

Milton STAC Recommended Tree List is based on the following criteria:

- Ability to survive in difficult urban conditions
- Native species (to attract native birds and butterflies)
- Attractive
- Provides appropriate level of visibility for walkers and drivers
- Deciduous trees (no evergreens included due to visibility and other issues)
- Availability in Massachusetts nurseries

TREE LIST WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY BY MILTON STAC

Sources: Arbor Day Foundation, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, UMass Urban Forestry Program, Boston Parks Department, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, *Dirr's Handbook of Woody Plants*, NYC Street Tree Guide, Cornell University Horticulture Department, various shade tree committees from across Massachusetts

Milton Shade Tree Advisory Committee - Recommended Street Trees

Updated: 09/19/2025

Latin / Botanical Name	Common Name	Cultivar	Comment
LARGE TREES: Mature height greater than 40 feet. Consider these only in areas with adequate rooting space.			
Acer rubrum	Red Maple		Great fall color, withstands tough conditions, pretty silver bark
Betula nigra	River Birch		Interesting bark, fast growing, select only single trunk
Carya ovata Carya Glabra	Shagbark/Pignut Hickory		Shaggy bark, yellow fall color
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry		Great for difficult locations, unusual bark, rapid grower
Gymnocladis	Kentucky Coffee Tree		Large tree, small flowers in spring, broad spreading
Nyssa sylvatica	Tupelo		Gorgeous fall color, interesting branching pattern
Quercus bicolor	Swamp White Oak		Provides high shade, tough street tree
Quercus rubra	Red Oak		Provides high shade, tough street tree, russet fall color
Quercus velutina	Black Oak		Tall tree with good salt tolerance
Quercus palustris	Pin Oak		Tolerates difficult conditions, use sparingly to avoid overplanting
Ulmus americana	American Elm	'Princeton'	Vase shaped, fast growing; 'New Harmony'
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple		resistant to heat and drought
Gleditsia triacanthos	Honey Locust		no seed pods or thorns
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree		tall, large showy flowers resembling tulips or lilies
Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak		Usually wider than tall,
MEDIUM TREES: Mature height 20-40 feet.			
Oxydendrum arboreum	Sorrel Tree/Sourwood		Beautiful red fall color, white flowers in early summer
SMALL TREES: Mature height under 30 feet.			
Crataegus viridis	Hawthorne	'Winter King'	White flowers, red fruit for winter interest, lollipop-shaped
Crataegus crusgalli inermis	Hawthorne - no thorns		White flowers, pretty fall color, small leaves
Malus sp.	Crabapples		Beautiful white to pink flowers, fall fruit, attractive form
Halesia tetraptera/carolinia	Silver Bell		Delicate white flowers, tough tree, choose single-stemmed varieties
Acer campestre	Hedge Maple		non-native
Maackia amurensis	Amur Maackia		non-native
Parrotia persica	Persian Ironwood		non-native
Syringa reticulata	Tree Lilac		non-native
Amelanchier canadensis	Shadbush		non-native
PARK OR RESIDENTIAL SPECIMENS			
<i>TREES NEED AMPLE AREA FOR PROPER ROOT GROWTH. LESS TOLERANT OF SALT, COMPACTION, AND/OR POLLUTION.</i>			
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple		Best fall color, may suffer in a warming climate
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweet Gum		Broad shape, star shaped leaves, interesting fruit
Quercus alba	White Oak		Hard to transplant so small trees must be planted, lovely fall color, majestic tree
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree		Subtle flowers in spring, no lower branching, towering, impressive tree
Amelanchier sp.	Shadblow		Small Tree: Single stemmed where visibility is needed, small white flowers in early spring, silver bark

NATIVE TREES THAT NEED SPECIAL CARE			
Cercis canadensis	Redbud		Intolerant of salt, high mortality rate
Magnolia acuminata	Magnolia		Intolerant of pollution
Tilia americana	Linden		Suckering habit, may be overplanted

NON-NATIVE TREES TO AVOID			
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Bradford Pear		Overplanted, weak limbs
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple		Invasive
<i>Acer pseudoplatanoides</i>	Sycamore Maple		Invasive
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven		Invasive
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Cork Tree		Invasive
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust		Invasive
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple		Invasive
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese Tree Lilac		Potentially invasive