brittle. Female trees release a substantial amount of "cotton", which some consider a nuisance.
- *Populus* spp. (Poplars) – Tops are brittle and break up easily in storms.
- *Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust) – Thorny, brittle.
- *Salix* spp. (willows) - Roots are particularly hard on sewers.

Acknowledgements

The following people are acknowledged for their contributions in creating the Approved Street Tree List:

City of Mill Creek Design Review Board
Jessica Bloom, CPH & Certified Arborist, NW Bloom
Bruce Bosley, Maintenance Worker, City of Mill Creek
Ella Smith, Wetlands & Woodlands Wholesale Nursery, Inc.
Brian Wegner, Vibrant Plants, Inc.
Sherrie Ringstad, Planning Specialist; City of Mill Creek

Common Name	Scientific Name	Mature Height	Mature Spread	Suitable for Planter Strip 4' or <	Root Damage Potential	Comments
Amur maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	20'	15'	Yes	Low	Use single-trunk form, requires little water beyond early establishment, adaptable and hardy.
Flame Amur Maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i> 'Flame'	20'	15'	Yes	Low	Fast growing cultivar, nice fall color. Same attributes as Amur maple.
Trident Maple	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	25'	20'		Low	Will tolerate sandy and clay soils; drought tolerant once established; minimal pruning required.
Paperbark Maple	<i>Acer griseum</i>	18'	15'		Low	Will tolerate a wide range of soils including compacted urban sites, sand and clay. Avoid locations where water puddles. Very little pruning required.
Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Varies	Varies		Low	Use single-trunk form. Slow growth rate; canopy size small; good street tree. Several cultivars available.
Bowhall Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Bowhall'	35'	15'	Yes	Low	Upright form; medium-fast growth rate, very tolerant of urban conditions.
'Brandywine' Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Brandywine'	35'	25'		Low/ Medium	'Brandywine' has a brilliant red-purple autumn color. It produces only male flowers; thus, no fruit or nuisance seedlings.
Red Sunset Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> Red Sunset [®]	40'	30'			Very tolerant of soils, has shown high tolerance to flooding. Not recommended for narrow planter strip.
Pacific Sunset Maple	<i>Acer truncatum x platanoides</i> 'Warrnered'	30'	25'			Upright spreading, rounded crown, glossy summer foliage.
Princess Diana Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i> 'Princess Diana'	25'	15'	Yes	Low	Moderate growth rate; disease resistant; adaptable.
Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i> 'Autumn Brilliance'	25'	15'	Yes	Low	Tolerates range of soil types; resistant to leaf spot.
Pyramidal European Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	40'	15'	Yes		Well-shaped; Great Plant Pick; tolerates a wide range of soil types and urban conditions including pollution, heat, drought, and soil compaction.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Mature Height	Mature Spread	Suitable for Planter Strip 4' or <	Root Damage Potential	Comments
Pyramidal European Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Franz Fontaine'	30'	15'	Yes		Upright growth with a dense crown. Ideal selection for narrow planting strips.
Eastern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	30'	20'	Yes	Low	Requires little water beyond early establishment; tolerates any soil but wet; short trunk with spreading branches – would need to be limbed up.
Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> v. <i>inermis</i>	30'	25'			Grows well in tough sites such as poor soils, urban conditions, or temperature extremes.
Leprechaun Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Johnson'	20'	15'			Resistant to drought; tolerant of urban conditions; does not produce fruit.
Goldenrain tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	30'	25'			Drought- and smog-tolerant; moderate growth rate; adaptable to a wide range of urban conditions including poor soil, heat, drought, pollution, and compacted soil. Needs regular water when young. Great Plant Pick.
Amur Maackia	<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	30'	20'	Yes	Low	Slow growing; great urban tree.
Vanessa Persian Ironwood	<i>Parrotia persica</i> 'Vanessa'	30'	20'			Use single-trunk form. Oval crown, beautiful exfoliating bark and excellent fall color. Hardy and pest resistant, but requires good drainage.
Chanticleer Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Chanticleer'	40'	15'			Adapts well to urban sites including various soil types, pollution, drought, heat and compacted soil.
Red Cascade Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus Americana</i> 'Dwarfcrowm'	20'	10'			Nice winter form; no insect or disease problems; great street tree.
Tall Stewartia	<i>Stewartia monadelphica</i>	30'	20'			Cinnamon colored bark. Avoid hot, dry sites. Great Plant Pick.
Japanese Stewartia	<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	25'	15'			Patchwork bark; white flowers in spring; best in irrigated site. Great Plant Pick.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Mature Height	Mature Spread	Suitable for Planter Strip 4' or <	Root Damage Potential	Comments
Japanese Snowbell	<i>Styrax japonicus</i>	25'	15'	Yes	Low	Reliable and easy to grow; rounded crown with white spring flowers; slow to moderate growth rate; needs good well-drained soil with plenty of water. Great Plant Pick.
Ivory Silk Japanese tree lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i> 'Ivory Silk'	30'	15'	Yes	Low	Trouble-free plant; deep green leaves, showy white flowers; excellent specimen or street tree; moderate growth rate; tolerant of urban conditions; relatively pest free.

Amur Maple

Acer ginnala

Mature Height:
20 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 3 to 7

Growth Rate:
Moderate



Prefers sun to part shade, adaptable and very hardy. Relatively free of disease and pest problems. Dark, glossy green summer leaves change to shades of yellow, orange, and red in fall. One of the hardiest maples available. It will tolerate moderate drought and poor soil fertility but it requires well-drained soil. Can be multi-stemmed, however, single-trunk form is required when used as a street tree. Fruit (samaras) hang on late into fall. Rated as low for root damage potential. Good choice for a narrower planting strip.

Flame Amur Maple

Acer ginnala 'Flame'

Mature Height:
20 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 3 to 7

Growth Rate:
Moderate–Fast



Fast growing cultivar of the Amur maple, possessing the same attributes as the Amur maple with especially nice fall color. Prefers sun to part shade, adaptable and very hardy. Relatively free of disease and pest problems. Dark, glossy green summer leaves change to shades of yellow, orange, and red in fall. One of the hardiest maples available. It will tolerate moderate drought and poor soil fertility but it requires well-drained soil. Can be multi-stemmed, however, single-trunk form is required when used as a street tree. Fruit (samaras) hang on late into fall. Rated as low for root damage potential.

Trident Maple

Acer buergerianum

Mature Height:
25 Feet

Mature Spread:
20 Feet

Zones: 5 to 9

Growth Rate:
Slow



Adaptable to urban environments. Disease and pest resistant. Prefers Sun and well-drained acid soil, but will tolerate sandy and clay soils. Drought resistant once established. Oval to rounded outline. Bark attractive patchwork of gray, brown and orange. Leaves lustrous dark green; fall color yellow, orange and red. Minimal pruning required. Root damage potential rated as low.

Paperbark Maple

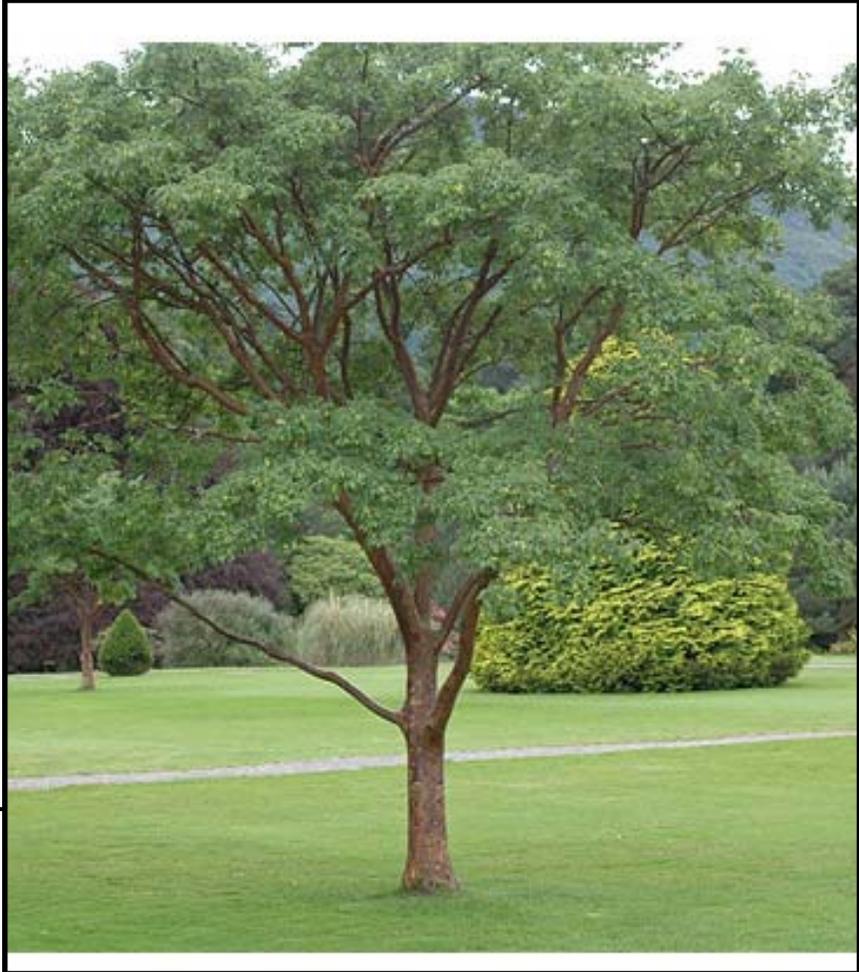
Acer griseum

Mature Height:
18 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 5 to 8

Growth Rate:
Moderate



Will tolerate a wide range of soils including compacted urban sites, sand and clay. Avoid locations where water puddles and does not drain away. Very little pruning required. Chestnut-brown peeling bark. The summer dark green leaves change to shades of pumpkin orange and brick red in the fall. Root damage potential rated as low.

Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum

Mature Height:
15–25 Feet

Mature Spread:
10–25 Feet

Zones: 5 to 8

Growth Rate:
Slow



Several cultivars available. Can be multi-stemmed, however, single-trunk form is required when used as a street tree. Canopy size small making it a good street tree. Root damage potential rated as low.

Bowhall Red Maple

Acer rubrum 'Bowhall'

Mature Height:
35 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Medium

Cultivar 'Bowhall' is considered narrower in width than other red maple cultivars, such as 'Red Sunset' or 'October Glory', thus making it suitable to smaller planting areas. Prefers sun. Very tolerant of soil types. Tolerant of soil flooding, as well as droughty conditions. Root damage potential rated as low.



‘Brandywine’ Red Maple

Acer rubrum ‘Brandywine’

Mature Height:
35 Feet

Mature Spread:
25 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Medium



Brandywine has a brilliant red-purple fall color. Unlike other red maples, it produces only male flowers; thus, no fruit or nuisance seedlings. This is a tall, deciduous tree with an oval canopy and stark gray bark that looks attractive in the winter. Adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions and grows best in locations with full to part sun and makes a great shade tree or street tree for urban settings. While there isn't a root damage potential rating available for this particular cultivar, it is a cross of the October Glory, which is rated as low root damage potential. Since the actual root damage potential isn't known, it will be especially important to utilize proper planting techniques to avoid future conflicts with infrastructure.

Red Sunset Red Maple

Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset'

Mature Height:
40 Feet

Mature Spread:
30 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Fast

Prefers sun, very tolerant of soils, has shown high tolerance to flooding. Summer leaves are dark, glossy green, and fall foliage is brilliant orange-red to red. Colors earlier and is more cold hardy than October Glory[®]. Not recommended for a small planting strip.



Pacific Sunset Maple

Acer truncatum x platanoides 'Warrenred'

Mature Height:
20 Feet

Mature Spread:
18 Feet

Zones: 4 to 9

Growth Rate:
Fast



Excellent medium size tree that is very tolerant of urban conditions including compacted urban sites, sand and clay. Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and would make a good street tree. It is also relatively pest free. Prefers full sun. Avoid location where water puddles and does not drain away. Very little pruning is needed. Drought tolerant when established.

Princess Diana Serviceberry

Amelanchier x grandiflora

'Princess Diana'

Mature Height:
25 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Slow



Vigorous, upright, dense growth. Glossy bright green leaves turn bright orange-red in fall. Sun or part shade, best in medium-moist, well-drained soil, but tolerates a range of soil types. Has some resistance to leaf spot. Can be multi-stemmed, however, single-trunk form is required when used as a street tree. Root damage potential rated as low.

Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry

Amelanchier x grandiflora

'Autumn Brilliance'

Mature Height:
25 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Slow

Disease resistant and adaptable. Red fall color. Prefers moist, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. It has excellent resistance to the leaf spot fungus. Can be multi-stemmed, however, single-trunk form is required when used as a street tree. Root damage potential rated as low.



Pyramidal European Hornbeam

Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'

Mature Height:
40 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Medium

Well-shaped; Great Plant Pick; tolerates a wide range of soil types and urban conditions including pollution, heat, drought, and soil compaction. Suitable for a narrow planting strip. Best in full sun, tolerates light shade. No serious pests or diseases



Pyramidal European Hornbeam

Carpinus betulus 'Franz Fontaine'

Mature Height:
30 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Slow

Upright growth with a dense crown. Ideal selection for narrow planting strips. Tolerates a wide range of soil types and urban conditions including pollution, heat, drought, and soil compaction.



Eastern redbud

Cercis canadensis

Mature Height:
30 Feet

Mature Spread:
20 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Fast



Requires little water beyond early establishment, tolerates any soil but wet, short trunk with spreading branches - would need to be limbed up. Root damage potential rated as low. Prefers sun to part shade.

Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn

Crataegus crus-galli v. inermis

Mature Height:
20 Feet

Mature Spread:
20 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Fast



Grows well in tough sites such as poor soils, urban conditions, or temperature extremes. Prefers sun. Not too fussy about soil type if well drained. Drought resistant. It is resistant to Cedar Rust and has no serious pest problems.

Leprechaun Ash

Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Johnson'

Mature Height:
20 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 3

Growth Rate:
Moderate

A true genetic dwarf, often sold grafted to a standard trunk at a height of six feet from which it develops into a dense, compact, rounded tree. Leaves are half the size or less of standard cultivars. Does not produce fruit (seeds).

Prefers sun. Resistant to drought, tolerant of urban conditions.



Goldenrain Tree

Koelreuteria paniculata

Mature Height:
30 Feet

Mature Spread:
25 Feet

Zones: 5

Growth Rate:
Moderate



Drought- and smog-tolerant, mid-summer blooming, slow growing, Great Plant Pick. Adaptable to a wide range of urban conditions including poor soil, heat, and compacted soil. Needs regular water when young. Prune when young for improved shape, fruit and flowers. Little pruning required when mature. No insect or disease problems are common to this tree. Best in full sun with well-drained soil but it will tolerate sand or clay.

Amur Maackia

Maackia amurensis

Mature Height:
30 Feet

Mature Spread:
20 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Slow



Slow growing, great urban tree. Root damage potential rated as low. Prefers sun to part shade. A very hardy and adaptable tree. Amur Maackia may be well-suited to use as a street or container tree (or in other confined soil spaces in urban areas), where the peeling, orange/brown, shiny bark is especially noticeable. Suitable for a narrow planting strip.

Vanessa Persian Ironwood

Parrotia persica 'Vanessa'

Mature Height:
15 Feet

Mature Spread:
10 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Moderate

Vanessa' is a selection of Persian ironwood that develops a more upright, columnar habit than the species. Prefers full sun to part shade. Will grow best in well-drained soil, but is tolerant of moist sites, sand and clay. Once established it is drought tolerant. Minimal pruning required. Hardy and pest resistant. Can be multi-stemmed, however, single-trunk form is required when used as a street tree.



Chanticleer Pear

Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'

Mature Height:
40 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 4

Growth Rate:
Moderate to Fast

Narrow tree with better branch angles and form than the species. Adapts well to urban sites including various soil types, pollution, drought, heat and compacted soil. Resistant to fireblight.



Red Cascade Mountain Ash

Sorbus Americana 'Dwarfcrown'

Mature Height:
20 Feet

Mature Spread:
10 Feet

Zones: 3

Growth Rate:
Slow

Nice winter form, red berries in clusters. No insect or disease problems. Great street tree. A very nicely shaped, compact tree which is excellent for small spaces. Prefers full sun and well drained soil.



Tall Stewartia

Stewartia monadelphica

Mature Height:
30 Feet

Mature Spread:
20 Feet

Zones: 6

Growth Rate:
Slow

Extraordinary cinnamon colored bark. Avoid hot, dry sites. Great plant pick. Best in partial shade, but will take full sun. No insect or disease problems.



Japanese Stewartia

Stewartia pseudocamellia

Mature Height:
25 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 5 to 7

Growth Rate:
Slow

Patchwork bark, white flowers in spring, Great plant pick. Best in irrigated site. Can be multi-stemmed, however, single-trunk form is required when used as a street tree.



Japanese Snowbell

Styrax japonicus

Mature Height:
25 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 5 to 8

Growth Rate:
Medium

Reliable and easy to grow. Great Plant Pick. Small graceful tree, rounded crown, white spring flowers. Needs good well-drained soil with plenty of water. Root damage potential rated as low. Suitable for narrow planting strip. Prefers sun to part shade.



Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac

Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'

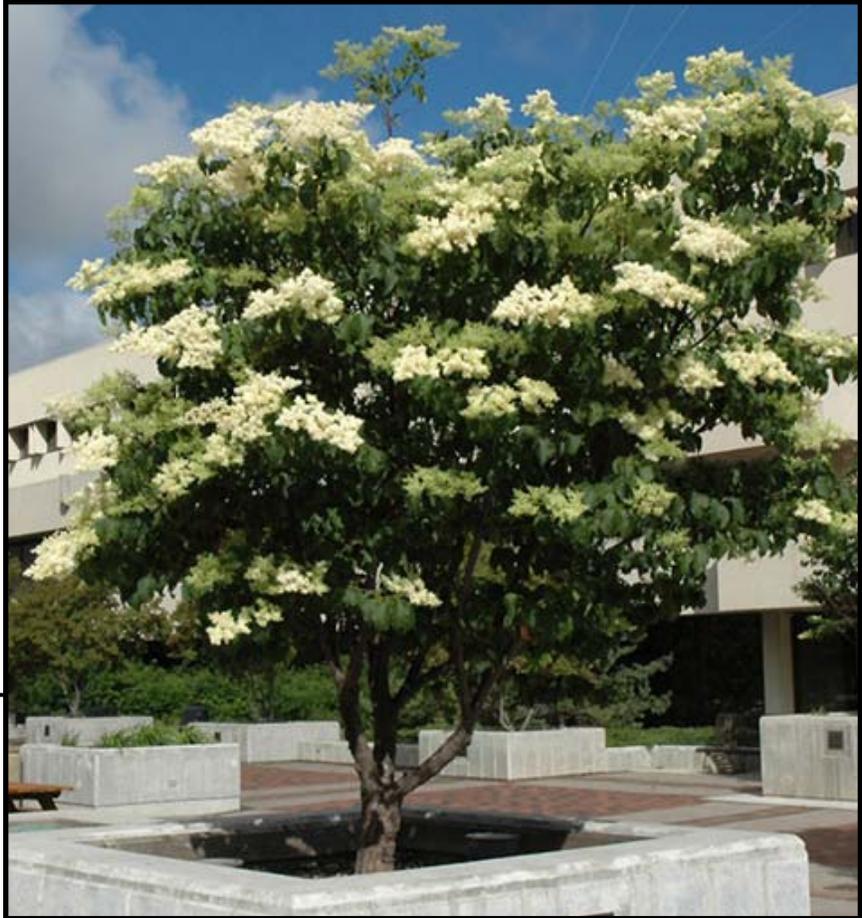
Mature Height:
30 Feet

Mature Spread:
15 Feet

Zones: 3 to 7

Growth Rate:
Moderate

Trouble-free plant, deep green leaves, showy white flowers, excellent specimen or street tree. Tolerant of urban conditions, relatively pest free, straight trunk with upright growth.



Reference Sources

- City of Seattle Approved Street Tree List
City of Federal Way Recommended Tree Species, January 1, 2011
City of Renton Approved Street Tree List
City of Tigard Street Tree List
City of Lacey Urban Forest Management Plan, April 2005
City of Portland Tree and Landscaping Manual, December 14, 2010
City of Bozeman Tree Guide, Choosing Trees for Public Spaces
- Seattle Department of Transportation Street Tree Planting Procedures, March 23, 2010
Snohomish County PUD Tree Book, A Tree Selection Guide for Planting Near Power Lines, October 2004
Puget Sound Energy Energy Landscaping, A guide for Planting Near Utility Lines and Equipment
Washington State University Extension and PugetSoundPartnership Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound, December 2012
- Oregon State University Extension Service, Selecting, Planting, and Caring For A New Tree, August 1997
Center for Urban Forest Research and USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planting, March 2002
University of Florida, Choosing Suitable Trees for Urban and Suburban Sites: Site Evaluation and Species Selection
- The Street Tree Problem for The Pacific Northwest, by John Wesley Neill, Ph.D.
Under the Avenue, Seattle Times article by Valerie Easton, 2001
Urban Ecosystems, A Review of Tree Root Conflicts with Sidewalks, Curbs and Roads
Arboricultural Journal, Costs of Street Tree Damage to Infrastructure, E. Gregory McPherson & Paula Peper, 1996
Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories Technical Report, Sidewalk Repair Near Trees, E. Thomas Smiley, Ph.D.
Slosson Report 2000-2001, Strategies to Reduce Infrastructure Damage by Tree Roots
Journal of Arboriculture, Hardscape Damage by Tree Roots, by Lawrence M. Lesser
Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, Comparison of Methods to Reduce Sidewalk Damage from Tree Roots, by E. Thomas Smiley, 2008
- Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute: <http://selectree.calpoly.edu/>
Oregon State University Landscape Plants: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/>
Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden: <http://www.greatplantpicks.org/>

City of Mill Creek -- Tree Planting Standards

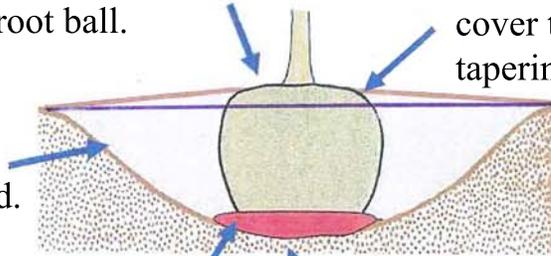
Call Before You Dig (811): Underground utilities must be marked before digging to plant a tree. Calling 811, two business days before you begin digging, will alert utilities to come out and mark THEIR buried lines from the street to your house for FREE!



It is imperative that the root ball is slightly above grade (1.5 to 2 inches) with no backfill soil over the top of the root ball.

Backfill soil should cover the “knees” tapering down to grade.

Planting hole should be 3 times the diameter of the root ball and saucer shaped.



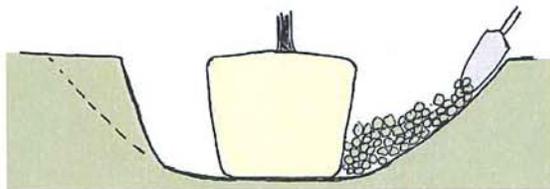
Firm a ring of backfill soil around the bottom of the root ball to stabilize it.

Root ball should sit on undisturbed soil.

Where trees are set on undisturbed soil and a ring of soil is firmed around the base before backfilling, staking is not needed in many landscape settings.

Trees planted in a narrow parking strip should have root barrier installed adjacent to the sidewalk and the curb.

Remove root ball wrapping material (burlap, wire basket, twine, etc.) from the top 12 inches or 2/3 of the root ball, whichever is greater.



A labor-saving method is to dig the planting hole two times the root ball diameter with more vertical walls and ease the tree in place. Then cut the planting hole into the three-times the root ball width and saucer shape during the backfill process. This way much of the soil does not have to be moved twice.

A mulch ring of bark/wood chips is suggested around trees. Do not place mulch directly over root ball. Mulch the backfill area. 3-4 inches of wood chip mulch gives better weed control and prevents soil compaction from foot traffic.



Note how the root ball soil is visible on the surface, with no backfill covering the top of the root ball.



If you have any questions regarding these planting standards, please contact the City at 425-745-1891.

1. Trees shall have one central leader. If the leader was headed, a new leader (with a live terminal bud) at least one-half the diameter of the pruning cut shall be present.
 - All trees are assumed to have one central leader trees unless a different form is specified in the plant list or drawings.
2. Twine and burlap used for wrapping the root ball package shall be natural, biodegradable material.
3. Container Root Ball Shaving: The outer surfaces of ALL container trees, including the top, sides and bottom of the root ball shall be shaved to remove all circling, descending, and matted roots. Shaving shall be performed using saws, knives, sharp shovels or other suitable equipment that is capable of making clean cuts on the roots. Shaving shall remove a minimum of one inch of root mat or up to 2 inches as required to remove all root segments that are not growing reasonably radial to the trunk.
4. For trees to be planted in prepared Planting Soil that is deeper than the root ball depth, compact the soil under the root ball using a mechanical tamper to assure a firm bedding for the root ball. Planting Soil is the site soil excavated from the planting pit, mixed with a maximum of 5% organic matter.
5. Root barrier is required adjacent to trees planted in a planter strip narrower than six feet and in landscape islands. Barrier adjacent to the curb shall be 24 inches and barrier adjacent to the sidewalk shall be 18 inches.
6. Set top outer edge of the root ball at the average elevation of the proposed finish. Set the plant plumb and upright in the center of the planting hole. The tree graft, if applicable, shall be visible above the grade. Do not place soil on top of the root ball.
7. After the root ball has been placed in the excavated pit, remove root ball wrapping (burlap, wire basket, twine, etc.) from the top 12 inches or 2/3 of the root ball, whichever is greater. Cut the burlap away; do not fold down onto the Planting Soil.
8. Stabilize the root ball by firming a ring of backfill soil around the bottom of the root ball, which will eliminate the need for staking in most cases. Place additional Planting Soil around base and sides of ball in six-inch (6") lifts. Lightly tamp each lift using foot pressure or hand tools to settle backfill, support the tree and eliminate voids. DO NOT over compact the backfill or use mechanical or pneumatic tamping equipment.
9. When the planting hole has been backfilled to three quarters of its depth, water shall be poured around the root ball and allowed to soak into the soil to settle the soil. Do not flood the planting space. Air pockets shall be eliminated and backfill continued until the planting soil is brought to grade level.
10. Where indicated on the drawings, build a 4 inch high, level berm of Planting Soil around the outside of the root ball to retain water. Tamp the berm to reduce leaking and erosion of the saucer.
11. Thoroughly water the Planting Soil and root ball immediately after planting.