

Trees Compatible with Utility Lines

Here is a partial list of low-growing and medium-sized trees which are compatible with utility lines, requiring little or no pruning to maintain a safe clearance. Included is a list of hardy narrow-crowned fastigiated trees, tall-growing broadleaf trees and tall-growing conifer trees that show good tolerance to urban conditions.

Low-Growing Trees (maturing up to 25')

Suitable for planting within 15 feet of power lines (depending on height of power lines and terrain)

Common Name	Latin Name	Features/Cultivars
American Witchhazel 20'	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Yellow flowers in Oct - Nov and yellow fall foliage
Carolina Silverbell 25'	<i>Halesia tetraptera</i>	Showy, white bell-shaped flowers
Chinese Stewartia 15-25'	<i>Stewartia sinensis</i>	White flowers and sandstone bark
Chinese Witchhazel 10-20'	<i>Hamamelis mollis.</i>	Yellow flowers in Feb - March and orange/yellow fall coloration
Epaulette Tree 20'	<i>Pterostyrax corymbosum</i>	Clusters of fragrant white flowers
Flowering Crabapple 25'	<i>Malus spp.</i>	Select low-growing varieties maturing 20–25 ft. in height; resistant to apple scab, fire blight and cedar apple rust; fruitless varieties available.
Fragrant Snowbell 20-30'	<i>Styrax obassia</i>	White, fragrant, bell-shaped flowers and smooth gray bark
Franklinia Tree 10-20'	<i>Franklinia alatamaha</i>	White flowers and crimson fall foliage
Fringetree 15-25'	<i>Chionanthus spp.</i>	Hardy tree with fleecy, snow-like white flowers and blue grape-like fruit
Goldenchain Tree* 15-20'	<i>Waterer laburnum</i>	Yellow pendulous flowers
Hawthorne 15-25'	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>	White flowers, red fruit and tolerant of urban conditions; select thornless and disease resistant cultivars i.e., Thornless Cockspur 'Crusader' 15-20', Ohio Pioneer Dotted 20-25' and Crimson Cloud English 15-20'
Japanese Snowbell 20-30'	<i>Styrax japonicus</i>	White bell-shaped flowers

Low-Growing Trees (*continued*)

Japanese Tree Lilac 20–30' *Syringa reticulata*

Kousa Dogwood 25'

Cornus kousa

Magnolia 10-20'

Magnolia spp.

Maple 15–25'

Acer spp.

Purple Leaf Plum 15-25'

Prunus cerasifera

Serviceberry 20–25'

Amelanchier spp.

Seven-Son Flower 15-20'

Heptacodium miconioides

Siebold Viburnum* 15-20'

Viburnum sieboldii

Hardy tree with clusters of creamy white flowers i.e., Ivory Silk 20-30', Summer Snow Cap 20-25' and Regent 25-30'

Resistant to anthracnose and borers; white or pink flowers, unusual red fruit and exfoliating bark. Hybrids of *C. kousa* and *C. florida* are pest resistant i.e.,

'Constellation' and 'Stellar Pink'

Star and many other low growing hybrids with showy flowers i.e. 'Ann' and 'Jane'

Amur 15-20' and Tatarian 15–25'

Attractive burgundy/purple foliage and pink flowers i.e., Newport, Thundercloud and Pissard; lifespan of 20-30 years

Low-growing varieties available i.e., Robin Hill 20–25' and Autumn Brilliance 20–25'

Creamy white fragrant flowers, showy red sepals and exfoliating bark

Creamy white flowers and red/black fruit

Medium-Growing Trees (maturing up to 45')

Set back a minimum of 15-25' from power lines (depending upon species and terrain)

Common Name

Latin Name

Features/Cultivars

American Hornbeam 20-30' *Carpinus caroliniana*

Gray, smooth sinewy bark and yellow-red fall color

Amur Corktree* 35–45'

Phellodendron amurense

Rugged, corky bark and yellow fall foliage

Amur Maackia 20-30'

Maackia amurensis

White pea-like flowers and amber exfoliating bark

Arborvitae 40'

Thuja occidentalis

Narrow evergreen; can grow to 50' but slow-growing and easily pruned; favored by deer

Callery Pear 35-45'

Pyrus calleryana

Hardy tree with white flowers; Bradford and other cultivars are overplanted and prone to storm damage due to poor branch structure. Chanticleer 35–40', Aristocrat 35–45', Autumn Blaze 35–45' and Redspire 40–45' have better branch habit

Medium-Growing Trees (*continued*)

Eastern Redbud 25–35'	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Beautiful rosy pink flowers; heart-shaped leaves turn yellow in fall
Eastern Red Cedar 40'	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Narrow evergreen; slow-growing and easy to maintain.
Flowering Cherry 25–40'	<i>Prunus spp.</i>	Planted for their beautiful floral displays; generally short-lived tree; Sargent, Higan and Yoshino tend to be longer lasting than Kwanzan (Oriental Cherry)
Goldenrain Tree* 25–40'	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Rich yellow flower spikes and papery lantern-like fruit; tolerant of urban conditions
Holly 40'	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	Pyramidal evergreen with dark green leaves and red fruit; many upright hybrids available
Imperial Honeylocust 30-40'	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Thornless and usually fruitless; 'Imperial' is a lower maturing cultivar compared to the species
Japanese Stewartia 20-40'	<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	Showy white flowers, exfoliating bark and burgundy fall foliage
Magnolia 25-40'	<i>Magnolia spp.</i>	Showy flowers i.e., Saucer, Merrill, Galaxy and many other low-growing hybrids
Maple 25–40'	<i>Acer spp.</i>	Paperbark 25-35', Hedge 25-40' and Trident 20-30'
Persian Perotia 20-40'	<i>Parrotia persica</i>	Yellow/orange/red fall color and exfoliating bark
Red Horsechestnut 30-45'	<i>Aesculus xcaria</i>	Showy rose-red flowers; less susceptible to leaf blotch and scorch; 'Briotii' has deeper red and longer lasting flowers
Serviceberry 20–30'	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Hardy tree with white flowers and smooth gray bark; many low-growing cultivars available i.e., Majestic, Princess and Diana
Sourwood 25-30'	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Panicles of fragrant white flowers and yellow/red/purple fall foliage

Hardy Tall-Growing Upright Narrow-Crowned Trees

Set back a minimum of 20-25' from power lines (depending upon species and terrain)

Common Name	Latin Name	Features/Cultivars
Fastigiated English Oak	<i>Quercus robur 'Fastigiata'</i>	70' H, 15-20' W; hardy narrow crowned tree
Fastigiated European Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'</i>	40' H, 20-30' W; sinewy bark and corrugated leaves

Fastigiated Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba 'Fastigiata'</i>	60' H, 20-25' W; attractive fan-shaped leaves and tolerant of urban conditions
Upright Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	50-60' H, 15-20' W; 'Armstrong' and 'Columnare'; excellent fall coloration

Hardy Tall-Growing Broadleaf Trees

Set back a minimum of 30-50' from power lines (depending upon species and terrain)

Common Name	Latin Name	Features/Cultivars
Ginkgo 80'	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Attractive fan-shaped leaves, golden yellow fall foliage and tolerant of urban conditions
Hackberry 60'	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Corky, ridged bark, somewhat tolerant of urban conditions
Honeylocust 45-70'	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Tolerant tree with yellow fall foliage; 'Shademaster' and 'Skyline' are thornless and nearly fruitless
Katsura 40-60'	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Heart-shaped leaves, apricot-orange fall foliage and slightly shaggy bark
Kentucky Coffeetree 60-75'	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Tolerant tree; 'Espresso' and 'Stately Manor' are fruitless
Lacebark Elm 50-75'	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Hardy tree, insect and disease resistant and exfoliating bark
Littleleaf Linden 60-80'	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Hardy tree with fragrant yellow flowers; 'Greenspire' and 'Chancellor' are improved cultivars
London Plane 70-100'	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	Tolerates urban conditions and attractive exfoliating bark; 'Bloodgood' is resistant to anthracnose
Oaks 55-80'	<i>Quercus spp.</i>	Generally considered to be hardy trees with strong wood and good branch structure; many hardy species – White, Pin, English, Swamp White and Red
Pagoda Tree 50-70'	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Tolerant tree with fragrant cream-colored flowers i.e., 'Regent' aka Japanese Scholar Tree
Red Maple 40-60'	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Excellent yellow and red fall foliage, i.e., 'Autumn Flame', 'October Glory' and 'Red Sunset'
Sweetgum 60-75'	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Yellow/scarlet fall foliage, 1 1/2" diameter spiny fruit
Tupelo 40-70'	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Rich burgundy fall foliage

Hardy Tall-Growing Broadleaf Trees (*continued*)

Turkish Filbert 40-50'	<i>Corylus colurna</i>	Hardy tree tolerant of drought with scaly bark
Yellowwood 30-50'	<i>Cladrastis lutea</i>	Creamy white pendulous flowers, smooth gray bark and golden yellow fall foliage
Zelkova 50-80'	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Vase shaped crown, exfoliating bark and tolerant of urban conditions i.e. 'Village Green' and 'Green Vase'

Hardy Tall-Growing Conifer Trees

Set back a minimum of 25-30' from power lines (depending upon species and terrain)

Common Name	Latin Name	Features/Cultivars
Bald Cypress 60-80'	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Deciduous conifer with orange/brown fall foliage and buttressed trunk
Dawn Redwood 70-100'	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Deciduous conifer with orange/brown fall foliage and buttressed trunk
Japanese Cedar 50-60'	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Conical evergreen with unique, yet attractive needles
Spruce 50-80'	<i>Picea spp.</i>	Pyramidal evergreen i.e., Norway, White, Blue, Serbian and Oriental
White Fir 50-80'	<i>Abies concolor</i>	Adaptable fir with long blue-green needles; best fir for New England
White Pine 50-80'	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Wide-spreading evergreen with horizontal branches and soft plumy needles

NOTE: Those trees listed with an asterisk (i.e. Goldenchain Tree*, Siebold Viburnum*, Amur Corktree*, Goldenrain Tree *) should be planted in maintained sites only as they may become invasive.

NOT Recommended

Norway Maple, Silver Maple and Willow (weak-wooded and prone to storm damage), Bradford Pear (structurally weak and prone to storm damage) and Canadian Hemlock (susceptible to Hemlock Woolly Adelgid)

Remember: Plant the right tree in the right place, and Call Before You Dig (1-800-922-4455) at least two full working days in advance to locate buried utility pipes and cables.