

Small Trees for City Gardens

1. Shrubs as small trees: Many arborescent shrubs will take on a tree form with time. Careful training by shading, crown thinning and timely removal of lower branches can shorten the time required for these shrubs to become small trees.

Arbutus unedo: Strawberry tree. Broadleaf evergreen to 8 meters high. (not very frost hardy.)

Clerodendrum trichotomum: Deciduous shrub, fragrant white flowers. Grows to 6 meters.

Cornus mas: Cornelian cherry. Early yellow bloom, edible fruit, grows to 5 meters.

Corylus avellana "Contorta": Cork screw hazel. Twisted stems in winter provide interest. Grows to 5 meters.

Cotinus coggygria: Smoke Bush. With reddish, deciduous leaves, lacy flowers. Grows to 5 meters.

Cotoneaster "Cornuba": vigorous, semi-evergreen. Grows to 6 meters.

Embothrium coccineum: Chilean Fire Bush, Flame flower. Evergreen, needs sheltered site because it is not frost hardy. Grows to 10 meters.

Enkianthus campanulatus: Evergreen with pretty flowers. From Japan, grows to 2.5 meters.

Eucryphia x nymansensis: Columnar broadleaf evergreen tree with pretty white flowers. Needs sheltered position since it is not very hardy. Grows to 15 meters.

Hippophae rhamnoides: Buckthorn. Deciduous shrub or small tree with lovely persistent orange berries on the female shrub. Grows to 6 meters.

Pieris japonica: Lily of the Valley Bush. Evergreen widely grown bush or tree. Grows to 4 meters.

Pyrus salicifolia: Willow-leaved pear. With grey leaves and white flowers in spring. Grows to 8 meters.

Rhododendron decorum: Large shrub or small tree (to 6 meters). Strongly scented, white bell-shaped flowers.

Syringa vulgaris: Lilac. Well known shrub or tree, tolerates hard restorative pruning.

Trochodendron aralioides: Broadleaf evergreen shrub or tree from Japan, grows to 10 meters.

Viburnum lantana: Wayfaring tree. Vigorous, upright and deciduous. Grows to 5 meters.

2. Larger trees for small spaces: A number of larger trees are suitable for residential planting, as they are narrow or exhibit a small footprint and a high or open scaffold of branches.

Abies pinsapa: Hedgehog fir or Spanish fir. Grows to 25 meters.

Acer capillipes: Snakebark Maple. Grows to 10 meters.

Acer davidii: Pere David's Maple. Grows to 15 meters.

Betula albo-sinensis: Chinese paper birch. Grows to 25 meters.

Betula utilis: Himalayan beech. Grows to 20 meters.

Calocedrus decurrens: Incense Cedar. Grows to 40 meters.

Cercidiphilum japonicum: Katsura tree. Deciduous tree with heart shaped leaves from China and Japan. Grows to 30 meters.

Cornus controversa: Giant Dogwood. Originating in China, it grows to 15 meters.

Cornus 'Eddies White Wonder': Bred in Vancouver, a very pretty tree, grows to 6 meters.

Cunninghamia lanceolata 'Glauca': Closely related to the redwoods, these Chinese trees grow to 20 meters.

Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck': European beech. Often used by the city for street trees. Grows to 25 meters (flame shaped).

Magnolia 'Pegasus': Can be admired in late March at the botanical garden at UBC. It is a hardy hybrid and grows to 10 meters.

Picea omorica: Serbian Spruce. A slow growing evergreen, which can reach 30 meters.

Prunus x yedoensis 'Akebono': Daybreak yoshino Cherry. Blooms in early spring before the leaves appear. Grows to 10 meters.

Prunus serrula: Chinese Hill Cherry. Blooms mid-spring bears fruit and grows to 9 meters.

Robinia pseudoacacia 'Frisia': Black Locust. Fast growing columnar tree, produces white flowers in spring. Grows to 25 meters.

Sciadopitys verticillata: Japanese Umbrella pine. Grows slowly to 20 meters.

3. Trees that (mostly) stay small: Trees may be naturally small or they may be discouraged from growing large. Also, variegated forms of larger species are often comparatively small. The most effective methods to keep trees small include planting in exposed sites and restricting root growth. Pruning for size is seldom successful and nearly always ruins the natural form of the tree.

Abies koreana: Korean Fir. Small conical fir, grows to 6 meters.

Acer circinatum: Vine Maple. Spreading tree grows to 6 meters.

Acer griseum: Snake Bark Maple. Beautiful bark and grows to 10 meters.

Acer palmatum: Full Moon Maple. Grows to 10 meters.

Acer shirasawanum: also called *Acer japonicum aureum*.

Variegated Japanese Maple. Grows to 6 meters.

Albizia julibrissin: Silk Tree or Mimosa. Fern like mid- green leaves. Grows to 6 meters.

Catalpa bignonioides 'Aurea': Indian Bean Tree. With bronze foliage this grows to 10 meters.

Cornus kousa: Japanese dogwood. Beautiful tree with lovely flowers and fruit. Grows to 7 meters.

Crataegus x lavaleei; Hawthorn. Strong growing semi-evergreen tree with orange fruit. Grows to 7 meters.

Koelreuteria paniculata: Golden Rain Tree. Lovely golden flowers followed by interesting fruit capsules which last long. Native to Korea. Grows to 10 meters.

Magnolia denudata: From China, with white flowers before the leaves come out. Grows to 10 meters.

Magnolia sieboldii: With fragrant white flowers, it grows to 8 meters.

Oxidendrum arboreum: Sorrel Tree, Sourwood. Conical tree, with brilliant fall colouring. Grows to 8 meters.

Pinus parviflora Glauca Group: Japanese White Pine. Grows to 10 meters.

Rhus typhina: Stag Horn Sumac. Lovely autumn colour. It can stand drought. Grows to 5 meters.

Sorbus aria 'Lutescens': Whitebeam.. This variety is compact with silvery leaves turning green later in the season. Grows to 8 meters. (Sorbus is the name of the Mountain Ash Genus.)

Sorbus 'Joseph Rock'. White flowers, orange berries. Grows to 7 meters.

Sorbus 'Pink Pagoda'. Has Pink berries. Also about 8 meters high.

Stewartia pseudocamellia (and other species):Deciduous, columnar tree with lovely rose shaped white flowers. Grows to 8 meters.

Styrax japonicus: Japanese Snowbell tree. Often now used as a street tree. Has lovely white flowers and is deciduous. Grows to 10 meters.

Tsuga mertensiana. Mountain Hemlock. Conical tree, grows to 6 meters.