

ACCEPTABLE URBAN FORESTRY CRITERIA

When Urban Forestry is chosen as a storm water quality BMP, The Storm Water Quality Management Plan must be certified by a licensed Urban Forester, Landscape Architect, Certified Arborist, or similarly qualified professional.

TREE SIZE AND CONDITION

Trees shall be a minimum of 1.5 inch caliper (diameter) at the base and 4 feet tall when planted and a maximum of 3 inches in caliper and 14 feet high. American Standard for Nursery Stock criteria may be used as well.

It is essential that trees be self-supporting with straight trunks and leaders or tops intact. Trees that have been headed back are not acceptable. Trees should be normally shaped for their species and well branched with full foliage when leafed out. The roots must be healthy and sufficiently large to allow recovery after planting. The trunk must be free of abrasions and recent cuts and the tree free of insects and disease.

PLANTING TIMING

The recommended tree planting time in the Harris County area is usually early fall until late spring. Generally, mid October to early March is the best time to plant trees. Planting in late fall or winter will allow roots to become established before moisture demanding summer sets in. All trees must be maintained (primarily watered) for a minimum of two years.

SPACING REQUIREMENTS

There shall be a minimum of 6 caliper inches per 100 lineal feet of new single lane pavement for road projects and a minimum of 1 caliper inch per 170 square feet of impervious surface for all other development projects.

Long-term survivability is the primary objective in urban forestry plantings therefore all planting of one linear mile or greater shall consist of at least four (4) different species from the recommended tree list.

The following requirements are particularly applicable to street tree plantings in Harris County Rights-of-way (Harris County Flood Control District Properties) to comply with the Storm Water Quality Document for New Development/Redevelopment Projects.

- No tree that will have a mature tree trunk diameter greater than 12 inches at the base should be planted in a tree lawn or right-of-way less than 3 feet wide.
- Trees should not be planted within 30 feet of an intersection or where they block views for safety.
- Trees should not be planted within 10 feet of utility poles or within 15 feet of driveways and alleys.
- Medium to large trees, those that mature to a height greater than 30 feet, should be planted 25 to 60 feet apart.
- Small trees, those that mature to less than 30 feet in height, should be planted a minimum of 10 feet apart.
- In business districts and general parking areas, trees must be planted a minimum of 30 inches from the curb to prevent damage from or to bumpers and doors.
- Only trees with a mature height of less than 25 feet should be planted under utility lines.

ACCEPTABLE SPECIES URBAN FORESTRY

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | HEIGHT | SPREAD | GROWTH RATE | COMMENTS |
|--|--------------------|--------|--------|-------------|------------------|
| MEDIUM TO LARGE TREES | | | | | |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> | Red maple | Large | 30 | Medium | Fall color |
| <i>Carya illinoensis</i> | Pecan | Large | 50 | Slow | Fruit |
| <i>Fraxinus americana</i> | White ash | Large | 40 | Fast | Fall color |
| <i>Juglans nigra</i> | Black walnut | Large | 40 | Slow | Fall color |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> | Sweetgum | Large | 40 | Fast | Fall color |
| <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> | Southern magnolia | Large | 45 | Slow | Evergreen |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> | Black gum | Large | 30 | Medium | Fall color |
| <i>Pinus taeda</i> | Loblolly pine | Large | 30 | Fast | Evergreen |
| <i>Platanus mexicana</i> | Mexican sycamore | Large | 50 | Fast | Unique leaf |
| <i>Quercus acutissima</i> | Sawtooth oak | Large | 40 | Fast | Drought tolerant |
| <i>Quercus falcata</i> | Southern red oak | Large | 40 | Slow | Fall color |
| <i>Quercus laurifolia</i> | Laurel oak | Large | 40 | Slow | Semi-evergreen |
| <i>Quercus lyrata</i> | Overcup oak | Large | 40 | Slow | Large acorn |
| <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> | Bur oak | Large | 50 | Slow | Large acorn |
| <i>Quercus michauxii</i> | Swamp chestnut oak | Large | 40 | Slow | Fall color |
| <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> | Chinkapin oak | Large | 40 | Slow | Fall color |
| <i>Quercus nigra</i> | Water oak | Large | 40 | Medium | Deciduous |
| <i>Quercus nuttallii</i> | Nuttall oak | Large | 40 | Medium | Fall color |
| <i>Quercus phellos</i> | Willow oak | Large | 40 | Medium | Deciduous |
| <i>Quercus polymorpha</i> | Monterrey oak | Large | 40 | Fast | Drought tolerant |
| <i>Quercus rizophyllia</i> | Loquat leaf oak | Large | 40 | Fast | Drought tolerant |
| <i>Quercus shumardii</i> | Shumard oak | Large | 40 | Slow | Fall color |
| <i>Quercus stellata</i> | Post oak | Large | 40 | Slow | Deciduous |
| <i>Quercus virginiana</i> | Live oak | Large | 50 | Slow | Semi-evergreen |
| <i>Taxodium distichum</i> | Bald cypress | Large | 30 | Fast | Deciduous |
| <i>Taxodium mucronatum</i> | Montezuma cypress | Large | 40 | Fast | Semi-evergreen |
| <i>Ulmus alata</i> | Winged elm | Large | 30 | Medium | Drought tolerant |
| <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i> | Cedar elm | Large | 30 | Medium | Drought tolerant |
| SMALL TREES | | | | | |
| <i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i> * | Wholly bucket | Small | 30 | Slow | Unique leaf |
| <i>Ehretia anacua</i> * | Anacua | Small | 20 | Slow | Unique leaf |
| <i>Fraxinus texensis</i> * | Texas ash | Small | 25 | Fast | Deciduous |
| <i>Ilex opaca</i> * | American holly | Small | 15 | Slow | Evergreen |
| <i>Ilex x attenuata var East palatka</i> * | East palatka holly | Small | 15 | Slow | Evergreen |
| <i>Ilex x attenuata var Savannah</i> * | Savannah holly | Small | 15 | Slow | Evergreen |
| <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> * | Sweetbay magnolia | Small | 20 | Slow | Evergreen |
| <i>Pistacia chinensis</i> * | Chinese pistache | Small | 25 | Slow | Fall color |
| <i>Prunus serotina</i> * | Black cherry | Small | 20 | Medium | Unique leaf |
| <i>Quercus cambii</i> * | Camby oak | Small | 20 | Medium | Drought tolerant |
| <i>Lagerstroemia</i> | Crape Myrtle | Small | 20 | Medium | Drought tolerant |
| <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> | Vitex/Chaste Tree | Small | 20 | Slow | Drought tolerant |