

Homeowners often have questions about tree selection, maintenance, and costs. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions.

## FAQs

### ***Is it OK to plant, prune, or cut down trees in the utility strip in front of my property?***

You can ask the City to plant a free tree in the utility strip between the sidewalk and the street in front of your house. To do so, please submit a Tree Request Form to the Parks Department. The form is available in City Hall or on the City's website ([www.cityofbinghamton.com](http://www.cityofbinghamton.com)). Street trees may be removed only by the City Parks Department. If you see a tree that is blocking street signs, touching utility lines, is dead or causing other problems, please contact the Parks Department (772-7017).

### ***Will tree roots damage sidewalks or utilities?***

Not all trees are the same. Damage can be reduced by choosing trees with roots and branches suited to the space available as the tree grows and by using proper planting methods, which are both practices used by the City.

### ***Aren't trees messy?***

Careful plant selection can reduce problems of falling flowers, fruit, and leaves. Trees listed on inside page are ideal for yards in our community.

### ***What about trees in the rest of my yard?***

Before you plant a tree, contact Dig Safely, New York (1-800-962-7962) to be sure you won't disturb underground power lines and other utilities. And before you plant, prune, or cut down any tree, be sure it is on your property and it won't interfere with buildings on your own or a neighbor's property.

### ***I want to add trees to my yard but I'd like some ideas. How do I know what to plant? Where do I buy trees?***

The trees listed on the inside page have been selected by the City's Shade Tree Commission and will be successful in most urban environments. Local plant nurseries can help you decide the best trees to plant in your location. Some nurseries also offer landscaping, planting, and maintenance services.

## Other Resources

Arbor Day Foundation. The Value of Trees to a Community.

<http://www.arboday.org/trees/benefits.cfm>

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Urban and Community Forestry.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>



# Trees Improve Neighborhoods



Did you know that trees can increase the value of your property by 15% or more? People feel more comfortable walking on streets that are lined with trees, due to feelings of safety, lower temperatures in the shade, and the appearance of the neighborhood. Landscaping makes your yard unique and shows that you care about your

home and community. Trees also offer enjoyment by providing habitat and food for birds and other wildlife. And where suitable, many fruit trees can provide both shade and fruit for your family.

Trees also improve the value of rental property, with apartments renting more quickly, tenants staying longer, and buildings having greater value for rent or sale.

Trees are valuable in other ways. They can reduce cooling costs by providing shade in the summer, and when the leaves are gone in the fall and winter, the sun can help heat the house.

Evergreens help reduce heating costs when planted on the north or northwest side of the house where they can block cold winter winds. Trees also can reduce runoff during rainstorms, reduce flooding, and reduce the cost of sewage treatment. In one study, 32-foot-tall street trees captured 327 gallons of water from rainfall. Trees also help clean the air and can reduce childhood asthma rates.

*"The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day."*  
~U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Acceptable Trees for Landscape Planting in Binghamton



### Deciduous Trees (Leaves fall in Autumn)

#### Small Trees (up to 25 ft.)

Cornellian Cherry Dogwood - *Cornus mas*  
 Flowering Dogwood - *Cornus florida*  
 Hop Hornbeam - *Ostrya virginiana*  
 Japanese Tree Lilac - *Syringa reticulata*  
 Japanese Zelkova (small variety) - *Zelkova serrata* "Schmidtlow"  
 Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*  
 Saucer Magnolia - *Magnolia x soulangia*  
 Serviceberry, Shadbush - *Amelanchier sp.*  
 Silverbell - *Halesia carolina*  
 Star Magnolia - *Magnolia stellata*  
 Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn - *Crataegus crus-galli*

#### Medium Trees (25 to 40 ft.)

Callery Pear - *Pyrus calleryana* (do not use "Bradford" variety as early snow breaks branches. Choose Cleveland Select or Aristocrat varieties)  
 Chinkapin Oak - *Quercus muehlenbergii*  
 European Hornbeam - *Carpinus betula*\*  
 "Frontier" Elm - *Ulmus carpinifolia x parvifolia*)  
 Golden Rain Tree - *Koelreutaria paniculata*  
 Japanese Pagoda Tree - *Sophora japonica*  
 Korean Mountain Ash - *Sorbus alnifolia*  
 Red Horse Chestnut - *Aesculus carnea*

#### Large Trees (up to 80 ft.)

Accolade Elm - *Ulmus x 'Accolade'*  
 Black Gum - *Nyssa sylvatica*  
 Bur Oak - *Quercus macrocarpa*  
 Chinese Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia*  
 Cucumber Tree - *Magnolia acuminata*  
 English Oak - *Quercus robur*  
 Gingko - *Ginkgo biloba* (plant males only; female trees have fetid fruits)  
 Hackberry - *Celtis occidentalis*  
 Horse Chestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum* #  
 Japanese Zelkova - *Zelkova serrata*  
 Katsura Tree - *Cercidophyllum japonicum* \*  
 Kentucky Coffeetree - *Gymnocladus dioicus* #  
 Littleleaf Linden - *Tilia cordata*  
 London Planetree - *Platanus x acerifolia*  
 River Birch - *Betula nigra*  
 Northern Catalpa - *Catalpa speciosa* #  
 Pignut Hickory - *Carya glabra*  
 Red Oak - *Quercus rubra*  
 Sawtooth Oak - *Quercus acutissima*  
 Scarlet Oak - *Quercus coccinea*  
 Shagbark Hickory - *Carya ovata*  
 Shingle Oak - *Quercus imbricaria*  
 Swamp White Oak - *Quercus bicolor*  
 Sweetgum - *Liquidambar styraciflua*  
 Tulip Tree - *Liriodendron tulipifera* \*  
 White Oak - *Quercus alba*

#### Prohibited Trees

Aspen	Box Elder
Cottonwood	Ginkgo (females only)
Silver Maple	Willow

These trees are prohibited either because their rapid growth and brittle branches constitute a serious long term hazard or they cause significant leaf and fruit litter which can cause hazards for pedestrians and clog storm water drains.

### Conifers (Evergreens)

#### Small Trees (up to 25 ft.)

Arbor Vitae - *Thuja occidentalis* \*Δ  
 Chinese Juniper - *Juniperus chinensis* \*Δ

#### Medium Trees (25 to 40 ft.)

*Juniperus virginiana* - Eastern Red Cedar \*Δ

#### Large Trees (up to 80 ft. but smaller varieties may be available)

Blue Spruce - *Picea pungens* \*Δ  
 Dawn Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*\*Δ  
 Douglas Fir - *Pseudotsuga menziesii* \*Δ  
 Norway Spruce - *Picea abies*\*Δ  
 Serbian Spruce - *Picea omorika*\*Δ  
 Western Red Cedar - *Thuja plicata*\*Δ  
 White Fir - *Abies concolor* \*Δ  
 White Spruce - *Picea glauca*\*Δ

For more information about trees, visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

\* = does not tolerate salt; may not be suitable near street, driveway, or sidewalks  
 Δ = does not tolerate having soil compacted  
 # = produces litter that may be troublesome; not recommended near sidewalk, pool, or deck/patio

#### Not Recommended

Ash trees <sup>1</sup>	Maples <sup>1,2</sup>
Honey Locust <sup>2</sup>	Flowering Cherries <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Susceptible to invasive insects which have caused significant damage in the U.S.

<sup>2</sup> Overplanted according to the City's tree inventory and Urban Forest Management Plan