

THE TREE LIST

Comprehensive Tree List

For The Kansas City Region

(As Rated by Metropolitan Area Experts)

A study by Robert Whitman RLA, AICP, LEED AP
































































































The Tree List: For The Kansas City Region (As Rated By Metropolitan Area Experts) was a study conducted by Robert Whitman, RLA, AICP, LEED AP, in which Kansas City area tree experts were asked to provide numerical ratings for over 380 trees in multiple categories. These ratings were averaged to determine the highest rated trees for each category. Some trees and categories have been added since that original study to provide additional information for users. This list shows all typically available trees, good and bad, to provide users with information on most tree options.

Study Participants:

Alan Branhagen, Director of Horticulture, Powell Gardens (former); **Bob Haines**, Arborist (dec.); **Cheryl Boyer**, Assistant Professor, K-State Extension; **Chip Winslow**, FASLA, KSU Department of Landscape Architecture (retired); **Chris Casebeer**, Green Valley Nursery; **Dan Simmons**; **Dennis Patton**, Johnson County Extension Agent; **Ivan Katzer**, Consulting Arborist; **Kevin Smith**, Forester, Johnson County Parks & Recreation (retired); **Mark Young**, Country Club Tree Service; **Michael Dougherty**, Tree Management Company; **Robert Whitman**, Landscape Architect, Multistudio; **Scott Reiter**, Linda Hall Library (dec.); **Susan Mertz**, Director of Horticulture, Powell Gardens; **Tim McDonnell**, Forester, Kansas Forest Service; and **Tory Schwope**, KAT Nurseries

Comprehensive Tree List For The Kansas City

KEY	* = Recommended Tree for the KC Region for general landscape use in favorable conditions and sites.	 = Super tree for this situation
	Native Status = Trees native to local KC, the region near KC, distance U.S. areas or invasive trees to the area.	 = Good tree for this situation
	Ratings = As scored by local experts. Some cultivars grouped and averaged with new trees added.	 = Marginal tree for this situation
	Height/Lifespan/Comments = As scored/commented by local experts. Ecosystem Services added.	 = Poor tree for this situation

Tree Name		Rating							Comments	
Native Status	General Landscape Recommended		Landscape Value	Street Tree	Climate Adaptable	Drought Tolerant	Ecosystem Services	Mature Height (ft.)	Exp. Lifespan (yrs.)	
	*	<i>Acer buergerianum</i> - Trident Maple						30	65	Good urban tree, not hardy north of KC.
		<i>Acer campestre</i> - Hedge Maple						50	60	Compact form, dark green leaf, tolerates high pH
		<i>Acer campestre</i> 'JFS Shichtel2' - Streetside Hedge Maple						35	60	Narrow cultivar, 'Metro Gold' is less hardy.
Invasive		<i>Acer ginnala</i> - Amur Maple						20	40	Self-seeds, 'Flame' is common cultivar.
	*	<i>Acer griseum</i> - Paperbark Maple						30	65	Great fall color, dramatic exfoliating bark.
	*	<i>Acer miyabei</i> - Miyabe Maple						40	65	Durable, pale yellow fall color.
	*	<i>Acer miyabei</i> 'JFS-KW3AMI' - Rugged Ridge Miyabe Maple						55	65	More narrow than species, also: 'State Street'.
Local		<i>Acer negundo</i> - Boxelder						50	25	Fast, weak wooded. Best for natural areas.
		<i>Acer palmatum</i> - Japanese Maple						20	35	Only for protected sites. Common cultivars: 'Fireglow', 'Sango Kaku'.
	*	<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Bloodgood' - Red-leaf Japanese Maple						20	35	Good red foliage variety, for protected sites.
		<i>Acer palmatum</i> var. 'dissectum' - Lanceleaf Japanese Maple						10	25	Shrubby cutleaf type.
		<i>Acer platanoides</i> - Norway Maple						50	50	Poor performer, invasive on east coast.
		<i>Acer platanoides</i> 'Crimson King' - Purple leaf Norway Maple						35	50	Poor performer, fades to green thru season.
Region		<i>Acer rubrum</i> - Red Maple						50	45	Subject to bark damage, shallow rooter, all red maples are way overplanted.
Region		<i>Acer rubrum</i> - Red Maple cultivars						50	45	Same issues as species, but with more refined features. Common cultivars: 'Autumn Flame', 'Bowhall', 'October Glory', 'Red Sunset', 'Summer Red', 'Sun Valley'.
Region		<i>Acer x freemanii</i> (Red Maple x Silver Maple cross)						50	40	Overplanted, fast rowing, good fall color, structural issues, common cultivars: 'Autumn Blaze', 'Armstrong', 'Celebration', 'Indian Summer', 'Matador'.
Local		<i>Acer saccharinum</i> - Silver Maple						70	40	Fast grower, weak wooded, best for natural areas.
Local	*	<i>Acer saccharum</i> 'Sugar Maple						50	70	Good maple for irrigated sites & quality soils, common cultivars: 'Fall Fiesta', 'Bonfire', 'Green Mountain', 'Oregon Trail', 'Legacy'.
Region	*	<i>Acer saccharum</i> v. <i>Caddo</i> - Caddo Sugar Maple						40	70	Native variety to region, good selection for dry sites, common cultivars: 'Autumn Splendor', 'Flashfire', 'John Pair'.

The Tree List: Trees For the Kansas City Region (As Rated by Metropolitan Area Experts)

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Tree Name		Rating							Comments	
Native Status	General Landscape Recommended		Landscape Value	Street Tree	Climate Adaptable	Drought Tolerant	Ecosystem Services	Mature Height (ft.)	Exp. Lifespan (yrs.)	
		<i>Acer tartaricum</i> - Tatarian Maple	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	20	30	Durable substitute to A. ginnala.
		<i>Acer tartaricum</i> 'GarAnn' - Hot Wings Tartarian Maple	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	20	30	Common cultivars: 'Hot Wings', 'Rugged Charm', 'Pattern Perfect' selected for enhanced fall color or seed vibrance.
	★	<i>Acer truncatum</i> - Shantung Maple	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	25	70	Excellent small tree for KC.
	★	<i>Acer x truncatum</i> - Sunset Maple cultivars	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	35	80	Medium size durable tree. Common cultivars: 'Pacific Sunset', 'Norwegian Sunset', 'Urban Sunset', 'Crimson Sunset'.
Region		<i>Aesculus flava</i> (octandra) - Yellow Buckeye	😊	😞	😞	😊	😊	70	70	Good regional native, leaf scorch is common.
Local		<i>Aesculus glabra</i> - Ohio Buckeye	😞	😞	😞	😊	😊	30	70	Local native, early leaf drop reduces late summer shade benefits.
Local	★	<i>Aesculus glabra</i> var. <i>arguta</i> - Texas Buckeye	😞	😞	😊	😊	😊	25	70	More drought tolerant variety.
		<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> 'Baumannii' - Common Horsechestnut	😞	😞	😞	😊	😞	70	70	Fruitless cultivar, summer leaf scorch in KC.
Region	★	<i>Aesculus pavia</i> - Red Buckeye	😊	😞	😞	😊	😊	15	50	Small tree, will bloom in shade. Buy in bloom to ensure best bloom quality.
Hybrid	★	<i>Aesculus x carnea</i> - Red Horsechestnut	😊	😞	😞	😊	😊	30	65	Vibrant red bloom, larger than A. pavia. Common cultivar: 'O'Neill's Red'.
Invasive		<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> - Tree of Heaven	😞	😞	😊	😞	😞	50	20	Invasive, exotic weed.
Invasive		<i>Albizia julibrissin</i> var. <i>rosea</i> - Mimosa	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	20	20	Short lived, self-seeds freely.
		<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> - Black Alder	😞	😊	😞	😞	😞	50	35	Tough, durable tree, especially in wet areas. May become invasive in wetland areas only.
Local		<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> - Downy Serviceberry	😊	😞	😊	😞	😊	20	30	Needs perfect soil, Short bloom time, nice fall color.
Region		<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> - Shadblow Serviceberry	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	10	45	Shrubby form not often in the trade.
Region		<i>Amelanchier leavis</i> - Allegheny Serviceberry	😊	😞	😊	😞	😊	20	25	Not common in the trade.
Local	★	<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i> 'Autmn Brilliance' - Apple Serviceberry	😊	😞	😊	😞	😊	20	40	Most common in trade, single trunk trees often sucker, making multi-stem plants preferred. Also 'Robin Hill' cultivar.
Region		<i>Aralia spinosa</i> - Devil's Walkingstick	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	15	20	Thorny native with an exotic appearance. Good late season nectar & wildlife fruit.
Local		<i>Asimina triloba</i> - Pawpaw	😊	😞	😞	😞	😊	20	25	Tasty fruit, plant in multiples for fruit production, will sucker/colonize. Best for naturalized landscapes.
U.S.		<i>Betula lenta</i> - Sweet Birch	😞	😞	😞	😊	😞	50	50	Not common in the trade.
Local		<i>Betula nigra</i> - River Birch	😞	😞	😊	😞	😞	70	40	Shallow rooting, pH concerns, messy. Grows larger than expected, best in natural areas.
Local		<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Fox Valley' - Little King River Birch	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	15	25	Interesting dwarf multi-stem tree.
Local		<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Heritage' - Heritage River Birch	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞	70	40	Better than species for landscapes, 'Dura-Heat' not recommended.
U.S.		<i>Betula papyrifera</i> - Paper Birch	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	50	10	White bark, borer issues, not successful in KC.
		<i>Betula pendula</i> - European White Birch	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	50	10	White bark with weeping form, borer issues.
		<i>Betula platyphylla</i> 'Whitespire' - Whitespire Japanese White Birch	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	30	10	Slightly better borer resistance, but not well suited to KC soils and climate.

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Native Status	General Landscape Recommended		Landscape Value	Street Tree	Climate Adaptable	Drought Tolerant	Ecosystem Services	Mature Height (ft.)	Exp. Lifespan (yrs.)	
		<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i> - Paper Mulberry						45	10	Fast grower, but somewhat invasive.
	★	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> - European Hornbeam						50	65	Clean shade tree that is underused.
	★	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata' - Upright Hornbeam						30	65	Durable upright tree. Also 'Frans Fontaine'.
U.S.	★	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> - American Hornbeam						30	65	Good shade tree alternative.
Local		<i>Carya cordiformis</i> - Bitternut Hickory						65	90	Durable native nut tree.
Local		<i>Carya illinoensis</i> - Pecan						70	90	Durable native nut tree.
Local		<i>Carya laciniosa</i> - Shellbark Hickory						60	90	Durable native nut tree.
Local		<i>Carya ovata</i> - Shagbark Hickory						55	90	Durable native nut tree with interesting bark.
		<i>Castanea mollissima</i> - Chinese Chestnut						35	70	Nice tree, but messy spiny seed husks.
		<i>Catalpa ovata</i> - Chinese Catalpa						40	30	Not as nice as the native Catalpa.
Region		<i>Catalpa speciosa</i> - Northern Catalpa						45	80	Durable, abundant flower, messy.
Local		<i>Celtis leavigata</i> - Sugarberry						70	65	Sim. To hackberry, smooth bark, less hardy.
Local		<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> - Hackberry						70	80	Large native tree, durable but less strength than similar size oaks.
Local		<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> 'JFS-KSU' - Prairie Sentinel Hackberry						45	80	Good columnar tree for challenging soils/sites.
		<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i> - Katsuratree						50	35	Not a durable selection for KC, needs excellent draining soils.
Local	★	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> - Redbud						18	30	Common native, prefers understory, but can do well on most sites.
Region	★	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> v. <i>texensis</i> - Oklahoma Redbud						18	30	Thicker foliage and enhanced tolerance of extremes.
	★	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i> - Chinese Fringe Tree						15	45	Tighter bloom, thicker leaf than native species.
U.S.	★	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> - White Fringe Tree						12	35	Good small or multi-trunk tree.
Region	★	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> (lutea) - Yellowwood						50	50	Great bloom and smooth bark.
Region		<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> - Pagoda Dogwood						15	20	Interesting regional native with open bloom.
	★	<i>Cornus controversa</i> 'June Snow' - June Snow Giant Dogwood						30	25	Excellent form small tree for good or better soils
Region	★	<i>Cornus florida</i> - White Flowering Dogwood						15	40	Missouri state tree, native just east of KC, only for good, draining soils. Common cultivars: 'Rubrum', 'Cherokee Princess', 'Princess Emily'.
	★	<i>Cornus kousa</i> - Kousa Dogwood						20	40	More durable than natives for KC, common cultivars: 'Scarlet Fire', 'Stellar Pink', 'Celestial', 'Radiant Rose', 'Milky Way'.
	★	<i>Cornus mas</i> - Corneliancherry Dogwood						16	50	Edible fruit, very early yellow bloom.
		<i>Corylus colurna</i> - Turkish Hazel						50	70	Very durable tree, medium size.
		<i>Cotinus coggygia</i> 'Royal Purple' - Purple Smoketree						15	30	Purple leaf, bushy habit, short lived.
Region		<i>Cotinus obovatus</i> - Chittamwood						25	40	Uncommon species, interesting character.

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		<i>Cotinus x 'Grace' - Grace Smoketree</i>	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞	20	40	Excellent fall color, good option to 'Royal Purple'.
		<i>Crataegus ambigua - Russian Hawthorn</i>	😞	😊	😊	😊	😞	20	50	Tough, good north and west of KC.
Local		<i>Crataegus crus-galli - Cockspur Hawthorn</i>	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	20	20	Cockspur, Autumn Glory, Downy, Washington, Winter King are not recommended.
Local		<i>Diospyros virginiana - Persimmon</i>	😞	😞	😞	😊	😊	50	65	Best in natural areas or for fruit and course bark texture.
Invasive		<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia - Russian Olive</i>	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	20	15	Invasive, not used anymore, short lived.
	★	<i>Eucommia ulmoides - Hardy Rubber Tree</i>	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞	40	50	Tough medium size tree, cultivar: 'Emerald Prairie'
Local		<i>Euonymus atropurpureus - Eastern Wahoo</i>	😞	😞	😊	😞	😊	15	20	Woodland shrubby tree, short lived.
U.S.		<i>Fagus grandifolia - American Beech</i>	😞	😞	😞	😊	😞	50	65	Not well suited to KC.
		<i>Fagus sylvatica - European Beech</i>	😊	😞	😞	😊	😞	50	60	Performs poorly due to KC climate stresses.
Local		<i>Fraxinus sp. - Ash</i>	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	70	5	Emerald ash borer has made this tree unusable.
		<i>Ginkgo biloba - Ginkgo</i>	😞	😞	😊	😊	😞	70	100+	Only use known cultivars to ensure a male, fruitless tree.
	★	<i>Ginkgo biloba - Ginkgo cultivars</i>	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	50	100+	Low ecological value, beautiful, long lived tree, protect from bark damage. Common cultivars: 'Princeton Sentry', 'Autumn Gold', 'Magyar', 'Shangri-La', 'Presidential Gold'.
Local		<i>Gleditsia triacanthos - Honeylocust</i>	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	65	Use cultivars for thornless and seedless character, protect trunk during moving/planting to reduce canker issues, Common cultivars: Shademaster, 'Street Keeper', 'Imperial', Skyline
Local	★	<i>Gymnocladus dioica - Kentucky Coffeetree</i>	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	95	Very tough species, Common fruitless cultivars: 'Expresso', 'Decaf'.
U.S.		<i>Halesia carolina - Silverbell</i>	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞	20	20	Not well suited to KC, needs highly organic soil.
Region	★	<i>Hamamelis virginiana - Common Witchhazel</i>	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞	20	35	Very early yellow bloom, underused, shrubby.
		<i>Hamamelis x intermedia 'Arnold Promise' - Arnold Promise Witchhazel</i>	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞	15	35	Good non-native shrubby small tree.
	★	<i>Heptacodium miconioides - Seven-Son Flower</i>	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞	8	30	Very late bloom and racemes for autumn interest, multi-trunk tree.
Local		<i>Juglans nigra - Black Walnut</i>	😞	😞	😊	😊	😊	70	100+	Durable very long lived, will poison soil for other plants, messy, best for natural areas.
Invasive		<i>Koeleruteria paniculata - Golden Raintree</i>	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	70	70	Freely self-seeds, tough, good summer bloom.
Region		<i>Liquidambar styraciflua - Sweetgum</i>	😞	😞	😊	😊	😞	50	70	Durable. Very messy, spiky seed husks. Some cultivars have fewer seeds but none are seedless.
Region		<i>Liquidambar styr. 'Slender Silhouette' - Columnar Sweetgum</i>	😞	😊	😊	😞	😞	50	60	Very narrow columnar tree.
U.S.		<i>Liriodendron tulipifera - Tuliptree</i>	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	55	70	An excellent option for fast growth rate.
		<i>Maackia amurensis - Amur Maackia</i>	😞	😊	😊	😊	😞	20	50	Durable, good mid-summer bloom. Cultivar: 'Starburst'.
Region		<i>Maclura pomifera - Osage Orange</i>	😞	😞	😊	😊	😊	50	100+	Very, very durable. Thorns and large, messy fruit make the true species hard to use.

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Region	✱	<i>Maclura pomifera</i> - Thornless/Fruitless Osage Orange	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	20	100+	Cultivars: 'White Shield', 'Wichita'. Excellent tree for difficult planting sites.
U.S.		<i>Magnolia acuminata</i> - Cucumber Tree	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞	70	40	A large shade tree that deserves more use.
U.S.	✱	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i> 'Butterflies' - Butterflies Magnolia	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞	20	40	Vibrant yellow magnolia bloom. Also: 'Yellow Bird'.
U.S.		<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> - Southern Magnolia	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞	35	75	Interesting evergreen tree only use cold hardy cultivars: Bracken's Brown', 'Edith Bogue'.
	✱	<i>Magnolia liliiflora</i> x <i>stellata</i> - Jane Magnolia	😊	😞	😊	😊	😞	10	55	Good small magnolias with slightly later bloom than Star Magnolia. Cultivars: Ann, Betty, Jane.
U.S.		<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i> - Big Leaf Magnolia	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞	30	30	Interesting specimen with very large leaves.
		<i>Magnolia stellata</i> - Star Magnolia	😊	😞	😊	😊	😞	15	60	Proven small magnolia. Cultivar: 'Royal Star'.
U.S.	✱	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> - Sweetbay Magnolia	😊	😞	😞	😊	😞	15	55	Fragrant, durable semi-evergreen, multi-trunk. Cultivar: 'Moonglow'.
		<i>Magnolia x galaxy</i> - Galaxy Magnolia	😞	😞	😊	😞	😞	20	25	Red-pink bloom, option for Saucer Magnolia.
		<i>Magnolia x loebneri</i> 'Merrill' - Merrill Magnolia	😊	😞	😊	😊	😞	25	60	Option for Saucer Magnolia.
		<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i> - Saucer Magnolia	😞	😞	😊	😊	😞	30	85	A proven long-lived Magnolia, blooms may freeze out. Cultivar: 'Rustica Red'.
		<i>Malus cultivars</i> - Crabapple	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	20	40	Many colors and characteristics. All not equal. Common cultivars: 'Coralburst', 'Perfect Purple', 'Prairiefire', 'Royal Raindrops', 'Spring Snow', 'Sugartyme', 'Velvet Pillar', 'Red Jewell'.
		<i>Malus floribunda</i> - Japanese Crabapple	😞	😞	😊	😊	😊	20	40	Specimen tree with good disease resistance.
		<i>Malus hupehensis</i> - Tea Crabapple	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	15	55	Short, wide spreading flowering crabapple.
	✱	<i>Malus sargentii</i> - Sargent Crabapple	😊	😞	😊	😞	😊	10	40	Very horizontal spreading character. Cultivars: 'Firebird', 'Tina'.
	✱	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> - Dawn Redwood	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	70	95	Option to bald cypress, Interesting deciduous needled conifer.
Invasive		<i>Morus alba</i> - Common Mulberry	😞	😞	😞	😊	😞	8	50	Terrible invasive weed, tasty fruit.
Local		<i>Morus rubra</i> - Red Mulberry	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	50	70	Good native small woodland tree.
Region		<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> - Blackgum	😊	😊	😞	😊	😞	40	75	Species is variable, cultivar is recommended.
Region	✱	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> - Blackgum cultivars	😊	😊	😞	😊	😞	40	75	'Wildfire' is well proven. Common cultivars: 'Red Rage', 'Afterburner', 'Firestarter', 'Green Gable'.
Local	✱	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> - Amer. Hophornbeam	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	40	95	Good native woodland tree. Cultivar: 'Autumn Treasure'.
U.S.		<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> - Sourwood	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞	30	25	Not well suited to our climate and soils, beautiful otherwise.
	✱	<i>Parrotia persica</i> - Persian Parrotia	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	25	65	Excellent fall color, flower often freezes. Makes a good small shrubby tree.
Invasive		<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> - Royal Paulownia Empress Tree	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	30	20	Weak wooded and invasive.
		<i>Phellodendron amurense</i> - Amur Corktree	😞	😊	😊	😊	😞	30	60	Low value and not recommended.
		<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> - Chinese Pistache	😞	😊	😞	😞	😞	30	35	Not fully hardy in KC, good fall color.
Local		<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> - Sycamore	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	95	Very large native tree, best for large sites or grand boulevards, prone to anthracnose, messy.

The Tree List: Trees For the Kansas City Region (As Rated by Metropolitan Area Experts)

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Tree Name			Rating						Comments	
Native Status	General Landscape Recommended		Landscape Value	Street Tree	Climate Adaptable	Drought Tolerant	Ecosystem Services	Mature Height (ft.)	Exp. Lifespan (yrs.)	
		<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> 'Morton Circle' - Exclamation Planetree	☹️	😊	😊	😊	☹️	70	95	Exclamation cultivar has a refined pyramidal form, better fungus resistance than others, but not native.
		<i>Populus alba</i> - White Poplar	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	50	25	Trash tree that suckers excessively.
Local		<i>Populus deltoides</i>	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	80	40	Kansas state tree, very fast growing, messy, very large. 'Siouxland' cultivar is a seedless male, but less vigorous.
		<i>Populus tremula</i> 'Erecta' - Columnar Swedish Aspen	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	40	20	Used to replace the old Lombardy Poplar.
U.S.		<i>Populus tremuloides</i> - Quaking Aspen	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	35	15	Best suited to the mountains.
Region		<i>Populus tremuloides</i> 'NE Arb' - Prairie Gold Aspen	😊	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	35	25	Native to central Nebraska and better adapted to KC. Allow to sucker in colonies so use only in landscapes where this is appropriate.
		<i>Prunus americana</i> - American Plum	☹️	☹️	😊	😊	😊	15	25	Forms in colonies, best for natural landscapes.
		<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Newport' - Newport Plum	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	15	10	Very sort lived, not recommended.
		<i>Prunus sargentii</i> - Sargent Cherry	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	50	20	Ornamental cherries generally perform poorly in KC.
Local		<i>Prunus serotina</i> - Black Cherry	☹️	☹️	😊	😊	😊	20	45	Large native tree that has high ecosystem benefits.
		<i>Prunus serrulata</i> 'Kwanzan' - Japanese Flowering Cherry	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	20	15	A moderate performing ornamental cherry for KC.
		<i>Prunus subhirtella</i> 'Pendula' - Weeping Cherry	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	8	10	A moderate performing weeping cherry in KC.
Local		<i>Prunus virginiana</i> 'Canada Red' - Canadian Red Chokecherry	☹️	😊	😊	☹️	😊	20	25	Useful for late purple foliage color, durable but not long lived.
		<i>Prunus x cistina</i> - Cistina Plum	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	15	10	Short-lived small purple leaf plum.
		<i>Prunus x yedoensis</i> - Yoshino Cherry	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	😊	10	15	Beautiful, traditional cherry, but not durable.
		<i>Pseudocarya sinensis</i> - Chinese Quince	😊	😊	😊	😊	☹️	50	60	Interesting bark, subject to fireblight, not many old specimens in KC.
Invasive		<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> - Callery Pear	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	☹️	12	20	Terrible invasive. Never plant ornamental pears and remove existing trees. Common cultivars: 'Bradford', 'Aristocrat', 'Capital', 'Cleveland', 'Chanticleer'.
		<i>Quercus acutissima</i> - Sawtooth Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	85	Susceptible to storm damage, many better oak options.
Local	✱	<i>Quercus alba</i> - White Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	100+	Queen of the shade trees, best for quality soils.
Local	✱	<i>Quercus bicolor</i> - Swamp White Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	100+	Excellent tree for all large shade tree needs. Extremely high pH soils are a concern.
U.S.		<i>Quercus buckleyi</i> - Texas Red Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	35	85	May be a good option in higher pH soils.
Region	✱	<i>Quercus coccinea</i> - Scarlet Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	90	Excellent tree for average or better soils.
		<i>Quercus dendata</i> - Japanese Emperor Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	70	Interesting and rare oak.
Local		<i>Quercus imbricaria</i> - Shingle Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	95	Holds most leaves thru winter which may be a concern where snow/ice melt is important, durable oak.
Region	✱	<i>Quercus lyrata</i> - Overcup Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	100+	Excellent tree that needs more use.

The Tree List: Trees For the Kansas City Region (As Rated by Metropolitan Area Experts)
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Tree Name		Rating							Comments	
Native Status	General Landscape Recommended		Landscape Value	Street Tree	Climate Adaptable	Drought Tolerant	Ecosystem Services	Mature Height (ft.)	Exp. Lifespan (yrs.)	
		<i>Quercus macdanielli</i> 'Clemons' - Heritage Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	90	Has non-native genes, heavy nut production.
Local	★	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> - Bur Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	100+	Excellent tree for KC but has large nuts that may not be appropriate for urban sites.
Local		<i>Quercus marilandica</i> - Blackjack Oak	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	30	100+	Tough but very slow growing. Long lived and not in production.
Region		<i>Quercus michauxii</i> - Swamp Chestnut Oak	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	70	100+	Similar to Chestnut Oak, but more tolerant of wet soils.
Local	★	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> - Chinkapin Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	60	100+	Excellent native, large and wide tree. Best for non-irrigated sites.
Region		<i>Quercus nigra</i> - Water Oak	😞	😊	😞	😊	😊	70	70	Becoming more hardy, holds green leaves late.
Region	★	<i>Quercus pagoda</i> - Cherrybark Oak	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	70	90	Excellent tree, should be used more.
Local		<i>Quercus palustris</i> - Pin Oak	😞	😊	😞	😊	😊	45	90	Overused in the past, chlorosis issues in high pH soils, many better oak options.
Region		<i>Quercus phellos</i> - Willow Oak	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	15	80	Northern strains have thrived, interesting narrow willow-like leaf.
U.S.	★	<i>Quercus prinus</i> (montana) - Chestnut Oak	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	60	95	Very drought tolerant, needs good drainage.
		<i>Quercus robur</i> - English Oak	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	70	85	Mildew issues, many superior oak options.
Local	★	<i>Quercus rubra</i> - Red Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	95	Shumard may be better selection for urban sites
Local	★	<i>Quercus shumardii</i> - Shumard Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	95	Excellent urban shade tree.
Local	★	<i>Quercus stellata</i> - Post Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	100+	Beautiful tree, slow growing with tiny acorns.
U.S.		<i>Quercus texana</i> - Nuttall Oak (Texas Red Oak)	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	70	75	Great urban tree that tolerates wet soils.
Local		<i>Quercus velutina</i> - Black Oak	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	85	Similar to red oak without the red fall color.
	★	<i>Quercus × bebbiana</i> - Bebb's Oak	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	100+	Cross between White Oak & Burr Oak.
	★	<i>Quercus</i> var. - Columnar Types	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	45	85	Columnar oaks in the trade are excellent trees but are only partially native. Common cultivars: 'Kindred Spirit', 'Regal Prince', 'Scarlet Letter', 'Urban Pinnacle'.
Region		<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i> - Carolina Buckthorn	😞	😞	😊	😞	😞	15	30	Durable native small tree, unkept appearance.
Invasive		<i>Rhamnus</i> sp. - Non-Native Buckthorn	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	15	25	Invasive, remove existing trees.
U.S.		<i>Rhus typhina</i> - Staghorn Sumac	😞	😞	😊	😞	😊	12	15	Interesting massing plant, other sumac species are more shrublike in size.
Local		<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> - Black Locust	😞	😞	😊	😞	😊	50	35	Tough, mangy, fragrant blooms, few uses in the landscape due to suckering far from trunk.
		<i>Salix alba</i> - White Willow	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	70	15	Invasive, exotic weed, somewhat weeping.
		<i>Salix babylonica</i> (sepulcralis) - Weeping Willow	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	40	20	Messy, subject to winter injury, perfect near a pond but nowhere else.
U.S.		<i>Salix caprea</i> (discolor) - French Pussy Willow	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	12	10	Fun, soft buds, subject to many heart rot and decay problems, shrubby.
		<i>Salix matsudana</i> 'Tortuosa', 'Snake' - Corkscrew Willow	😞	😞	😊	😞	😊	15	10	Interesting in the landscape, subject to many decay problems, shrubby. Also <i>S. alba</i> 'Tristis'.
Local		<i>Salix nigra</i> - Black Willow	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	45	15	Best to stabilize stream banks, not in trade.

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Native Status	General Landscape Recommended		Landscape Value	Street Tree	Climate Adaptable	Drought Tolerant	Ecosystem Services	Mature Height (ft.)	Exp. Lifespan (yrs.)	
Region		<i>Sapindus drummondii</i> - Soapberry	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	60	Takes high pH and drought, but fruit is very messy, especially on cars.
Local		<i>Sassafras albidum</i> - Common Sassafras	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	35	35	Very hard to establish, great when able to grow.
Region		<i>Sideroxylon lanuginosum</i> - Gum Bumelia	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	40	40	Rugged tree accustomed to dry, rocky sites.
		<i>Sophora japonica</i> - Japanese Pagodatree	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	40	40	Canker and breakage issues, seed issues.
		<i>Sorbus alnifolia</i> - Korean Mountain Ash	😞	😊	😞	😞	😊	35	15	Fireblight issues, interesting, but poor performance.
		<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> - European Mountain Ash	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	25	10	Heat & borers, needs a perfect site.
		<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i> - Japanese Stewartia	😊	😞	😞	😞	😊	25	15	Very touchy, no trees make it to maturity in KC.
		<i>Styrax japonicus</i> - Japanese Snowbell	😊	😞	😞	😞	😊	25	15	Very touchy, though beautiful when successful.
		<i>Styrax obassia</i> - Fragrant Snowbell	😊	😞	😞	😞	😊	20	20	Similar to <i>S. japonicus</i> .
		<i>Syringa pekinensis</i> - Chinese Tree Lilac	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	30	50	Interesting bark texture, late spring bloom.
	★	<i>Syringa reticulata</i> 'Ivory Silk' - Japanese Tree Lilac	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	30	30	Durable blooming tree but not very long lived.
U.S.	★	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i> - Pond Cypress	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	100+	Interesting fine foliage compared to bald cypress. Cultivar: 'Prairie Sentinel'.
U.S.	★	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> - Bald Cypress	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	100+	Great urban tree, interesting deciduous needled conifer, gets very large, grows knees on wet sites
U.S.		<i>Taxodium distichum</i> - Weeping Bald Cypress	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	10+	50	Stake to desired height, cultivars: 'Cascade Falls', 'Falling Water'.
U.S.	★	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> - Columnar Bald Cypress	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	100+	'Shawnee Brave' is a wide columnar tree, 'Lindsey's Skyward' is a narrow columnar tree.
Local	★	<i>Tilia americana</i> - American Linden / Basswood	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	60	75	Native Linden/Basswood, excellent tree, not preferred by Japanese beetle, common cultivars: 'Boulevard', 'American Sentry'.
		<i>Tilia americana x euchlora</i> 'Redmond' - Redmond Linden	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	55	Inferior cultivar to native species.
		<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire' - Littleleaf Linden	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	55	Japanese Beetle food, Common cultivars: 'Greenspire', 'Corinthian', 'Summer Sprite', 'Shamrock', 'Glenleven'.
		<i>Tilia mongolica</i> - Mongolian Linden	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	35	65	Uncommon and underwhelming compared to other <i>Tilia</i> .
	★	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i> - Silver Linden	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	75	Excellent Linden, Cultivar: 'Sterling Silver'.
		<i>Tilia x euchlora</i> - Crimean Linden	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	65	Better than <i>T. cordata</i> , but not excellent.
Local		<i>Ulmus americana</i> - American Elm	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	70	30	Not viable because of Dutch elm disease (DED).
Local	★	<i>Ulmus americana</i> - American Elm cultivars	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	70	95	The king of urban trees past. Still excellent with DED resistant cultivars: 'Valley Forge', 'Princeton', 'Prairie Expedition', 'New Harmony'.
	★	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> - Lacebark Elm	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	60	Interesting bark, tough, fast growing, ice storm damage possible, cultivars: 'Allee', 'Emerald Prairie', 'Athena', 'Dynasty'.
Invasive		<i>Ulmus pumila</i> - Siberian Elm	😞	😞	😊	😊	😞	50	60	Terrible invasive used decades ago to replace DED affected elms, messy.
	★	<i>Ulmus x</i> - Hybrid Elm	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	50	80	Many excellent, durable complex elm clones: 'Frontier', 'Accolade', 'Triumph', 'Commendation', 'New Horizon', 'Patriot'.

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Region		<i>Viburnum lentago</i> - Nannyberry <i>Viburnum</i>						15	25	A woodland small tree/shrub.
Local		<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i> – Rusty Blackhaw						15	25	A good native woodland plant.
		<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Goshiki' - Variegated <i>Zelkova</i>						50	40	Interesting, variegated cultivar, same size as species, rare but worth more use.
	✱	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> - Japanese <i>Zelkova</i>						50	40	Durable, fast growing urban tree with minimal ecological benefit. Common cultivars: 'Green Vase', 'Halka', 'Village Green'.
	✱	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Musashino' - Columnar <i>Zelkova</i>						50	40	Columnar selection of <i>Zelkova</i> .
		<i>Zizyphus jujube</i> - Chinese Date						20	50	Heat & drought tolerant, edible plum-like fruit.