

Pierce County's Recommended Tree Species

The following table provides information on selected species of native and non-native trees suitable for use as replacement trees. All species listed are suited to the climate conditions found in the Pacific Northwest. The list is for guidance only and is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other tree species may be utilized where appropriate when recommended by a professional forester, certified arborist, or licensed landscape architect.

Characteristics and Use of Select Tree Species				
Species Scientific Name	Native Tree?	Canopy Size Category	Street Tree?	Characteristics
Grand fir <i>Abies grandis</i>	Yes	Large	No	Coniferous tree achieving heights of up to 150 feet. Tolerant of a variety of soil conditions, similar needs as Douglas fir.
Vine maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	Yes	Small	No	Deciduous tree typically reaching heights of 5-35 feet. Treelike in open sun, crooked sprawling and vine-like in shade. Good fall color. Tolerant of a wide variety of soil conditions. Prefers moist soils, but can tolerate drier conditions once established.
Big leaf maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Yes	Large	No	Deciduous tree. Form varies widely based upon competition and soil conditions. Typically 20 to 30 feet high when grow in open conditions but can reach heights of 80 feet or more in the forest. Good fall color. Tolerant of a wide variety of soil conditions. Similar environmental needs as Douglas fir.
Japanese Maple <i>Acer palmatum</i>	No	Small	Yes	Common deciduous landscape tree. Slow growing, typically grow to no larger than 20 feet in height. Well adapted to the Pacific Northwest and well suited for small lot use. Popular varieties 'Atropurpureum' and 'Bloodgood'.
Norway Maple <i>Acer platanoides</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Common deciduous landscape tree. Typically achieves heights of 50 to 60 feet. Care must be taken near sidewalks and drives as roots can become a problem. Well adapted to the Pacific Northwest.
Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Common deciduous landscape tree. Varieties 'Armstrong' and 'Red Sunset' are recommended for street tree use. Fast growing, typically to 40 feet with brilliant fall control. Well suited to use in

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				Pacific Northwest.
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Yes	Small	No	Deciduous tree seldom larger than 20 feet in height. Tolerant of a wide variety of soil conditions. Fruit very valuable to wildlife.
Pacific madrone <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Yes	Medium	No	Broadleaf evergreen tree typically reaching heights of 20 to 60 feet. Prefers dry sites. Can be difficult to grow. Red peeling bark.
European hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Deciduous tree growing to 40 feet. Variety 'Fastigata' recommended for street tree use. Well suited to use in Pacific Northwest.
Katsura Tree <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Deciduous tree, slow growing to 40 feet. Good fall color. Well suited for small lot use.
English hawthorn <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	No	Small	Yes	Small deciduous tree, typically no larger than 25 feet. Well suited for small lot use, but can be prone to disease. Grows well in Pacific Northwest.
Washington hawthorn <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	No	Small	Yes	Small deciduous tree, typically no larger than 25 feet. Well suited for small lot use with good fall color. Grows well in Pacific Northwest.
Western dogwood <i>Cornus nutallii</i>	Yes	Small		Deciduous tree up to 30 feet in height. Prefers well-drained sites and partial shade. Could work well as a supplemental planting under a canopy of larger trees.
Black hawthorn <i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Yes	Small	No	Deciduous tree up to 30 feet in height. Scarlet fruit. Prefers highly fertile soil and grows best in moist, open areas.
Oregon Ash <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	Yes	Medium	No	Deciduous tree up to 80 feet in height. Prefers moist or wet sites with rich soils. Works well for streamside and wetland plantings.

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Green ash <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Fast growing deciduous tree with height of 40 feet. For street tree use, seedless varieties such as 'Marshall' are preferred. Well suited to Pacific Northwest.
Honey locust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Fast growing deciduous tree with height of 40 feet. Varieties 'Shademaster', 'Skyline', and 'Moraine' are preferred varieties.
Incense cedar <i>Libocedrus decurrens</i>	Yes	Large	Yes	Coniferous tree achieving height of 150 feet. Drought and wind resistant. Slow growth.
American sweet gum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Common landscape tree very tolerant of urban conditions. Achieves heights of 60 feet with good fall color. Well-suited to use in Pacific Northwest.
Tulip tree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	No	Large	No	Large deciduous tree achieving height of up to 60 feet. Very tolerant of urban conditions.
Sourwood <i>Oxydendron arboreum</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Medium deciduous tree with good fall color. Achieves height of 35 feet. Well-suited to use in Pacific Northwest.
Flowering plum <i>Prunus blireiana</i> <i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	No	Small	Yes	Small deciduous tree with colorful dark foliage. Typically reaches height of 20 to 25 feet. Well suited to urban conditions and small lot use.
Japanese flowering cherry <i>Prunus serulata</i>	No	Small	Yes	Small deciduous tree with colorful dark foliage. Typically reaches height of 20 to 25 feet. Well suited to urban conditions and small lot use. Variety 'Amanagowa' and 'Kwanzan' well suited for street tree use.
Flowering cherry <i>Prunus subhirtella</i>	No	Small	Yes	Small deciduous tree with colorful dark foliage. Typically reaches height of 20 to 25 feet. Well suited to urban conditions and small lot use. Variety 'Rosea' and 'Whitcombii' well suited for street tree use.

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Yoshino flowering cherry <i>Prunus yedoensis</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Medium sized deciduous tree achieving height of 40 feet. Fast growing.
Douglas fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Yes	Large	No	Fast growing, long lived coniferous tree growing to height of 150 feet or more. Prefers drier sites, but tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions.
Flowering callery pear <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	No	Medium	Yes	Widely used in commercial landscaping. Deciduous tree 25 to feet in height. Well suited to urban conditions. Varieties for street tree use include 'Aristocrat', 'Bradford', 'Capital', 'Chanticleer', 'Redspire' and 'Whitehouse'.
Oregon white oak <i>Quercus garryana</i>	Yes	Large	No	Deciduous tree typically not more than 50 feet in height. Provides food and cover for a variety of wildlife. Slow growing, prefers well-drained soil.
Pin oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>	No	Large	No	Deciduous tree achieving heights of 50 to 80 feet. Better suited to park or large lot use due to size.
Pacific yew <i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	Yes	Medium	No	Coniferous tree reaching height of 60 feet. Very shade tolerant. Most successful under canopy of larger trees.
Western red cedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	Yes	Large	No	Coniferous tree growing to height of 150 feet or more. Best under moist, shaded conditions, but tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions once established.
Little Leaf Linden <i>Tilia cordata</i>	No	Small	Yes	Small deciduous tree reaching height of 30 feet. Tolerant of urban conditions.
Western hemlock <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Yes	Large	No	Coniferous tree growing to height of 150 feet or more. Best under moist, shaded conditions, but tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions once established.