

MAKE A TREE A PART OF YOUR FAMILY



ADOPT A TREE

CITY OF ALBANY



Mayor Kathy Sheehan



Department of General Services
Sergio Panunzio, Commissioner

One Richard J. Conners Blvd. • Albany, NY 12204
518-434-CITY (2489) • forestry@albanyny.gov • www.adoptatreealbany.com



Message from the City Forester

Greetings:

Thank you for your interest in the City of Albany's Adopt a Tree Program!

Albany is committed to improving the quality of life for all its residents and visitors, and trees are an integral part of life in our capital city. The value of trees goes well beyond their beauty and the shade they offer. The social and economic impacts of trees include improving property values, reducing storm water runoff, reducing cooling and heating costs, reducing the pollutants in the air and soil, and producing oxygen.

To encourage tree planting, the City of Albany underwrites one-half of the cost of purchasing and planting each tree. This is a "street tree" program and all trees must be planted in the city right-of-way. If there is no lawn or lawn strip, the City will open an area in the sidewalk to provide a planting space.

A tree, with a little care and maintenance, can last a lifetime. We hope you will consider adopting a tree and making it a part of your family.

Sincerely,

Jay Lavigne

Jay Lavigne
City of Albany Forester





What should I think about when considering adopting a tree in front of my home?

It is important to select a plantable location. Trees cannot be planted on the site of an old tree or stump because the roots are still in the ground. If there is anything in the ground that you cannot cut with a shovel, please select another location.

Carefully consider where you would like a city tree; look for overhead lines, water and gas shut offs, and the size of the growing area. The trees we have chosen are 'urban tolerant', are grouped by size at maturity, and are listed for suitability under utility/power lines.

Care of newly planted trees is the responsibility of the property owner. Trees are guaranteed for one year against death by natural causes, provided there is no evidence of neglect. Vandalism and motor vehicle damage is not covered by the guarantee.

What kind of maintenance is involved in caring for a tree?

The following "Do's and Dont's" of maintaining street trees will help your tree thrive for years to come:

WATER: Watering is the most important thing you can do for your street tree until it becomes established. Throughout the summer months, you want to ensure that you water your trees 2-3 times a week. An occasional soak is much more effective than a frequent misting of water. Usually street trees become self-sustaining after 3-5 years, after which water should only be needed in times of severe drought.

MULCH: Placing a 2-3" layer of mulch in the tree pit will help insulate tree roots from heat and cold, hold moisture to the ground, and suppress weeds. Maintaining a mulch level even with or slightly above that of surrounding sidewalks also keeps our sidewalks safe for passersby.

WEEDS: Weeds compete with the tree for root space, nutrients, and water. Weeds should be removed as frequently as possible.

WASTE: Trees depend on the nutrients and water in the soil of the tree pit. Removing trash, preventing dogs from using the tree as a restroom, and making sure harmful chemicals (fuels, batteries, solvents, paints) do not find their way into the pit will vastly improve the health and vitality of the tree.



Available Trees

SMALL TREES (SUITABLE UNDER UTILITY LINES)

COST OF TREE IS \$300.00 (CITY SHARES HALF THE COST) YOUR COST IS: \$150.00

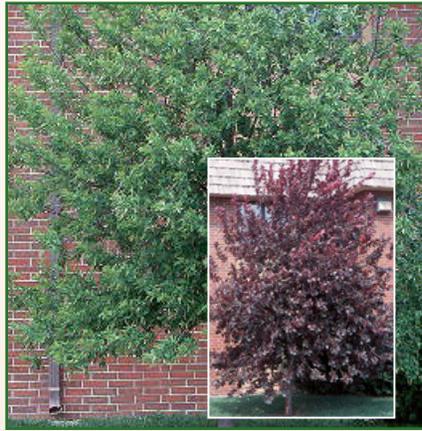


Amur Maackia

(*Maackia amurensis*)

Full Sun to Partial Shade

Rounded crown, gray-green leaf color, shiny orange-brown bark. Small tree is tolerant of urban sites, sidewalk cutouts, containers, and streetscapes.



Canada Red Chokecherry

(*Prunus virginiana "Canada Red"*)

Full Sun to Light Shade; Native

Upright rounded crown, small white flower clusters in early spring, new leaves are green darkening to a deep red-purple, red-purple fruit attracts birds, prefers well drained soil.



Eastern Redbud

(*Cercis Canadensis*)

Full Sun; Native

Irregular habit, heart-shaped leaves, has showy pink-purple or white flower clusters in early spring before leaving out.



'Accolade' Cherry

(*P. sargentii* x *P. subhirtella*)

Full Sun

Regarded as one of the most attractive of the early-flowering ornamental cherries. *Prunus 'Accolade'* is a small deciduous tree of spreading habit. Brilliant orange fall color.



Crabapple (*Malus spp.*)

Full Sun

There are many varieties of crabapple. We have chosen three that have pink, red or white flowers and produce little to no fruit. Branching is upright, but the trees can get as wide as they are tall. With a sunny spot and the right soil they will provide a spectacular show each spring.



Golden Rain Tree

(*Koelreuteria paniculata*)

Full Sun

Excellent shade tree, known for its neat habit and well-behaved root system. Medium -sized, open-branched form. Long panicles of fragrant flowers are followed by attractive lantern-like seed pods.



Japanese Tree Lilac
(Syringa reticulata)
Full Sun to Partial Shade

This is a big, single stemmed lilac that can grow to 20 feet tall. White flowers bloom in early July, well after most other lilacs.



'Wireless' Japanese Zelkova
(Zelkova serrata 'Schmidlow')
Full Sun to Partial Shade

Selected for its low height and broad spreading shape, this cultivar is ideal for planting under utility lines. Wind and drought tolerant. Red fall color.

LARGE TREES

COST OF TREE IS \$300.00 (CITY SHARES HALF THE COST)

YOUR COST IS: \$150.00

(NOT SUITABLE TO BE PLANTED UNDER UTILITY LINES)



Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
Full Sun to Partial Shade; Native

Fast growing and long-lived, bur oaks are a good urban tree since they are resistant to air pollution and car exhaust. Drought resistant, tolerates limey soils and resistant to oak wilt.



Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)
Full Sun; Native

Pyramidal habit broadening with age, large heart-shaped leaves, with very showy creamy-white flowers in late spring-early summer produces long beans-like pods.



Elm (*Ulmus ssp*)
Full Sun

Upright, vase-shaped with full, dense leaf canopy, green foliage turning yellow in fall; tolerant of pollution and poor soil conditions. Dutch Elm Disease resistant varieties and hybrids.



London Planetree

(Platanus x acerfolia)

Full Sun

Pyramidal and rounding as it matures, large bright green leaves turning yellow in fall, mottled bark ranging from cream to olive-gray; prefers well drained soil, tolerant of drought and urban conditions, fast growing.



Tulip Tree

(Liriodendron tulipifera)

Full Sun to Partial Shade; Native

The tuliptree has distinct tulip-shaped characteristic in its leaves, flowers, and fruit. The showy, goblet-shaped, orange-yellow-green flowers appear in late spring after the leaves. Golden-yellow fall color.



Red Oak

(Quercus rubra)

Full Sun to Partial Shade; Native

Upright spreading form rounding with age, green foliage changing to red in late autumn; prefers well drained, acidic soils, tolerates urban conditions.

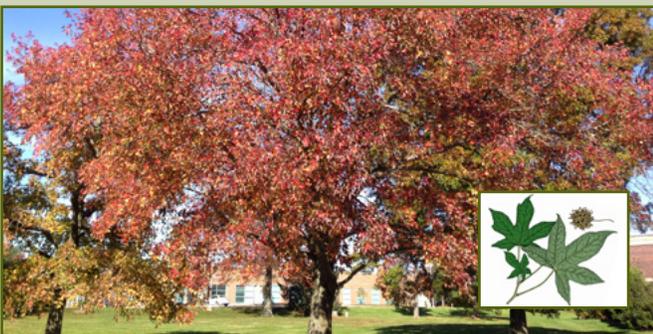


'Green Vase' Japanese Zelkova

(Zelkova serrata)

Full Sun to Partial Shade

Graceful vase shape habit, wind and drought tolerant. Deep green leaf in summer changing to gold in fall.



Sweet gum

(Liquidambar styraciflua)

Full Sun to Partial Shade; Native

This tree has not commonly been planted in this area. Strong pyramidal form with star-shaped leaves that turn yellow, orange, red and purple in the fall.



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..... ORDER FORM

Please sketch the house, sidewalk, new tree (marked with a "T" on the sketch), and anything else the contractor should be aware of. Pounding a stake in the ground is a sure way of marking the location. This plan is all the contractor will have. Because of the number of orders, there will not be any advance notification before planting. *Note: Tree planting can occur up to 60 days after the seasonal tree planting application deadline. The schedule cannot be escalated on an individual basis.*

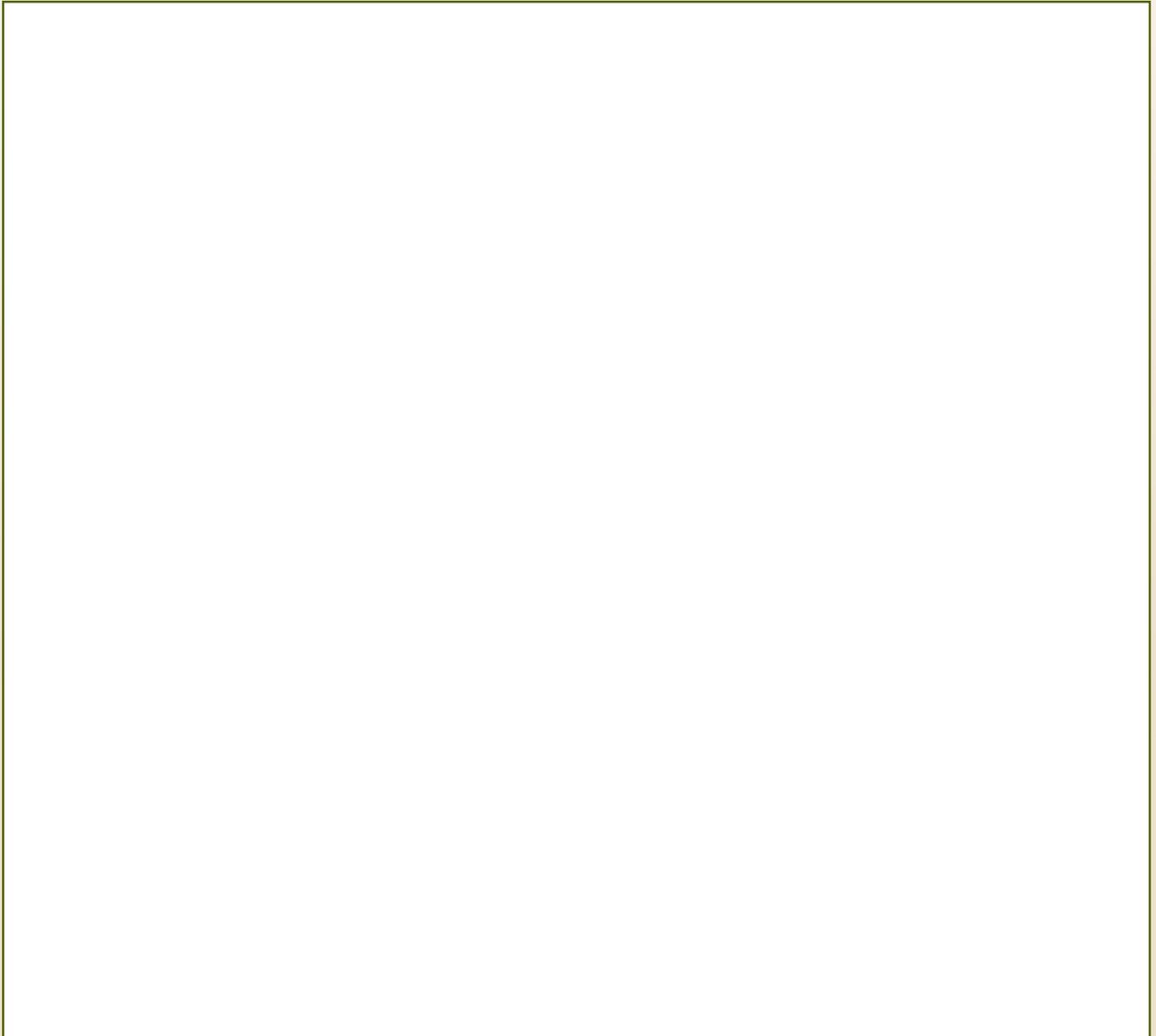
Please check the appropriate answer to the questions below.

Does your sidewalk need to be cut? Yes No

Is there an old tree stump in the way?..... Yes No

Are there overhead wires at the planting site? Yes No

SKETCH IN THE AREA BELOW



TYPE OF TREE(S) ORDERED:

SMALL TREES COST OF TREE IS \$300.00

(CITY SHARES HALF THE COST) YOUR COST IS: \$150.00
(Please check choice and indicate quantity ordered)

TREE CHOICE	QUANTITY
<input type="checkbox"/> Amur Maackia	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Accolade' Cherry	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Red Chokecherry	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Crabapple	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Redbud	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Rain Tree	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese Tree Lilac	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Wireless' Japanese Zelkova	_____

LARGE TREES (\$150.00 per tree)

TREE CHOICE	QUANTITY
<input type="checkbox"/> Bur Oak	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalpa	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Elm	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> London Planetree	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Oak	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweet gum	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tulip Tree	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Green Vase' Japanese Zelkova	_____

(2ND CHOICE IF 1ST NOT AVAILABLE):

Total # Trees Total Cost

Name (PRINT) _____

Signature _____

Address

Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Address where tree is to be planted (if different from above)

SUSTAINABILITY:

The trees selected for planting in the City have been broken down into two groups: Those suitable for planting under utility lines, and larger form trees that are best planted in the open with plenty of "head room." Albany's urban forest has co-evolved with its overhead utilities, and that process has not always been pretty. In some neighborhoods there are large form trees (especially norway maples) that are in decline as a result of line clearance trimming.

The lesson to be learned from this is that it is best to avoid tree/utility conflicts whenever possible. Given this, the City only plants slower growing, smaller form trees with mature heights of 30 feet or less under utility lines. This practice reduces the need for routine line clearance, saving resources and allowing for a more sustainable urban forest.

DIVERSITY & RESILIENCE:

Urban Forests face many challenges that trees out in the wild don't: limited root and head space, alkaline soils, road salt and other pollutants, heat island effect, trimming for overhead utilities, and building, road and sidewalk clearances. It's not easy being an urban tree, and with climate change, it will likely become more difficult. Part of the key to a sustainable urban forest is diversity. Planting as many different species from a broad array of genus allows the urban forest to weather conditions that might be detrimental to a single species or genus.

As of 2008, more than half of Albany's urban forest was comprised of maple trees (genus Acer), and roughly a third were a single species, norway maples. Best management practices advise no more than 20% of any genus, and no more than 10% from any one species. You will notice then, that there are no maples on the tree list. The trees listed here have been selected for their urban tolerant qualities, their viability in warmer climates, and their diversity. The 16 trees represent 13 different genus, many native to North America, but some from Europe and Asia as well. Planting these trees over the coming years will ensure that Albany's urban forest is as diverse and resilient as possible.

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Please mail the order form and check, made payable to "Treasurer, City of Albany," for the total amount of the tree order to:



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**Department of General Services
Attn: Adopt a Tree Program
One Richard J. Conners Blvd
Albany, NY 12204**