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Common Trees of LA

Center for Urban Resilience

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Common Trees of Los Angeles

Acacia baileyana (Bailey acacia)

Evergreen. 25' x 30'. Medium tree with gray-green, fern-like leaves and showy, feathery yellow flowers in spring. Seedpod is thin with green to brown husk. Gray, furrowed bark.



Araucaria heterophylla (Norfolk Island pine)

Evergreen. 100' x 60'. Very large conifer with waxy, scale-like, dark green leaves and distinctive silhouette. Not a true pine, but a conifer, with large spiny cones. Rough, gray-brown bark.



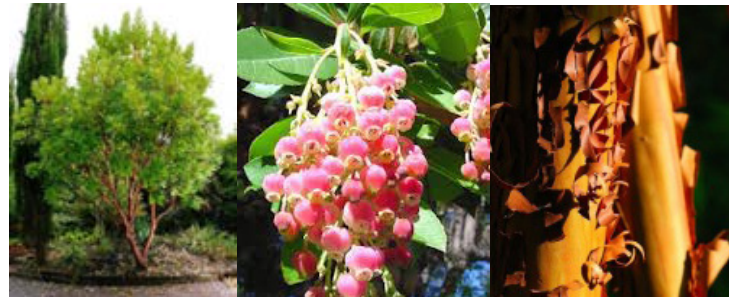
Afrocarpus falcatus (Fern pine)

Evergreen. 60' x 45'. Thin leaves: blue-gray-green to dark green. Cherry-sized fruits, blue-gray at first, ripening to a pale yellow-orange. Variegated, flaking bark, grey to brown.



Arbutus 'Marina' (Marina arbutus)

Evergreen tree. 20-40' x 15-30'. Hybrid of unknown *Arbutus* species. Single or multi-trunk tree. Leathery, serrate leaves. Red flaking bark in smooth underneath. Clusters of rosy-pink urn-shaped flowers. Round, red, bumpy, edible fruit.



Albizia julibrissin (Mimosa)

Deciduous. 40' x 40'. Medium sized tree with bright green, fern-like leaves. Very showy, 1" rounded clusters of wispy light pink flowers grouped at the ends of twigs. Brown, pea-like leguminous seedpods.



Bauhinia variegata (Purple orchid tree)

Semi-evergreen tree. 20-35' x 20-35'. Native to SE Asia. Showy variegated flowers (3-4"), pink to white. Two-lobed leaves. **Tip:** Similar to Redbud—look for two-lobed leaf, folding in the middle.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Betula pendula (European white birch)

Deciduous. 40' x 20'. Medium-sized tree often planted in residential areas. Medium green, teardrop-shaped leaves with toothed edges, turning yellow in fall. Striking white bark with areas of dark gray or black. Small, brown, cone-like fruit in summer.



Cedrus deodara (Deodar cedar)

Evergreen. 60' x 30'. Large conifer tree with blue-green needles. Often drooping at top of tree. Egg-shaped, furrowed cone, green to light brown. Dark gray fissured bark.



Calocedrus decurrens (Incense cedar)

Evergreen. 75-90' x 40'. CA native. Large tree with fragrant, scale-like medium-green leaves, arranged in flat sprays. Small, winged "cones." Fibrous, reddish-brown bark.



Ceiba speciosa (Floss silk tree)

Semi-Deciduous. 40-60' x 20-40'. Large thorns on the greenish trunk and branches. Large showy dark pink flowers, followed by large green seed pods that split open to release white flossy hairs.



Cassia leptophylla (Gold medallion tree)

Semi-Evergreen. 25' x 20'. Medium tree with bi-pinnate medium green leaves, with pointed tips and no terminal leaf. Terminal clusters of large yellow flowers, followed by long, bean-like green or brown seedpods. **Tip:** Similar to Tipu tree—look for leaves with pointed tips and no terminal leaf, or long bean-like seedpod.



Ceratonia siliqua (Carob)

Evergreen. 30' x 25'. Glossy green bipinnate leaves and thick trunk with rough, sinewy gray-brown bark. 3-4" seed pods, green when young, turning hard and brown when ripe. **Tip:** Similar to Carrotwood—look for circular leaflets and long, thin seed pod.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Cercis candensis (Eastern redbud)

Deciduous tree. 25'x15'-20'. Native to eastern US. Heart-shaped leaf. Magenta flowers and dark brown seed pods. **Tip:** Similar to Purple Orchid Tree and Western Redbud—look for true heart-shaped leaf.



Chitalpa tashkentensis (Chitalpa)

Deciduous. 35' x 30'. Small tree, often planted along streets. Spear-shaped, medium-green leaves. Showy pink trumpet-shaped flowers in spring.



Cercis occidentalis (Western redbud)

Deciduous. 25' x 15'-20'. CA native. Heart-shaped leaves with rounded lower edge. Magenta flowers and dark brown seed pods. **Tip:** Similar to Purple Orchid Tree and Eastern Redbud—look for rounded lower edge of leaf.



Cinnamomum camphora (Camphor tree)

Evergreen. 50' x 50'. Teardrop-shaped leaves. New growth is red, then turns yellow-green. Massive tree with extra wide canopy. Often cause sidewalk damage.



Chilopsis linearis (Desert willow)

Deciduous. 20' x 20'. CA native. Small, drought-tolerant tree, usually low-branching or multi-trunked. Thin, medium-green leaves and showy, pink trumpet-shaped flowers in late spring. Long, very thin tan seed capsule. Smooth gray bark.



Corymbia citriodora (Lemon-scented gum)

Evergreen. 100' x 50'. Very tall, slender tree with ghostly, smooth white bark. Leaves are narrow and yellowish-to-medium green, with red stems and smell strongly of lemons or citronella when crushed.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Corymbia ficifolia (Red flowering gum)

Evergreen. 25-40' x 25-40'. Spear-shaped gray-green leaves. Wispy red flowers, giving way to brownish, urn-shaped seeds. Shaggy, peeling brown-gray bark. **Tip:** Similar to White Ironbark—look for spear-shaped leaves and shaggy, peeling bark.



Eriobotrya deflexa (Bronze loquat)

Evergreen. 25' x 25'. Juvenile leaves are bronze colored before maturing into leathery, dark green, sharply toothed leaves. Small white fragrant flowers appear in winter.



Cupaniopsis anacardioides (Carrotwood)

Evergreen, 35'. Carrotwood is native to Australia. Waxy, dark-green oval shaped leaves. Light gray, undulating bark. Yellow garbanzo-shaped seed pods with bright orange seeds. **Tip:** Similar to Carob tree—look for oval-shaped leaflets and garbanzo-shaped seed pods.



Erythrina caffra (South African coral tree)

Briefly deciduous. 30' x 40'. Native to eastern South Africa. Drops its trifoliate leaves in winter, followed by bright orange-red flowers. Smooth grey bark. Spines can occur on leaf petioles, trunk and branches. Seeds are poisonous if eaten. Official tree of the City of Los Angeles.



Cupressus sempervirens (Italian cypress)

Evergreen. 20-30' X 3-5'. Very narrow, medium-sized tree, often grown in rows as a hedge. Dark green, scale-like leaves. Fibrous, peeling brown-gray bark.



Eucalyptus camaldulensis (River red gum)

Evergreen tree. 60-100' x 40-60'. Native to Australia. Long blue-green leaves with red stems. Cream-colored flowers in late fall. Bark peels off leaving a mottled white, tan and grey trunk and branches.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Eucalyptus globulus (Blue gum eucalyptus)

Evergreen. 60-120' x 40-60'. Native to Australia. Smooth bark sheds in strips. Adult leaves are 8-12" long, sickle-shaped and dull green. White flowers and white pods occur singly.



Eucalyptus sideroxylon (Red Iron bark)

Evergreen. 65' x 45'. Native to Australia. Tall, fast-growing tree with spear-shaped gray-green leaves. Wispy pink flowers, giving way to small brown seed capsules. Rough, dark reddish-brown bark with large, blocky furrows.



Eucalyptus leucoxylon (White Iron bark)

Evergreen. 65' x 45'. Native to Australia. Tall, fast-growing tree with long, lance-shaped gray-green leaves. Wispy pink flowers, giving way to small brown seed capsules. Smooth, cream-colored bark with sparse areas of peeling gray or brown bark.



Ficus macrophylla (Moreton Bay fig)

Evergreen. 80' x 110'. The largest of the evergreen fig trees. Large, aggressive surface roots and massive canopy. Large, thick oval leaves - glossy dark green above and fine brown hairs below. Smooth gray bark.



Eucalyptus polyanthemos (Silver dollar gum eucalyptus)

Evergreen. 50' x 35'. Native to Australia. Young leaves are silver-grey and round. Adult leaves are long and pointed. Cream-colored flowers. Rough, peeling, brown to grey bark.



Ficus microcarpa (Indian laurel fig)

Evergreen. 25-60' x 25-60'. Native to Asia. Leaves 2-4" glossy dark green. The most common evergreen fig in southern California, and the one breaking up the most sidewalks. Very dense canopy. Small, fig-like fruits.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Fraxinus uhdei (Evergreen ash)

Deciduous tree. 60-80' x 45-60'. Very large tree that tends to have crowded branching. Compound leaves with 5-7 leaflets. Many papery tan seeds, hanging in huge clusters. Rough grayish bark.



Grevillea robusta (Silk oak)

Evergreen. 75' x 25'. Not an oak at all. Large trees with fern-like leaves and bright yellow-orange flowers mid to late spring. Often planted along freeways.



Geijera parviflora (Australian willow)

Evergreen. 30' x 20'. Fairly common medium-sized street tree with thin 3-4" gray-green leaves. Small white flowers in spring. Rough, gray-brown bark.



Handroanthus chrysotrichus (Golden trumpet tree)

Deciduous tree. 20-30' x 20-30'. Native to South America. Dark green, fuzzy leaves and yellow trumpet-shaped flowers. Long seed pods release winged seeds. **Tip:** Similar to Pink Trumpet tree—look for waxy, dark green, fuzzy leaves.



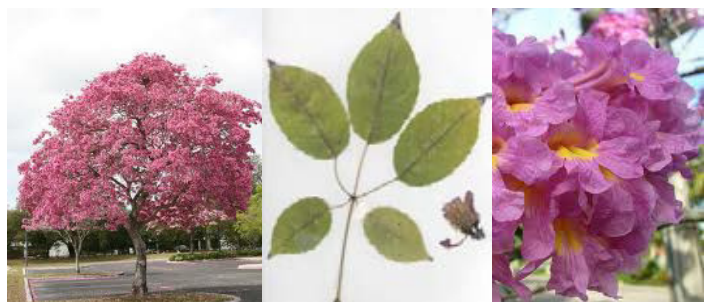
Ginkgo biloba (Ginkgo)

Deciduous. 35-80' x 20-60'. Native to China. Very common street tree. Distinctive fan-shaped leaves with slight to very deep lobe in center. Ripe yellow-orange fruit smells like vomit.



Handroanthus impetiginosus (Pink trumpet tree)

Semi-deciduous. 35' x 30'. Showy pink blooms in late winter before the leaves emerge. Long, thin seedpods have papery seeds. **Tip:** Similar to Golden Trumpet tree—look for light green leaves.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Jacaranda mimosifolia (Jacaranda)

Semi-deciduous. 40' x 40'. Showy purple flowers in early summer. Bipinnately compound, fern-like leaves. 2"-3" seedpods, green at first, brown when ripe.



Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweetgum)

Deciduous. 40-50' x 25-30'. Leaves are star-shaped, turning bright yellow or red in the fall. Prickly brown seed pods that often litter the ground around the tree. Aggressive root system, often damaging sidewalks.



Koelreuteria bipinnata (Chinese flame tree)

Deciduous. 25-45' x 25-45'. 12-18" long bi-pinnately compound leaf is yellow to red in fall. Serrated, oval-shaped leaflets. Yellow flowers late summer to early fall. Papery seedpods yellow-pink to red in fall.



Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip tree)

Deciduous. 70' x 35'. Very tall tree with distinctive large four-lobed leaves. Greenish-yellow flowers in spring. Fisured, gray-brown bark.



Lagerstroemia indica (Common crape myrtle)

Deciduous. 25' x 25'. Very common street tree. Waxy green leaves, turning orange to red in fall. Many different cultivars, with flowers from white, purple, red, pink, magenta. Smooth patterned gray bark, often with variegated portions of reddish-brown peeling bark.



Lophostemon confertus (Brisbane box)

Evergreen. 50' x 40'. Fast-growing tree very commonly planted in LA area over the past 15 years. Waxy dark green spear-shaped leaves. Reddish-brown peeling bark. White, star-shaped flowers in spring, giving way to small green or brown urn-shaped seed capsules.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Lyonothamnus floribunda (Catalina ironwood)

Evergreen. 45' x 30'. Medium sized tree native to CA. Leaves are fern-like and fragrant when crushed. Bark is light gray and peeling.



Melaleuca viminalis (Weeping bottlebrush)

Evergreen. 20-30' x 10-25'. Narrow gray-green leaves. Branches hang down in a weeping fashion with wispy, red bottlebrush-shaped flowers on their ends. Slightly flaking grayish-brown bark.



Magnolia grandiflora (Southern magnolia)

Evergreen. 80' x 40'. Large, waxy green leaves, with rust-colored underside. Large white flowers in spring. Large greenish-brown seed pod with bright red seeds.



Morus alba (White mulberry)

Deciduous. 40-50' x 35-40'. Fast-growing tree with aggressive roots. Leaves are medium green, with toothed edges, often exhibiting many shape variations within a single tree. Fissured gray-brown bark.



Melaleuca quinquenervia (Cajeput)

Evergreen. 20-40' x 15-30'. Thin, spear-shaped gray-green leaves. Wispy white flowers in spring. Peeling, spongy white bark, with sections of dark gray or even black.



Olea europaea (Olive)

Evergreen. 35' x 35'. Medium-sized tree with narrow gray-green leaves, and often with multiple trunks. Produces numerous grey-to-black olives in late summer to fall. Rough gray bark.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Phoenix canariensis (Canary island date palm)

Evergreen. 50-60' x 40-50'. Native to the Canary Islands. Wide, stout trunk. Long, feather-shaped fronds. White flowers in late summer and then orange dates.



Pistacia chinensis (Chinese pistache)

Deciduous. 40-50' x 30'. Pinnately-compound medium-green leaves, turning bright yellow to red in fall. Bright red or metallic blue fruits in large bunches.



Pinus canariensis (Canary island pine)

Evergreen. 65-80' x 30-40'. Tall, narrow pine, very often planted along streets and in medians. Shaggy-looking 9-12" weeping needles. Rough, flaking, reddish-brown bark. **Tip:** Similar to Italian Stone Pine—look for narrower, more columnar structure.



Pittosporum undulatum (Victorian box)

Evergreen. 35' x 30'. Medium-sized tree with waxy, dark-green leaves. Leaf edge is wavy, hence species name, "undulatum." Small, fragrant yellow-to-white flowers in spring, giving way to garbanzo-shaped yellow-orange seedpods. Smooth, light gray bark.



Pinus pinea (Italian stone pine)

Evergreen. 50-70' x 50-65'. Large evergreen conifer with spreading, vase-shaped canopy. Flexible green leaves are needle-like and cones are broad. Produces edible pine nuts. Rough gray-brown bark. **Tip:** Similar to Canary Island Pine—look for wider, vase-shaped canopy.



Platanus x hispanica (London plane tree)

Deciduous. 40'-80' x 30'-40'. Medium-green tooth-edged leaves with 5-7 lobes. Bark is variegated and peeling, with whites, grays, reds and tans. **Tip:** Similar to CA Sycamore—look for toothed leaves.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Platanus racemosa (California sycamore)

Deciduous tree. 30-80' x 20-60'. Deeply-lobed medium-green leaves are covered with minute hairs, and turn yellow-brown in late summer. White to grey bark flakes off the mottled trunk. **Tip:** Similar to London Plane tree—look for deeply-lobed, slightly fuzzy leaves.



Pyrus calleryana (Callery pear)

Deciduous. 45'x20'. Very common medium-sized street tree. Leaves are medium to deep green and glossy. Showy, white, fragrant flowers in spring. Produces small, tan, non-edible fruits. Rough gray-brown bark.



Podocarpus macrophyllus (Yew pine)

Evergreen. 20-50' x 15-40'. Medium sized-tree with medium green, thin leaves. **Tip:** Similar to Afrocarpus falcatus—look for brownish-gray, shaggy, peeling bark and longer, wider leaves than Afrocarpus falcatus.



Quercus agrifolia (Coast live oak)

Evergreen tree. 60-70' x 70-85'. CA native. Waxy, dark-green leaves are oval, cupped, and have spiny edges. Gray bark grows rougher with age. **Tip:** Similar to Cork oak and Holly oak—look for hair-like fibers between the veins on the underside of the leaf.



Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea' (Purple leaf plum)

Deciduous. 35' x 20'. Distinctive dark purple leaves. Fragrant light pink flowers. Mostly fruitless, but occasionally produces small, dark cherry-like fruit.



Quercus ilex (Holly oak)

Evergreen. 60'x 50'. Large tree with narrow, slightly-toothed waxy, dark green leaves with very pale white underside. Lightly fissured grayish bark. **Tip:** Similar to Cork oak and Coast live oak—look for smoother gray bark.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Quercus lobata (Valley oak)

Deciduous tree. 75' x 80'. CA native. Extremely large oak with deeply lobed leaves and large acorns. Bark is dark gray and furrowed.



Schinus terebinthifolius (Brazilian pepper tree)

Evergreen. 20-30' x 20-30'. Compound leaves, with 5-9 oval shaped leaflets. Produces many clusters of bright red peppercorn-looking fruits. Gnarly gray-brown bark.



Quercus suber (Cork oak)

Evergreen. 40-60' x 30-40'. Medium sized tree with spiny, waxy dark green leaves, with pale green underside. Thick, whorled bark is primary source for cork. **Tip:** Similar to Coast live oak and Holly oak—look for cork-like, thick, whorled bark with variations of gray, white and brown.



Sequoia sempervirens (Coast redwood)

Evergreen. 70-100' x 30'. In the city, these trees are fairly large, but often brownish and scraggly-looking. Look for trademark rough, reddish bark.



Schinus molle (California pepper tree)

Evergreen. 35-50' x 35-50'. Thin, fern-like leaves with a weeping habit, arranged bipinnately. Knobbly, red-dish-brown bark. Bright red-pink peppercorns hang in bunches.



Syagrus romanzoffiana (Queen palm)

Evergreen. 35-50' x 20-45'. Medium-sized tree, often planted in front yards. Long, feather-shaped fronds. White flowers spring, summer, fall or winter.



Common Trees of Los Angeles

Tipuana tipu (Tipu)

Semi-evergreen. 50' x 50'. Large, fast-growing tree with long thin branches. Bi-pinnate medium green leaves with many oval-shaped leaflets and terminal leaf. Bright, butter-yellow flowers. Green to brown papery seed pods.
Tip: Similar to Gold Medallion tree—look for oval-shaped leaves with terminal leaf and papery seedpods.



Ulmus parvifolia (Chinese elm)

Semi-deciduous. 40'-60' x 50'-70'. Large tree with long, weeping branches and medium-green leaves with toothed edges. Variegated, flaking bark with many colors, including light gray, red and white.



Washingtonia filifera (California fan palm)

Evergreen. 35-65' x 20-40'. Native to California, Arizona and Mexico. Similar to the common, tall, skinny Mexican fan palm, but with a stouter trunk, grey-green leaves and a more open crown. Mature fronds have sharp teeth.



Washingtonia robusta (Mexican fan palm)

Evergreen. 60-100' x 25'. Iconic Los Angeles tree, extremely tall and thin. Has a very tapered skinny trunk, green fan-shaped leaves and a dense crown.

