



# YORK REGION ACCEPTABLE TREE SPECIES FOR REGIONAL ROAD ALLOWANCES

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FORESTRY

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**York Region**

# ACCEPTABLE TREE SPECIES FOR REGIONAL ROAD ALLOWANCES

A minimum of 75% of planting should be selected from the proven performing lists (Tables 1 and 3).

A maximum of 25% of planting should be selected from the notable performing lists (Tables 2 and 4)

**Table 1: Proven Performing Full Form Trees**

Please refer to the York Region Street Tree and Horticultural Design Guidelines for design considerations.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	Fast growing and develops large crown. Native.
<i>Acer x freemanii</i> Autumn Blaze® 'Jeffersred'	Autumn Blaze maple	Known for its fall foliage and upright branching habits. Sensitive to desiccation from winter winds. Use in locations sheltered from prevailing winds.
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio buckeye	Showy flowers followed by seed husks covered in soft spines. Less susceptible to leaf scorch and leaf blotch than horsechestnut. Native.
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Common horsechestnut	Showy flowers, less seed production than Ohio buckeye, seed husks covered in soft spines. Susceptible to leaf scorch and leaf blotch.
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Northern catalpa	Showy flowers, heart shaped leaves and an unusual form. Native.
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>	Thornless honey locust	Open branching habits with small leaves providing filtered shade. Can be susceptible to defoliation by leafhoppers. Acceptable cultivar(s): 'Shademaster' and 'Skycole' (Skyline®).
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Kentucky coffeetree	Open branching habits with stubby twigs and large double-compound leaves with small leaflets. Dioecious tree with male and female plants; male tree preferred. Native.
<i>Ulmus 'Morton'</i>	Accolade® elm	Develops a large upright crown. Improved resilience to elm leaf beetles and Dutch Elm Disease.





**Table 2: Notable Performing Full Form Trees**

Please refer to the York Region Street Tree and Horticultural Design Guidelines for design considerations.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	Pyramidal European hornbeam	Upright form, gradually acquiring a tear drop or oval-vase shape with age. Distinctive, dark green foliage turns yellow-orange in fall. Plant minimum 6 m from edge of road, in sheltered locations.
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common hackberry	Light green leaves and corky bark. Native. Sensitive to de-icing salts (airborne spray). Use in locations where exposure to salt spray will be minimized, e.g., wide boulevards (6 m +) on the north and west sides of roads.
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkgo	Slow growing, distinguished by its unique fan-shaped leaves, which turn a vibrant yellow in fall. Salt and pollution tolerant.
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip tree	Pyramidal to broad, conical growth habit. Yellow-green tulip-like flowers bloom after leaves are fully developed. Ideal for large boulevards. Plant minimum 6 m from edge of road, in sheltered locations.
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London plane	Horizontal branching, becoming rounded to spreading with age. Exfoliating bark, giving the tree a mottled look. Plant minimum 6 m from edge of road, in sheltered locations. Acceptable cultivar: 'Bloodgood'
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp white oak	Peeling bark when immature with shiny green leaves. Native. Sensitive to de-icing salts (airborne spray). Use in locations where exposure to salt spray will be minimized, e.g., wide boulevards (6 m+) on the north and west sides of roads.
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur oak	Unusual branching and corky twigs. Native. Sensitive to de-icing salts (airborne spray). Use in locations where exposure to salt spray will be minimized, e.g., wide boulevards (6 m+) on north and west sides of roads.
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf linden	Dense form with small heart shaped leaves. Sensitive to desiccation from winter winds and de-icing salt. Plant in locations where exposure to salt spray will be minimized, e.g., wide boulevards (6 m+) on the north & west sides of roads and in a location sheltered from prevailing winds. Acceptable cultivar(s): 'Glenleven' and 'Greenspire'
<i>Abies concolor</i>	White fir	Narrow conical conifer with a straight trunk, spire-like crown and branching to the base. Pale, blue-green needles. Plant a minimum of 6 m from edge of road, in a sheltered location and behind sidewalk/pedestrian zone.
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White spruce	Pyramidal form with blue-green needles. More sensitive to desiccation from winter winds and de-icing salt than Norway spruce. Plant a minimum of 6 m from edge of road, in a sheltered location and behind sidewalk/pedestrian zone. Can be susceptible to yellow-headed spruce sawfly defoliation.



<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce	Fast growing with large cones and upright branches that become pendulous when mature. Sensitive to desiccation from winter winds and de-icing salt. Plant a minimum of 6 m from edge of road, in a sheltered location and behind sidewalk/pedestrian zone. Fairly pest and disease resistant.
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian pine	Densely branched with long, dark needles. Sensitive to desiccation from winter winds and de-icing salt. Plant a minimum of 6 m from edge of road, in a sheltered location and behind sidewalk/pedestrian zone. Susceptible to Diplodia blight; select locations with good air flow and avoid mass plantings of this tree.
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Eastern white cedar	Dense, conical to narrow-pyramidal, often single-trunked, evergreen. Native. Red-brown bark will exfoliate on mature branches and trunks. Plant a minimum of 6 m from edge of road, in a sheltered location and behind sidewalk/pedestrian zone.

**Table 3: Proven Performing Small Form Trees**

Please refer to the York Region Street Tree and Horticultural Design Guidelines for design considerations.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Syringa reticulata</i> 'Ivory Silk'	'Ivory Silk' tree lilac	Showy lilac-like blooms in early summer, followed by seed capsules that persist on the tree. Fairly pest and disease resistant.
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Hedge maple	Drought tolerant with corky bark. Sensitive to desiccation from winter winds. Use in locations sheltered from prevailing winds.
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur maple	Hardy small tree known for fall colours and colourful samaras. Sensitive to desiccation from winter winds. Use in locations sheltered from prevailing winds. Acceptable cultivar(s): Ruby Slippers.

**Table 4: Notable Performing Small Form Trees**

Please refer to the York Region Street Tree and Horticultural Design Guidelines for design considerations.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Acer tataricum</i>	Tatarian maple	Dense, upright crown. Sensitive to desiccation from winter winds. Use in locations sheltered from prevailing winds.
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> var. <i>inermis</i>	Thornless cockspur hawthorn	Dense, low-branching, broad-rounded tree. Clustered, small, white flowers. Sensitive to transplanting.
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	Amur maackia	Compact, rounded tree suitable for smaller spaces. Prefers well drained soil.
<i>Sorbus thuringiaca</i> 'Fastigiata'	Oakleaf mountain ash	Slow growing, with compact crown becoming more broadly oval with age. Not related to true ash ( <i>Fraxinus</i> ).

