



Tree Selection Guide 3/25/2016

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Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (feet)	Growth Rate	Water Use	Carbon Storage	Pollution Filtering	Allergen Rating*	Comments
Small Deciduous**								
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	10- 18'	medium	low	L	L	5	Magenta blooms; native
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow	15-20'	fast	low	L	M	5	Can compliment solar panels
Cotinus coggygria 'Royal Purple'	Smoke tree	12-15'	medium	low	L	L	8	Pollen can be avoided by hard yearly pruning
Lagerstroemia Dwarf varieties	Dwarf Crape Myrtle	3-6'	medium	moderate	L	L	5	Pink, purple, red or white.
Ficus carica	Fig	15-30'	fast	low	M	M	2	Edible fruit; can be held to 10' in large container. Casts dense shade
Punica granatum 'California Sunset'	Pomegranate	8-10'	medium	moderate	L	L	2	No fruit, creamy white double flowers heavily striped coral red
Ziziphus jujube	Chinese Date	15-20'	moderate	low	L	L	7	Food Source
Medium Deciduous								
Cercis reniformis 'Oklahoma'	Oklahoma Redbud	to 35'	medium	moderate	L	L	5	Pink to wine red flowers
Chionanthus 'Retusus'	Chinese Fringe	20'	medium	moderate	L	L	1 female	Attractive flower; tolerates full sun
Koeleruteria paniculata	Goldenrain tree	20-35"	medium	moderate	M	M	4	New leaves are purplish, maturing to bright green in summer.
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape Myrtle (indian tribe)	to 25'	medium	low	L	L	5	Thrive in heat and full sun, showy summer flowers
Parkinsonia 'Desert Museum'	Palo Verde	15-30'	moderate	low	L	L	6	Flowers followed by seed pods.
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	to 40'	moderate	moderate	M	M	1 female	Prized for orange and red color in autumn, well-behaved roots
Pistacia chinensis 'Keith Davey'	Chinese Pistache	to 40'	moderate	moderate	M	M	8 male	See above. Male produces pollen which causes high allergen rating.
Vitex agnus-castus	Chaste tree	to 25'	fast	moderate	M	M	4	Attract butterflies and humming birds, thrives in heat, resists root rot
Large Deciduous								
Acer rubrum 'October Glory'	October glory maple	to 60'	fast	regular	H	M	1	Dependable bright red-crimson fall color; no pollen, a fine tree
Koeleruteria bipinnata	Chinese Flame	20 - 40'	moderate	moderate	M	M	4	Late-summer flower clusters; deep, noninvasive roots.
Ginkgo biloba 'Golden Girl'	Maidenhair tree	50-80'	slow	moderate	H	M	2 female	Graceful tree. Malodorous fruit pods; plant away from walkways
Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold'	Maidenhair tree	50-80'	slow	moderate	H	M	7 male	See above. Male produces pollen which causes high allergen rating.
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak	60-80'	moderate	moderate	H	H	8	Good, deep rooted lawn tree
Quercus lobata	Valley Oak	70+'	slow	low	H	H	8	California's mightiest oak, massive trunk and limbs, constant debris.
Quercus palustris	Pin Oak	50-80'	rapid	moderate	H	H	8	Fine for lawns. Less tolerant of dry conditions.
Ulmus parvifolia 'Allee'	Chinese Elm	to 70'	fast	regular	H	H	8	Aggressive shallow roots.
Zelkova serrata 'Village Green'	Sawleaf Zelkova	60+'	fast	moderate	H	H	10	Good shade tree
Small Evergreen**								
Citrus 'Bearss'	Dwarf lime	7-10'	medium	regular	L	L	4	Food source, allergy to citrus not common, long lived, handsome
Citrus 'Improved Meyer'	Dwarf Meyer Lemon	6-7'	medium	regular	L	L	4	"
Citrus 'Nagami' or 'Meiwa'	Kumquat	3-6'	medium	moderate	L	L	4	"
Citrus 'Washington'	Dwarf Navel Oranges	8-12'	medium	regular	L	L	4	"
Juniperus scopulorum 'Wichita Blue'	Wichita blue juniper	10-15'	medium	low	L	L	1 female	Broad silver blue cone, do not plant next to sprinklers to avoid root rot.
Rhaphiolepis 'Majestic Beauty'	Majestic Beauty Indian Hawthorne	10-15'	slow	moderate	L	L	4	Can compliment solar panels
Medium Evergreen								
Arbutus 'Marina'	Strawberry tree	25-40'	medium	low	L	L	3	Attractive bark and fruit, attracts birds, drought tolerant
Geijera parviflora	Australian Willow	25-40'	medium	low	H	M	6	Deep, noninvasive roots, leaves are aromatic.
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	20-25'	medium	low	L	L	3	Profuse white flowers, red berries in fall, attracts birds, butterflies
Laurus nobilis	Sweet bay	12-40'	slow	moderate	M	M	2 female	Dense, small tree. Aromatic leaves used in cooking.
Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'	Olive tree (fruitless)	25-35'	medium	low	M	M	1	'Swan Hill' never flowers, making it acceptable for allergens
Large Evergreen								
Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar	80'		low	H	H	1	Christmas Tree Lane, drought tolerant
Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor	50-60'		moderate	H	H	8	Pollen rarely drifts far from the tree
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island Pine	50-80'	fast	low	H	H	4	Grows as slender, graceful pyramid. Later tiered and round headed.
Pinus eldarica	Mondell pine	30'80'	fast	low	H	M	4	One of the best pines in the desert; also known as Mondell Pine
Pinus pinea	Italian Stone Pine	40-80'	moderate	low	H	M	4	In maturity, tree is broad and flat topped. Heat tolerant.
Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	20-70'		low	H	H	9	Greedy roots, handsome shade tree, drops leaves in spring
Quercus chrysolepis	Canyon Live Oak	20-60'		moderate	H	H	9	Large sharp-tipped acorns; adaptable to varying conditions.
Quercus ilex	Holly Oak	30-60'	fast	moderate	H	H	9	Dense, rounded head.
Quercus suber	Cork Oak	30-60'		moderate	H	H	9	Good garden shade tree. Handsome, thick bark.
Quercus virginiana 'Heritage'	Southern Live Oak	40-80'	fast	moderate	H	H	9	Attractive; best for lawn planting.
Quercus wislizenii	Interior Live Oak	30-75'		low	H	H	9	Dense, rounded canopy. Handsome tree for parks and big lawns.

*Allergen Rating: Ogren Index 1 = low 10 = high Trees in green are great Reference Books: Sunset Western Garden Book, 2012 Understanding Trees by John K. Pape, 2006
 **Small trees suitable under power lines Trees in blue are better Allergy-Free Gardening by Thomas Leo Ogren, 2000 Trees of the California Landscape by Charles R. Hatch, 2007