

# Trees for Urban Lots

## Why do it?

Planting trees and shrubs near your home is one of the best ways to raise the property value, but it also helps to reduce the urban heat island effect and add beauty. When deciding what to plant, consider the following factors:

- **Amount of sun or shade:** The north side of the house is generally the least sunny, but also take into consideration how your neighbors' trees and homes, as well as other nearby structures, affect sun exposure in your yard.
- **Soil type:** Cincinnati soils tend to be alkaline (high in pH) and dominated by clay; consider how wet or dry your soil is and choose plants that can withstand the level of moisture. See the Building Healthy Soil resource sheet for more information about improving and maintaining healthy soil in your garden or landscape.
- **Exotic pests and invasive species:** Be aware of pests currently affecting the health of our tree population, such as the Asian Long Horned Beetle, and choose plants that will not be affected by this insect (designated by a (\*) in the list below). Avoid plants that spread aggressively. A list of invasive plants can be found at [www.oipc.info/specieslist.html](http://www.oipc.info/specieslist.html).
- **Mature size of plant:** Be sure to research what size the plant will reach at maturity, even if you will not be living in your home at that time. Choosing the right plant for the right place will ensure the success of your plantings, and enjoyment of them for years to come.

## Small/Medium Trees

- Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum* cultivars)
- Paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*)
- Red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)
- \*Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis* 'Cumulus,' A. x g. 'Autumn Brilliance,' 'Diana')
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Little King river birch (*Betula nigra* 'Little King')
- \*Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy,' 'Lavender Twist,' 'Tennessee Red,' 'Alba')
- \*Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
- Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*)
- \*Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
- Chinese dogwood (*Cornus Kousa*)
- Flowering dogwood (*C. florida*)
- Smokebush/smoketree (*Cotinus coggygria* 'Golden Spirit,' 'Young Lady,' 'Royal Purple')
- Grace smoketree (*Cotinus* x 'Grace')
- \*Winter King hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King')
- \*Carolina silverbell (*Halesia carolina*)
- Witchhazel (*Hamamelis* x *intermedia*)
- Seven-son flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*)
- Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica* 'Apalachee,' 'Hopi,' 'Natchez')
- \*Saucer magnolia (*Magnolia soulangeana*)
- \*Star magnolia (*M. stellata*)
- \*Sweet bay magnolia (*M. virginiana*, *M. v.* 'Moonglow')
- Persian parrotia (*Parrotia persica*)
- Spring Grove Arborvitae (*Thuja* 'Spring Grove')

## Medium/Large Trees

- River birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage,' 'Duraheat')
- \*American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
- Northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)
- Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- \*Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
- \*Turkish filbert (*Corylus colurna*)
- Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- Hardy rubber tree (*Eucommia ulmoides*)
- \*Ginkgo/maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba* – male cvs.)
- \*Thornless honeylocust (*Gleditsia t. inermis*)
- \*Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica* 'Espresso' and other male cultivars)
- \*Juniperus virginiana
- \*Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
- Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera* 'White Shield,' 'Denmark')
- Cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*)
- Southern magnolia (*M. grandiflora* 'Bracken's Brown Beauty,' 'D.D. Blanchard,' 'Edith Bogue')
- \*Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)
- American hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- London planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)
- \*White oak (*Quercus alba*)
- \*Swamp white oak (*Q. bicolor*)
- \*Chinkapin oak (*Q. muehlenbergii*)
- \*Black oak (*Q. velutina*)
- \*Shumard's oak (*Q. shumardii*)
- \*Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
- \*American linden (*Tilia americana*)



# Trees for Urban Lots

## Small/Medium Shrubs

- Glossy abelia (*Abelia grandiflora*)
- Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* 'Iroquois Beauty,' 'Autumn Magic')
- Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima')
- Beautyberry (*Callicarpa dichotoma* 'Issai,' 'Early Amethyst')
- Blue mist shrub (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*)
- Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Sixteen Candles,' 'Ruby Spice,' 'September Beauty,' 'Hummingbird')
- Red osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
- Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
- Fothergilla (*Fothergilla x i.* 'Blue Shadow,' 'Mt. Airy')
- Dwarf fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii*)
- Smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle')
- Bigleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Forever Pink,' 'Nigra')
- Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Pee Wee,' 'Sikes Dwarf')
- Panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Little Lamb,' 'Unique')
- Mountain hydrangea (*Hydrangea serrata* 'Preziosa')
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum frondosum* 'Sunburst')
- Winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite' (female), 'Jim Dandy' (male))
- Kirilow's indigo (*Indigofera kirilowii*)
- Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica* 'Little Henry')
- Grey Owl juniper (*Juniperus virginiana* 'Grey Owl')
- Japanese kerria (*Kerria japonica*)
- Bush clover (*Lespedeza t.* 'Gibraltar')
- Northern bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)
- Dwarf mockorange (*Philadelphus* 'Snowbelle,' 'Snow Dwarf')
- Ninebark (*Physocarpus o.* 'Summer Wine,' 'Little Devil,' 'Diabolo,' 'Center Glow')
- Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken,' 'Schipkaensis')
- Rhododendron (*Rhododendron* 'PJM Elite')
- Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-Low')
- Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina* 'Tiger Eyes')
- Rugosa rose (*Rosa rugosa*)
- American elderberry (*Sambucus C.* 'Laciniata')
- Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)
- Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum* 'Blue Muffin')
- American cranberrybush (*Viburnum trilobum* 'Compactum')
- Weigela (*Weigela florida* 'Wine and Roses,' 'My Monet,' 'Rainbow Sensation')



## Fruit & Nut Trees

### Low to moderate maintenance

#### Small to medium:

- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Filbert (*Corylus americana*)
- Mulberry (*Morus* spp.)

#### Large:

- Chinese Chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*)
- Hickory (*Carya ovata*)
- Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- Persian Walnut (*Juglans regia*)

### High maintenance, choose dwarf or semi-dwarf varieties

- Apple (*Malus domestica*): 'Pristine,' 'Williams Pride,' 'Jonafree,' 'Sundance,' 'Goldrush'
- European Plum (*Prunus domestica*): 'Early Italian,' 'Stanley,' 'Greengage,' 'Seneca'
- European Pear (*Pyrus communis*): 'Harrow Delight,' 'Seckel,' 'Moonglow,' 'Harvest Queen'
- Asian pear (*Pyrus pyrifolia*)

#### Self-fruitful:

- Tart or Pie Cherry (*Prunus cerasus*): 'Meteor,' 'NorthStar'
- Peach and Nectarine (*Prunus persica*): 'Reliance,' 'Cresthaven,' 'Belle of Georgia,' 'Summer Beaut,' 'Hardired,' 'Mericrest'

## Fruiting Shrubs

- Gooseberry (*Pyllanthus emblica*)
- Currant (*Ribes* 'Red Lake,' 'Consort')
- Nanking cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*)

