



## CITY OF ATLANTA

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### RECOMMENDED TREE LIST (revised 9/30/09)

In alphabetical order by common name, followed by botanical name

The Atlanta Tree Ordinance requires that replacement trees shall be overstory or mid-canopy species unless site conditions do not allow planting of these trees [Sec. 158-103(a)(1)]. When seeking credit against recompense for replacement trees, contact City Arborist for approval of species not on this list.

**Note:** We recommend using trees native to the Piedmont region (which includes Atlanta) wherever possible, particularly in larger yards, public greenspaces, etc. (marked with asterisk). Native trees are adapted to local growing conditions and ecosystems and often perform best over the long run. The lists below also include many non-native tree species that are adapted well to this area and the stresses of urban environments. Exotic trees that exhibit invasive properties and are known to compete with native species are not included on the list. The best approach for selecting a tree to plant is to evaluate sunlight, soil volume and quality, water sources, and other physical conditions of the site.

**OVERSTORY TREES (>= 1,600 sq. ft. of canopy at maturity):** Overstory trees typically reach a diameter-at-breast- height (DBH) in excess of 25 inches and a height in excess of 60 feet at maturity. Per the tree ordinance, to receive recompense credit, the spacing requirement for planting is a minimum of 35 feet on center between both existing and replacement trees.

- \*Beech, American *Fagus grandifolia*
- \*Chestnut, American *Castanea dentata*
- Chestnut, Chinese *Castanea mollissima*
- \*Elm, American *Ulmus americana*
- \*Elm, Slippery *Ulmus rubra*
- Ginkgo, *Ginkgo biloba* (male only)
- \*Hackberry, Common *Celtis occidentalis*
- \*Hackberry, Georgia *Celtis tenuifolia*
- \*Hickory, Bitternut *Carya cordiformis*
- \*Hickory, Mockernut *Carya tomentosa*
- \*Hickory, Pignut *Carya glabra*
- \*Hickory, Sand *Carya pallida*
- \*Hickory, Shagbark *Carya ovata*
- \*Hickory, Southern Shagbark *Carya ovata var.australis*
- \*Maple, Southern Sugar *Acer barbatum*
- \*Oak, Black *Quercus velutina*
- \*Oak, Chestnut *Quercus prinus*
- \*Oak, Northern Red *Quercus rubra*
- \*Oak, Nuttall *Quercus nuttalli*
- \*Oak, Oglethorpe *Quercus oglethorpensis*
- \*Oak, Overcup *Quercus lyrata*
- \*Oak, Pin *Quercus palustris*
- \*Oak, Post *Quercus stellata*
- \*Oak, Scarlet *Quercus coccinea*
- \*Oak Shumard *Quercus shumardii*
- \*Oak, Southern Red *Quercus falcata*
- Oak, Swamp Chestnut *Quercus michauxii*
- Oak, Swamp White *Quercus bicolor*
- \*Oak, White *Quercus alba*
- \*Oak, Willow *Quercus phellos*
- Pecan *Carya illinoensis*
- \*Tulip Poplar *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- \*Sugarberry *Celtis laevigata*
- \*Sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua* (fruitless varieties)
- \*Sycamore *Platanus occidentalis* (not drought tolerant)
- \*Walnut *Juglans nigra*

\* Asterisk denotes tree is native to the Piedmont region of Georgia (which includes Atlanta).

**MID-STORY/MID-CANOPY TREES (approx. 900 sq. ft. of canopy at maturity):** *Mid-canopy trees typically reach a diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) of 10 - 25 inches and a height of 30 - 60 feet at maturity. Per the tree ordinance, to receive recompense credit, spacing requirement for planting is a minimum of 25 feet on center, between both existing and replacement trees.*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*American Hophornbeam <i>Ostrya virginiana</i></li> <li>Baldcypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i><br/>height up to 100 feet.</li> <li>*Blackgum (Tupelo) <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i></li> <li>Buckeye, Red <i>Aesculus pavia</i></li> <li>Dawn Redwood <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i><br/>height up to 100 feet</li> <li>Elm, Chinese (Lace Bark) <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i></li> <li>Elm, Siberian <i>Ulmus pumila</i></li> <li>*Hophornbeam <i>Ostrya virginiana</i></li> <li>*Hornbeam, American. (Ironwood)<br/><i>Carpinus Caroliniana</i></li> <li>Hornbeam, European <i>Carpinus betulus</i></li> <li>Japanese Pagodatree <i>Sophora japonica</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Maple, Chalk <i>Acer leucoderme</i></li> <li>*Maple, Red <i>Acer rubrum</i></li> <li>*Maple, Southern Sugar <i>Acer barbatum</i></li> <li>*Mulberry, Red <i>Morus rubra</i></li> <li>*Oak, Chinkapin <i>Quercus myehlenbergi</i></li> <li>*Oak, Georgia <i>Quercus georgiana</i></li> <li>Oak, Laurel <i>Quercus laruifolia</i></li> <li>Oak, English <i>Quercus robur</i></li> <li>*Persimmon, Common <i>Diospyros virginiana</i></li> <li>Poplar, Lombardy <i>Populus nigra var.italica</i></li> <li>Poplar, White <i>Populus alba</i></li> <li>*River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i></li> <li>*Willow, Black <i>Salix nigra</i></li> <li>*Yellowwood, American <i>Cladrastis kentukea</i></li> </ul> |
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**UNDERSTORY AND ORNAMENTAL TREES (approx. 400 sq. ft. of canopy at maturity):** *Understory trees typically reach a diameter-at-breast-height (dbh) of <=15 inches and a height of less than or equal to 30 feet at maturity. Per tree ordinance, spacing requirement is a minimum of 15 feet on center, between both existing and replacement trees. Recompense credit is permitted for these trees **only where site conditions do not allow the planting of overstory or mid-canopy trees** and is based on 15 feet spacing.*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Chinquapin, Allegheny <i>Castanea pumila</i></li> <li>*Crabapple, Southern <i>Malus angustifolia</i></li> <li>*Dogwood, Flowering <i>Cornus florida</i></li> <li>Dogwood, Kousa <i>Cornus kousa</i></li> <li>*Dogwood, Swamp <i>Cornus stricta</i></li> <li>Japanese maple <i>Acer palmatum cvs,</i><br/>(non-dwarf cultivars).</li> <li>Magnolia, Japanese <i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i></li> <li>*Bigleaf Magnolia <i>Magnolia macrophylla</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Maple, Amur <i>Acer ginnala</i></li> <li>*Maple, Trident <i>Acer buergeranum</i></li> <li>*Redbud, Eastern <i>Cercis Canadensis</i></li> <li>*Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i></li> <li>*Silverbell <i>Halesia Carolina L.</i><br/>(prefers moist areas)</li> <li>*Sourwood <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i></li> <li>*Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i></li> <li>*Witchhazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana L.</i></li> </ul> |
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\*Asterisk denotes tree is native to the Piedmont region of Georgia (which includes Atlanta).

## PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC LOCATIONS:

(Many trees below also are listed above; some are added because of their tolerance for challenging locations.)

**EVERGREEN SCREENING TREES (very small canopy at maturity):** Per ordinance, spacing requirement is 15 feet on center, between both existing and replacement trees. Screening trees are **eligible for partial recompense credit** (based on 15 ft. spacing) **only where site conditions do not allow planting of overstory or mid-canopy trees.**

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| Cryptomeria <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>            | Magnolia, Southern 'Little Gem' or 'Alta'                |
| *Holly, American <i>Ilex opaca</i>                 | <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Little Gem'                 |
| Holly, Fosters <i>Ilex x attenuata</i> 'Fosteri'   | <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Alta'                       |
| Holly, Savannah <i>Ilex x attenuata</i> 'Savannah' | *Pine, Virginia <i>Pinus virginia</i> (5-gal. size best) |
| Holly, Yaupon <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>                | Sweetbay Magnolia <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>             |
|  | *Redcedar, Eastern <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>           |

**COLUMNAR TREES FOR NARROW SPACES:** (Various canopy sizes with columnar growth patterns).

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|---|---|
| Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>                                      | English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i> 'Rose Hill'              |
| Dawn Redwood <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i><br>(height up to 100 feet) | European Hornbeam<br><i>Hornbeam betulus</i> 'Fastigiata' |
| Deodar cedar <i>Cedrus deodara</i>  | * Redcedar, Eastern <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>           |

**TREES SUITABLE FOR DETENTION PONDS AND WETLANDS:**

(See categories above for size of tree.)

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| Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>                            | Ironwood <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>         |
| * Blackgum, Tupelo <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> , <i>Nyssa aquatica</i> | *Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>                |
| Dawn Redwood <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>                  | Sweetbay Magnolia <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> |

**TREES SUITABLE FOR ROAD FRONTAGE AND PARKING LOTS:**

### Overstory

- \*Oak, Georgia *Quercus Georgiana*  
(soil area >5 ft. wide)
- \*Oak, Nuttall *Quercus nuttalli* (soil area >5 ft. wide)
- \*Oak, Overcup *Quercus lyrata*  
(soil area >5 ft. wide)
- \*Oak Shumard *Quercus shumardii*  
(soil area > 5 ft. wide)
- \*Oak, Willow *Quercus phellos*  
(soil area >5 ft. wide)
- \*Sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Rotundiloba'  
(fruitless)

### Midstory

- Baldcypress *Taxodium distichum*
- \*Blackgum (Tupelo) *Nyssa sylvatica*
- Elm, Chinese (Lace Bark) *Ulmus parvifolia*
- \*Hophornbeam *Ostrya virginiana*
- \*Hornbeam, American (Ironwood, Blue Beech)  
*Carpinus caroliniana*

- Hornbeam, European *Carpinus betulus*
- \*Maple, Chalk *Acer leucoderme*  
(parking lots too hot)
- \*Maple, Red *Acer rubrum*
- \*Maple, Southern Sugar *Acer barbatum*
- \*Redcedar, Eastern *Juniperus virginiana*

### Understory

(Understory trees do not meet parking lot planting requirements under the ordinance because they do not reach 40 feet in height at maturity).

- Chinese Pistache *Pistacia chinensis*
- Crapemyrtle *Lagerstroemia indica* (Single stem, non-dwarf cultivars)
- \*Maple, Trident *Acer buergerianum*
- Parrotia, Persian *Parrotia persica*
- \*Redbud, Eastern *Cercis canadensis*
- \*Serviceberry *Amelanchier arborea* or *laevis*

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