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Small Tree Selection

1. Eastern Redbud

Foliage:

- Deciduous (seasonally loses leaves)

Native Locale:

- Chicago area
- Illinois
- North America

Landscape Uses:

- Massing
- Patio/sidewalk
- Shade tree
- Specimen

Size Range:

- Medium tree (25-40 feet)
- Small tree (15-25 feet)

Mature Height:

- 20-30 feet

Mature Width:

- 25-35 feet

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)
- Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Moist, well-drained soil

Planting Considerations:

- Messy fruit/plant parts

Ornamental Interest:

- Spring blossoms
- Fall color
- Persistent fruit/seeds
- Showy fruit
- Showy flowers
- Attractive bark

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Pink,
- Purple

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Transplants Well:

- No

More Information:

Size & Form

A small tree, often multi-stemmed, reaching 20 to 25 feet high and wide.

Tree & Plant Care

Best planted in part shade in the spring. In full sun supplemental water in dry periods. Plants benefit with a 3 to 4 inch layer of organic mulch to protect the tree's shallow root system. Relatively short-lived with a 20 to 25 year life span.

2. Prairie Crabapple

Foliage:

- Deciduous (seasonally loses leaves)

Native Locale:

- Chicago area
- Illinois
- North America

Landscape Uses:

- Shade tree
- Specimen
- Utility

Size Range:

- Medium tree (25-40 feet)
- Small tree (15-25 feet)

Mature Height:

- 20-30 feet

Mature Width:

- 20-30 feet

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)
- Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Acid soil
- Moist, well-drained soil

Ornamental Interest:

- Summer blossoms
- Edible fruit
- Fragrant flowers
- Showy flowers

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Fragrant
- Pink
- White

Shape or Form:

- Round

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Transplants Well:

- Yes

Wildlife:

- Birds
- Browsers
- Insect pollinators

More Information:

Tree & Plant Care

Crabapples are adaptable to most soil conditions but prefer full sun in moist, well-drained soil. Light pruning may be required to keep plants healthy or correct structural problems. Thinning the crown allows light into center for better flowering. Remove dead, diseased and crossing branches at any time.

3. Snow Crabapple

Foliage:

- Deciduous (seasonally loses leaves)

Native Locale:

- Chicago area
- Illinois
- North America

Landscape Uses:

- Massing
- Parkway/street
- Patio/sidewalk
- Shade tree
- Specimen
- Utility

Size Range Snowdrift (*Malus* 'Snowdrift') Mature Height:

- 15-20 feet

Mature Width:

- Variable

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Moist, well-drained soil

Planting Considerations:

- Excessive sucker growth
- Messy fruit/plant parts

Ornamental Interest:

- Spring blossoms
- Showy flowers

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Fragrant
- Pink
- Red
- White

Shape or Form:

- Oval
- Pyramidal
- Round
- Upright
- Vase-shaped

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Transplants Well:

- Yes

Wildlife:

- Birds,
- Migrant birds,
- Small mammals

More Information:

Tree & Plant Care

Crabapples are adaptable to most soil conditions but prefer full sun in moist, well-drained soil. Light pruning may be required to keep plants healthy or correct structural problems. Thinning crown allows light into center for better flowering. Remove dead, diseased and crossing branches at any time. Suckers from the base are problems with many crabapples, prune as close to ground as possible.

4. Washington Hawthorne

Foliage:

- Deciduous (seasonally loses leaves)

Native Locale:

- Illinois
- North America

Landscape Uses:

- Specimen
- Shade tree
- Parkway/street

Size Range:

- Medium tree (25-40 feet)

Mature Height:

- 25-30 feet

Mature Width:

- 20-25 feet

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)
- Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Moist, well-drained soil

Planting Considerations:

- Dangerous thorns

Ornamental Interest:

- Spring blossoms
- Fall color
- Persistent fruit/seeds
- Showy flowers

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- White

Shape or Form:

- Oval
- Round

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Transplants Well:

- Yes

Wildlife:

- Game birds
- Songbirds

More Information:**Tree & Plant Care**

This tree is thorny and should be sited carefully.

Medium Tree Selection

1. *Ginkgo Biloba*

Foliage:

- Deciduous (seasonally loses leaves)

Native Locale:

- Non-native

Landscape Uses:

- Parkway/street
- Shade tree
- Specimen

Size Range:

- Large tree (more than 40 feet)

Mature Height:

- 50-80 feet

Mature Width:

- Variable

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Moist, well-drained soil

Planting Considerations:

- Messy fruit/plant parts

Ornamental Interest:

- Fall color

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Inconspicuous

Shape or Form:

- Broad
- Pyramidal
- Upright

Growth Rate:

- Slow

Transplants Well:

- Yes

More Information:**Tree & Plant Care**

Relatively low maintenance. Prune in spring. No serious pests. Tolerates salt, heat, drought, alkaline soil. Native to China. Buy male cultivars only.

2. Oriental Cherry (aka Japanese flowering cherry)

Foliage:

- Deciduous (seasonally loses leaves)

Native Locale:

- Non-native

Landscape Uses:

- Specimen
- Utility

Size Range:

- Medium/small tree (15-25 feet)

Mature Height:

- 15-20 feet

Mature Width:

- 15-20 feet

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Moist, well-drained soil

Ornamental Interest:

- Spring blossoms
- Fall color
- Fragrant flowers
- Showy flowers
- Attractive bark

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Pink
- White

Shape or Form:

- Round

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Transplants Well:

- Yes

Wildlife:

- Insect pollinators

More Information:

Tree & Plant Care

This can be a high maintenance tree due to numerous disease and insect problems. This can be a relatively short-lived tree.

3. Japanese Tree Lilac

Foliage:

- Deciduous (seasonally loses leaves)

Native Locale:

- Non-native

Landscape Uses:

- Parkway/street
- Patio/sidewalk
- Shade tree
- Specimen

Size Range:

- Medium tree (25-40 feet)
- Small tree (15-25 feet)

Mature Height:

- 20-30 feet

Mature Width:

- 15-25 feet

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Moist, well-drained soil

Ornamental Interest:

- Spring blossoms
- Fragrant flowers
- Showy fruit
- Showy flowers
- Attractive bark

Season of Interest:

- Late spring
- Early summer

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Fragrant
- White

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Transplants Well:

- Yes

Wildlife:

- Butterflies
- Hummingbirds
- Insect pollinators

More Information:

Prune after flowering. Native to Japan. Simple leaves in pairs (opposite) on stems; ovate with a rounded base, dark green. Leaves fall in autumn with little color change (yellow green).

4. Apple Serviceberry

Foliage:

- Deciduous (seasonally loses leaves)

Native Locale:

- Non-native

Landscape Uses:

- Massing
- Mixed border
- Patio/sidewalk
- Specimen

Size Range:

- Medium/small tree (15-25 feet)

Mature Height:

- 20-25 feet

Mature Width:

- 20-25 feet

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)
- Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Acid soil

Ornamental Interest:

- Spring blossoms
- Fall color
- Edible fruit
- Showy fruit
- Showy flowers
- Attractive bark

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Fragrant
- White

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Transplants Well:

- Moderate

Wildlife:

- Birds

More Information:

Plants are shallow-rooted and benefit from a mulch layer to conserve moisture and moderate soil temperatures.

Large Tree Selection

1. Swamp White Oak

Native Locale:

- Chicago area, Illinois, North America

Landscape Uses:

- Parkway/street
- Shade tree

Size Range:

- Large tree (more than 40 feet)

Mature Height:

- 50-60 feet

Mature Width:

- 50-60 feet

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Acid soil
- Moist, well-drained soil

Planting Considerations:

- Messy fruit/plant parts

Ornamental Interest:

- Fall color

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Inconspicuous

Shape or Form:

- Broad
- Round

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Transplants Well:

- Yes

Wildlife:

- Game birds
- Game mammals
- Migrant birds
- Small mammals

More Information:

Tree & Plant Care

One of the easiest oaks to transplant and more tolerant of poor drainage than other oaks. Avoid high pH soils or plants may develop chlorotic (yellowing) leaves. Tolerant of salt, drought and heat. Prune oaks in the dormant season to avoid attracting beetles that may carry oak wilt.

3. Silver Linden

Native Locale:

- Non-native

Planting Site:

- Residential and parks
- City parkway
- Wide median

Landscape Uses:

- Parkway/street
- Shade tree
- Specimen

Size Range:

- Large tree (more than 40 feet)

Mature Height:

- 50-70 feet

Mature Width:

- 25-40 feet

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)
- Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Moist, well-drained soil

Ornamental Interest:

- Summer blossoms
- Fall color
- Fragrant flowers

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Fragrant
- Yellow

Shape or Form:

- Pyramidal

Growth Rate:

- Moderate

Transplants Well:

- Yes

More Information:

Full sun is best. Fairly adaptable to soil pH. Will tolerate drought a little better than other linden species.

3. American Elm

Tree or Plant Type:

- Tree

Native Locale:

- Chicago area
- Illinois
- North America

Size Range:

- Large tree (more than 40 feet)

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Moist, well-drained soil

Season of Interest:

- Early winter
- Mid winter
- Late winter
- Early fall
- Mid fall

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Inconspicuous
- Other

Shape or Form:

- Vase-shaped

Growth Rate:

- Moderate
- Fast

More Information:**Tree & Plant Care**

Generally, elms prefer sun. Adapt easily to extremes in soil pH, moisture and heat and wind tolerance. Native to the eastern half of the United States.

4. River Birch

Native Locale:

- Chicago area
- Illinois
- North America

Planting Site:

- Residential and parks
- Restricted sites

Landscape Uses:

- Shade tree
- Specimen

Size Range:

- Medium tree (25-40 feet)

Mature Height:

- 30-40 feet

Mature Width:

- 20-30 feet

Light Exposure:

- Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)

Soil Preference:

- Acid soil
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Wet soil

Ornamental Interest:

- Spring blossoms
- Fall color
- Attractive bark

Flower Color & Fragrance:

- Inconspicuous

Shape or Form:

- Pyramidal
- Round

Growth Rate:

- Fast

Transplants Well:

- Yes

Wildlife:

- Game birds
- Insect pollinators
- Small mammals
- Songbirds

More Information:**Tree & Plant Care**

River birch is drought sensitive and does not like hot, dry summers. Plants benefit with a 3 to 4 inch layer of mulch and supplemental water in dry periods.