

Species not recommended, Redwood Barn Nursery

Acer

macrophyllum

Bigleaf maple

California native maple; grows near streams and in moist canyons. Huge tree, really much too large for most yards.

negundo

Boxelder

Native maple that doesn't look like a maple due to divided leaves. Riparian tree that can become drought tolerant with age. There is a variegated variety that has been planted at times (interesting specimen in El Macero). Subject to boxelder bug, which is a nuisance pest, so not recommended.

saccharinum

Silver maple

Very fast-growing, huge tree. Aggressive roots, brittle branches, and tendency to get aphids in summer (leads to sticky drip all over everything) make it unsuitable for most residential situations. Not recommended.

saccharum

grandidentatum

Canyon Maple

Probably not a tree for the Valley.

Aesculus

californica

California buckeye

California native. Can be suitable for dry, native landscapes. Drops leaves in late summer, which makes it kind of odd-looking. But easy to grow in xeric landscapes. Flowers toxic to honeybees.

Albizia

julibrissin

Silk tree

Grows 3' - 4' per year, with fern-like, finely divided leaves. Graceful, spreading growth habit. Very tough, drought-tolerant. Pink fluffy flowers are showy, then litter all over everything. Reseeds profusely. Not recommended.

Alnus

rhombifolia

California white alder

Coastal CA native tree that grows very rapidly in riparian areas. Widely planted in the Valley in the 1960s and 70s, then nearly all were killed by borers. Not recommended.

Betula

alba (pendula)

Birch, European white

Fast-growing with soft green leaves. The most graceful birch for our area. Creates dappled shade. Never drought-tolerant. Resists borers if kept well-watered. Prune as little as possible, and never prune when borers are active (Mar. - May). Considered short-lived (20 - 30 years).

jacquemontii

Himalayan birch

Bigger tree than *Betula pendula*, more spreading; very white bark. Needs lots of water. Considered short-lived (20 - 30 years).

platyphylla japonica

Japanese birch

Fast-growing with soft green leaves. Less weeping habit than European white birch. Creates dappled shade. Never drought-tolerant. The books say "resistant to bronze birch borer," but that isn't the borer we have in this area. Considered short-lived (20 - 30 years).

Catalpa

bignonioides

Catalpa

Fast growing with tropical looking leaves, showy flowers. Subject to limb-breakage in windy areas. Very drought tolerant. Not common in the nursery trade. Not recommended.

Celtis

sinensis

Chinese hackberry

Grows 5 - 7' a year, both up and out. Once one of the best very fast-growing shade trees for our area. Asian woolly hackberry aphids cause sticky mess under the trees. Not recommended.

Cercis

canadensis

Eastern redbud

Beautiful magenta flowers in March. Prefers summer watering; o.k. in lawns. Burns if it gets hot afternoon sun. 'Forest Pansy' has unusual purple foliage. 'Oklahoma' has thicker leaves that are more heat-resistant.

canadensis

'Forest Pansy'

Variety of Eastern redbud with purple foliage. Leaves burn in full sun, so best in older neighborhoods where they will be protected by larger trees.

Cornus

florida

Dogwood

Included here because people often ask about them. Dogwoods were not successful here when we had hard, alkaline ground water. Now with the change to river water, they may do well. Best protected from hot sun. Considered acid loving.

kousa

Kousa dogwood

Dogwoods were not successful here when we had hard, alkaline ground water. Now with the change to river water, they may do well. Best protected from hot sun. Considered acid loving. Kousa dogwood is considered more adaptable and blight-resistant than *Cornus florida*.

Crataegus

laevigatum

English hawthorn

'Paul's Scarlet' has very showy rose pink flowers, very little fruit. 'Crimson Cloud' has bright red flowers, showy red fruit. These are very pretty trees, but unfortunately are very prone to fireblight. Not recommended.

Fraxinus

species

Ash trees

Most Ash species and varieties have problems. 'Raywood' gets borers, 'Modesto' and 'Moraine' get anthracnose blight, and all get mistletoe. Emerald ash borer is moving west in the US. Not recommended.

Gleditsia

triacanthos inermis

Honey locust

Gall midge defoliates these trees from May through August, and then it drops its leaves in late September, so it's not very ornamental. Not recommended

Juglans

californica

var. hindsii

Northern California black walnut

Endangered native species of walnut, but hard to recommend for home gardens. Huge, hard to garden under.

Koelreuteria

paniculata

Goldenrain tree

Grows 3' - 4' per year, with divided leaves. Very tough, drought-tolerant. Yellow flowers are showy, followed by orange-red pods, then zillions of little seedling trees all over your yard! Box-elder bugs love them and soon you have zillions of them, too! Not recommended. See *K. bipinnata* and *K. elegans*.

Liquidambar

styraciflua

Sweet gum

Chronically anemic in our area when we use well water. Great fall color. Aggressive surface roots and spiky seed balls are major drawbacks. Not recommended.

styraciflua

'Burgundy'

burgundy-maroon fall color

styraciflua

'Festival'

pink & red fall color

styraciflua

'Palo Alto'

red fall color, this is the most widely planted variety

Magnolia

species and hybrids

Magnolia, incl. 'Tulip tree'

Many varieties. Need plenty of moisture. Leaves burn in heat waves. Flowers in great profusion in early spring.

Morus

alba

Fruitless mulberry

Very fast, providing deep shade in just a few years. Aggressive roots, dense shade make it very difficult to grow anything underneath them. Often stubbed ("pollarded"), which ruins the shape. Can be very attractive when pruned correctly. Too big and overbearing for most yards; best on rural properties. Not recommended in most situations.

Nyssa

sylvatica

Sour gum, Tupelo

Popular in Sacramento because of upright growth habit and beautiful fall color. Doesn't seem successful here, probably due to dry heat, water quality issues.

Parkinsonia

aculeata

Mexican palo verde

Incredibly tough tree from the southwestern U.S. with thin leaves, lots of yellow flowers in spring. Very drought tolerant. Not sure how it tolerates wet, cold soil. The jury is still out on this one. Presently not recommended.

Paulownia

tomentosa

Empress tree

Often touted online for its fast growth and pretty purple flowers, but has very weak wood and falls apart with age. Not recommended.

Populus

fremontii

Fremont cottonwood

Huge, fast-growing native cottonwood. Roots spread far and wide. Branches break and fall. Suitable for rural properties as a great perch for raptors. Otherwise not recommended.

nigra

'Italica'

Lombardy poplar

Very fast-growing tree with narrow, upright habit. Popular for windbreaks on farms. Roots spread far and wide. Borers kill branches.. Suitable for rural properties as a barrier and great perches for raptors. Otherwise not recommended.

species

Cottonwoods and poplars

Other than those separately listed, species include white poplar, Carolina poplar, black cottonwood, and others. Extremely fast-growing trees that have roots that spread far beyond the canopy and sucker profusely. Most have weak wood. Subject to borers. May be suitable for farms or rural properties. Not recommended.

tremuloides

Quaking aspen

The lovely tree in the mountains that looks kind of like a birch and has pretty yellow fall color. Probably not long-lived in our hot, dry climate. Roots spread aggressively; all the trees you see in a grove may be suckers of one plant. Not recommended.

Pyrus

calleryana

Callery pears

Once widely planted, but Callery pears get fireblight and have poor branch structure. They are invasive in the eastern U.S. and have the potential to be so here. Bradford pear was the original one; other named varieties include Aristocrat, Autumn Blaze, Capital, Chanticleer, Cleveland Select, and more. Not recommended.

calleryana

'Aristocrat'

Pears, flowering

Fast-growing, upright tree, this variety has a more open growth habit than Bradford. Also has messy fruit and is more susceptible to mistletoe.

calleryana

'Autumn Blaze'

Pears, flowering

More open form than other flowering pears, with better branch structure. Bright red fall color is earlier than other varieties. Not recommended.

calleryana

'Bradford'

Bradford pear

The original Callery pear. Fast-growing, upright shade trees with shiny green foliage. Moderately drought-tolerant, but also tolerate heavy soil and lawn watering. White flowers in spring, wine red fall color. Newer forms have better branch angles, and are less prone to splitting. Not recommended.

calleryana 'Capital'*Pears, flowering*

This variety has very upright growth habit; used in narrow areas for shade and privacy. Not recommended.

calleryana 'Chanticleer'*Pear, flowering*

This form has better branch structure than Bradford; less prone to splitting. Not recommended.

calleryana 'Cleveland Select'*Pears, flowering*

Seems this was the same as Chanticleer. Not recommended.

kawakami*Evergreen pear*

Grows 2' - 3' a year, with equal spread to height. White flowers in late winter; one of the first trees to bloom in Northern California. Very prone to fireblight and leaf-spot fungus. Nearly evergreen here.

Robinia**pseudoacacia** 'Frisia'*Golden Black locust*

Clusters of white flowers like Wisteria in April. This variety has bright gold, nearly orange new growth, summer leaves are yellow, thorns and young wood are red. Bad branch structure; prone to splitting. Best for rural properties, otherwise not recommended.

pseudoacacia 'Purple Robe'*Black locust*

Beautiful clusters of purple flowers like Wisteria in April. Branches split in windy areas. Sends up suckers, often many feet from the main plant. Ok in rural areas, not close to the house. Not recommended for most yards.

Salix**matsudana** 'Tortuosa'*Curly willow*

Huge, fast-growing tree. Twisted branches and leaves on a weeping tree. Very striking silhouette. Many drawbacks, but very graceful in its place. Branches break readily in wind, prone to borers. Strictly for rural areas, otherwise not recommended.

species*Weeping willows*

Huge, fast-growing trees with moderately to strongly weeping habits. Very striking silhouette. Many drawbacks, but very graceful. Branches brittle; prone to borers, roots are aggressive. *S. babylonica* is most weeping. *S. alba tristis* has golden branches. *S. blanda* is blue-green, resists borers. Strictly for rural properties; otherwise not recommended.

species***native willows***

Several species of willows are native to our riparian areas: *S. exigua*, *S. goodingii*, *S. lasiandra*, *S. melanopsis*. These are suckering large shrubs of varying heights which spread to form great thickets. They live along streams and tend to require water but can survive intermittent drought. Great for wildlife and used in restoration projects, but not really garden plants.

Sapium**sebiferum*****Chinese tallow tree***

Aggressive surface roots when planted in lawns. Many good examples in Village Homes in West Davis. Tends to reseed. Invasive in riparian areas and rainier climates. Not recommended.

Styrax**japonicus*****Japanese snowbell***

Small flowering tree with profusion of white flowers in June. Strong horizontal branches create a unique look. Not commonly planted here, not good in extreme heat. Likes plenty of water and good drainage.

Tamarix**species*****Saltcedar***

Three species that are very similar. People ask about them when they see them in bloom along county roads. One of the most invasive trees in the Western states. Not recommended.

Erythrina

species and hybrids

species***Coral Trees***

Showy red flowers attract hummingbirds. Widely planted in mild-winter parts of California. Most are tender. *E. crista-galli* or *E. x bidwillii* may grow here as multi-trunk shrubs or even develop trunks, but not reliably.

Lagerstroemia**indica****'Durant's Red'*****Crape myrtle***

Dark pink. Mod. growth to 15'. Mildew resistance fair. Orange-red fall color. 'Grey's Red' is very similar. Both widely grown before the mildew-resistant hybrids became available.

indica**'Twilight Purple'*****Crape myrtle***

Very purple but also very susceptible to mildew.

indica**'Watermelon Red'*****Crape myrtle***

The standard medium pink crape myrtle for many years. Mod. growth to 15' or so. Mildew resistance fair.

Magnolia**x soulangeana*****Saucer magnolia***

Very showy blooms in February. Grows 3' a year, upright when young, and then round-headed. Needs plenty of moisture.

Acacia

baileyana

Purpleleaf acacia

Yellow blooms in Jan.-Feb. Common in Bay Area. Brittle wood, so tends to break apart in high winds. Not recommended.

longifolia

Sydney golden wattle

Fast-growing, quick screen. Tolerates bad soil. Yellow flowers in late winter. Short-lived.

melanoxydon

Blackwood acacia

Fast-growing, upright, evergreen. Recovered from hard freezes in '90 and '98, unlike most other Acacias. Suckers somewhat.

Ceratonia

siliqua

Carob

Pro: Very drought tolerant, with dark green shiny foliage and a very dense crown. Con: male trees smell odd; female trees produce copious amounts of pods. Somewhat surface-rooting. Not recommended.

Cupressocyparis x

leylandii

Leylandi cypress

Grows fast for 7 - 10 years, gets bacterial canker disease and dies, pretty much always. 'Castlewellan' is a golden-foliaged variety that does the same thing. Not recommended.

Cupressus

macrocarpa

Monterey cypress

Coastal CA conifer from the Monterey area. Classic, picturesque tree in that region. Gets coryneum canker disease in the Valley, nearly always dies here. Not recommended.

macrocarpa**'Goldcrest'*****Lemon cypress***

Curious, very dwarf variety of the Monterey cypress that has strong citronella content; golden colored needles smell like lemon. Seedling that originated in the UK. 'Wilma' is similar, more dwarf. 'Citriodora' is another name for the same plant. Usually grown as a container novelty. Hard to say how long it would last in the landscape here, given the disease issue with the parent plant. Ok as a novelty, otherwise not recommended.

Elaeagnus**angustifolia*****Russian olive***

Invasive in many Western states. Resembles a willow or olive, but more kind of scruffy. Powerfully fragrant flowers over several weeks in spring. Unbelievably tough, tolerant of drought, heat, wind, bad soil. Not widely planted here, but considered likely to be invasive in some settings so not recommended.

Eriobotrya**deflexa*****Bronze loquat***

Very prone to fireblight. Not recommended. Fruiting loquat (*E. japonica*) is sometimes planted; also gets fireblight, but people may consider the fruit worth it. This variety doesn't fruit..

japonica***Loquat***

Hardy. Big bold tropical leaves on a shrubby tree to 15' or so. Biggest problem is susceptibility to fireblight, a bacterial disease which causes rapid dieback in spring. Plant cultivars for good quality fruit.

Eucalyptus

Eucalyptus drop limbs, have copious litter, create fire hazards, and have become invasive in some parts of California. No longer recommended, though they are very drought tolerant. Those listed here are the species most common in our area.

camaldulensis***Red gum***

Reliably cold-hardy. Medium-green leaves, mottled tan trunk. Huge, very widely planted species--way too big for most yards.

globulus**'Compacta'*****dwarf Blue gum***

Reliably cold hardy. Huge tree. Young leaves silver; older leaves dark green. Very messy. 'Compacta' is bushier when young but still gets huge.

gunnii***Cider gum***

Reliably cold-hardy. Green leaves, smooth green-and-tan bark. Tall and upright; not messy.

nicholi***Peppermint or Willow gum***

Not a typical Eucalyptus. Reliably cold-hardy. Very clean. Narrow blue-green leaves smell like mint. Form like a willow. Good example at the corner of Adrian and Loyola in East Davis.

polyanthemos***Silver dollar eucalyptus***

Grown for round, silver leaves used in flower arrangements. These are juvenile foliage; if it isn't pruned, it will become 60' tree, and leaves change shape. Doesn't like soggy soil. Hard to recommend.

saligna***Sydney Blue Gum***

Reliably cold-hardy. Medium green leaves. Relatively clean (bark sheds), very graceful. "Fastest gum in the west."

sideroxylon**'Rosea'*****Red Ironbark***

Reliably cold-hardy. Relatively clean. One of the best-mannered gums. Rough, red bark, slim blue-green leaves. Tolerant of heat, drought, wind. Ok on large properties.

viminalis***Red gum***

Reliably cold-hardy. Huge, very widely planted species--way too big for most yards. Messy.

Eucalyptus (Corymbia)**ficifolia*****Red Flowering Gum***

Probably the showiest-flowered Eucalyptus in the Bay Area and Southern California, but not hardy enough to grow in the Valley. Damaged at 25F.

Geijera**parvifolia*****Australian willow***

Very graceful small evergreen tree with a willow-like habit. Grows 3 - 4' a year. Deep-rooted. *Killed by freezing weather in 1990 and 1998*, so not recommended. Included here because people ask for it.

Jacaranda

mimosifolia

Jacaranda

Fern-like foliage, vivid purple flowers make this a favorite in mild parts of California. Not quite hardy here. Young trees will be badly damaged each winter. Eventually they can get big and woody enough to survive, so there are a few trees locally. Not recommended.

Ligustrum

japonicum

Japanese privet

Common allergy plant. Reseeds prolifically. Ungainly growth habit. Many specimens in older parts of Davis. There really is no reason to plant this. Not recommended.

lucidum

Glossy privet

Common allergy plant. Heavy fruit crop. Reseeds prolifically. Not recommended.

Lyonothamnus

floribundus

asplenifolius

Catalina ironwood

Beautiful shiny divided green foliage, mahogany bark. There is a nice group in the UCD Arboretum. Moderately fast, upright grower. Very susceptible to crown and root rot. Not recommended, though with careful water management they could be considered.

Magnolia

grandiflora

Southern Magnolia

Many varieties ranging from 15' - 60'. Needs plenty of moisture. Serious surface roots in lawns. Fragrant flowers in great profusion in summer. Not recommended in most situations.

Maytenus

boaria 'Green Showers'

Chilean mayten

Clean shiny foliage, very graceful weeping habit, like a miniature weeping willow. Suckers and very slow growth are drawbacks. Branch dieback is a common problem, so not recommended.

Picea

abies several varieties

Norway spruce

Don't like heavy soil, hard water, extreme dry heat. Not recommended.

pungens 'Glauca'

Blue spruce

Give good drainage, plenty of water, some afternoon shade. Grow 1' a year to 20 - 30', with formal pyramidal growth habit. Silvery-blue needles. Good in lawn.

Pinus

contorta

Shore pine

Doesn't like extreme heat; give afternoon shade here. Pyramidal shape when young, then spreading and asymmetric. This is the windswept-looking pine on No. California coast. Nice in Asian-style gardens.

densiflora 'Tanyosho'

Japanese red pine, dwarf

Doesn't like extreme heat; give afternoon shade here. Makes a unique, flat-topped tree. Bears cones early. Good for bonsai or as specimen plant in Asian-style gardens.

halepensis

Aleppo pine

Fast-growing with soft needles, upright habit, brushy appearance. Tolerates heat, drought, wind. Unirrigated examples can be seen North of the Veterinary Hospital at U.C. Davis. Too big for most residential areas. Good windbreak for rural properties, but otherwise not recommended.

pinea

Italian Stone pine

Grows 3' - 4' per year, with unusual spreading habit. Eventually very broad, flat-topped. Tolerates heat, wind, drought. Way too big for most residential areas, and needs careful training to make sure limbs don't collapse. Not recommended.

radiata*Monterey pine*

Grows very fast, eventually very large. Subject to diseases and pests in our area, and tends to fall over. Not long-lived and becomes a major risk in residential landscapes. Not recommended.

Sequoia

Coast redwoods grow fast and upright; 3x height to spread. Can be pruned. Never drought-tolerant; like lawn watering but eventually shade out the lawn.

sempervirens*Coast redwood***sempervirens****'Aptos Blue'***Aptos Blue coast redwood*

Coast redwoods grow fast and upright; 3x height to spread. This variety has blue-green, dense growth and is one of the most widely planted.

sempervirens**'Los Altos'***Los Altos coast redwood*

This variety has dark green, dense growth. Not as widely grown as the others.

sempervirens**'Santa Cruz'***Santa Cruz coast redwood*

Bright green, ferny foliage; dense growth; burns in dry winds, so this variety is not recommended in the interior.

sempervirens**'Simpson's Silver'***Simpson's Silver coast redwood*

Silver-blue foliage, somewhat open growth habit. This variety is not widely grown.

sempervirens**'Soquel'***Soquel coast redwood*

Medium green, dense growth. One of the most widely planted varieties.

sempervirens**'Woodside'***Woodside coast redwood*

Silver-green foliage.

Sequoiadendron**giganteum***Giant Sequoia*

Grows fairly slowly with very upright habit. Botryosphaeria canker infects them in the valley, and there is no control for the disease which usually kills them within 7 - 10 years of planting. Not recommended.

Ceanothus

x

'Ray Hartman'

Wild lilac

Hybrid of Southern California parentage that grows to 10 - 15' or more. The most tree-like wild lilac in the nursery trade. Attractive, large shiny leaves. Pretty medium blue flowers in large clusters in spring. Water deeply and very infrequently in summer. Very susceptible to crown and root rot.

Myoporum

laetum

Myoporum

Common in coastal areas and occasionally planted here, but they *froze in 1990 and 1998*, and are often damaged in moderately cold winters in the Valley. Not recommended.

Phoenix

canariensis

Canary Island date palm

Grow 2 - 3' a year to 30 - 40'+. One of the huge palms planted in the Valley around farm houses. Very heat, sun, wind, and drought tolerant (grows faster with regular watering and feeding). Spreading fronds, rather massive. Reseeds prolifically. Not recommended in average-sized yards.