

Yarmouth Tree Advisory Committee List of Preferred Trees

The Tree Advisory Committee has compiled the following list of preferred trees in collaboration with the Wild Seed Project, a local nonprofit organization that promotes rewilding efforts in Northeast landscapes.

Most of these trees are native to Maine or the Northeast. The flowers and foliage of these trees support pollinating insects, their fruits and seeds nourish wildlife, and their trunks and branches provide structure and habitat throughout the year. Planting a wide variety of native trees can help ensure a future with cleaner air and water, a greener and more resilient town with more abundant songbirds and other wildlife. Including diverse species helps mitigate loss to pests and diseases.

To help in choosing the most appropriate species for a particular site, trees are grouped by height. Other important considerations are the light, soil and moisture conditions as well as tolerance of salt. Please consult the Tree Advisory Committee for more information and advice on tree selection.

TALL TREES (50 to 85 feet)

Native

- Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Sweet birch (*Betula lenta*)
- Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*)
- Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
- American elm (*Ulmus americana*) – Recommended cultivars for resistance to Dutch elm disease include ‘Princeton’ and ‘Prairie Expedition’
- Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)
- Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)
- American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- Basswood/American linden (*Tilia americana*)
- Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Non-native

- Indian Bean Tree (*Catalpa speciosa*)
- Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)
- Maidenhair (*Ginkgo biloba*)
- Zelkova (*Zelkova*)

MEDIUM TREES (25 to 45 feet)

Native

- Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

- River birch (*Betula nigra*)
- American yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
- Black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- American mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*)
- Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- White spruce (*Picea glauca*)
- Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*)
- Gray birch (*Betula populifolia*)
- Striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*)
- Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
- Hophornbeam/Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)

Non-native

- Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonica*)

SMALL TREES (10 to 20 feet)

Native

- Shadbush/Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*, *A. laevis*, *A. arborea*)
- Coskspur hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli*)
- Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*)
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Flowering dogwood (*Benthamidia florida*)
- White fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
- Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

Non-native

- Kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa* or *Benthamidia japonica*)
- Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*)
- Flowering crabapple (*Malus* spp.)

Yarmouth Tree Advisory Committee

Recommended Tree Protection Measures

The Yarmouth Tree Advisory Committee has compiled the following list of guidelines to protect existing trees before construction begins on any land parcel in Yarmouth. The guidelines are based on information from a number of expert sources, one of which is referenced below.

1. Survey the site to assess the trees and identify those that are sustainable. Any trees within 10 feet of the building site should be removed and transplanted if feasible. Trees should be properly pruned of damaged or at-risk branches.
2. Prevent root compaction by erecting a secure barrier around the critical root zone of affected trees (a circle around the trunk with a radius 1.5 times the tree's diameter at breast height). Keep this area free of vehicle and foot traffic throughout construction.
3. Limit root cutting by tunneling necessary utility lines rather than trenching them.
4. Maintain the existing soil level by limiting any change in grade to 2 inches or less.
5. Aerate the soil around the tree and fertilize, water, and mulch the area. Maintain these conditions throughout construction.
6. Use permeable materials for all paved areas on the site to optimize the trees' access to water.
7. Clearly identify the trees to be protected, areas to be avoided, and consequences for failing to do so with prominent signs around the site.

Please consult the Tree Warden or the Tree Advisory Committee for more information.

Reference:

Purcell L, *Construction and Trees: Guidelines for Protection*. Purdue University. Purdue Extension publication FNR-463-W.