



2023 Sheridan Tree Program Tree Descriptions

LARGE SHADE TREES

The large shade trees require a minimum 30' by 30' clear area to grow. They should not be planted within 20' measured horizontally of any overhead utility lines. This year's program features a great selection of shade trees all suitable for planting in tree lawns (rights-of-way):

Northern Catalpa is a large tree that grows fairly quickly to an upright, narrow and distinct form that provides interesting winter character. Its large leaves (6 – 12 inches long, 3 – 8 inches wide) are bright green in summer, turning yellow-green to brown but often falling before turning. Its showy, large white flowers appear in May to June followed by seed pods 8 – 12 inches long that persist into fall and winter. It tolerates different soil types and handles alkaline soil and has few insect and disease problems. It is on the list of moderately low water-use trees.

Shumard Oak, also known as Southern Red Oak, grows from a pyramidal shape to more spreading as it matures. Although native to creek sides and river bottom ground, it is very adaptable and tolerates drought and high pH soils. It transplants easily and has few insect or disease problems. It is more tolerant of clay soils and marginal sites than the northern red oak. Its leaves usually turn russet red in the fall. The acorn has a shallow cap and the nut is striated with brown-black lines.

Chinkapin Oak develops an open, rounded crown at maturity. The leaves are sharply toothed with a lustrous, dark forest green color on the upper side and a white and slightly fuzzy underside in summer. Fall leaf color varies anywhere from orange/yellow to brown. Its acorns are about 1 inch long and are favored by wildlife for their sweet flavor. These oaks prefer a well-drained soil. In the wild they grow on dry limestone outcrops and are considered a moderately low water demand tree. They have no serious pest problems.

ORNAMENTAL TREES

Ornamental trees tend to be shorter and/or narrower than smaller and offered for planting in some cases, under higher utility lines. The ornamental species offered this year are:

Hot Wings Tatarian Maple This graceful, upright spreading small tree grows into a broad rounded shape. Its cream green flowers in spring are followed by bright red samara (fruit) in July, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch long, with almost parallel wings. This cultivar was patented by Fort Collins Nursery from seeds collected from Tatarian Maples in the Cheyenne Wyoming Arboretum chosen for their consistently bright red samaras and bright red fall leaves. Its summer leaves are medium green. Tatarian Maples will tolerate drought and alkaline soils and listed as a moderately low water demand tree, once

established.

Eastern Redbuds are covered with purplish pink flowers prior to leafing out. The flowers bloom along the stems in April and are perfect reddish purple in bud and open into a rosy pink with a purplish tinge, lasting two to three weeks depending on the weather. The leaves are 3-5" wide and heart shaped. It produces 2-4" long by ½" wide seed pods in October. This is a low branched or multi-stemmed tree which does best in full or filtered shade. Redbuds need a protected planting location in our climate and do well when planted under larger trees. Eastern Redbud is the Oklahoma state tree. In Colorado, it has few insect and disease problems.