

# Landscape Trees for Specific Uses

James A. Robbins  
Extension Specialist/  
Professor - Ornamental  
Horticulture

Trees add a great deal of value to our landscapes. They add value in a variety of ways including providing shade, reducing energy costs on buildings and homes, increasing property values, stabilizing soil, improving the health of our environment and adding beauty to our landscapes.

Trees are planted in the landscape for a variety of aesthetic and environmental reasons. In locations where trees may be planted near or under utility wires, the ultimate size of the tree must be considered so long-term conflicts do not develop. A number of large shrubs or small trees can provide planting options near or under utility

wires (Table 1). Trees also offer options as street trees (Table 2), in narrow planting situations (Table 3), and as lawn or shade trees (Table 4). Some trees are less desirable than others due to short lifespan or excessive debris from flowers, fruits or brittle wood (Table 5). Before planting any vegetation, contact Arkansas 811 ([call811.com/map-page/arkansas](http://call811.com/map-page/arkansas); 1-800-482-8998 or call 811) to locate any underground utilities. Unless

specified otherwise in local ordinances, trees and other vegetation should not be planted within 10 feet of any utility service equipment, including access boxes for buried power lines.



**Shantung maple (Table 1)**



**Fastigiata tuliptree (Table 3)**



**Green Vase Zelkova (Table 2)**



**White oak (Table 4)**

*Arkansas Is  
Our Campus*

Visit our web site at:  
<https://www.uaex.uada.edu>

**Table 1. Large shrubs/small trees appropriate under power lines.**

| Scientific Name   | Common Name                      | Landscape Size: height x width | Remarks  |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Acer buergerianum</i>  | Trident Maple                    | 25' x 20'                      | Fall color variable and rare   |
| <i>Acer ginnala</i>   | Amur Maple                       | 18' x 15'                      | Flame fall color   |
| <i>Acer griseum</i>   | Paperbark Maple                  | 20' x 10'                      | Exceptional bark; partial sun  |
| <i>Acer palmatum</i><br>'Bloodgood'/'Trompenburg'                         | Japanese Maple                   | variable                       |  |
| <i>Acer tataricum</i>   | Tatarian Maple                   | 20' x 20'                      | Variable fall color  |
| <i>Acer truncatum</i> ('Fire Dragon')                                     | Shantung Maple                   | 20' x 20'                      | Yellow/orange fall color   |
| <i>Betula nigra</i> ('Little King')                                       | River Birch                      | 12' x 12'                      | Dense, compact, oval crown   |
| <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>   | American Hornbeam                | 25' x 25'                      | Variable fall color (orange/red)   |
| <i>Cercis canadensis</i><br>('Oklahoma', 'Forest Pansy')                  | Eastern Redbud                   | 20' x 20'                      | No fall color; showy pink/purple flowers late March/early April                      |
| <i>Chionanthus retusus</i>  | Chinese Fringetree               | 20' x 24'                      | No fall color; attractive white flowers late April                                   |
| <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>   | White Fringetree                 | 25' x 25'                      | No fall color; attractive white flowers mid-April                                    |
| <i>Cornus kousa/florida</i>   | Dogwood                          | 20' x 25'                      | Exceptional flowers; avoid full sun  |
| <i>Cotinus coggygria</i> ('Royal Purple', 'Velvet Cloak')                 | Smoketree                        | 12' x 12'                      | Intense purple foliage; best suited Northwest Arkansas                               |
| <i>Cotinus</i> x 'Grace'  |                                  | 15' x 10'                      |  |
| <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>  | Goldenraintree                   | 25' x 25'                      | Attractive, yellow flowers summer; best suited Northwest Arkansas                    |
| <i>Lagerstroemia</i> sp. (many suitable cultivars)                        | Crapemyrtle                      | 8' to 40' tall                 | Summer flowers; attractive bark; some with fall color                                |
| <i>Maclura pomifera</i> var <i>inermis</i><br>('Wichita', 'White Shield') | Thornless Osage-orange           | 25' x 28'                      | No fall color  |
| <i>Magnolia stellata</i> / <i>M. kobus</i>                                | Star Magnolia                    | 15' x 15'                      | Attractive white flowers March; no fall color  |
| <i>Magnolia</i> hybrids ('Jane', 'Ricki', 'Susan')                        | Magnolia                         | 15' x 15'                      | No fall color  |
| <i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>   | Saucer Magnolia                  | 25' x 25'                      | White/pink saucer flowers March  |
| <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>  | Sweetbay Magnolia                | 18' x 12'                      | Semi-evergreen   |
| <i>Malus</i> sp. (many suitable cultivars)                                | Crabapple                        | 6' to 20' tall                 | Attractive flowers late March/early April; best suited Northwest Arkansas            |
| <i>Morus alba</i> 'Pendula'   | Weeping White Mulberry           | 15' x 15'                      | Specimen; weeping habit  |
| <i>Pistacia chinensis</i>   | Chinese Pistache                 | 25' x 25'                      | Fall color variable; male clones preferred   |
| <i>Prunus serrulata</i> 'Kwanzan'   | Japanese Flowering Cherry        | 15' x 15'                      | Crown shaped like a martini glass  |
| <i>Prunus x yedoensis</i>   | Yoshino Cherry                   | 20' x 25'                      | Attractive light pink flowers late March/early April; best suited Northwest Arkansas |
| <i>Rhus glabra</i> / <i>R. copallina</i>                                  | Smooth Sumac/<br>Flameleaf Sumac | 18' x 18'                      | Red fall color; suckering habit  |
| <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> ('Shoal Creek')                                 | Chaste Tree                      | 18' x 18'                      | Summer/fall flowering  |

**Table 2. Trees appropriate in urban settings as street trees.**

| Scientific Name   | Common Name           | Landscape Size: height x width | Remarks  |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> (Red Sunset™, October Glory™)  | Red Maple             | 65' x 60'                      | Red fall color; sunscald serious consideration       |
| <i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'  | European Hornbeam     | 25' x 15'                      | Yellowish fall color                                 |
| <i>Corylus colurna</i>  | Turkish Filbert       | 45' x 25'                      | Strong pyramidal shape                               |
| <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (male)   | Ginkgo                | 70' x 55'                      | Butter yellow fall color                             |
| <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i> ('Moraine', 'Shademaster', 'Skyline')      | Thornless Honeylocust | 45' x 45'                      | Small leaf litter; best suited Northwest Arkansas    |
| <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> – male ('Espresso', Prairie Titan™)                               | Kentucky Coffeetree   | 60' x 60'                      |  |
| <i>Lagerstroemia</i> sp. ('Biloxi', 'Osage')  | Crapemyrtle           | 15' to 40' tall                | Summer flowers                                       |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (mostly seedless cultivars such as 'Rotundiloba', Cherokee™) | Sweetgum              | 55' x 45'                      |  |
| <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>   | Dawn Redwood          | 55' x 30'                      | Burnt orange fall color                              |
| <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>  | American Hornbeam     | 40' x 25'                      |  |
| <i>Pistacia chinensis</i>   | Chinese Pistache      | 25' x 25'                      | Fall color variable; male clones preferred           |
| <i>Taxodium distichum</i>   | Baldcypress           | 60' x 35'                      |  |
| <i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire'   | Littleleaf Linden     | 45' x 30'                      | Best suited Northwest Arkansas                       |
| <i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Creole Queen'/'Princeton'   | American Elm          | 65' x 50'                      | Look for Dutch Elm Disease (DED) resistant varieties |
| <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> (Allee™, Athena™)   | Chinese/Lacebark Elm  | 40' x 35'                      |  |
| <i>Zelkova serrata</i> (Green Vase™, 'Village Green')                                       | Zelkova               | 35' x 35'                      | Vase shaped  |

**Table 3. Narrow or columnar trees.**

| Scientific Name  | Common Name       | Landscape Size: height x width | Remarks                               |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Acer x freemanii</i> 'Armstrong'  | Freeman Maple     | 50' x 15'                      |                                       |
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Bowhall'   | Red Maple         | 50' x 15'                      | Sunscald serious consideration        |
| <i>Acer saccharum</i> 'Newton Sentry'  | Sugar Maple       | 35' x 10'                      | Best suited Northwest Arkansas        |
| <i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'   | European Hornbeam | 25' x 15'                      |                                       |
| <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Princeton Sentry', 'Goldspire'   | Ginkgo            | 55' x 15'                      |                                       |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> 'Slender Silhouette'  | Sweetgum          | 65' x 15'                      | Bears fruit; extremely narrow upright |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> 'Arnold'/'Fastigiatum'  | Tuliptree         | 55' x 15'                      |                                       |
| <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Little Gem'/'Alta®  | Southern Magnolia | 45' x 20'                      |                                       |
| <i>Quercus robur</i> 'Fastigiata'  | English Oak       | 50' x 18'                      |                                       |
| <i>Quercus x Crimson Spire™/Regal Prince®/'Streetsprire'/'Skinny Genes'/'Kindred Spirit'</i> | Oak               | 45' x 15'                      |                                       |
| <i>Taxodium ascendens</i> 'Prairie Sentinel'   | Pondcypress       | 45' x 15'                      |                                       |
| <i>Taxodium distichum</i> Shawnee Brave®   | Bald Cypress      | 65' x 18'                      |                                       |
| <i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Musashino'   | Zelkova           | 45' x 15'                      |                                       |

**Table 4. Shade or lawn trees.**

| Scientific Name   | Common Name          | Landscape Size: height x width | Remarks  |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> ('Autumn Flame', Red Sunset™, October Glory™)                            | Red Maple            | 65' x 60'                      | Outstanding red fall color; sunscald serious consideration   |
| <i>Acer saccharum</i> (Fall Fiesta™, 'Legacy')  | Sugar Maple          | 65' x 60'                      | Outstanding flame fall color; best suited Northwest Arkansas |
| <i>Acer x freemanii</i> (Autumn Blaze™)   | Freeman Maple        | 60' x 50'                      | Very fast growing  |
| <i>Betula nigra</i> Heritage®/Dura-Heat®  | River Birch          | 40' x 35'                      | Beautiful exfoliating bark when young                        |
| <i>Betula x Royal Frost</i> ®   | Birch                | 40' x 25'                      | White bark when young; purple leaves                         |
| <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> 'Glauca'  | Blue Atlas Cedar     | 50' x 60'                      | Silver blue needles  |
| <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> – male ('Espresso', Prairie Titan™)                              | Kentucky Coffeetree  | 60' x 60'                      |  |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (mostly seedless cultivars such as 'Rotundiloba', Cherokee™) | Sweetgum             | 55' x 45'                      |  |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>  | Tuliptree            | 80' x 50'                      | Soft yellow fall color; very fast growing                    |
| <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>   | Southern Magnolia    | 75' x 65'                      |  |
| <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>   | Dawn Redwood         | 55' x 30'                      | Copper brown fall color                                      |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>  | Black Tupelo         | 50' x 50'                      | True red fall color  |
| <i>Quercus alba</i>   | White Oak            | 75' x 65'                      | Maroon fall color  |
| <i>Quercus bicolor</i>  | Swamp White Oak      | 60' x 60'                      | Fall color not significant                                   |
| <i>Quercus coccinea</i>   | Scarlet Oak          | 70' x 70'                      | Maroon fall color  |
| <i>Quercus falcata</i>  | S. Red Oak           | 75' x 75'                      | Fall color not significant                                   |
| <i>Quercus imbricaria</i>   | Shingle Oak          | 60' x 60'                      | Yellow-brown fall color; weak wooded                         |
| <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>  | Chinkapin Oak        | 50' x 50'                      | Fall color not significant                                   |
| <i>Quercus nigra</i>  | Water Oak            | 75' x 75'                      | No fall color  |
| <i>Quercus palustris</i>  | Pin Oak              | 65' x 50'                      | Maroon fall color  |
| <i>Quercus phellos</i>  | Willow Oak           | 60' x 40'                      | Muted orange fall color                                      |
| <i>Quercus rubra</i>  | N. Red Oak           | 70' x 70'                      | Maroon fall color  |
| <i>Quercus shumardii</i> / <i>Q. buckleyi</i>   | Shumard Oak          | 70' x 70'                      | Orange red fall color  |
| <i>Taxodium distichum</i>   | Bald Cypress         | 60' x 35'                      | Copper brown fall color                                      |
| <i>Tilia cordata</i> ('Greenspire')   | Littleleaf Linden    | 45' x 30'                      | Fragrant flowers in June; best suited Northwest Arkansas     |
| <i>Ulmus americana</i> ('Princeton')  | American Elm         | 70' x 55'                      | Select DED resistant varieties                               |
| <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> (Allee™, Athena™)   | Chinese/Lacebark Elm | 40' x 35'                      |  |
| <i>Zelkova serrata</i> (Green Vase™, 'Village Green')                                       | Zelkova              | 35' x 35'                      | Vase shaped; best suited Northwest Arkansas                  |

**Table 5. Trees to avoid (weak wooded, messy debris).**

| Scientific Name                | Common Name     | Remarks                            |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Acer negundo</i>            | Boxelder        | Weak wooded; messy                 |
| <i>Acer saccharinum</i>        | Silver Maple    | Weak wooded                        |
| <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>     | Tree of Heaven  | Weak wooded                        |
| <i>Albizia julibrissin</i>     | Mimosa          | Weak wooded; weedy                 |
| <i>Catalpa</i> sps.            | Catalpa         | Weak wooded; messy flowers         |
| <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>  | Green Ash       | Weak wooded; emerald ash borer     |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> | Sweetgum        | Messy fruits; brittle wood         |
| <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>     | Royal Paulownia | Weedy; weak wooded                 |
| <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>   | Sycamore        | Messy fruits, leaves; brittle wood |
| <i>Populus deltoides</i>       | E. Cottonwood   | Weak wooded; weedy                 |



**Sweetgum – messy fruits**

---

**DR. JAMES A. ROBBINS** is Extension specialist/professor - ornamental horticulture with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, Little Rock.

Pursuant to 7 CFR § 15.3, the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services (including employment) without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, sexual preference, pregnancy or any other legally protected status, and is an equal opportunity institution.

FSA6126-PD-6-2018RV