



Small Garden Trees

Information Sheet

Trees Suitable for Small Gardens

The following information has been obtained from the leaflet "Trees for Small Gardens" published by the Arboricultural Association who have kindly given their consent for its use here. They also produce other advice leaflets, referred to below. These may be obtained from the address given at the end of this leaflet

Selection

Buy from a reputable Garden Centre or Nursery. Select plants that have a well balanced, characteristic branch formation, that is free of pests and diseases. Root systems should be moist and fibrous. Check that the tree you have selected suits your garden soil and climate. Make sure that the tree's ultimate height and spread will not be too large.

Planting Time

Avoid any planting when the ground is very dry, very wet or frozen. Subject to this plant deciduous bare-rooted (field grown) trees - November to March; plant evergreen root-balled trees - Autumn or Spring plant containerised or container grown trees - all year round.

It is important that the tree is properly planted (see Leaflet No.2) and maintained after planting (see Leaflet No.3). There follows a list of trees which are suited to the smaller garden. They are all either small for a tree (even when mature) or are relatively slow growing. No tree lives for ever, and in small gardens it may

be necessary to remove some trees before they are fully mature, especially those which eventually reach a large size. Some advice on management is given in leaflet No.4. All the trees which are listed are available, although some are less common. Some of those listed may be categorised in Garden Centres and nursery catalogues as shrubs.

Key to Abbreviations describing tree habit

S = Spreading R = Rounded
F = Fastigate or upright W = Weeping

Figures in brackets after each description relates to height x spread in metres. These figures are averages for a healthy specimen, 20 years old. Those asterisked (*) prefer acid soil. A + sign means that the tree is less common and may be more difficult to obtain.

* **Acer capillipes** "SNAKEBARK MAPLE"
Streaked bark, red young branches and rich autumn tints (S7.6 x 4.5)

* **Acer davidii** "SNAKEBARK MAPLE"
Green and white striped bark (S6.0 x 3.0)

+ **Acer ginnala**
Excellent autumn tints (S4.5 x 3.0)

Acer griseum "PAPERBARK MAPLE"
Flaking bark reveals cinnamon-coloured underbark. Excellent autumn tints (F4.5 x 2.4)

Acer negundo 'Flamingo' "BOX ELDER"

Leaves with white and pink variegation (S6.0 x 4.5)

+ **Acer nikoense** "NIKKO MAPLE"

Underside of leaves bear blue "bloom". Excellent autumn tints (S4.5 x 2.4)

* **Acer palmatum** "JAPANESE MAPLE"

Hand-like leaves. Excellent autumn colouration (S4.5 x 3.0)

* **Acer palmatum atropurpureum** "PURPLE JAPANESE MAPLE" Red-purple leaves giving rich autumn tints (S3.6 x 2.4)+* **Acer pensylvanicum** "SNAKEBARK MAPLE"

Pale-green and silvery-white streaked bark and yellow autumn colours (S6.0 x 3.6)

Acer platanoids 'Drummondii'

Leaves margined creamy-white (R6.0 x 4.5)

Acer pseudoplatanus 'Brilliantissimum'

Slow with shrimp-pink young leaves in spring (R3.6 x 2.4)

Acer pseudoplatanus 'Simon-Louis Freres'

Leaves variegated with cream and purple (R4.5 x 3.0)

+ **Alnus glutinosa 'Imperialis'** "FERN-LEAVED ALDER"

Leaves are deeply and gracefully cut (S4.5 x 3.0)

+ **Alnus incana 'Aurea'** Young shoots are reddish-yellow, catkins orange and young leaves bright yellow (F4.5 x 3.0)+ **Alnus incana 'Pendula'** "WEEPING GREY ALDER"

A large mound of pendulous branches and grey-green leaves (W4.5 x 2.4)

Amelanchier lamarckii "SNOWY MESPILUS"

Coppery young leaves, masses of white flowers followed by red, edible berries and excellent autumn colours (S4.5 x 3.0)

Betula albo-sinensis septentrionalis

Orange-brown bark with pink and grey bloom (S6.0 x 3.0)

Betula ermanii

Creamy white bark tinted pink (S6.0 x 3.0)

+ **Betula 'Jermyns'**

Peeling orange-brown or coppery bark (F4.5 x 3.0)

Betula papyrifera "PAPER BARK BIRCH"

White outer bark peeling off in sheets. Yellow autumn tints (F6.0 x 3.0)

Betula pendula "SILVER BIRCH"

White bark and drooping branch tips. A British native (S6.0 x 3.0)

Betula pendula 'Dalecarlica' "SWEDISH BIRCH"

Deeply cut leaves and drooping branches (S6.0 x 2.4)

Betula pendula 'Purpurea' "PURPLE LEAVED BIRCH"

Slow growing with purple leaves (S4.5 x 3.0)

Betula pendula 'Youngii' "YOUNGS WEEPING BIRCH"

Broad, mushroom-shaped head with branches reaching the ground (W4.5 x 4.5)

Betula utilis "HIMALAYAN BIRCH"

Peeling bark of rich orange-brown (F6.0 x 2.4)

Betula utilis jacquemont

The most beautiful peeling white bark (7.6 x 3.6)

Catalpa bignonioides 'Aurea' "GOLDEN INDIAN BEAN TREE" Slow growing with large yellow leaves (S3.6 x 2.3)+ **Cornus controversa 'Variegata'**

Branches are produced in tiers and bear white-variegated leaves (S4.5 x 4.5)

- + **Cornus kous**
White flower-like bracts in June are followed by red fruits and bronzy autumn tints (S4.5 x 3.0)
- Cornus mas** "CORNELIAN CHERRY"
Yellow flowers in February are followed by edible red fruits (S5.5 x 3.6)
- Cotoneaster**
Many species, varieties and cultivars are suitable.
- Crataegus laevigata 'Pauls Scarlet'** "RED MAY"
Double scarlet flowers in May/June (F6.0 x 4.5)
- Crataegus laevigata 'Plena'**
Double white flowers in May (F6.0 x 4.5)
- Crataegus laevigata 'ROSEA FLORE PLENO'**
Double pink flowers in May (F6.0 x 4)
- Crataegus prunifolia**
White flowers in June give rise to red fruits. Excellent autumn colour (R6.0 x 4.5)
- + **Crataegus tanacetifolia** "TANSY-LEAVED THORN" Grey, downy leaves, white flowers in June and large yellow fruits (S4.5 x 3.0)
- Cytisus battandieri** "PINEAPPLE BROOM"
Yellow, pineapple-scented flowers appear in July (S3.6 x 2.3)
- + **Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'** "FERN-LEAVED BEECH" A slow-growing tree with deeply cut leaves (S4.5 x 3.0)
- Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck'** "DAWYCK BEECH"
Forms an excellent column of green leaves becoming a coppery-gold in autumn (S4.5 x 1.5)
- + **Fagus sylvatica** "DAWYCK PURPLE"
As above but with purple leaves and slower growing (F3.0 x 1.2)
- Fagus sylvatica 'PURPUREA PENDULA'**
Slow weeping tree with purple leaves (W3.0 x 1.5)
- Genista aetnensis** "MOUNT ETNA BROOM"
Yellow pea flowers in July (S4.5 x 3.0)
- + **Gleditsia triacanthos 'Ruby Lace'** "HONEY LOCUST" Red tinged, feathery foliage (S4.5 x 3.0)
- Gleditsia triacanthos 'Sunburst'** "HONEY LOCUST" Yellow feathery foliage (S6.0 x 4.5)
- + **Halesia monticola** "MOUNTAIN SNOWDROP TREE"
White flowers in May followed by green winged fruit (S4.5 x 3.0)
- Ilex** "HOLLIES"
Many species, varieties and cultivars are suitable
- + **Koelreuteria paniculata** "PRIDE OF INDIA TREE"
Large yellow flowers in July/August followed by red fruits (S6.0 x 4.5)
- Laburnum alpinum 'Pendulum'**
"WEEPING SCOTCH LABURNUM" Yellow fragrant flowers in June (W4.5 x 3.6)
- Laburnum x watereri 'Vossii'**
Very long panicles of yellow flowers but very little seed is set (F7.6 x 4.5)
- + **Laburnocytisus adamii**
A botanical oddity with yellow, purple and pink flowers (F4.5 x 3.0)
- Ligustrum lucidum** "TREE PRIVET"
Evergreen with white flowers in the autumn (S6.0 x 6.0)
- Ligustrum lucidum 'Excelsum Superbum'**
As above but slow-growing with white margined leaves (S4.5 x 3.0)

Magnolia

Many species, varieties and cultivars are suitable.

Malus "CRAB APPLE"

Many species, varieties and cultivars are suitable.

Malus 'Dartmouth'

White flowers and reddish-purple fruits (F4.5 x 2.4)

Malus 'Echtermeyer'

Rose-crimson flowers and reddish-purple fruits (W3.0 x 2.4)

Malus 'Everest'

Pink-white flowers and yellow tinged red fruit (S3.0 x 3.0)

Malus floribunda

Pale-blush flowers and yellow fruit (R4.5 x 3.0)

Malus 'Golden Hornet'

White flowers and yellow fruit (S4.5 x 3.0)

Malus 'John Downie'

Pink-budded white flowers and orange/red fruit (F7.6 x 3.0)

Malus 'Profusion'

Coppery young foliage, wine-red flowers and small red fruit (R6.0 x 4.5)

Malus 'Red Jade'

White flowers and red fruit (W3.0 x 2.4)

Malus x robusta

White or pinkish flowers and red or yellow fruit (S6.0 x 4.5)

Malus 'Royalty'

Reddish-purple leaves, crimson flowers and dark red fruit (R4.5 x 3.0)

Malus tschonoskii

White, pin-flushed flowers and yellow-green fruits. Excellent autumn tints (F7.6 x 3.0)

Malus 'Van Eseltine'

Shell-pink flowers and yellow fruits (F4.5 x 1.8)

Morus alba 'Pendula' "WEeping WHITE MULBERRY"

A small weeping tree with edible fruits (W2.0 x 3.0)

Morus nigra "BLACK MULBERRY"

Bears edible black-red fruits (S4.5 x 3.0)

Prunus "FLOWERING CHERRIES" "PLUMS" ETC.

Many species, varieties and cultivars are suitable.

Prunus 'Accolade'

Masses of pink, semi-double flowers in early spring (S7.6 x 4.5)

Prunus 'Amanogawa' "FLAGPOLE" or "LOMBARDY CHERRY" Fragrant shell-pink flowers in April/May (F4.5 x 0.9)

Prunus x blireana

Masses of double rose-pink flowers in March and April and coppery purple leaves (S3.6 x 3.0)

Prunus cerasifera 'Nigra'

Leaves and stems are purple/black, flowers pink in March and April (S6.0 x 4.5)

Prunus cerasifera 'Pissardii'

Leaves are dark red, flowers white (S6.0 x 4.5)

Prunus 'Cheal's Weeping'

Double rose-pink flowers in April (W3.0 x 2.4)

Prunus x hillieri 'Spire'

Flowers soft pink in April and excellent autumn tints (F6.0 x 3.0)

Prunus 'Okame'

Rose coloured flowers in March and good autumn tints (F4.5 x 3.0)

Prunus 'Pandora'

Pale shell-pink flowers in March and April. Good autumn colours and young foliage (F7.6 x 3.0)

Prunus 'Pink Perfection'

Rose-pink doubled flowers in April and bronzy young foliage (S4.5 x 3.0)

Prunus sargentii

Single pink flowers in March - April followed by coppery young foliage. Good autumn colour (R6.0 x 4.5)

Prunus serrula

Shiny, copper-brown bark and red underbark (S6.0 x 4.5)

Prunus 'Shimidsu-zakura'

Pure white elegant flowers in May (S4.5 x 3.6)

Prunus 'Shirofugen'

Large double flowers, pink in bud, opening white. Good autumn tints (S6.0 x 6.0)

Prunus 'Shirotae'

Large white, semi-double flowers in late April (S6.0 x 4.5)

Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis'

The longest flowering cherry with semi-double white flowers from November to March (S6.0 x 6.0)

Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis Rosea'

As above but flowers are blush pink (S6.0 x 6.0)

Prunus subhirtella 'Pendula Rubra' "WEeping SPRING CHERRY" Deep rose flowers produced in March and early April (W3.0 x 4.5)

Prunus 'Ukon'

Yellow-green flowers from late April to early May and good autumn colours (S6.0 x 4.0)

Prunus x yedoensis 'Shirdare -yoshino' Pale pink flowers in March/April (W3.0 x 3.0)

Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'

White flowers March/April, excellent autumn foliage colours (F5.5 x 2.7)

+ Pyrus nivalis

A silver-leaved tree with white flowers in April (4.5 x 3.0)

Pyrus salicifolia 'Pendula' "WEeping WILLOW-LEAVED PEAR" A weeping tree with narrow silver foliage (W4.5 x 3.0)

Rhus typhina "STAGS HORN SUMACH"

Excellent autumn foliage (S4.5 x 4.5)

Robinia pseudoacacia 'Frisia' "FALSE ACACIA" Golden yellow foliage from spring to autumn

(S7.6 x 4.5)

Salix caprea 'Pendula' "KILMARNOCK WILLOW" Large silver-green catkins in early spring

(W3.0 x 1.8)

Salix purpurea 'Pendula' "WEeping PURPLE OSSIER" Arching purple stems bear slender catkins and narrow blue-green leaves (W3.0 x 2.1)

Sorbus "WHITEBEAMS" AND "MOUNTAIN ASHES" Many species, varieties and cultivars are suitable.

Sorbus aria 'Lutenscens' "WHITEBEAM" Grey-green leaves coated in a whitish bloom. Red fruits (F6.0 x 4.5)

Sorbus aucuparia "MOUNTAIN ASH" or "ROWAN" Creamy-white flowers in May and June are followed by brightened berries. A British native (F7.6 x 4.5)

+ **Sorbus aucuparia 'Beissneri'**

As above but with coppery-orange, shiny bark (F6.0 x 3.6)

+ **Sorbus Cashmiriana**

Pale pink flowers in May followed by white fruits (S4.5 x 2.4)

+ **Sorbus 'Embley'**

Bears large bunches of orange-red fruits and has good autumn colour (F7.6 x 4.5)

Sorbus hupehensis

Bears blue-green leaves and white or pink tinged berries (F7.6 x 4.5)

Sorbus 'Joseph Rock'

Bears yellow berries and excellent autumn tints (F7.6 x 4.5)

Sorbus sargentiana

Large red sticky winter buds, small red fruits and excellent colours (S6.0 x 4.5)

+ **Sorbus vilmorinii**

Fruit changes colour from rose-red to white' good autumn colour (S4.5 x 3.0)

Syringa vulgaris "LILAC"

Many species, varieties and cultivars are suitable.

Details from the Arboreal Association leaflet No.1 "**Trees for Small Gardens**"

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Contacts for advice on tree planting, care and suitable new trees

Advice on tree planting, care and suitable species can be found in books in the library and in leaflets available from the Arboricultural Association at minimal charge. They can be contacted at:

Telephone: **01794 368717**

e-mail: **treehouse@dial.pipex.com**

or write to: **The Secretariat
Arboricultural Association,
Ampfield House,
Romsey, Hants, SO51 9PA.**