

Powerline APPROVED Trees



Powerline- approved trees

One of the most frequent mistakes homeowners make when planting trees is not considering the powerlines.

It's an easy mistake to make. Visualizing the impact of a mature tree is difficult when you are looking at a sapling. As a result, many yards have trees growing too close to powerlines.

Trees like those all too often cause power outages from falling branches, so they face frequent, often unattractive trimming.

And that's why it is so important to plant the right tree in the right place, especially when there are utility lines.

Metro Tree Advisory Committee has compiled this list of powerline-approved trees—19 species that at maturity have an average height of 20 feet. (Individual trees may exceed this height under optimal conditions.) These trees usually will not require pruning to reduce height.

Trees on this list are suitable for planting under powerlines at the front and sides of houses. Before you plant trees and shrubs under powerlines in areas inaccessible from a driveway, please contact Nashville Electric Service.

Refer to this list when planting or replacing trees under powerlines so that future generations can enjoy trees safe from unsightly trimming.



Nashville Tree Foundation works to preserve and enhance Nashville's urban forest by educating the public, planting trees in urban areas, identifying the oldest and largest trees in Davidson County, and designating arboretums.

www.nashvilletreefoundation.org

HOTLINE: 615/292-5175

Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)

GROWTH RATE: Moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade. Moist, well-drained soil; dislikes dry soil

FORM: Clump forming, rounded top

HEIGHT: 10' to 20' **WIDTH:** 10' to 20'

LEAF: 3" to 6" with five to seven leaflets. Dark green leaves. Loses leaves in early fall with no appreciable fall color.

FLOWER/FRUIT: Salmon to medium-red flowers in 6" clusters. Fruit is 2" to 3" in diameter containing one to three poisonous seeds that look like chestnuts.

COMMENTS: Attracts hummingbirds and bees. Blooms at early age



CRABAPPLES (*Genus: Malus*)

Adirondack Crabapple (*Malus* 'Adirondack')

GROWTH RATE: Moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun. Tolerates a range of soil types but prefers moist, well-drained soil

FORM: Upright, egg-shaped

HEIGHT: 10' to 12' **WIDTH:** 6'

FLOWER/FRUIT: Dark green foliage; dark carmine buds explode into masses of waxy, white flowers. Fruit becomes orange-red in late summer.

COMMENTS: Makes an excellent screen. Disease-resistant

Narragansett Crabapple (*Malus* 'Narragansett')

GROWTH RATE: Moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun. Tolerates a range of soil types but prefers moist, well-drained soil

FORM: Rounded

HEIGHT: 15' to 20' **WIDTH:** 10' to 20'

FLOWER/FRUIT: Red buds with white flowers. Small, red fruit

COMMENTS: Very showy for short period in spring. Disease-resistant



ABOUT CULTIVARS: A cultivar is a variety of a plant that has been developed by breeding and has a name. Cultivars may be either particularly desirable selections from populations of a single species, or hybrids between species.

CRAPE MYRTLES (Genus: *Lagerstroemia*)

Lipan Crape Myrtle (*L. indica* x *L. fauriei* 'Lipan')

GROWTH RATE: Rapid

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun. Medium well-drained soil

FORM: Upright, multi-stemmed

HEIGHT: 13' to 20' **WIDTH:** 13' to 20'

LEAF: Orange-russet in fall

FLOWER / FRUIT: Medium lavender clusters of blooms

COMMENTS: Highly mildew resistant

Sioux Crape Myrtle (*L. indica* x *L. fauriei* 'Sioux')

GROWTH RATE: Moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun. Medium well-drained soil

FORM: Upright, narrow, multi-stemmed

HEIGHT: 15' to 20' **WIDTH:** 10' to 15'

LEAF: Red-purple in fall

FLOWER / FRUIT: Medium- to dark-pink clusters of blooms

COMMENTS: Long period of striking summer flower color

Yuma Crape Myrtle (*L. indica* x *L. fauriei* 'Yuma')

GROWTH RATE: Slow

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun, medium well-drained soil

FORM: Upright, round-crowned, multi-stemmed

HEIGHT: 12' to 18' **WIDTH:** 12' to 15'

LEAF: Yellow-orange in fall

FLOWER / FRUIT: Bicolored lavender clusters of blooms

COMMENTS: Blooms begin in June and continue into September



DOGWOODS (Genus: *Cornus*)

Stellar Pink Flowering Dogwood

(Cornus florida x Cornus kousa 'Stellar Pink')

GROWTH RATE: Vigorous

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sun, good drainage

FORM: Upright in youth, more rounded with age

HEIGHT: 15' to 20' **WIDTH:** 15' to 20'

LEAF: Green

FLOWER/FRUIT: Round pink flower heads with overlapping bracts, followed by bright red fruits in clusters

COMMENTS: Excellent resistance to disease



Flowering Dogwood Hybrids (*Cornus florida x Cornus kousa*)

Aurora' Dogwood (*C. florida x C. kousa 'Aurora'*)

Celestial Dogwood (*C. florida x C. kousa 'Celestial'*)

Constellation (*C. florida x C. kousa 'Constellation'*)

Ruth Ellen Dogwood (*C. florida x C. kousa 'Ruth Ellen'*)

GROWTH RATE: Slow to moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade

FORM: Upright with broad rounded crown

HEIGHT: 20' **WIDTH:** 20'

LEAF: Medium to dark green, 3" long

FLOWER/FRUIT: White flowers with broad bracts, overlapping or separate

COMMENTS: Disease resistant

Chinese Dogwood, Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)

GROWTH RATE: Slow

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade. Well-drained soil

FORM: Vase shape in youth, rounded with horizontal branching with age

HEIGHT: 20' to 30' **WIDTH:** 15' to 20'

LEAF: 2" to 4" dark-green leaf. Reddish-purple to scarlet fall color

FLOWER/FRUIT: 2" to 4" white tapered blooms. Pinkish red to red fruit in late summer

COMMENTS: Beautiful and disease-resistant

Chinese Fringetree (*Chionanthus retusus*)

GROWTH RATE: Moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade

FORM: Spreading, rounded, multi-stemmed

HEIGHT: 15' to 25' **WIDTH:** 10' to 25'

LEAF: 3" to 8" leathery leaves

FLOWER/FRUIT: Snow-white fragrant flowers in clusters. Half-inch dark-blue fruit on female trees

COMMENTS: Exfoliating bark. Very adaptable. Tends to flower better in alternate years. Easy to grow

Japanese Apricot, Flowering Apricot (*Prunus mume*)

GROWTH RATE: Rapid

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade. Well-drained soil

FORM: Rounded; dense, twiggy growth

HEIGHT: 10' to 20' **WIDTH:** 15' to 20'

LEAF: 2" to 4" light-green

FLOWER/FRUIT: Single or double white, pink, or red flowers. Spicy fragrance. Small yellow fruit

COMMENTS: Blooms appear in late winter/early spring

CULTIVARS: 'Alba' (white), 'Albo Plena' (white), 'Alphandii' (pink), 'Benishidare' (crimson)

FLOWERING CHERRIES (*Genus: Prunus*)

Yoshino Flowering Cherry (*Prunus yedoensis*)

GROWTH RATE: Rapid

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to very light shade; prefers moist, well-drained soil but tolerates clay

FORM: Symmetrical canopy with arching spread

HEIGHT: 20' to 30' **WIDTH:** 30' to 50'

LEAF: 2.5" to 4.5" simple leaf. Yellow to gold fall color

FLOWER/FRUIT: Cluster of double pale pink or white flowers in March/April, slightly fragrant. Small blackish fruit in summer

COMMENTS: Beautiful showy flowers in spring



FLOWERING CHERRIES (Continued)

Kwanzan Flowering Cherry (*Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan')

GROWTH RATE: Medium

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sun. Moist, well-drained soil

FORM: Vase-shaped with spreading branches

HEIGHT: 25' to 30' **WIDTH:** 25' to 30'

LEAF: 3" to 5." Shiny, dark green above, light green below

FLOWER/FRUIT: Deep pink double blossoms occur in large clumps

COMMENTS: Typically no fruit

HOLLIES (Genus: *Ilex*)

Greenleaf American Holly (*Ilex opaca* 'Greenleaf')

GROWTH RATE: Fast

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun

FORM: Pyramidal shape

HEIGHT: 25' to 30' **WIDTH:** 10' to 15'

LEAF: Medium- to dark-green

FRUIT: Female trees produce bright-red berries

COMMENTS: Cold-hardy and drought-resistant



Warren Red Holly

(*Ilex decidua* 'Warren Red')

GROWTH RATE: Slow to moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade.
Moist to dry soil

FORM: Symmetrical canopy

HEIGHT: 20' to 30' **WIDTH:** 10' to 15'

LEAF: 2" to 3" dark green leaf. Light yellow fall color

FLOWER/FRUIT: Small white flowers in spring. Bright red-orange berries

COMMENTS: Deciduous; blaze of fall color

Jane Magnolia (*Magnolia liliiflora* 'Jane')

GROWTH RATE: Moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sun to partial shade

FORM: Rounded, shrubby

HEIGHT: 10' to 20' **WIDTH:** 10' to 20'

LEAF: Green in spring/summer, copper in fall

FLOWER/FRUIT: Slender tulip-shaped, reddish-purple outside, white inside

COMMENTS: Strong and vigorous. Blooms late enough to avoid late frosts

MAPLES (Genus: *Acer*)

Flame Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala* 'Flame')

GROWTH RATE: Slow

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to light shade. Tolerates wind, dry soil, and drought

FORM: Rounded crown, often multi-stemmed

HEIGHT: 15' to 20' **WIDTH:** 15' to 20'

LEAF: 1.5" to 3" simple leaves with three lobes, bright green. Scarlet fall color

FLOWER/FRUIT: Cluster of fragrant white flowers in spring. Red winged seeds

COMMENTS: Leaves out in early spring. Casts dense shade. Attractive to bees, butterflies, and birds. Low maintenance



Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)

GROWTH RATE: Slow to moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Light dappled shade. Evenly moist, well-drained soil

FORM: Low. Dense rounded top, spreading branches. Assumes layered look

HEIGHT: 15' to 25' **WIDTH:** 10' to 25'

LEAF: 2" to 5" simple leaf with five to nine lobes
Green during summer; yellow, bronze, purple or red fall color

FLOWER/FRUIT: Small red to purple flowers; winged fruit called "samara"

COMMENTS: Can be grown as single or multi-stemmed small tree. Flowers attractive if viewed closely but insignificant from a distance.



REDBUDS (Genus: *Cercis*)

Forest Pansy Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy')

GROWTH RATE: Rapid

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sun to partial shade. Medium wet, well-drained soil

FORM: Spreading flat-to-rounded canopy

HEIGHT: 20' to 30' **WIDTH:** 15' to 20'

LEAF: Heart-shaped leaves open bright reddish-purple, gradually maturing to more muted purple or purplish-green in summer. Reddish-purple or orange fall color

FLOWER/FRUIT: Clusters of tiny rose-purple pea-like flowers, darker and more purplish than native redbuds. Flat bean-like, 2" to 4" seed pods resemble snow peas.

COMMENTS: Does not transplant well; plant when young and leave undisturbed.

REDBUDS (Continued)



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

GROWTH RATE: Moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade. Heat and drought tolerant

FORM: Dense, rounded

HEIGHT: 20' to 30' **WIDTH:** 15' to 20'

LEAF: Heart-shaped leathery, bright green in spring/summer, yellow-green in fall

FLOWER / FRUIT: Dark magenta or pink blooms

COMMENTS: Better flower display than native redbuds

Blackhaw, Plum Leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*)

GROWTH RATE: Moderate

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade. Moist well-drained soil; does well in dry sites

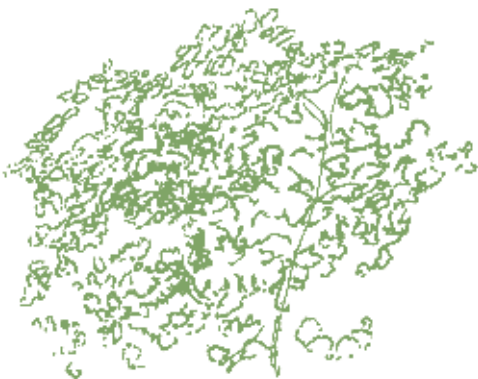
FORM: Twisted trunk with stiff arching branches

HEIGHT: 12' to 15' **WIDTH:** 8' to 12'

LEAF: 1.5" to 3.5" simple leaves; red to maroon fall foliage

FLOWER / FRUIT: White flowers in 2" to 4" clusters in early spring. Large yellowish fruit turns blue-black in fall. Shriveled raisin-like fruit persists into winter.

COMMENTS: Attracts birds



Planting a tree

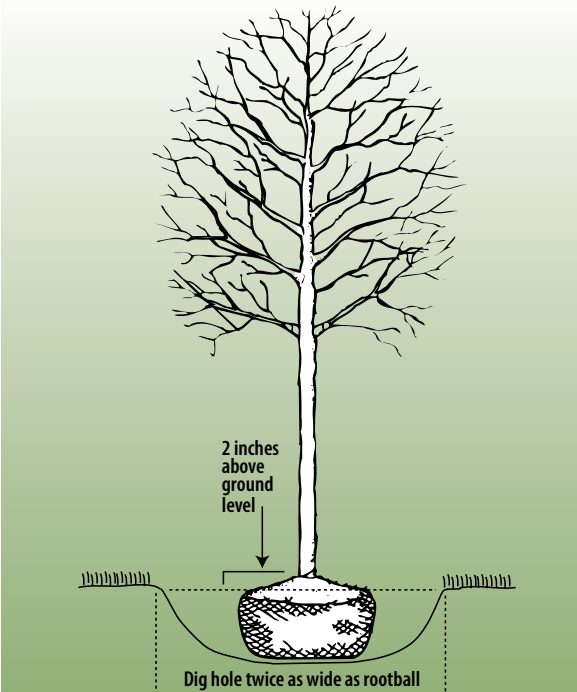
Dig a hole with sloping sides as deep as the root ball but at least twice as wide—the wider the better. Break up soil as you dig.

Lift the tree by its root ball, never by the trunk. Plant at the same depth it was planted at the nursery—you can tell from the soil mark on the trunk. Make sure the top of the root ball is two inches above ground level.

Remove all string, twine, or wire. Remove any tree wrap, tape, or string on the trunk. Roll the burlap down into hole and make sure it is covered with soil and mulch.

Fill the hole with the soil. When it's two-thirds full, gently pack, adding soil until hole is filled. Water thoroughly, but do not flood the hole.

Mulch around the base of the tree, about three inches deep and six inches beyond the hole. Leaving a three-inch circle of bare soil around the trunk.



Maintenance

WATER: Trees need watering, even in winter and especially in a drought. Water is crucial for the first three or four years after trees are planted. Water as far out as twice the width of the crown. Let the water run slowly and soak in deeply—enough to soak the top 12 inches of soil. Give young trees a deep-soak watering about once or twice a week. Avoid short, frequent watering.

MULCH: Material such as hardwood bark that covers the soil to hold in moisture and discourage weeds is mulch. Place mulch three inches deep, but leave a three-inch circle of bare soil around the trunk. Mulch should extend about six inches beyond the hole.

FERTILIZE: When trees are older, give them a balanced fertilizer such as 12-12-12 or 18-18-18 every two or three years. Water thoroughly after applying fertilizer to move it through the soil.

INSPECT: Watch for signs of disease or pests, such as deformed leaves or holes from insects. Examine the trunk and branches for discoloration or disruption, small holes, or sap leaking.

PRUNE: Late winter and early spring are the best times to prune shade trees. Prune early spring flowering trees such as redbuds and crabapples immediately after blooming. Prune summer flowering trees such as crape myrtle in winter/early spring. Prune coniferous evergreens in winter.



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