

STREET TREES.... A BENEFIT FOR THE COMMUNITY

Street trees benefit you and the community in many ways. They add character to our neighborhoods, cool our cities, clean our air, aid in stormwater management, add value to our property, attract wildlife, and give us aesthetic beauty. Property values are generally 5 to 20 percent higher with trees on your property. For financial reasons it makes good sense to properly care for and manage your street trees.

Chapter 17B of the Code of Ordinances, which regulates street trees in Fayette County, is administered by the Urban Forestry Program. This brochure explains the law and how street trees are to be maintained.

STREET TREES...WHO OWNS THEM AND WHO MAINTAINS THEM?



The answer is easy... you do! Street trees are regulated due to the potential of affecting road usage. However, the ownership and maintenance of street trees are *the property owner's responsibility*. The city does not maintain, plant, or replace street trees except on government property.

If a street tree is removed, property owners are **required to replace the tree with a suitable species within one year**. Violation of the ordinance could mean a citation.

CAN I PLANT ANY TREE I WANT BY THE STREET?

No. Species type and planting guidelines are regulated according to several factors, i.e. easement width, utility obstruction, desirability of species, and location of nearby intersections and signs. Here are the requirements for street tree planting:

A (free) permit must first be obtained from the Urban Forestry Program.

A desired species listed in the Division of Planning Planting Manual or approved by the Urban Forestry Program must be planted.

- Spacing between trees: 45 feet (large trees); 35 feet (medium trees); 25 feet (small trees).
- Minimum planting area between sidewalk and street: 8 feet (large tree) and 5 feet (medium tree); this may be altered upon approval of the Urban Forestry Program.
- Only small trees can be planted under utility lines.

- Trees must be planted at least 50 feet before stop or yield signs, 25 feet from other signs, 10 feet from hydrants, 15 feet from driveway entrances.
- Trees planted must be at least 1¼ inch caliper.

APPROVED TREE LIST (Subject to Change) (Native Species in **Bold**)

LARGE TREES, (over 50 feet tall)

- **Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)**
- **Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*)**
- Katsuratree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
- Hardy Rubber Tree (*Eucumma ulmoides*)
- **White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)**
- **Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)**
- **Blue Ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*)**
- Ginkgo, fruitless cultivars only (*Ginkgo biloba*)
- **Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)**
- London Planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)
- **White Oak (*Quercus alba*)**
- **Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)**
- **Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)**
- **Shingle Oak (*Quercus imbricaria*)**
- **Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)**
- **Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*)**
- **Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)**
- **Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)**
- **Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*)**
- Japanese Pagoda Tree (*Sophora japonica*)
- **American elm (*Ulmus americana*)** – only Dutch elm disease resistant varieties (i.e. Princeton, Valley Forge, Liberty)
- Lacebark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)
- Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*)



MEDIUM TREES, (25-50 feet tall)

- Hedge Maple (*Acer campestre*)
- **Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)**
- **Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentuckea*)**
- Turkish filbert (*Corylus colurna*)
- **Thornless Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*)**
- **Kentucky Coffeetree; fruitless cultivars only (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)**
- **Carolina silverbell (*Halesia carolina*)**
- Goldenraintree (*Koelreutaria paniculata*)
- **Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)**
- **Hophornbean (*Ostrya virginiana*)**



- Persian Parrotia (*Parrotia persica*)
- Littleleaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*)
- **Sassafras (*Sassafras albidium*)**
- Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*)



SMALL TREES, (10-15 feet tall)

- Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*)
- Tatarian Maple (*Acer tataricum*)
- **Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)**
- **American Hornbeam (*Carpinus carolinia*)**
- **Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)**
- **Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)**
- **Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)**
- Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)
- **Hawthorn varieties (*Crataegus* spp.)**
- **Crabapple varieties (*Malus* spp.)**

VARIANCES TO ACCEPTABLE SPECIES AND UNACCEPTABLE LIST

Planting of species other than from acceptable lists may be permitted on approval of the Urban Forestry Program. **Examples of species which are unacceptable under any circumstances (for street tree purposes) include:**

- ❖ Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
- ❖ Birch varieties (*Betula* spp.)
- ❖ Chestnut varieties (*Castanea* spp.)
- ❖ Catalpa varieties (*Catalpa* spp.)
- ❖ Ginkgo; female (*Ginkgo biloba*)
- ❖ Common Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- ❖ Mulberry varieties (*Morus* spp.)
- ❖ Common Apple (*Malus pumila*)
- ❖ Bradford Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)
- ❖ Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
- ❖ Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*)



MAINTENANCE OF STREET TREES

*Property owners are responsible
for maintaining
street trees.*

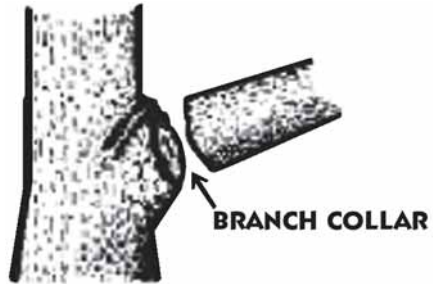
- Remove limbs less than 7 feet above sidewalks and 12 feet above streets.
- Remove dead or diseased wood.
- **Topping of street trees is prohibited.**

- Trees should be properly mulched and watered.
- Most trees under 10 feet in height do NOT need to be staked. It can actually harm the tree.
- It is recommended that professional ISA

*Certified Arborists be used for all work.

*Certified Arborists are accredited by the International Society of Arboriculture.

How to properly prune small branches:



Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar.

How to properly mulch a tree:



Bad (“volcano”) mulch.



Proper mulch.

The generally recommended mulching depth is **2 to 4 inches**. Mulch out to the tree’s drip line or beyond. Avoid placing mulch against the tree trunks. Piling mulch against the trunk or stems of plants can stress stem tissues, and may lead to insect and disease problems.

STREET TREE PERMITS

Property owners are required to obtain a permit before removing and/or planting street trees. Permits are free by contacting the Urban Forestry Program, Division of Streets, Roads & Forestry, 1555 Old Frankfort Pike, Lexington, KY 40504. Property owners may be eligible to receive assistance for street tree removal, stump grinding, and tree planting.

Please call 258-3451 for more information. Also, Call-Before-You-Dig at 1-800-752-6007 to check for underground utilities.

Your neighborhood may qualify for a Neighborhood Matching Grant to assist in a neighborhood street tree planting project. Talk to your Neighborhood Association President and the Division of Community Development at 258-3070 for more information.

Say No To Tree Topping



It’s Unsightly, Unhealthy and Unlawful

For more information on Lexington’s Urban Forestry Program, to request permits, speaking engagements, or written materials, contact:

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
Division of Streets, Roads and Forestry
 1555 Old Frankfort Pike
 Lexington, KY 40504
 (859) 258-3451
 Website: www.lfucg.com



Horse Capital of the World

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STREET TREE SELECTION AND CARE



Understanding Lexington’s Street Tree Requirements

Lexington is a proud



TREE CITY USA
 Community