

Big Deciduous Shade Trees for Urban Situations

In our urban world of outdoor entertaining and smaller personal green spaces, the landscaping challenge is to find the 'right' tree for the situation. If you are looking at deciduous selections that provide year-round interest as well as functionality, here are a few trees that may be your 'right' tree.



Acer rubrum 'Autumn Red'

CANADIAN MAPLE TREE

This is a very common deciduous tree in North America. It is a beautiful rounded tree with ascending branches when young, maturing to a more rounded canopy. Great for autumn colour. Leaves stay green longer than other varieties before turning bright orange to deep lipstick red. All parts of the tree, for example flowers, twigs and seeds, are red in varying shades. This tree is also known as 'October Glory' or 'April Splendour'.



Ulmus glabra 'Lutescens'

GOLDEN ELM

A medium-sized deciduous tree which has a vase shape when young, but develops into a tree with a more rounded canopy as it matures. This fast-growing elm is wide spreading, becoming wider than it is tall with age. It has golden foliage and provides good shade for those summer days. Leaves are bright green which may vary in intensity depending on position and exposure to sunlight. In autumn, the foliage puts on a show, turning a brilliant yellow before falling.



Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Cimmzam'

CIMMARON ASH TREE

This is a striking feature tree which provides great summer shade. It has a uniform branch structure with bark which becomes deeply furrowed as it matures. Attractive dark green foliage is lighter on the underside and transitions through an array of colours starting with yellows, orange, fiery reds and rich burgundy as the weather cools in autumn. The leaves hold onto the tree longer into winter than other varieties of this species.



Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis

'Sunburst'

GOLDEN HONEY LOCUST TREE

A beautiful, deciduous tree with a broad, open, spreading canopy and soft, weeping, hanging, pendulous branches. Young foliage, bipinnate leaves, start off a bright yellow colour and ripens to lime green. In winter, large black seed pods hang from the branches. It is a popular tree due to its vibrant colour and overall graceful appearance. This is a thornless variety of Gleditsia.



Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Urbdell'

URBANITE ASH TREE

This tree is attractive and tough. It has a pyramid shape with a strong, upright trunk and develops grey brown bark which becomes deeply furrowed as it matures. Yellowish-green flowers are produced in spring and in autumn, dark green, glossy foliage turns a beautiful bronze colour before falling. Suitable to a wide variety of both residential and commercial projects, it has a moderate growth rate and adapts to most soils and conditions.



Pistacia chinensis

CHINESE PISTACHIO

This lovely small, deciduous tree has a moderate growth rate and great autumn colour in shades of orange, yellow and red. Bark is dark grey with shallow furrows and this variety is capable of withstanding relatively harsh conditions. Interesting pinnate leaves emerge green and leathery and although inconspicuous, clusters of small white flowers are borne in summer, followed by red drupes which mature to blue.

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