

Bay tree

Laurus

Grecian Bay laurel

nobilis

The bay leaf used in cooking. Very versatile garden plant. Large shrub, eventually growing to 30 feet or more, but very upright habit and ease of pruning make it manageable. Will grow in total shade, or in full sun. Drought tolerant. Very easy to keep in a pot for years. A psyllid insect sometimes deforms the new growth, but doesn't really hurt the plant.

Evergreen

medium - large

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

x 'Saratoga'

Selected form of bay that has wider leaves, larger flowers (almost showy), and is male so it is fruitless. Leaf smells more pungent than *L. nobilis*. Growth habit is more round and spreading. Appears resistant to the psyllid that affects the species.

Evergreen

medium

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Cedar

Calocedrus

Incense cedar

decurrens

Also sold as *Libocedrus*. Western native. Grows 1- 2 feet a year, eventually very large. Tolerant of heat, sun, shade, poor soil. Grows as narrow column for first 10 years or so, then slowly spreads.

Evergreen

tall, upright

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Cedar

Cedrus

Atlas cedar

atlantica 'Glauca'

Bluish-green needles. Grows 2 - 3' a year with unusual angular growth habit. Striking skyline tree. Many nice specimens in Stonegate in West Davis. Deep-rooted and tolerant of heat, drought, wind.

Evergreen

tall, upright

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

deodara

Fast growing tree, up to 5' a year. Very upright when young, then spreading at the base. Soft, feathery texture with bright green needles. Eventually very large. Very tolerant of heat, drought, wind.

Evergreen

very large

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Chaste tree

Vitex

Chaste tree

agnus-castus

Deciduous flowering shrub or tree to 10 feet or more tall and wide. Light blue flowers in summer are very attractive to the larger bees. White and dwarf forms also available. Fast-growing with light green palmate leaves. Tolerates heat, drought; will grow in partial shade.

Deciduous

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Cherry

Prunus

Cherries, flowering

x (campanulata hybrid) 'Okame'

Upright oval habit. Very early bloom, single carmine-pink flowers over a long period. Attractive foliage and nice fall color.

Deciduous

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

x yedoensis 'Akebono'

Beautiful flowering cherry with a spreading and slightly weeping habit. Billows of soft pink, double flowers. Give it room to spread--about 15' across. Paint the trunk with interior white latex paint when young to prevent sunburn. Needs excellent drainage.

Deciduous

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

x yedoensis 'Yoshino'

Beautiful flowering cherry with a spreading habit. Billows of soft pink, double flowers. This is the most common flowering cherry in Washington DC. Give it room to spread--about 20 feet across. Paint the trunk with interior white latex paint when young to prevent sunburn. Needs excellent drainage.

Deciduous

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

Crabapple

Malus

x Prairifire Crabapple

Round head, 20 x 20; Red buds, deep pink flowers. Dark red fruit hangs well into winter. Foliage changes from red to bronze-green. Disease resistant.

Deciduous

small - medium

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: low

Recommended: yes

x Spring Snow Crabapple

Upright grower to 25' x 20'; easily kept lower with pruning. Pure white flowers. No fruit. Good fireblight resistance.

Deciduous

Drought tolerance: low

Recommended: yes

Crape myrtle

Lagerstroemia

indica 'Dynamite'

This is the red one everyone wants. Cherry red to 15 feet tall and nearly equal spread. Color varies with temperature. Orange fall color. Mildew resistance very good.

Deciduous

small - medium

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

***indica X faueri* 'Catawba'**

Dark purple, to 15'. Orange-red fall color. Mildew resistance good.

Deciduous

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

***indica x faueri* 'Centennial Spirit'**

Dark pink/red, to 12 - 15 feet tall and wide. Slow grower, shrubby. Mildew resistance good.

Deciduous

small

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

***indica X faueri* 'Cherokee'**

Bright red/pink, to 15'. Yellow fall color. Mildew resistance good.

Deciduous

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

***indica x faueri* 'Muskogee'**

Pink-lavender. Fast to 25 feet tall and wide, with large leaves. Very attractive landscape tree. Orange-red fall color. Mildew resistance very high.

Deciduous

medium

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

***indica x faueri* 'Natchez'**

Pure white. Fast growth to 25 - 30'. One of the biggest and best crape myrtles! Bright yellow fall color, beautiful bark. Mildew resistance very high.

Deciduous

medium

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

***indica x faueri* 'Tuscarora'**

Bright coral pink. Fast growth to 25'. Large leaves. Orange-red fall color. Mildew resistance very high.

Deciduous

medium

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

***indica X faueri* 'Zuni'**

Dark lavender. Slow growth to about 10'; easily kept lower. Orange-red to maroon fall color. Mildew resistance high.

Deciduous

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Cypress

Cupressus

Arizona cypress

arizonica glabra

Species is too big, messy for small yards. Look for varieties instead: 'Taylor's Silver' is a selected form with nice color, more compact habit when young. 'Blue Ice' has especially nice foliage and retains a tight growth habit, like a silvery-blue Christmas tree.

Evergreen

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

***sempervirens* 'Glauca'**

The classic Mediterranean formal column. Tolerant of heat, wind, poor soil, drought. Grows 2 to 3 feet a year.

Evergreen

tall, very upright

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Desert willow

Chilopsis

linearis 'Bubba'

Larger flowers and leaves than the species. Bicolor blossoms are lavender and dark purple. Blooms all summer. Hummingbirds and bees love the flowers. Train carefully when young for good branch angles.

Deciduous

medium

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

linearis 'Burgundy'

Darker flowers than the species. Blooms all summer. Hummingbirds and bees love the flowers. Train carefully when young for good branch angles.

Deciduous

medium

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Elm

Ulmus

hybrid elm

japonica x wilsoniana 'Accolade'

Grows 2 to 3 feet a year with arching limbs, vase shape. Looks like the classic American elm, but smaller. Resistant to elm leaf beetle, Dutch Elm disease. Very drought tolerant once established.

Deciduous

medium - large

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

minor x parvifolia 'Frontier'

Grows 2 to 3 feet a year with outward-spreading limbs, broad canopy. Resistant to Dutch Elm disease, elm leaf beetle.

Deciduous

medium - large

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

parvifolia 'Drake'

Grows 4' - 5' a year, with rapid outward spread, becoming a beautiful semi-weeping tree. Shiny green leaves, beautiful mottled bark. Known for summer leaf litter, but that is reduced when the trees are watered well. Resistant to elm leaf beetle. Needs careful training and pruning to select good branch structure.

Deciduous

medium

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

Flame tree

Koelreuteria

Formosan flame tree

elegans

Grows 3' - 4' per year, with divided leaves. Very tough, drought-tolerant. Yellow flowers are showy, followed by bright pink pods in fall. Reseeds very little. This is the showy tree at the corner of Eighth and L Streets in Davis. Unfortunately, no wholesaler is presently growing this species. Sometimes available at UC Davis Arboretum plant sales.

Deciduous

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Ginkgo

Ginkgo

Maidenhair tree

Plant selected male clones only! Beautiful fall color. No pests or diseases, tolerate heat, wind, drought, lawn watering, etc.. Ginkgo trees grow 18 inches a year.

biloba 'Autumn Gold'

One of the most widely planted male varieties, with a broad crown over time. Beautiful fall color.

Deciduous

large

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

biloba 'Fairmount'

More narrow and upright male variety, typically 4x height to spread with age. Beautiful fall color.

Deciduous

large

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

biloba 'Saratoga'

Male variety. Dense growth habit, very pyramidal, strong central leader. Leaves are longer, deeper-lobed, and kind of droop on the branch.

Deciduous

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Linden

Tilia

Linden, Littleleaf

cordata 'Greenspire'

Grows 2 - 3 feet a year, with a formal pyramidal growth habit, rich green foliage. Very tidy. Pretty yellow flowers in June (bees like the flowers); nice yellow fall color. Aphids cause honeydew drip.

Deciduous

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: mixed

Maple

Acer

Trident maple

buergeranum

Bushy small tree to about 25', easily kept lower. Upright and angular when young, then makes a large oval crown. Soft green foliage in spring; often has bright red or orange fall color. Nice for small courtyards or patios. Prefers regular watering but can tolerate some drought.

Deciduous

medium

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

rubrum 'October Glory'

Excellent variety of red maple with a round shape. Fast growing (3 - 4'/year) to 40' tall and broad. Dark red fall color. Excellent large shade tree in irrigated landscapes.

Deciduous

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

truncatum

Good substitute for Japanese maple! Small tree with attractive, shiny leaves, spreading “planar” growth habit. Nice fall color. Tolerant of heat, sun, wind and some drought.

Deciduous

small - medium

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

Oak

Quercus

Coast Live oak

agrifolia

One of our native live oaks. Grows about 2 feet per year, with dense, hollylike foliage and a round habit. Attractive dark gray bark. Grows like a shrub for a decade or so, then gradually develops a canopy. Drawbacks include heavy leaf drop in spring and heavy network of fine surface roots, which make them hard to garden under. Great if you can just let the leaves decompose under them. Very drought tolerant.

Evergreen

medium

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

chrysolepis

Grows well here as a slow-growing evergreen tree. Acorns preferred for high oil, low tannins. Native American staple crop.

Evergreen

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

douglasii

Deciduous foothill species that can get very large, but quite slow growing.

Deciduous

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

kelloggi

Grows 3' - 4' per year with large, shiny green, classic oak leaves and attractive dark bark. New growth soft pink. CA native, mostly foothills.

Deciduous

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

lobata

Also called California White oak. Our big native oak. Without irrigation grows about a foot a year; irrigated it can grow 3 feet' per year. Initially upright, then massively spreading. This is a huge tree. Very tolerant of drought, heat, wind. Young trees can be irrigated; don't water mature trees. Oak galls are a curiosity but harmless; some do litter. Acorns preferred for high oil, low tannins. Native American staple crop.

Deciduous

very large

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

macrocarpa

Huge oak. Growth rate can range from slow to fast, depending mainly on irrigation. Large leaves are lustrous dark green. Enormous acorns in a showy, fringed cup. Eastern native with low-tannin acorns.

Deciduous

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

shumardi

Grows 3 to 4 feet a year, with a round, then spreading growth habit. A great broad tree with large, shiny leaves. Fall color dark red. Leaves hang on a few weeks into winter.

Deciduous

very large

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: low

Recommended: yes

suber

Grows 2' - 3' per year, with equal spread. Small leaves are dark green, gray beneath. Corky bark is very attractive. Very drought tolerant. Susceptible to crown rot if irrigated. Widely planted in Davis in the 1940s. Heavy leaf drop in spring.

Evergreen

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Olive

Olea

Olives

europaea

Extremely tolerant of heat, drought. Select fruitless or nearly fruitless varieties for landscape use: Swan Hill, Wilsoni, Majestic Beauty, Western Weeping (Hidshurtleff). Fruiting olives for curing or oil can be grown readily here. Research olive fruit fly before you plant them for oil. Common allergy plant.

Evergreen

small - medium

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Peach

Prunus

Peaches

persica 'Red Baron'

Stunning double red blooms--the showiest of all. Wonderful landscape tree. Very good sweet, juicy fruit. Mid-July to early August.

Deciduous

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

Persimmon

Diospyros

Persimmons

kaki 'Fuyu'

Beautiful tree worth considering as a focal point in the landscape. New growth, winter fruit, fall color all are showy. Fruit litter should be considered in placement. Medium size flattened red-orange fruit can be eaten while still firm. Non-astringent. November.

Deciduous

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

Pine

Pinus

Canary Island pine

canariensis

Fast, upright grower with soft, drooping needles. New growth powdery blue. Tolerates drought, heat, wind, lawn watering. Damaged in 1990 (needles froze) but recovered. Narrow habit makes it one of the most useful pines. On City of Davis list, no longer being planted (there are lots in town!)

Evergreen

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

sylvestris

Grows 3' a year, with a perfect pyramidal shape for many years. Dense, short needles are dark blue-green. Very attractive garden plant. Tolerant of heat, wind, drought, but also good in lawns.

Evergreen

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

thunbergiana

Grows 3' - 5' per year. Starts as a pyramid, with almost equal spread to height. Eventually rather broad. Easily shaped or trained for asymmetric look used in Asian-style gardens. Classic for bonsai. Very tolerant of heat, wind, drought, but also good in lawns.

Evergreen

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Pistache

Pistacia

Chinese pistache

chinensis 'Keith Davey'

Beautiful fall color! One of our best shade trees. Grows 3 - feet' a year, with lush green foliage. Drought-tolerant, but also takes lawn watering. Selected male form 'Keith Davey' has no fruit, and has reliable red fall color.

Deciduous

large

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Plum

Prunus

flowering plum

blireiana

Plum with red leaves in spring, turning dark green in summer. Very little or no fruit. Earliest tree to bloom in spring, with pale pink flowers in February. Grows 3 - 4' a year to about 25', easily kept at 15'. Upright when young, eventually spreading.

Deciduous

medium

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

***cerasifera* 'Krauter Vesuvius'**

Plum with red leaves that stay burgundy through the summer. Usually very light fruit production. Grows 2 - 3' a year to about 15' or so with equal spread.

Deciduous

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

***cerasifera* 'Purple Pony'**

Naturally dwarf red-leaf plum to 10 - 12'; easily kept lower. Pale pink flowers make a strong contrast against dark red new growth. No fruit. Excellent small tree for garden or patio.

Deciduous

small

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

cistena

Leaves come out bright red in spring, turning to burgundy in summer. Nice white flowers in March. Naturally grows as large shrub, but some growers train it up as a single-trunked tree.

Deciduous

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

Pomegranate

Punica

Flowering pomegranate

granatum

All pomegranates tolerate heat, wind, drought, poor soil. Great choice for west exposure. These are shrubby growers with large double flowers, no fruit.

Deciduous

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

granatum 'Wonderful'

Great choice for west exposure. This is the standard commercial variety. 'Grenada' is a sport which ripens a month earlier. 'Sweet' has pink, sweet fruit that isn't tart. Fruitless forms with showy flowers are available and are equally tough.

Deciduous

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Redbud

Cercis

Redbud, Oklahoma

canadensis var *texensis* 'Oklahoma'

Hybrid 'Oklahoma' is more tolerant of garden watering than *C. occidentalis*, more heat-tolerant than *C. canadensis*. One of the best redbuds for gardens and landscapes. Shiny leaves, upright habit. Excellent large shrub or small tree.

Deciduous

medium

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

canadensis x ('Texas White' x *C.* 'Merlot')

Merlot is similar to Oklahoma redbud, but with vivid burgundy foliage in spring that stays purple in summer. One of the best redbuds for garden or landscape. Shiny leaves, upright habit. Excellent large shrub or small tree. Good sub for redleaf plum.

Deciduous

medium

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes

Smoke tree

Cotinus

Purple Smoke tree

coggynia 'Royal Purple'

Purple leaves and purple flowers make a striking contrast with grey or glossy-leaved plants. Very tolerant of drought and heat. Other varieties with green leaves are more stressed by heat and drought.

Deciduous

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Strawberry Tree

Arbutus

Strawberry tree

x 'Marina'

Showy pink-red flowers and small crops of bright orange fruit, beautiful bark that looks like its cousin madrone. Heat and drought tolerant. Grows 1 to 2 feet a year. Gets quite large with age, but can be pruned. Attracts hummingbirds.

Evergreen

medium

Slow growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Sycamore/planetree

Platanus

London planetree

X acerifolia 'Columbia'

Very fast growing huge shade tree. Resistant (not immune!) to anthracnose blight *and* mildew, so it's the best choice if available. Nice dappled shade, usually deep rooted. One of the few very fast trees without significant drawbacks.

Deciduous

very large

Fast growth

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Xylosma

Xylosma

Shiny xylosma

congestum

One of the toughest landscape shrubs around. Tolerates heat, even reflected off a west wall; drought; shade. Can be trained into a beautiful small tree, clipped as a formal hedge, or trimmed for an informal screen.

Evergreen

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Yew pine

Podocarpus

Fern pine

gracilior

Very graceful, useful evergreen tree that we often grow as a large shrub or espalier. Shiny, dark green leaves. Will take all but the hottest sun, as well as considerable shade. Drought tolerant.

Evergreen

30 x 20

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

henkeli

Broader-leaved, denser-growing species. Great for a solid, dark-green hedge in moderate sun or shade. Ultimately can get to 30 ft or more but easily controlled by pruning.

Evergreen

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: high

Recommended: yes

Zelkova

Zelkova

Zelkova

serrata 'Village Green'

Grows 2 to 3 feet a year, with equal spread to height, eventually tall and spreading to 50 feet or more. Resemble (and related to) elms, but resistant to their problems. Shiny green leaves on a nice clean, high-branched tree. Train when young to select good branch structure. Village Green is a selected form with more uniform habit and color. Have been stressed by drought in recent years.

Deciduous

medium - large

Moderate growth rate

Drought tolerance: medium

Recommended: yes
