

Recommended Tree Species for City of Billings

Large Trees 40 ft. and up 30 to 40 feet spacing between trees recommended		
Species	Zone	Notes
White Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>	4	Light colored needles that stand up
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	3	Pendulous branches. Largest and fastest growing of the spruces. Large cones.
Ponderosa Pine <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	3	Long needles, native
Serbian Spruce <i>Picea omorika</i>	4	
Colorado Blue Spruce <i>Picea pungens</i>	3	Varies in color from gray-green to blue-green. Sharp needles
Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziessi</i>	4	Soft needles
American Elm <i>Ulmus Americana</i> Multiple varieties	4	Fast growing, need training when young. New varieties are dutch elm resistant. Call for recommendation
Elm Hybrids Accolade and Triumph are excellent	4	Dutch elm resistant. Easier to train than American elm. Call for recommendation.
Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	3	Ph adaptable, more tolerant of city conditions than most oaks. Small round galls can make tree unsightly in the winter but is harmless to tree.
Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	4	Chlorosis can occur in high alkaline soil.
Northern Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	4	
Scarlet Oak <i>Quercus coccinea</i>	4	
Northern Pin Oak <i>Quercus elipsoidalis</i>	4	
Regal Prince Oak <i>Quercus x warei 'Long'</i>	4	Columnar shape, very narrow, good next to a tall building.
Ginkgo <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>		Very slow growing. Can live hundreds of years.
Northern Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	3	Nipple gall makes leaves unattractive but is harmless to tree. Very tolerant of wind and cold. Salt intolerant.
American Linden <i>Tilia Americana</i>	3	Pyramidal shape. Salt intolerant.
Kentucky Coffeetree <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	3	No serious pest problems.
Northern Catalpa <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	4	8" to 12" long bean-like fruit capsules persist on tree through winter.

Japanese Zelkova Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase'	4	Similar to American elm
Bloodgood London Planetree Platanus x acerifolia 'Bloodgood'	4	Will grow in about anything, mostly disease resistant.
Norway Maple Acer platanoides multiple varieties	3	Shallow spreading root system.
Columnar Norway Maple Acer platanoides 'Columnare'	4	Narrow, upright, and compact
Freeman Maple Acer freemianii 'Multiple varieties'	3	Fast growing, cross between red and silver maple, yellow, orange, red fall colors
Sugar Maple Acer saccharum 'multiple varieties'	3	Excellent fall colors from yellow and orange to red.
State Street Maple Acer miyabei 'Morton'	4	Larger and more hardy alternative to Hedge Maple.
Silver Maple Acer Saccharinum	3	Fast growing tolerates tough conditions but is weak wooded. Do not plant around high target areas.
Turkish Filbert Corylus colurna	4	Thrives in adverse conditions. Currently being tested in Billings
Honeylocust Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis 'Skyline' or 'Shademaster'	4	Good urban tree but has been overplanted.
Eastern Cottonwood Multiple varieties	2	Very large tree, do not plant around high target areas, branches break easily

**Medium Trees 25 ft. to 40 ft.
20 to 30 feet spacing between trees recommended**

Species	Zone	Notes
Black Hills Spruce Picea glauca densata	3	Short blue-green needles. Shapley.
Austrian Pine Pinus nigra	3	Two needle pine, fast growing
Limber Pine Pinus flexalis	2	Native 5 needle pine
Swiss Stone Pine Pinus cembra	4	5 needle pine
Amur Corktree		Shallow spreading root system
Bigtooth Maple Acer grandidentatum	4	Red fall color
Cladrastus kentukea	4	
Crimson King Norway Maple Acer platanoides	4	Maroon foliage all summer

Deborah Norway maple <i>Acer platanoides</i> 'Deborah'	4	Leaves emerge red then turn maroon then dark bronze-green, finally turning to bronze in the fall.
Hedge Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	4	Best maple for dry alkaline soils, low branching, dense shade, slow growing.
Sensation Box Elder <i>Acer negundo</i> 'Sensation'	4	Male, improved branch structure from species, very fast growing.
Red Maple <i>Acer Rubrum</i> multiple varieties	4	Susceptible to chlorosis in the high ph soils of Billings
Shantung Maple <i>Acer truncatum</i> 'Pacific Sunset'	4	Green glossy leaves turning yellow orange to bright red in the fall.
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i> 'Heritage'	4	Resistant to Bronze Birch Borer and Japanese Beetle
Katsuratree <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	4	Needs ample water, slow growing
Ohio Buckeye <i>Aesculus glabra</i>	4	Can get leaf scorch in summer, best in light shade. Nuts are poisonous.
Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	3	Very little seedpods
Hybrid Horsechestnut	4	
Honeylocust Multiple varieties available	4	Overplanted in Billings, very tough tree but will get spider mites with extreme heat and drought.
Goldenrain Tree <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	4	Tolerant of soil extremes. No serious pest problems.
American hophornbeam <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	3	
Littleleaf Linden <i>Tilia cordata</i>	4	Pyramidal shape. Overplanted in Billings area.
Harvest Gold Linden <i>Tilia x mongolica</i> 'Harvest Gold'	3	Yellow fall color, exfoliating red bark.
Dakota Pinnacle Asian White Birch <i>Betula platyphylla</i> 'Fargo'	3	Good resistance to Bronze Birch Borer, drought tolerant, adaptability to heavy clay soils and fairly high ph.
Paper Birch <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	3	Fast growing, white bark
American Hornbeam <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	3	No pest problems, no litter, slow growing, beautiful fall color.
Turkish Filbert <i>Corylus colurna</i>	4	Pest-free, tolerates drought and alkaline soil.

**Small Trees 15 ft. to 25 ft.
10 to 20 feet spacing between trees recommended**

Species	Zone	Notes
Rocky Mountain Juniper <i>Juniperis scopulorum</i>	3	
Mugo Pine <i>Pinus mugo</i>	2	To 15 feet
Bristlecone Pine <i>Pinus aristata</i>	4	Small, very slow growing
Amur maple <i>Acer ginnala</i>	2	Low branched or multi-stemmed tree, brilliant orange-red to deep red.
Tatarian Maple <i>Acer tataricum</i>	3	Bright red samaras, adaptable to dry, high ph soils and cold winters.
Robin Hill Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier grandiflora</i> 'Robin Hill'	3	Edible berries
Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i> 'Autumn Brilliance'	4	
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis Canadensis</i>	4	Needs protection from cold and wind
Amur Maackia <i>Maackia amurensis</i>	3	Blooms late summer, ornamental seed pods and bark offers winter interest.
Amur Chokecherry <i>Prunus maackii</i>	2	Glossy bronze-colored bark
Newport Plum <i>Prunus Newport</i>	3	
Thundercloud Plum <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Thundercloud'	5	
Mountain Frost Pear <i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i> 'Bailfrost'	3	Heavily flowering, beautiful fall tree.
European Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	3	Susceptible to sunscald
China Snow Tree Lilac <i>Syringa pekinensis</i> 'China Snow'	3	
Ivory Silk Lilac <i>Syringa reticulata</i> 'Ivory Silk'	4	

Planting Tips

- ❖ Avoid planting trees too deep. The tree's first major root should be at ground level. Often times trees come too deep from the nursery and require having soil removed from the top of the root ball to reach the proper planting depth.
- ❖ Keep sod away from the tree's stem. The use of mulch is highly advised. Place 2-3 inches deep, out to the drip line of the tree but not up against the tree.
- ❖ Watering trees require different watering requirements than turf. Trees should be watered before and after planting. Deep root watering should be done until the tree is established approximately every 7-10 days.
- ❖ Do not fertilize in the first year of planting.
- ❖ Call 811 for underground utilities prior to any digging.