

What's being planted in Sacramento

Seymour Park – November 7, 2007

Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)

The Valley Oak is the largest of the North American oaks. It generally grows in the hot interior valleys of California and requires year-round access to groundwater. A mature tree may live to be 600 years old. Felt-like deeply lobed leaves and thick, ridged bark, resembling alligator hide, are characteristic of the Valley Oak. Its acorns fall in October and provide food for a variety of mammals, including the acorn woodpecker and the gray squirrel.



California Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*)

The California Black Oak is a deciduous hardwood tree with a broad, rounded crown. It is the largest mountain oak in the West and surpasses all other California oaks in volume and distribution. The trunk bark is dark and covered with small plates. The bright green leaves are distinctly six-lobed. Bears, squirrels, birds, gophers and deer are among the many animals that find its acorns a valuable food source. The wood is used for high-grade lumber and pallets.

Armstrong Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

The Armstrong Maple brings color to landscapes year-round: new leaves are red-tinged, turning to green in the summer, deep red or yellow in the fall and then red in the winter. Its flowers bloom red. This tree is fast-growing and tolerant of many soils. Armstrong Maples can grow 40 to 60 feet tall with a 40-foot spread. This maple does well in full sun and partial shade. It provides food for squirrels, rabbits and deer.





European Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

The European Hackberry provides orange-red fruit that is relished by winter birds, including the mockingbird and robin, as well as other wildlife. This is a medium-to-fast growing tree that does well in full sun and can tolerate strong winds, air pollution and a wide variety of soil conditions. The European Hackberry grows 40 to 70 feet high with a 50-foot spread, making it a good landscape choice for providing shade. Its tough, flexible wood was used for barrel hoops and floors in pioneer cabins.

Frontier Elm (*Ulmus frontier*)

The Frontier Elm is perfect for smaller landscapes, such as along city streets and under power lines. This tree is known for its small leaves and red-purple autumn coloration. It holds a high level of tolerance to Dutch elm disease and moderate resistance to elm leaf beetle.



California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)

The California Sycamore is a shade tree that also can be used in mass plantings and reforestation. It is a fast-growing tree with dark green leaves with yellow veins. The California Sycamore prefers full sun, grows in many soil conditions and has a low tolerance to drought. It will grow to a height of 60 to 90 feet with a 40-foot spread. This tree is home to red-tailed hawks, woodpeckers and hummingbirds. Sycamore trees are valued for their wood for everything from musical instruments to cutting boards. These trees have been considered sacred by many people throughout ancient history.

Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*)

The Chinese Pistache is a beautiful ornamental shade tree that does well in full sun or partial shade. This is a great shade tree for near one-story buildings and is tolerant of heat, drought and different kinds of soil. The leaves are lustrous and dark green, turning to a spectacular orange or red-orange in the fall. Xeriscape (dry landscaping) gardeners plant the Chinese Pistache as a critical addition for wildlife. Its seeds provide food for small rodents and birds.

