

About the Recommended Tree List

What is it?

According to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 08.07.02.02.B.(8)), "Recommended tree list" means a list of trees recommended and approved by the Forest Service for planting on specific sites and for specific conditions within the right-of-way of public roads.

Where did it come from?

The list is based on the information in Landscape Tree Factsheets and Compatible Tree Factsheets, two publications produced by Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. The information found in those publications is the result of research undertaken under the Municipal Tree Restoration Program. That program was a cooperative effort of the USDA Forest Service, Penn State, natural resources agencies of 20 states and the District of Columbia (including MD DNR), and 15 utilities and/or utility vegetation management contractors.




Trees listed were studied under a range of urban conditions. However, the listing is based on limited information. Other factors including soil conditions, future maintenance plans, pest resistance, etc., should be considerations for your site-specific species selection.

Two trees found in the Penn State publications were deleted from the Recommended Tree List. They are: Norway maple and callery pear. While these may be appropriate for use in certain parts of the northeastern US, they are both listed as invasive plants in the publication *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas*, published by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and have therefore been deemed inappropriate for plantings along Maryland's roadsides.

How should I use it?

The list is intended to assist with making roadside tree species selections based on compatibility with infrastructure.

Each tree in the listing has a color code associated with it; green, yellow, or red. In order to minimize future maintenance needs, infrastructure damage, and conflicts between trees and curbs, sidewalks, streets, and overhead utilities, Landscape Tree Factsheets makes the following usage recommendations:

Width of tree lawn	Distance from utility lines	Size of mature tree	Color code
2 to 4 feet wide	None	Small	
to 6 feet wide	Depends on branching pattern and height of wires; not normally recommended for use directly beneath lines	Medium	
More than 6 feet wide	35 to 40 feet	Large	

Users should narrow the field of tree types to be used for the site in question using the filters in the table and then make final species selections from the green, yellow, or red group based on site conditions, aesthetics, etc.

In the ‘Cultivar’ column, the trade name most commonly associated with the tree is used. This may or may not be the actual cultivar name. The word ‘various’ in the Cultivar column means that a significant number of acceptable cultivars are available. If the Cultivar column is blank, it means: there are no known cultivars; that cultivars are not readily available in the trade; or, no specific cultivar is recommended.

Where can I find out more about the trees on the list?

The Landscape Tree Factsheets and Compatible Tree Factsheets publications are available for fee from Penn State @: <http://extension.psu.edu/publications/agrs-056>. The books have detailed information, including photographs, of the trees listed. However, information on most of these trees in the list is readily available free of charge on-line. We recommend that you simply enter the name of the tree you are interested in (ex.: “Adams crabapple”) into the search block of an engine such as Google. The search should produce a number of web sites with photos and information regarding the tree in question.