500 Trees

500 Trees is a GreenTown Los Altos campaign in partnership with Canopy of Palo Alto to plant trees in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Trees play an important role in the community. They improve air quality, provide shade, decrease stormwater runoff, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife and increase the overall attractiveness of a community.

The primary goal of the campaign is to plant 500 trees in public spaces - parks and schools - and in front and side yards of private homes, within public view. An important secondary goal is educational - to tell the benefits of trees, especially in this time of climate change, and promote an appreciation of our urban forest.
GreenTown's Top 29 Trees

Keystone Trees - Large long-lived trees with a full canopy

**Large Evergreen**
- Deodar Cedar (Cedrus deodara)
- Canary Island Pine (Pinus canariensis)
- African Fern Pine (Afrocarpus gracilior)
- Cork Oak (Quercus suber)
- Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia)
- Mexican Blue Oak (Quercus oblongifolia)
- Silverleaf Oak (Quercus hypoleucoides)

**Large Deciduous**
- London Plane Tree (Platanus acerifolia 'Columbia')
- Silver Linden (Tilia tomentosa)
- Chinese Elm (Ulmus parvifolia)
- Valley Oak (Quercus lobata)
- Southern Live Oak (Quercus virginiana)

Other Trees -

**Medium Evergreen**
- Engelmann Oak (Quercus engelmannii)
- Island Oak (Quercus tomentella)
- Sweet Bay (Laurus Nobilis)
- Shreve Oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei)

**Medium Deciduous**
- Chinese Pistache (Pistacia chinensis)
- Japanese Pagoda (Styphnolobium japonicum)
- Persian Ironwood (Parrotia persica)

**Small Evergreen**
- Olive (Olea europaea 'Wilsonii')
- Strawberry Tree (Arbutus unedo)
- Water Gum (Tristaniopsis Laurina)

**Small Deciduous**
- Smoke Tree (Cotinus coggyria)
- Trident Maple (Acer buergerianum)
- Western Redbud (Cercis Occidentals)
- Oklahoma Redbud (Cercis canadensis ‘Oklahoma’)

**Fruit Trees**
- Blenheim Apricot (Prunus armeniaca 'Blenheim')
- Asian Pear (Pyrus pyrifolia)
- Meyer Lemon (Citrus meyeri)
**Deodar Cedar** (*Cedrus deodara*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 30-40 ft.
- Height: 50-60 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Provides dense shade
- Full to partial sun
- Pruning recommended
Canary Island Pine (Pinus canariensis)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 30-40 ft.
- Height: 60-80 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Produces large pine cones
- Requires full sun to thrive
- Pruning recommended
African Fern Pine (*Afrocarpus gracilior*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 30-40 ft.
- Height: 40-60 ft.

Other Information:
- Moderate water requirement
- Full sun to partial shade
- Dark green needle-like leaves
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Not palatable to deer
Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 60-70 ft.
- Height: 60-70 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Produces dense shade
- Requires full sun to thrive
- Growing patterns vary, pruning required
- Needs good soil drainage
- Summer watering to be avoided
Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 50-60 ft.
- Height: 60-80 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Produces dense shade
- Requires full sun to thrive
- Growing patterns vary, pruning required
- Needs good soil drainage
- Summer watering to be avoided
**Mexican Blue Oak** *(Quercus oblongifolia)*

Size at maturity:
- Width: 20-30 ft.
- Height: 30-60 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Will tolerate heavy rains
- Requires good drainage
- Nice, upright growth habit
Silverleaf Oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 15-35 ft.
- Height: 20-60 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Requires good drainage
- Prefers loamy, sandy soil
- Full to partial sun to thrive
London Plane Tree (*Platanus acerifolia* ‘Columbia’)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 50-70 ft.
- Height: 70-85 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Provides dense shade
- Requires full sun to thrive
- Fire resistant
- May cause infrastructure damage
**Silver Linden** (*Tilia tomentosa*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 40-50 ft.
- Height: 20-30 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Attracts birds and bees
- Fragrant flowers in early summer
- Slow growing initially
- Provides dense shade
- Requires full sun to thrive
Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 35-55 ft.
- Height: 60-70 ft.

Other Information:
- Full sun to partial shade
- Evergreen to partially deciduous
- Drought tolerant
- Prefers moist soil
- Life span, 50 to 150 yrs
- Considered fire resistant
**Valley Oak** *Quercus lobata*

Size at maturity:
- Width: 50-60 ft.
- Height: 50-70 ft., or more

Other Information:
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Fire resistant
- Native to California
- Drought tolerant
- May cause infrastructure damage
- Summer watering to be avoided
Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 30-50 ft.
- Height: 50-70 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Tolerates heavy rain
- Tolerates clay soil
- Full sun
Engelmann Oak (*Quercus engelmannii*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 80-120 ft.
- Height: 50-65 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Long lived, often to 150 years
- Fire resistant
- Native to California
- Summer watering to be avoided
**Island Oak** (*Quercus tomentella*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 25-40 ft.
- Height: 20-50 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Native to California
- Used as a landscape tree in Southern California
- Desirable wildlife tree
- Summer watering to be avoided
**Sweet Bay** (*Laurus Nobilis*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 15-30 ft.
- Height: 40 ft.

Other information:
- Partial shade to full sun
- Evergreen
- Tree is deer resistant and attracts birds
- Leaves are fire resistant
- Dried leaves can be used in closets to deter moths
Shreve Oak (Quercus parvula var. shrevei)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 15-30 ft.
- Height: 30-50 ft.

Other information:
- Partial shade to full sun
- Drought tolerant
- Easy care
- Evergreen red oak
**Chinese Pistache** (*Pistacia chinensis*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 25-35 ft.
- Height: 25-35 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Excellent Fall color
- Attracts birds
- Needs full sun to thrive
- Pruning recommended
- Many planted in downtown Los Altos
**Japanese Pagoda (Styphnolobium Japonium)**

Size at maturity:
- Width: 40-70 ft.
- Height: 70 ft.

Other information:
- Partial shade to full sun
- Resistant to oak root fungus and armillaria
- Deer resistant and attracts bees
- Susceptible to canker and spider mites
Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 15-35 ft.
- Height: 15-35 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- A very pretty tree
- Excellent flowers and fall color
- Known as a more “shrub-like” tree
Olive (*Olea europaea* ‘Wilsonii’)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 15-35 ft.
- Height: 15-35 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant
- Both fruiting and non-fruiting varieties available
- Small white flowers in late Spring
- Long lived, up to 150 years
- Pruning recommended
Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unda*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 15-30 ft.
- Height: 15-30 ft.

Other Information:
- Multi-trunked tree, may be pruned to a single trunk
- Full sun to partial shade
- Somewhat drought tolerant
- Requires well-drained soil
- Blooms Fall/Winter
- Edible, seedy fruit attracts birds
- Messy fruit drop
**Water Gum** (*Tristaniopsis Laurina*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 15-30 ft.
- Height: 35 ft.

Other information:
- Partial shade to full sun
- Evergreen
- Tree is deer resistant
- Slow growing; recommended to plant larger specimen
Smoke Tree *(Cotinus coggyria)*

*Size at maturity:*
- Width: 12 ft.
- Height: 20 ft.

*Other Information:*
- Large deciduous shrub
- Drought tolerant
- Full sun to partial shade
- Requires well-drained soil
- Dramatic, pinkish purple, smoke-like airy seed clusters
- Purple colored foliage
Trident Maple (Acer buergerianum)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 20-25 ft.
- Height: 20-25 ft.

Other Information:
- Requires light to moderate moisture
- Attracts birds
- Great under power lines
- Provides moderate shade
- Requires pruning to control top shoots
**Western Redbud** (*Cercis Occidentals*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 10-20 ft.
- Height: 10-20 ft.

Other Information:
- Requires light to moderate moisture
- California native
- Attracts birds
- Great under power lines
- Provides moderate shade
- Showy Spring flowers
- May be kept as a shrub
- Resistant to oak root fungus

Visit [https://selectree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/cercis-occidentalis](https://selectree.calpoly.edu/tree-detail/cercis-occidentalis) for better pictures.
Oklahoma Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* ‘Oklahoma’)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 15-25 ft.
- Height: 15-30 ft.

Other Information:
- Requires regular watering
- Moderate drought tolerance once established
- Utility friendly tree
- Dink pink flowers Spring/Summer
- Produces purple pods in Summer
- Often used as a street tree
- Branches susceptible to breakage
Blenheim Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* ‘Blenheim’)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 10-20 ft.
- Height: 15-30 ft.

Other Information:
- Drought tolerant once established
- Requires irrigation and pruning for quality fruit
- Needs good drainage
- Flowers late Winter
- Produces fruit June, early July
- Requires full sun to thrive
Asian Pear (*Pyrus pyrifolia*)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 10-25 ft.
- Height: 15-30 ft.

Other Information:
- Requires moist well-drained soil
- Attractive white flowers in Spring
- Attracts birds, bees, and butterflies
- Requires a nearby cross-pollinator tree
- May have large thorns
Meyer Lemon \((Citrus\ meyeri)\)

Size at maturity:
- Width: 5-10 ft.
- Height: 5-25 ft.

Other Information:
- Needs regular watering and well-drained soil
- Utility friendly tree
- Flowers in Spring and Fall
- Produces fruit nearly all year
- Damaged by freezing temperatures
- May have large thorns
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Don’t see a tree that you would like to plant on this list?</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>We don’t recommend Coast Redwood trees as they require a lot of water. If you’re looking for something similar, we would recommend Deodar Cedar or Canary Island Pine.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>We don’t recommend Bronze Loquats as they have very low survival rates in the area. If you’re looking for something similar, we would recommend Smoke Tree.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>We don’t recommend Bradford Pears because their structural integrity is weak and many do not survive. If you’re looking for something similar, we would recommend Trident Maple.</strong></td>
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