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# Southwestern Oregon Tree Selection Guide

for Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine counties



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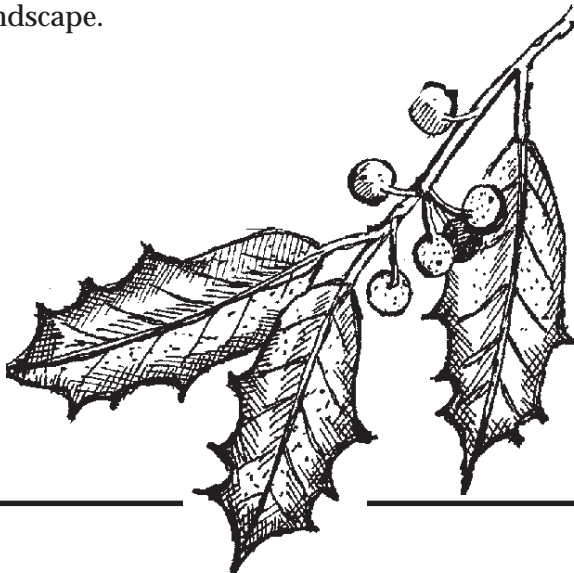
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Selecting the right tree for the right place is the most important decision to make in the planting process. If you choose your tree wisely, you'll enjoy it for many years. If you don't, you may be stuck with a tree that has outgrown your yard, drops fruit in your neighbor's flowerbeds, or worse.

There is no "perfect" tree. Many species have desirable features such as spring flowers, fall color, or drought tolerance. At the same time, they all have at least one undesirable characteristic, whether it is a pest problem or intolerance of certain site conditions.

This publication is designed to help you choose the *best* tree for each particular planting situation in southwestern Oregon. It is based on important site conditions such as sun, water availability, and size constraints, as well as on special features such as spring or summer flowers, fall color, deer resistance, wildlife food, shade creation, and disease resistance.

This list is not meant to be comprehensive. Rather it is a mixture of tried-and-true performers and promising species that should do well but generally are under-represented in the landscape.



## How to use this guide

Most people select trees for a particular purpose or function, such as flowers, fruit, or drought tolerance. With that in mind, the first part of this publication (pages 7–39) consists of a series of lists of trees for special situations or purposes. The lists are:

- Trees for sites with partial sun
- Trees with moderate drought tolerance
- Trees with good drought tolerance
- Short trees (up to 35' mature height)
- Narrow trees (up to 30')
- Trees for spring flowers
- Trees for summer flowers
- Trees for fall color
- Trees that create shade
- Deer-resistant trees
- Trees that attract wildlife
- Trees resistant to armillaria root rot
- Trees resistant to verticillium wilt

Find the list that represents the feature that is *most* important to you. Then look at the symbols to see which trees on the list also provide the other features you desire.

Once you select some potential trees for your site, look at the detailed descriptions of these species (pages 41–69). The description of each tree includes information about growth characteristics, site suitability, limitations, and notable characteristics.

Some species also have *cultivars* (varieties) listed. Cultivars are genetically produced trees that have more uniformity than usually is found within a species.

## Trees in the home landscape

Although you may be buying a tree to add beauty to your home landscape, trees also have many other important functions. Proper placement of trees can result in as much as a 10- to 20-percent reduction in heating and cooling costs. Landscaping your home also can increase the resale value of your property. Houses on lots with mature trees may sell for as much as 6 to 12 percent more than identical houses on lots without trees.

Trees and shrubs in our environment conserve water, air, and soil and provide habitat for wildlife. Shade trees provide living, nesting, and gathering places for many birds and animals, especially in the winter when wind protection is needed most. Trees and other plants with abundant fruits and seeds are particularly attractive to birds.

Large shade trees with spreading overhead canopies act as an outdoor “ceiling” and give a more intimate feeling to your yard and street. Trees and shrubs can block an undesirable view, enclose an area for privacy, or separate one area from another.

For more information on how to use, plant, and maintain trees in the home landscape, obtain a copy of *Selecting, Planting, and Caring For a New Tree*, EC 1438 (see page 4 for ordering instructions).

## Tree selection—The right tree in the right place

### Spacing considerations

Mature spread and height are the first things to consider in matching a particular tree to a site. Check the tree lists in this publication for mature height and spread for any tree you’re considering planting.

Overhead powerlines, existing vegetation, and infrastructure such as curbs and sidewalks must be considered. Planning now can save maintenance headaches later. For example, trees that reach a height greater than 30–35 feet should not be planted under powerlines. The powerline symbol in this publication indicates that a tree is suitable for planting under powerlines.

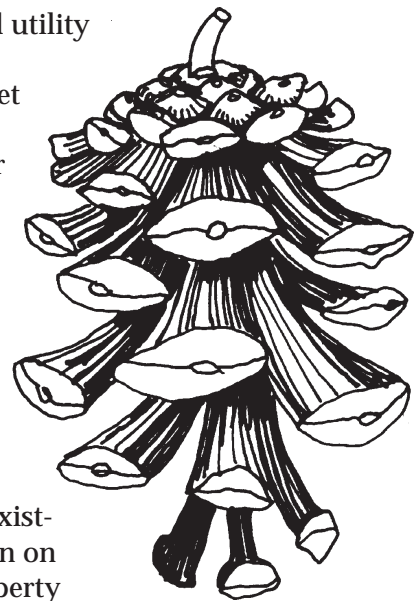
Trees with large spreading crowns should not be planted near traffic intersections. Trees that bear fruit should not be planted near sidewalks.

The mature size of the tree is especially important when choosing trees to plant in the “tree lawn,” the area between the sidewalk and the street. Not only do you need to consider such factors as powerlines, but planting the right street tree in the appropriate tree lawn area also can avoid future sidewalk conflicts. Here are some guidelines for matching tree size to the planting area available:

- If the tree lawn is 3–5 feet wide, choose trees that attain mature heights of less than 35 feet.
- If the tree lawn is less than 6 feet wide, choose trees with a mature height of 50 feet or less.
- Plant large shade trees only in tree lawns greater than 8 feet wide.

The following minimum distance standards are recommended for the placing of trees in tree lawn areas:

- Centered between curb and sidewalk, at least 2 feet from curb
- At least 10 feet from driveways, handicap ramps, and fire hydrants
- No closer than 5 feet behind or 10 feet in front of signs
- At least 5 feet from underground utility branches
- At least 10 feet from street lights, farther for larger trees
- At least 15 feet from storm sewer inlets
- At least 30 feet from intersections
- Away from existing vegetation on abutting property



## Sun and water

Trees that grow well in partial sun (3–6 hours per day) are indicated in this publication by a half-filled sun symbol. Trees without this symbol require full sun.

Trees that are moderately drought-resistant are indicated by a half-filled waterdrop symbol. Trees with good drought tolerance are indicated by a quarter-filled waterdrop symbol.

## Hardiness

Extreme weather conditions such as temperature variations, late spring frosts, drought, and a variety of other environmental factors have an impact on tree growth.

The hardiness of a tree generally is described as its ability to withstand cold temperatures. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has mapped the entire country into a series of cold hardiness zones based on the estimated minimum temperatures in a given area. Each tree species is rated to a minimum cold hardiness zone.

Southwestern Oregon falls within zones 7 to 9 on the USDA plant hardiness zone map (Figure 1). Zone 7 has a minimum temperature of 0 to 10°F, while Zone 9 has a minimum temperature of 20 to 30°F. However, the influences of mountain elevations, temperature fluctuations, high winds, and lack of rainfall can create microclimates that are harsher than the surrounding area.

Hardiness guidelines may reflect optimal rather than actual growing conditions. Since southwestern Oregon is such a large area, the hardiness information listed in this guide should be validated by local sources.

## Buying trees

After considering what type of tree you need and evaluating your planting site, visit a nursery or garden center to view some of the many types of trees available. Avoid buying the

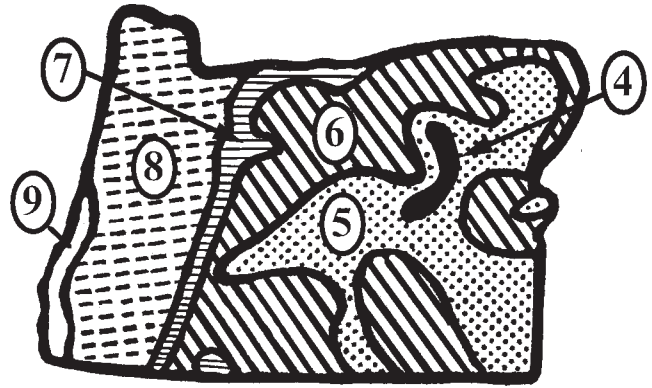


Figure 1.—Oregon plant hardiness zone map (Extracted from the USDA's national plant hardiness zone map, based on average annual minimum temperature in °F.)

Zone 4 = -30 to -20	Zone 7 = 0 to 10
Zone 5 = -20 to -10	Zone 8 = 10 to 20
Zone 6 = -10 to 0	Zone 9 = 20 to 30

cheapest tree you can find because it may turn out to be a costly mistake you'll pay for later.

Purchase trees from a licensed nursery or landscape contractor. All nursery stock should meet requirements of the American Association of Nurserymen (MN) and American Standards for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60.1) for top grade. Don't hesitate to reject inferior planting stock.

Buy only plants that are healthy and free from dead or broken branches, scars, broken bark, or wounds. Make sure all pruning wounds are well healed with no evidence of decay. Don't purchase trees with cracked or broken root balls.

Trees should be a minimum 1½ inches in diameter (except for seedlings). They must have well-developed branches, be uniformly branched with good branch angles, and have a vigorous root system. Branches should not be cropped or headed back before planting.

For most trees, bare root, containerized, or balled and burlapped (B&B) stock may be used. Only rottable burlap and rope should be used on B&B trees. Conifers above seedling size should not be bare-root planted.

# Part I

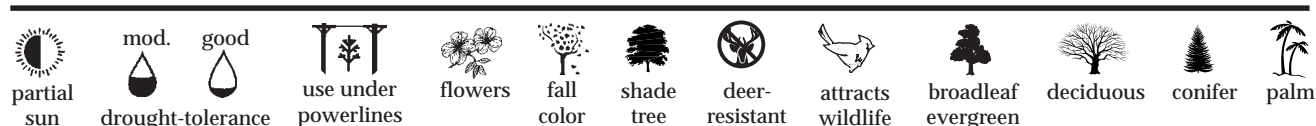
# Tree Lists



## Trees for sites with partial sun (3–6 hours/day)

Note: All other trees in this publication require full sun (more than 6 hours per day).

	Height	Spread	Site considerations	Features	Type	Page
Alder, Oregon Red <i>Alnus oregona</i>	50'	25'				41
Bay, California (Oregon myrtle) <i>Umbellularia Californica</i>	75'	100'				42
Bayberry, California (Pacific wax myrtle) <i>Myrica californica</i>	30'	10'				42
Birch, Japanese White Spire <i>Betula platyphylla 'japonica'</i>	40'	25'				43
Cedar, Incense <i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	70–110'	30–40'				63
Dogwood, Evergreen <i>Cornus capitata</i>	30'	30'				45
Dogwood, Kousa hybrids <i>Cornus kousa x florida</i>	20–25'	20'			 <i>semi</i>	45
Dove Tree (Handkerchief Tree) <i>Davidia involucrata</i>	40'	30'				46
Firs, True <i>Abies sp.</i>	>150'	30'				64
Goldenchain Tree <i>Laburnum watereri</i>	25'	20'				46





## Part II

# Tree Descriptions

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### Evergreen and Deciduous Broadleaf Trees

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**Alder, Oregon Red**  
*Alnus oregona*  
(*A. rubra*)

Height: 50'      Spread: 25'      Growth: fast      Hardy: all areas

This Pacific Northwest native is an excellent selection for sites with poor drainage. It tolerates salt water and is a good selection for streams with tide water. For propagating by seed, refer to reference 8.



**Ash, Autumn Purple**  
*Fraxinus americana*  
'autumn purple'

Height: 45'      Spread: 40'      Growth: moderate      Hardy: all areas

'Autumn purple' is one of the most popular clones of *F. americana*. In southwest Oregon, the leaves seldom turn purple in autumn but instead are a brilliant mottled yellow and orange. Leaves usually fall over a short time period.



**Ash, Golden Desert**  
*Fraxinus oxycarpa* 'aureafolia'

Height: 20'      Spread: 18'      Growth: fast      Hardy: all areas

This *F. oxycarpa* clone has a rounded, compact growth habit with yellow autumn foliage.



**Ash, Raywood**  
*Fraxinus oxycarpa* 'raywood'

Height: 35'      Spread: 25'      Growth: fast      Hardy: all areas

This desirable clone is seedless and puts on a dazzling foliar display in the fall. Its compound, delicately textured leaves are smaller than those of other ashes. The tree's compact and upright growth habit makes it an excellent landscape selection.

