

RECOMMENDED LARGE STREET TREES

A short, non-exhaustive list of potential species to plant. Many of the listed trees are less commonly planted, and some may also be appropriate in other urban environments (for example, ironwood is a great park **or** street tree).

Common name	Scientific name	Native range	Min. cold hardiness zone	Soil salt tolerance	Aerial salt tolerance	Max height	Max canopy width	Notes
American sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	MW	5b	H	H	75'	75'	Fall color, non-fruiting cultivars available. Some sidewalk issues reported with small terraces.
Baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	MW	5a	M	H	70'	40'	Prefer slightly acidic to neutral pH soil, fall color
Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	WI	3a	M	M	80'	90'	pH adaptable, acorns, high wildlife value, susceptible to oak wilt and bur oak blight
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	EA	4b	M	M	80'	40'	pH adaptable, females produce smelly fruit
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	WI	3b	M	M	60'	50'	pH adaptable, fall color, high wildlife value
Hybrid elms <i>-DED resistant-</i>	<i>Ulmus hybrid</i>	EA	3*	M	H	60'	60'	pH adaptable, fall color, most cultivars zone 4. Not all cultivars created equal; some require a lot of maintenance.
Kentucky coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	WI	4a	H	H	75'	50'	pH adaptable, seedpodless varieties available
London planetree	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	EA	5b	L	H	100'	80'	pH adaptable
Northern catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	MW	4a	M	M	60'	40'	Large showy flowers and large fruits sometimes undesired. Reputation for brittle wood, but WI managers are positive as street tree.
Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	WI	4a	M	M	60'	60'	Prefer slightly acidic to neutral pH soil, fall color, acorns, high wildlife value

*Cultivar dependent

Legend

Native range

WI Wisconsin
MW Midwest
NA North America
EA Eurasia

Cold hardiness zone

see second page

Salt tolerances

L Low
M Medium
H High

see second page

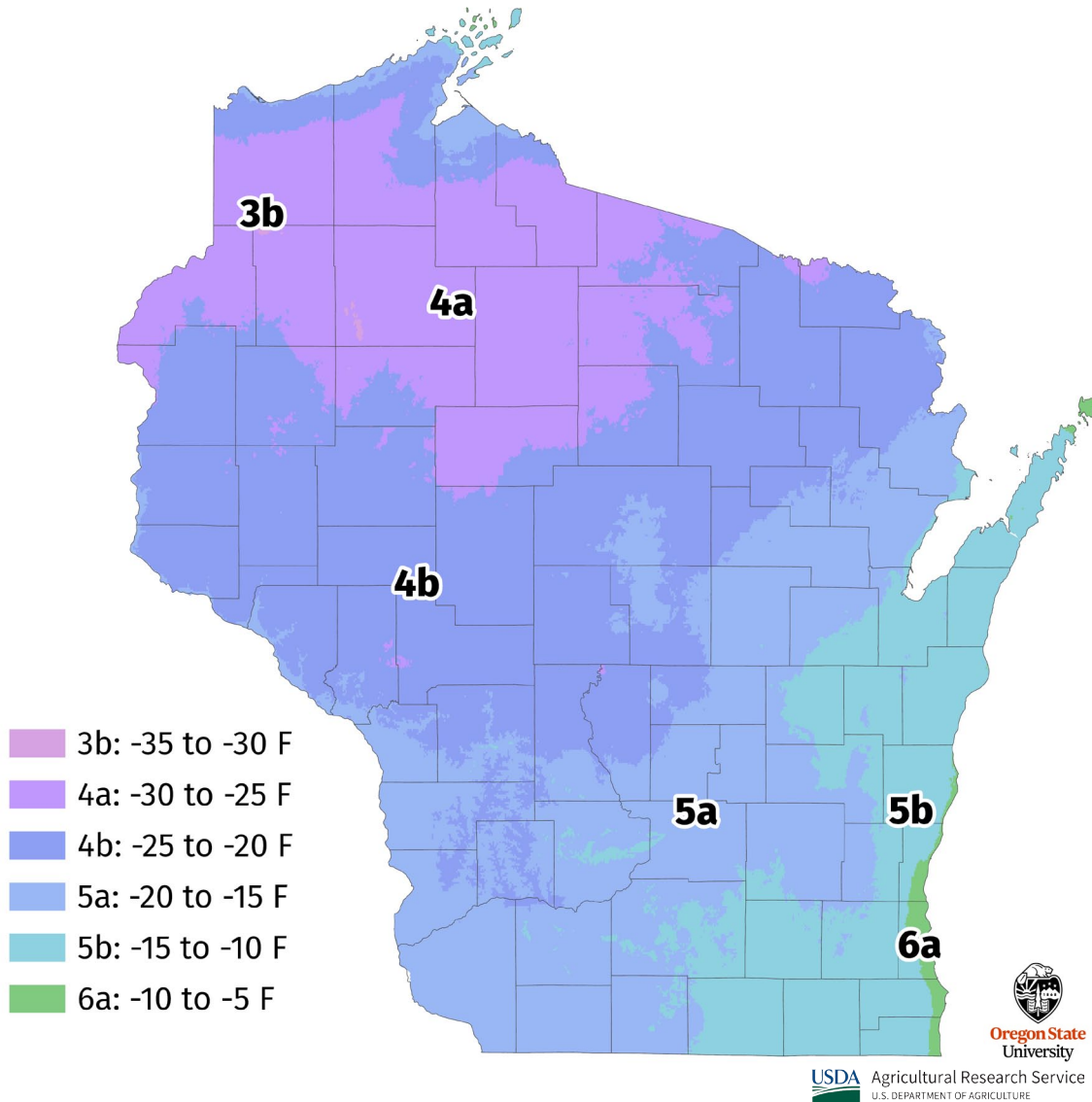
Caution

This list identifies trees that may be appropriate along streets. These are harsh environments and cannot support all tree species. Extra care needs to be taken to select trees that will survive and thrive. More information is located on the second page.

Not all circumstances are considered for this list. Consult multiple sources before deciding on trees, including nurseries and other local experts.



COLD HARDINESS ZONES



Zones in the United States based on their annual minimum temperatures. Plants grown in those areas must be able to tolerate temperatures down to those levels. Zone data from USDA and Oregon State University reflects updates published in 2023. Species zone data from Cornell University Woody Plants Database and the Morton Arboretum.

SOIL & AERIAL SALT TOLERANCE

The impact of salt on trees is difficult to fully anticipate. See the notes below to help think through this problem.

No tree is completely tolerant of salt injury; even salt-tolerant trees have limits on the amount of salt they can accept before they weaken.

There are relatively few salt-tolerant species available. If only tolerant species are planted, urban forests would be even less diverse and be more vulnerable to a single disease or insect pest destroying a high proportion of the trees.

Salt spray can damage trees by depositing salt on stems, buds or foliage. Injury to evergreen trees is apparent in the late winter, while it takes longer to manifest in deciduous trees.

Soil salt damage often occurs along busy roads or sidewalks. This damage can become evident in the summer or even years later. A species that tolerates spray salt will not necessarily tolerate soil salt.

Salt source (above): Gary R. Johnson and Ed Sucoff. Minimizing De-Icing Salt Injury to Trees. <http://cues.cfans.umn.edu/old/extpubs/1413salt/DD1413.html>