

# **500 Trees**

**500 Trees is a GreenTown Los Altos campaign in partnership with Canopy of Palo Alto to plant trees in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.**

**Trees play an important role in the community. They improve air quality, provide shade, decrease stormwater runoff, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife and increase the overall attractiveness of a community.**

**The primary goal of the campaign is to plant 500 trees in public spaces - parks and schools - and in front and side yards of private homes, within public view.**

**An important secondary goal is educational - to tell the benefits of trees, especially in this time of climate change, and promote an appreciation of our urban forest.**



# GreenTown's Top 29 Trees

## Keystone Trees - Large long-lived trees with a full canopy

### Large Evergreen

- Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*)
- Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*)
- African Fern Pine (*Afrocarpus gracilior*)
- Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*)
- Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)
- Mexican Blue Oak (*Quercus oblongifolia*)
- Silverleaf Oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*)

### Large Deciduous

- London Plane Tree (*Platanus acerifolia* 'Columbia')
- Silver Linden (*Tilia tomentosa*)
- Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)
- Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)
- Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

## Other Trees -

### Medium Evergreen

- Engelmann Oak (*Quercus engelmannii*)
- Island Oak (*Quercus tomentella*)
- Sweet Bay (*Laurus Nobilis*)
- Shreve Oak (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*)

### Medium Deciduous

- Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*)
- Japanese Pagoda (*Styphnolobium japonicum*)
- Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*)

### Small Evergreen

- Olive (*Olea europaea* 'Wilsonii')
- Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*)
- Water Gum (*Tristanopsis Laurina*)

### Small Deciduous

- Smoke Tree (*Cotinus coggyria*)
- Trident Maple (*Acer buergerianum*)
- Western Redbud (*Cercis Occidentals*)
- Oklahoma Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Oklahoma')

### Fruit Trees

- Blenheim Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* 'Blenheim')
- Asian Pear (*Pyrus pyrifolia*)
- Meyer Lemon (*Citrus meyeri*)

## **Deodar Cedar** (*Cedrus deodara*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 30-40 ft.
- Height: 50-60 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Provides dense shade
- Full to partial sun
- Pruning recommended



## **Canary Island Pine** (*Pinus canariensis*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 30-40 ft.
- Height: 60-80 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Produces large pine cones
- Requires full sun to thrive
- Pruning recommended



## **African Fern Pine** (*Afrocarpus gracilior*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 30-40 ft.
- Height: 40-60 ft.

Other Information:

- Moderate water requirement
- Full sun to partial shade
- Dark green needle-like leaves
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Not palatable to deer



## **Cork Oak** (*Quercus suber*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 60-70 ft.
- Height: 60-70 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Produces dense shade
- Requires full sun to thrive
- Growing patterns vary, pruning required
- Needs good soil drainage
- Summer watering to be avoided



## **Coast Live Oak** (*Quercus agrifolia*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 50-60 ft.
- Height: 60-80 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Produces dense shade
- Requires full sun to thrive
- Growing patterns vary, pruning required
- Needs good soil drainage
- Summer watering to be avoided



## **Mexican Blue Oak** (*Quercus oblongifolia*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 20-30 ft.
- Height: 30-60 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Will tolerate heavy rains
- Requires good drainage
- Nice, upright growth habit





## **Silverleaf Oak** (*Quercus hypoleucoides*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 15-35 ft.
- Height: 20-60 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Requires good drainage
- Prefers loamy, sandy soil
- Full to partial sun to thrive



## **London Plane Tree** (*Platanus acerifolia* 'Columbia')

Size at maturity:

- Width: 50-70 ft.
- Height: 70-85 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Provides dense shade
- Requires full sun to thrive
- Fire resistant
- May cause infrastructure damage



## **Silver Linden** (*Tilia tomentosa*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 40-50 ft.
- Height: 20-30 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Attracts birds and bees
- Fragrant flowers in early summer
- Slow growing initially
- Provides dense shade
- Requires full sun to thrive



## Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 35-55 ft.
- Height: 60-70 ft.

Other Information:

- Full sun to partial shade
- Evergreen to partially deciduous
- Drought tolerant
- Prefers moist soil
- Life span, 50 to 150 yrs
- Considered fire resistant



## **Valley Oak** (*Quercus lobata*)

### Size at maturity:

- Width: 50-60 ft.
- Height: 50-70 ft., or more

### Other Information:

- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Fire resistant
- Native to California
- Drought tolerant
- May cause infrastructure damage
- Summer watering to be avoided



## **Southern Live Oak** (*Quercus virginiana*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 30-50 ft.
- Height: 50-70 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Tolerates heavy rain
- Tolerates clay soil
- Full sun



## **Engelmann Oak** (*Quercus engelmannii*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 80-120 ft.
- Height: 50-65 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Fire resistant
- Native to California
- Summer watering to be avoided



## **Island Oak** (*Quercus tomentella*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 25-40 ft.
- Height: 20-50 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Native to California
- Used as a landscape tree in Southern California
- Desirable wildlife tree
- Summer watering to be avoided





## **Sweet Bay** (*Laurus Nobilis*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 15-30 ft.
- Height: 40 ft.

Other information:

- Partial shade to full sun
- Evergreen
- Tree is deer resistant and attracts birds
- Leaves are fire resistant
- Dried leaves can be used in closets to deter moths



**Shreve Oak** (*Quercus parvula* var. *shrevei*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 15-30 ft.
- Height: 30-50 ft.

Other information:

- Partial shade to full sun
- Drought tolerant
- Easy care
- Evergreen red oak



## **Chinese Pistache** (*Pistacia chinensis*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 25-35 ft.
- Height: 25-35 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Excellent Fall color
- Attracts birds
- Needs full sun to thrive
- Pruning recommended
- Many planted in downtown Los Altos



## **Japanese Pagoda** (*Styphnolobium Japonium*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 40-70 ft.
- Height: 70 ft.

Other information:

- Partial shade to full sun
- Resistant to oak root fungus and armillaria
- Deer resistant and attracts bees
- Susceptible to canker and spider mites



## **Persian Ironwood** (*Parrotia persica*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 15-35 ft.
- Height: 15-35 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- A very pretty tree
- Excellent flowers and fall color
- Known as a more “shrub-like” tree



**Olive** (*Olea europaea* 'Wilsonii')

Size at maturity:

- Width: 15-35 ft.
- Height: 15-35 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant
- Both fruiting and non-fruiting varieties available
- Small white flowers in late Spring
- Long lived, up to 150 years
- Pruning recommended



## **Strawberry Tree** (*Arbutus undoo*)

### *Size at maturity:*

- Width: 15-30 ft.
- Height: 15-30 ft.

### *Other Information:*

- Multi-trunked tree, may be pruned to a single trunk
- Full sun to partial shade
- Somewhat drought tolerant
- Requires well-drained soil
- Blooms Fall/Winter
- Edible, seedy fruit attracts birds
- Messy fruit drop



## **Water Gum** (*Tristaniaopsis Laurina*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 15-30 ft.
- Height: 35 ft.

Other information:

- Partial shade to full sun
- Evergreen
- Tree is deer resistant
- Slow growing; recommended to plant larger specimen





## Smoke Tree (*Cotinus coggyria*)

### *Size at maturity:*

- Width: 12 ft.
- Height: 20 ft.

### *Other Information:*

- Large deciduous shrub
- Drought tolerant
- Full sun to partial shade
- Requires well-drained soil
- Dramatic, pinkish purple, smoke-like airy seed clusters
- Purple colored foliage



## **Trident Maple** (*Acer buergerianum*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 20-25 ft.
- Height: 20-25 ft.

Other Information:

- Requires light to moderate moisture
- Attracts birds
- Great under power lines
- Provides moderate shade
- Requires pruning to control top shoots



## **Western Redbud** (*Cercis Occidentals*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 10-20 ft.
- Height: 10-20 ft.

Other Information:

- Requires light to moderate moisture
- California native
- Attracts birds
- Great under power lines
- Provides moderate shade
- Showy Spring flowers
- May be kept as a shrub
- Resistant to oak root fungus



Visit <https://selectree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/cercis-occidentalis> for better pictures.

## **Oklahoma Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis* 'Oklahoma')

Size at maturity:

- Width: 15-25 ft.
- Height: 15-30 ft.

Other Information:

- Requires regular watering
- Moderate drought tolerance once established
- Utility friendly tree
- Dink pink flowers Spring/Summer
- Produces purple pods in Summer
- Often used as a street tree
- Branches susceptible to breakage



## **Blenheim Apricot** (*Prunus armeniaca* 'Blenheim')

Size at maturity:

- Width: 10-20 ft.
- Height: 15-30 ft.

Other Information:

- Drought tolerant once established
- Requires irrigation and pruning for quality fruit
- Needs good drainage
- Flowers late Winter
- Produces fruit June, early July
- Requires full sun to thrive



## **Asian Pear** (*Pyrus pyrifolia*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 10-25 ft.
- Height: 15-30 ft.

Other Information:

- Requires moist well-drained soil
- Attractive white flowers in Spring
- Attracts birds, bees, and butterflies
- Requires a nearby cross-pollinator tree
- May have large thorns



## **Meyer Lemon** (*Citrus meyeri*)

Size at maturity:

- Width: 5-10 ft.
- Height: 5-25 ft.

Other Information:

- Needs regular watering and well-drained soil
- Utility friendly tree
- Flowers in Spring and Fall
- Produces fruit nearly all year
- Damaged by freezing temperatures
- May have large thorns



## **Don't see a tree that you would like to plant on this list?**

We don't recommend **Coast Redwood** trees as they require a lot of water. If you're looking for something similar, we would recommend **Deodar Cedar** or **Canary Island Pine**.

We don't recommend **Southern Magnolias** as they require a lot of water. If you're looking for something similar in size, we would recommend **London Plane Tree**.

We don't recommend **Bronze Loquats** as they have very low survival rates in the area. If you're looking for something similar, we would recommend **Smoke Tree**.

We don't recommend **Golden Rains** as they require a lot of water. If you're looking for something similar, we would recommend **Persian Ironwood**.

We don't recommend **Liquidambars** as they require a lot of water. If you're looking for something similar, we would recommend **Oklahoma Redbud** or **Silver Linden**.

We don't recommend **Monterey Pines** as they are susceptible to disease. If you're looking for something similar, we would recommend **Deodar Cedar** or **Canary Island Pine**.

We don't recommend **Bradford Pears** because their structural integrity is weak and many do not survive. If you're looking for something similar, we would recommend **Trident Maple**.

We don't recommend **Tulip Trees** as they require a lot of water. If you're looking for something similar, we would recommend **Silver Linden**.

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