



# Guide to City of Tampa Natural Resources Preferred Tree List

*This document is intended to offer general guidance. It should not be considered all-inclusive, as the unique nature of a project could alter requirements.*

Use this guide for general information regarding the City of Tampa Natural Resources Preferred Tree List.

## QUICK TIPS

## City of Tampa Preferred Tree List

- To create a sustainable and diverse Tampa Urban Forest and enhance Tampa's tree canopy, the Preferred Tree List provides a list of trees suitable to the City of Tampa's climate and are available in local nurseries.
- Trees from this preferred list will help promote and establish trees that make up the Urban Forest and support the City of Tampa's Urban Forest Management plan's goal of no net loss of canopy.

### Legal Reference

[Chapter 27-284.3.2-A](#)



City of Tampa  
Natural Resources Preferred Tree List

TREE TYPE/SIZE/FORM			TREE DENDROLOGY			TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS				POWER LINE TREE? (Y/N)
Tree Type [1]	Tree Size [2]	FL Grades & Stds Type[3] [8] and [9]	Common Name	Scientific Name	Florida Native	Mature Crown Spread	Mature Height	Species Rating [4, 5]	Growth Rate [6]	
Coniferous	Medium	Type 2	Podocarpus (Yew Plum)	Podocarpus macrophyllus	NO	20' to 25'	30' to 40'	81—100%	Slow	N
Coniferous	Medium	Type 2	Red Cedar Southern	Juniperus virginiana	YES	20' to 30'	30' to 45'	81—100%	Fast	N
Coniferous	Large	Type 2	Baldcypress	Taxodium distichum	YES	25' to 35'	60' to 80'	81—100%	Fast	N
Coniferous	Large	Type 2	Longleaf Pine	Pinus palustris	YES	30' to 40'	60' to 80'	61—80%	Fast	N
Coniferous	Large	Type 2	Pondcypress	Taxodium ascendens	YES	10' to 15'	50' to 60'	81—100%	Slow	N
Coniferous	Large	Type 2	Slash Pine	Pinus elliottii var densa	YES	35' to 50'	75' to 100'	61—80%	Fast	N
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	American Elder	Sambucus nigra (subsp. Canadensis)	YES	6' to 10'	8' to 12'	21—40%	Moderate	Y
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Blackhaw (Walter's Vibernum)	Viburnum obovatum	YES	6' to 10'	8' to 25'	61—80%	Moderate	N
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Chickasaw Plum	Prunus angustifolia	YES	15' to 20'	12 to 20'	61—80%	Moderate	Y
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Crapemyrtle	Lagerstroemia indica	NO	15' to 25'	10' to 30'	81—100%	Moderate	Y
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Ligustrum (Japanese Privet)	Ligustrum japonicum	NO	15' to 25'	8' to 12'	81—100%	Moderate	Y
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Loquat	Eriobotrya japonica	NO	20'	25'	61—80%	Moderate	Y
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Purple Tabebuia	Tabebuia impetiginosa	NO	10' to 15'	12' to 18'	[5]	Slow	N
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Southern Wax Myrtle	Myrica cerifera	YES	20' to 25'	15' to 25'	[5]	Fast	Y
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Starburst	Clerodendrum Quadriloculare	NO	10'	15'	[5]	Fast	Y
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Weeping Bottlebrush	Callistemon viminalis [7]	NO	15' to 20'	15' to 20'	41—60%	Moderate	Y
Ornamental	Small	Type 3	Yaupon Holly	Ilex vomitoria	YES	15' to 20'	15' to 20'	81—100%	Moderate	Y
Ornamental	Medium	Type 3	'Nellie R. Stevens' Holly	Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'	YES	10' to 15'	20' to 30'	81—100%	Moderate	N
Ornamental	Medium	Type 3	Black Mangrove	Avicennia germinans	YES	NOT AVAIL	20' to 40'	41—60%	Not Avail	N

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Ornamental	Medium	Type 2	Dahoon Holly	Ilex cassine	YES	8' to 12'	20' to 30'	61—80%	Moderate	N
Ornamental	Medium	Type 2	'East Palatka' Holly	Ilex x attenuata	YES	10' to 15'	30' to 45'	21—40%	Moderate	N
Ornamental	Medium	Type 3	Golden Trumpet Tree	Tabebuia chrysostricha	NO	25' to 35'	25' to 35'	41—60%	Fast	N
Ornamental	Medium	Type 1	Jacaranda	Jacaranda mimosifolia	NO	45' to 60'	25' to 40'	41—60%	Fast	N
Ornamental	Medium	Type 3	Seagrape	Coccoloba uvifera	YES	20' to 30'	25' to 30'	61—80%	Moderate	N
Ornamental	Medium	Type 3	Simpson Stopper	Myrcianthes fragrans	YES	15' to 20'	15' to 20'	81—100%	Slow	N
Ornamental	Large	Type 1	Chinese Elm SPP	Ulmus parvifolia	NO	35' to 50'	35' to 45'	41—60%	Moderate	N
Ornamental	Large	Type 2	Japanese Blueberry	Eleocarpus decipiens	NO	20' to 40'	40' to 60'	81—100%	Slow	N
Ornamental	Large	Type 2	Olive	Olea europaea	NO	35' to 50'	25' to 50'	61—80%	Slow	N
Ornamental	Large	Type 1	Southern Magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora	YES	30' to 40'	60' to 80'	61—80%	Moderate	N
Ornamental	Large	Type 1	Sweetbay Magnolia	Magnolia virginiana	YES	15' to 25'	40' to 50'	61—80%	Moderate	N
Ornamental	Large	Type 1	Winged Elm	Ulmus alata	YES	30' to 40'	45' to 70'	61—80%	Fast	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	(American) Sycamore	Platanus occidentalis	YES	50' to 70'	75' to 90'	41—60%	Fast	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	Florida Maple	Acer floridanum	YES	25' to 40'	20' to 40'	41—60%	Moderate	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	American Elm	Ulmus americana	YES	50' to 70'	70' to 90'	81—100%	Fast	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	Laurel Oak	Quercus laurifolia	YES	35' to 45'	60' to 70'	61—80%	Fast	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	Pignut Hickory	Carya glabra	YES	30' to 40'	50' to 65'	81—100%	Moderate	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	Pop Ash	Fraxinus caroliniana	YES	40' to 60'	50' to 80'	[5]	Fast	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	Red Maple	Acer rubrum	YES	25' to 35'	60' to 75'	61—80%	Fast	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	Sand Live Oak	Quercus geminata	YES	45' to 60'	30' to 50'	81—100%	Moderate	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	Southern Live Oak	Quercus virginiana	YES	60' to 120'	60' to 80'	81—100%	Moderate	N
Shade	Large	Type 1	Sweetgum	Liquidambar styraciflua	YES	35' to 50'	60' to 75'	61—80%	Moderate	N
Palm	Small	Palm	Chinese Windmill Palm	Trachycarpus fortunei	NO	6' to 10'	10' to 20'	61—80%	Slow	Y

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Palm	Small	Palm	European Fan Palm	Chamaerops humilis	NO	20'	15'	81—100%	Slow	Y
Palm	Small	Palm	Pindo Palm	Butia capitata	NO	10' to 15'	15' to 25'	61-80%	Slow	Y
Palm	Small	Palm	Pygmy Date Palm	Phoenix roebellenii	NO	7'	12'	61—80%	Slow	Y
Palm	Medium	Palm	Paurotis Palm	Acoelorrhaphe wrightii	YES	12'	30'	61—80%	Slow	N
Palm	Medium	Palm	Puerto Rican Hat Palm	Sabal causarium	NO	15'	45'	[5]	Slow	N
Palm	Large	Palm	Bismarck Palm	Bismarkia nobilis	NO	12' to 16'	30' to 60'	[5]	Slow	N
Palm	Large	Palm	Cabbage Palm	Sabal palmetto	YES	10' to 15'	40' to 50'	81—100%	Slow	N
Palm	Large	Palm	Ribbon Fan Palm	Livistona decora (deciphens)	NO	15'	30'	81—100%	Slow	N
Palm	Large	Palm	Washington (Mexican Fan) Palm	Washingtonia robusta [7]	NO	10' to 15'	60' to 90'	61—80%	Fast	N

Notes:

[1] Typology: Shade; Coniferous; Ornamental; Palm

[2] **Small [0—20' avg height]; Medium [20—40' avg height]; Large [40' or higher avg height]. Average ["avg"] height dimension is at time of full growth/maturity.**

[3] Source: FL Dept of Agricultural & Consumer Services, Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants 2015. Any species not listed above must obtain approval of natural resources coordinator and will adhere to Florida Grades & Standards criteria for use of species not listed and determination of Matrix Type. Type 1: Tall & Wide; Type 2: Tall & Narrow; Type 3: Short/Wide & Multi-Trunked; Palm.

[4] Source: Tree Species Ratings for Florida, January 2016, International Society of Arboriculture, FL Chapter. Rating % assigned to a specific tree upon evaluation and determination of its existing condition. Refer to section 27-285.4.1 for Rating % and tree condition equivalency factors. The higher the Rating % = the higher suitability in Tampa's urban environment (assuming proper placement & general maintenance).

[5] Species Rating not available from Florida ISA. Use Condition Rating factor as Species Rating factor in Mitigation calculation for grand trees.

[6] **Growth Rate: refers to the vertical increase in growth. Slow: ≤ 12" per year; Moderate: 13"—24" per year; Fast: > 25" per year. (Source: Dirr, M., Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, pub. Jan. 1990)**

[7] Species listed as Category II on the 2017 Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council List of Exotic Species. Species may be planted and/or retained, but no credit shall be factored into mitigation formula. See also section 27-284.1.2(2).

[8] Standard (STD): Trees grown in such a way where a single trunk extends from the root ball up to at least the bottom of the crown. The term 'standard' is commonly misused to refer to a clear trunk tree, however, a standard tree can be a clear trunk or full-to-the-ground tree.

[9] **Maintain 8' of clear trunk: Clear Trunk (CT): Trees grown in such a way that a portion of the trunk is exposed below the crown so that the bottom of the crown and the trunk are clearly defined.** The amount of exposed trunk can vary due to species grower preference, contract specification and market demands. Other terms that can be used synonymously with clear trunk include CT, tree form, and limbed-up.

Reference: "Y" means "Yes," "N" means "No," "NOT AVAIL" means "not available at time of adoption of this document."