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Below is a list of recommended street trees for North Carolina. Special attention has been given to species with the ability to handle air pollution and heat stress involved with urban environments. Other environmental tolerances and sensitivities are listed below. Be aware that some site preparation may be necessary to ensure tree survival, proper soil and water conditions are necessary for any species to survive. This does not mean that pruning and other kinds of maintenance won't be required during the life of the tree. Also, be aware that species listed as large trees will require more growing space to remain healthy (both below and above ground), for they will have larger root systems and wider crowns. Species listed as small trees are particularly useful when utility lines are present. Many of the species listed below have multiple cultivars available for purchase, please be sure to choose the correct one for the site.

LARGE TREES: Mature height greater than 50 feet tall								
TREE SPECIES		SHAPE	GROWTH RATE			VISUAL INTEREST	ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCE	PROBLEMS
Scientific Name	Common Name		Slow	Medium	Fast			
<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	hardy rubber tree	Rounded	●				Drought	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	green ash	Rounded		●			High pH/Salt/Drought/Compaction	Numerous seeds can be problematic on females
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>	thornless honeylocust	Rounded		●			Wet soils/Drought/Salt/High pH/Compaction	Plant bugs, mites, webworm
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky coffeetree	Rounded		●			Drought/Salt/High pH	Pods may be problematic; Needs adequate growing space
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	sweetgum	Pyramidal		●			Wet soils	Needs adequate growing space; Fruit litter may be problem, 'Rotundiloba' may be alternative
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	dawn redwood	Pyramidal		●			Wet soils/High pH	
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	black gum	Pyramidal		●		 	Acid soils	
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London planetree	Rounded			●		Compaction/Drought/ Salt	Adequate space; Anthracnose can be problem.
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak	Rounded	●				Wet soils/Drought/Salt/Compaction	Acorn litter. Requires ample space and acid soil
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	shingle oak	Rounded		●			Dry soils	
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	overcup oak	Rounded		●			Wet soils	
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	Pyramidal		●			Wide range of soils	Adequate space
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	willow oak	Pyramidal			●		Wet or Dry sites/Compaction	
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	northern red oak	Rounded			●		Drought/Compaction/ Salt	Acorn litter































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 Flower Color



LARGE TREES: Mature height greater than 50 feet tall								
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard oak	Rounded		●			Drought/Compaction/ Salt	Acorn litter
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	live oak	Rounded	●				Wet soils/Compaction/ Salt	
<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Japanese pagodatree	Rounded		●			Drought/Compaction/ Salt	Litter problems; Canker can be a problem
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	baldcypress	Pyramidal		●			Wet soils/Compaction	
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	silver linden	Rounded		●			Drought/Salt/pH adaptable/Compaction	Aphids
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	lacebark elm	Rounded		●			Drought/Salt/pH adaptable/Compaction	
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese zelkova	Rounded		●			Drought/pH adaptable/Compaction	Narrow crotch angle susceptible to splitting

MEDIUM TREES: Mature height between 35 feet and 50 feet tall								
TREE SPECIES		SHAPE	GROWTH RATE			VISUAL INTEREST	ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCE	PROBLEMS
Scientific Name	Common Name		Slow	Medium	Fast			
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	Rounded		●			Wet soils/compaction	Tends to have cankers under heavy stress; Over planted.
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	horsechestnut	Rounded	●			 	PH adaptable/salt tolerant/compaction	Susceptible to leaf blotch and scorch
<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	red horsechestnut	Rounded	●				Compaction/acidic soil	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European hornbeam	Narrow		●			Dry soils/pH adaptable	
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American hornbeam	Pyramidal	●			 	Acidic soils	Sensitive to drought and compacted soils
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	sugarberry	Rounded		●			Wet soils/compaction /salt	Intolerant of high pH
<i>Corylus colurna</i>	Turkish filbert	Narrow		●			Drought/pH adaptable	
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	eastern redcedar	Pyramidal		●			Drought/High pH/ Compaction/Salt	
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	goldenraintree	Rounded		●			Drought/Salt/High pH	
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur corktree	Rounded		●			Drought/Wet soils/pH adaptable	Fruit may be a problem on females
<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	Sargent cherry	Narrow			●	 	Drought/Salt/Acid soils	Avoid poorly drained sites. Japanese beetles

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SMALL TREES: Mature height less than 35 feet tall (suitable for planting under utility wires)

TREE SPECIES		SHAPE	GROWTH RATE			VISUAL INTEREST	ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCE	PROBLEMS
Scientific Name	Common Name		Slow	Medium	Fast			
<i>Acer campestre</i>	hedge maple	Rounded	●				High pH/Drought/compaction	
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	serviceberry	Rounded		●		  		Specify tree form. Good alternative to crapemyrtle.
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	eastern redbud	Rounded			●	 	pH adaptable	
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	fringetree	Rounded	●					
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Kousa dogwood	Rounded	●			 	Acidic soils	
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	green hawthorn	Rounded		●		  	PH adaptable/ Drought/Wet soils	
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i>	Carolina silverbell	Rounded		●		 	Acid soils	Specify tree form. Good alternative to crapemyrtle.
<i>Lagerstromia</i> spp.	crapemyrtle	Rounded			●	    	Wet soils	Over planted and often unnecessarily topped.
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Amur maackia	Rounded	●				Drought/pH adaptable	
<i>Malus</i> spp.	flowering crabapple	Rounded		●		    	Wide range of soils/Salt/ Compaction	Specify tree form; fruit litter problem; scab is a problem for many species
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese pistache	Rounded		●			High pH	
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Carolina cherry/laurel	Pyramidal			●		Drought/pH adaptable	Avoid poorly drained sites
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	chokecherry	Narrow			●	 	Drought/Salt	Avoid poorly drained sites
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese tree lilac	Pyramidal		●			Drought/pH adaptable	

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