

TREE CONSIDERATIONS

Trees are an important part of a community. Proper tree selection and maintenance can increase property values, reduce heating and cooling costs, and provide countless environmental benefits. To achieve the optimum benefit from the trees, homeowners should give careful thought to the selection, planting, and maintenance of their trees. Regulations that pertain to trees are contained in Chapter 25 of the Norfolk City Code, and include the following:

- Property owners are responsible for all trees on their property, in addition to those trees on the adjacent terrace and alley.
- No tree, other than a small tree with a mature height of 15 feet or less should be planted within 10 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire.
- Evergreen trees are not to be planted in the terrace area.
- Trees are not to be planted closer than 5 feet to the back of the curb.
- Trees and shrubs are not to be planted within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.
- On corner lots, there shall be no planting or obstruction to vision more than 3 feet higher than the curb level within 25 feet of the intersection of the street lines.
- Trees must be maintained to provide 8 feet of clearance over the sidewalk, and 14 feet of clearance over any street or alley.
- Trees must be maintained so as to not interfere with any public utility, and not obstruct any traffic control device.
- Trees on public property, including the terrace, should not be topped.

Suggested Trees for Planting in The Norfolk Area

The following is a partial listing of species by size-class that are recommended for the Norfolk area. Recommended "street trees" are indicated with an asterisk (*). Species desirability class is indicated in parentheses (). Retree Nebraska Trees are highly recommended.

Selection of trees to plant should be from the I, II, or III desirability class when possible.

SMALL TREES (Not over 25' in height)

Broadleaves

- * Shantung maple (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- * Amur Maple (I)
- * Eastern Redbud (II)
- * Amur Corktree (II)
- * Flowering Crab (II)
- * Washington Hawthorn (II)
- * Purpleleaf Plum (III)

Conifers (do not plant on terraces or corners)

- Cedars & Junipers (II)
- Arborvitae (II)

MEDIUM TREES
(25' to 40' in height at maturity)

Broadleaves

- * Gambel oak (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- * Miyabe maple (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- River Birch (II)
- * Honey locust (Patented Selections) (II)
- Japanese pagoda tree (II)
- * Bradford pear (II)
- * Horsechestnut (III)
- * Ohio buckeye (III)
- Black locust (IV)
- Mulberry (V)

Conifers (do not plant on terraces or corners)

- Limber Pine (I)
- Cedars and Junipers (II)
- Jack Pine (II)

LARGE TREES
(40' plus in height at maturity)

Broadleaves

- * Kentucky coffeetree (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- Northern catalpa (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- * Bur oak (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- Chinkapin oak (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- English oak (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- Elm hybrids (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- * Ginkgo (I)
- LITTLEleaf linden (I)
- Redmond linden (I)
- * Northern red oak (I)
- London plane tree (I)
- Sugar maple (I)
- * Hackberry (II)
- * Hickories (II)
- American linden (II)
- * Thornless honeylocust (II)
- * American sycamore (III)
- * Norway maple (IV)
- Siberian elm (V)

Conifers (do not plant on terraces or corners)

- Black Hills spruce (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- Baldcypress (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- Concolor fir (Retree Nebr. Tree)
- Blue spruce (I)
- White pine (I)
- Norway spruce (I)
- Douglas fir (II)
- White fir (II)
- Ponderosa pine (II)
- Southwestern white pine (II)
- White spruce (II)

Planting the right tree for the right location is very important. Equally important is the care that is given to a tree as it grows. Timely pruning of a tree using proper pruning methods is a necessary part of proper tree development. Consider:

- Mulch with wood bark or chips, to retain moisture and prevent injury from mowers and trimmers.
- Prune so as to not leave a stub, but do not flush cut the limb.
- Water trees when the soil begins to dry. Do not over water.

For questions about Norfolk's Tree Regulations, contact the Health Official at 402-844-2046.