



TREE PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS AND DIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

As per City of Chicago Municipal Code 10-32-030(g), the Bureau of Forestry has the authority to prohibit and regulate the planting of certain variety of trees, shrubs and other plant material.

Based on the City’s most current data, there is a great potential to diversify the City’s tree population by avoiding the planting of the most common trees. This is especially true since over 90% of the city’s available planting locations are grass parkways.

DIVERSITY GOAL

The City of Chicago has established a goal to have no tree species represent more than 15% of the street tree population. Based on a recent Bureau of Forestry study, the top four street trees are near or well above that limit.

Trees such as Honeylocust should not be planted in more ideal sites such as grass parkways. Honeylocust should be limited to the toughest of sites such as Tree Pits/Cut Outs and Parking Lot Islands. The use of any type of maple should represent no more than 5% of the trees used on any given project. Hedge Maple and Amur Maple are excluded from this limit.

Top 5 Street Trees in Population	
Percent	Species
21%	Norway Maple
16.5%	Silver Maple
15%	Honeylocust
14%	Green Ash
3%	White ash

MORATORIUM & RESTRICTION

To date, the Bureau of Forestry has placed ash (*Fraxinus* sp.) on its prohibited list due to the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer and due to its large presence in the city’s tree population. Additionally, the City continues to severely restrict the planting of maple and honeylocust, and requires the private sector to do the same.

SYSTEMATIC DIVERSITY

To achieve the desired diversity, the City encourages the use of the Systematic Diversity concept that espouses the planting of trees in alternating groups (3-6 trees) of different types of trees down a city street or along a lot frontage. Where feasible, no tree species should represent more than 20-25% of the block segment. Boundaries of these groups may be defined by: spacing between light poles, existing trees, building/Lot Size.

Systematic Diversity based on # trees required	
<u># Trees Required</u>	<u># Tree Varieties/Types</u>
1-5	1
5-15	2
15-25	3
25-50	5
50-100	7
100+	10

RECOMMENDED TREES FOR VARIOUS PLANTING LOCATION

Grass Parkways

Choose one of the many varieties listed in the Chicago Urban Tree Planting List.

Preferred

- Bloodgood London planetree
- Columbia London planetree
- Burr oak
- Swamp White oak
- Hackberry

Avoid: Honeylocust, Norway maple and Silver Maple

Landscape Islands (Parking Lot/

Vehicular Use Area)

- Northern Catalpa
- Chicago Blues Blacklocust
- Hybrid Elms
 - Accolade Elm
 - Commendation Elm
 - Pioneer Elm
 - Triumph Elm
- Chicagoland Hackberry**

Tree Cut Outs/Tree Pits with Iron Grates

- Hybrid Elms
 - Accolade Elm
 - Commendation Elm
 - Pioneer Elm
 - Triumph Elm
- Ginkgo
 - Princeton Sentry ginkgo
 - Magyar ginkgo
- Skyline Honeylocust
- Chicagoland Hackberry
- Chanticleer Pear
- Kentucky Coffeetree

Avoid: Norway maple, Red maple and Littleleaf linden

Under Powerlines

- Hedge Maple
- Japanese Tree Lilac
- Amur Maple
- Redspire pear