



# Trees to Avoid Planting in the Midwest and Some Excellent Alternatives – Part 2

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## Better Tree Choices for the Midwest Urban Landscape

### U.S.D.A. Cold Hardiness Zones

Zone 3a (cold hardy to –35 to –40°F)  
Zone 3b (cold hardy to –30 to –35°F)  
Zone 4a (cold hardy to –25 to –30°F)  
Zone 4b (cold hardy to –20 to –25°F)  
Zone 5a (cold hardy to –15 to –20°F)  
Zone 5b (cold hardy to –10 to –15°F)

### Large to Medium-sized Street/Urban Trees

#### \**Acer x freemanii*

Freeman maple (hardy to zone 3b-4a, depends on cultivar),

'AF#1' (Firefall™)  
'Bailston' (First Editions® Matador™)  
'DTR 102' (Autumn Fantasy®)  
'Jeffersred' (Autumn Blaze®) is overused, prone to included bark  
'Sienna' (Sienna Glen®)

#### *Acer miyabei*

Miyabe maple (hardy to zone 4a)  
'KW-3ami' (Rugged Ridge™)  
'Morton' (State Street®)

#### \**Acer rubrum*

Red maple (in acidic soils only!) (hardy to zone 3b-5b, depends on cultivar)  
'Autumn Flame'  
'Autumn Radiance'  
'Autumn Spire'  
'Bailcraig' (First Editions® Scarlet Jewell™)  
'Brandywine'  
'Franksred' (Red Sunset®)  
'Magnificent Magenta' (Burgundy Belle®)  
'Morgan' (Indian Summer™)  
'New World'  
'Northwood'  
'Olson' (Northfire®)  
'Polara' (Rubyfrost™)  
'Red Rocket'  
'Scarsen' (Scarlet Sentinel®)  
'Somerset'  
'Sun Valley'

#### \**Acer saccharum* subsp. *nigrum*

Black maple (hardy to zone 4)  
'Fall Red'

#### *Acer* 'JFS-KW202'

Crimson Sunset® maple (hardy to zone 5) (hybrid of Norway and Shantung maples)

#### *Acer* 'Keithsform'

Norwegian Sunset, maple (hardy to zone 5a) (hybrid of Norway and Shantung maples)

#### *Acer* 'Warrenred'

Pacific Sunset, maple (hardy to zone 4b) (hybrid of Norway & Shantung maples)

#### \**Celtis occidentalis*

Common hackberry (hardy to zone 3b)  
'Chicagoland'  
'JFS-KSU1' (Prairie Sentinel®)  
'Prairie Pride'

#### *Corylus colurna*

Turkish filbert (sensitive to road salt) (hardy to zone 4b)

#### *Ginkgo biloba*

Ginkgo (plant male cultivars only)  
'Autumn Gold'  
'Halka'  
'JFS-UGA2' (Golden Colonnade®)  
'Magyar'  
'PNI 2720' (Princeton Sentry®)  
'Saratoga'  
'The President' (Presidential Gold®)  
'Woodstock' (Emperor™)

#### \**Gleditsia triacanthos* f. *inermis*

Thornless honeylocust, plant male cultivars to avoid fruit, (hardy to zone 4a)  
'Christie' (Halka™)  
'Draves' (Street Keeper®)  
'Harve' (Northern Acclaim®), (hardy to zone 3b)  
'PNI 2835' (Shademaster®)  
'Skycole' (Skyline®)  
'Suncole' (Sunburst®), pest prone  
True Shade®

#### \**Gymnocladus dioica*

Kentucky coffeetree, plant male cultivars to avoid fruit, (hardy to zone 4a)  
'Espresso'  
'J.C. McDaniel' (Prairie Titan™)  
'Stately Manor'

#### *Phellodendron amurense* 'Macho'

Amur corktree, plant ONLY male cultivars as female trees are invasive  
'Longenecker' (Eyestopper®) (hardy to zone 4b) (formerly *P. lavellei*)  
'Macho' (hardy to zone 3b)

#### *Phellodendron sachalinense* 'His Majesty'

His Majesty Sakhalin corktree (male tree) (hardy to zone 3b)

#### *Platanus x acerifolia* 'Morton Circle'

Exclamation!™ London plane tree (hardy to zone 5b), resistant to anthracnose

#### \**Quercus bicolor*

Swamp white oak (hardy to zone 4a)

#### *Quercus x bimundorum* 'Crimschmidt'

Crimson Spire™ oak (tall, columnar form) (hardy to zone 4b)

#### \**Quercus macrocarpa*

Bur oak (hardy to zone 3a)  
'JFS-KW3' (Urban Pinnacle™)

#### *Quercus x macdenielli* 'Clemons'

Heritage® oak (hardy to zone 4)

#### \**Quercus muehlenbergii*

Chinkapin oak (hardy to zone 4b)

#### *Quercus palustris*

Pin oak (hardy to zone 4b) (acid soils only!)

#### *Quercus robur*

English oak (zone 5a)  
'Fastigiata' (Skyrocket®)  
'Pyramich' (Skymaster®)

#### \**Quercus x schuettei*

Swamp bur oak (hardy to zone 3b)

#### *Quercus x warei* 'Long'

Regal Prince, oak (tall, columnar form) (hardy to zone 4b)

#### *Taxodium distichum*

Baldcypress (hardy to zone 4b, use northern plant/seed source)  
'Shawnee Brave' is more upright and slightly more cold hardy

#### \*\**Tilia americana*

American linden (sensitive to road salt) (hardy to zone 3a)  
'Bailyard' (Frontyard®)  
'Boulevard'  
'Continental Appeal'  
'DTR 123' (Legend®)  
'Lincoln'  
'McKSentry' (American Sentry®) has good form and branching

#### +*Tilia* 'Redmond'

Redmond linden (sensitive to road salt) (hardy to zone 4a)

#### \*\**Ulmus americana*

American elm (DED resistant cultivars) (hardy to zone 3a)  
'Jefferson'  
'New Harmony'  
'Princeton'  
'Valley Forge'

#### +*Ulmus* hybrids (hardy to zones 3-5)

Hybrid elms (DED resistant cultivars)  
'Frontier' (zone 5), maroon fall color  
'Homestead'  
'Morton' (Accolade®)  
'Morton Glossy' (Triumph'), one of the best  
'Morton Plainsman' (Vanguard)  
'Morton Red Tip' (Danada Charm)  
'Morton Stalwart' (Commendation)  
'New Horizon' (zone 3b)  
'Patriot'  
'Pioneer'

#### +*Ulmus japonica* 'Discovery'

Discovery Japanese elm (hardy to zone 3)

#### +*Ulmus wilsoniana* 'Prospector'

Prospector elm (hardy to zone 4)

\*Native to Midwest

+Susceptible to adult Japanese beetle foliar feeding

### Small Urban Area or Street Trees

#### *Acer truncatum*

Shantung maple (hardy to zone 3b), hard to find at nurseries

#### \**Crataegus crus-galli* var. *inermis*

Thornless cockspur hawthorn (hardy to zone 4a)

#### *Crataegus phaenopyrum*

Washington hawthorn (has thorns) (hardy to zone 4b)  
'Westwood I' (Washington Lustre®) (fewer thorns, more vigorous)

#### *Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King'

Winter King hawthorn (very few if any thorns) (hardy to zone 4b)

*Maackia amurensis*

Amur maackii (hardy to zone 4a) 'Starburst'

+ *Malus* spp. (hardy to zone 4a)

Flowering crabapple (choose from more apple-scab-resistant cultivars below)

White flowers/red fruit: 'Adirondack,'

'Guinzam' (Guinevere®), 'Jewelcole' (Red Jewel®) (has some fireblight), 'Sutyzam' (Sugar Tyme®), *Malus baccata* 'Jackii,' *Malus sargentii* 'Select A' (Firebird®), *Malus sargentii* 'Tina,' *Malus x zumi* var. *calo-carpa*

White flowers/yellow fruit: 'Excazam'

(Excalibur), 'Lanzam' (Lancelot®), 'Ormiston Roy,' 'Satin Cloud,' 'Lollizam' (Lollipop®)

Pink or reddish flowers/red to purplish red fruit:

'Camzam' (Camelot®), *Malus sargentii* 'Candymint,' 'Cardinal,' 'Cardinal's Robe,' 'JFS-KW5' (Royal Raindrops®) (some scab in 2010), 'Orange Crush,' 'Parrisi' (Pink Princess®), 'Prairifire' (some scab), 'Prairie Maid,' 'Purple Prince'

Weeping to semi-weeping form:

'Coral Cascade,' 'Louisa,' 'Luwick,' 'Manbeck Weeper' (Anne E.®), 'Molazam' (Molten Lava®), 'Bailears' (First Editions® Ruby Tears™)

+ *Prunus sargentii*

Sargent cherry (requires good drainage, has included bark) (hardy to zone 4b)

+ *Prunus* 'Accolade'

Accolade cherry (requires good drainage) (hardy to zone 4b)

*Pyrus calleryana* 'Autumn Blaze'

Autumn Blaze callery pear (hardy to zone 4b) (much better branching)

*Syringa pekinensis*

Peking lilac (requires good drainage) (hardy to zone 4a)

'DTR 124' (Summer Charm®)

'Morton' (China Snow®)

'SunDak' (Copper Curles®)

'Zhang Zhiming' (Beijing Gold®)

*Syringa reticulata*

Japanese tree lilac (requires good drainage) (hardy to zone 3a)

'Bailnce' (First Editions® Snowdance™)

'Elliott' (Snowcap™)

'Golden Eclipse'

'Ivory Silk'

'Summer Snow'

'Willamette' (Ivory Pillar™)

\*Native to Midwest

+Susceptible to adult Japanese beetle foliar feeding

**Wisconsin DNR guidelines  
for tree planting within a city:**

Plant no more than 20% of a family: i.e., *Betulaceae*, *Aceraceae*, *Oleaceae*, etc.

Plant no more than 10% of a genus within a family: i.e., within the birch family: *Betula*, *Ostrya*, *Carpinus*, *Corylus*, *Alnus*, etc.

Plant no more than 5% of a species within a genus: i.e., *Betula lenta*, *Betula nigra*, *Betula papyrifera*, or *Betula populifolia*