

Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association of Indiana

UNDESIREABLE TREES FOR HAMILTON COUNTY YARDS

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
<u>Undesireable Native Trees</u>		
Acer negundo	Boxelder, ashleaf maple	Pervasive, shallow roots, weak wood is susceptible to wind & ice damage, fast growing, good for reclamation areas. Rarely lives beyond 100 years.
Betula papyrifera	Paper birch	Insects, short lived, intolerant of urban stress.
Fraxinus species	Ash	Emerald ash borer is killing our ash trees. Treatment costs \$50-\$100 per year per tree. If healthy, can live 150 years or longer.
Populus deltoides	Cottonwood, Widow maker	Fastest growth rate of any native American tree and can grow to 100'. Suckers, shallow roots, short lived, messy cottony seeds stick to screens. Leaves drop during drought & constantly shedding limbs create a mess on lawns. Good for reclamation areas. Can live 150 years, but more likely no more than 70 years.
Sorbus species	Mountain ash	Susceptible to insects and disease and intolerant of central Indiana clay soils.
Ulmus americana	American elm	Susceptible to insects and Dutch elm disease.
<u>Undesireable Non-Native Trees: Invasive</u>		
Acer platanoides	Norway maple	Dense shade. Surface roots may damage sewer lines and pavement. Seedlings may be a weed problem and invade open spaces as this tree tolerates wide range of soils, pH, heat, drought and urban pollution. Unfortunately, this is the most commonly planted street tree in the U.S.
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of heaven	Invasive, prolific seeds, suckers, weak wood.
Acer ginnala	Amur maple	Invasive -- one tree can produce 5,000 seeds, displaces native shrubs and understory trees.
Eleagnus angustifolia	Russian olive	Invasive, poor form, shallow roots.
Eleagnus umbellata	Autumn olive	Invasive, poor form, shallow roots.
Paulownia tomentosa	Paulownia	Weak wood, prolific seeds, invasive.
Populus alba	European White poplar	Suckers, shallow roots, weak wood, short lived, good for reclamation areas.
Populus nigra	Lombardy poplar	Suckers, shallow roots, weak wood, short lived due to susceptibility to stem canker disease.
Quercus robur 'Fastigiata'	Upright English oak	Low branches, insects, disease.
Salix alba	Weeping willow	Susceptible to breakage & numerous pests, aggressive roots, messy, needs frequent pruning though appreciated near ponds.
Salix matsudana	'Tortuosa' Corkscrew willow	Susceptible to breakage & numerous pests, aggressive roots, messy, needs frequent pruning though appreciated near ponds. May be grown as specimen tree with cut branches for florist trade.
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm	Weak wood, prolific seeds, susceptible to disease.
<u>Undesireable Non-Native Trees: Problematic</u>		
Betula pendula	European white birch	Insects, short lived, intolerant of urban stress
Morus alba	White mulberry	Litter stains, short lived, shallow roots.
Ginkgo biloba	Ginkgo (female)	Smelly, fleshy fruit.
Pinus nigra	Austrian pine	Highly susceptible to an often fatal fungus, Schaeropsis tip blight by age 25-30
Pyrus calleryana	'Bradford' pear	Invasive, shallow rooted, brittle wood weakly attached, low branches, suckering, casts dense shade. Despite frequent pruning will likely suffer serious storm damage by age 30. Over planted.
Pyrus calleryana	Ornamental pear: 'Aristocrat' and 'Chanticleer'. 'Cleveland Select' & 'Stonehill' are same as 'Chanticleer'	Invasive, shallow rooted, brittle wood weakly attached, low branches, suckering, must be pruned to allow sufficient space for lateral branches along a central trunk, short lived, smelly flowers, a slightly better choice than 'Bradford' Pear. Over planted.
Quercus acutissima	Sawtooth oak	Produces heavy crop of acorns and invades natural areas crowding out native trees and shrubs. Chlorotic in alkaline soils. Growth habit and hardness may be variable.
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