

How to Plant Your Tree

1. Prepare the planting area. Mark an area several times wider than the root ball diameter (the wider the better). Loosen this area to about the depth of the root ball. This will enable your tree to extend a dense mat of tiny roots well out into the soil in the first several months in the ground. Before digging, call 811. Know what's below.

2. Dig the hole in the center of the loosened area, 2-3 times the diameter of the root ball and no deeper than the depth of the root ball — shallow is better than deep! Make sure the sides of the hole are rough and uneven. In very hard soils, a rough edge to the hole may help new roots to grow out into the surrounding soil.

3. If the tree is in a container, gently remove the container from root ball — don't pull by the trunk. Loosen roots with finger tips and prune away damaged or circling roots.

4. For balled and burlapped trees, rest the root ball in the center of the hole, and reshape the hole so the tree will be straight and at the proper level. After adjusting the tree, pull the burlap and any other material away from the sides and top of the root ball. Carefully remove the burlap material from the hole.

5. Loosen the soil near the trunk to find the trunk flare. This is the area where the trunk gets wider as the first roots join the trunk. This point should be visible at the top of the root ball. If the trunk flare is not visible, remove soil from the top of the root ball until it is visible.

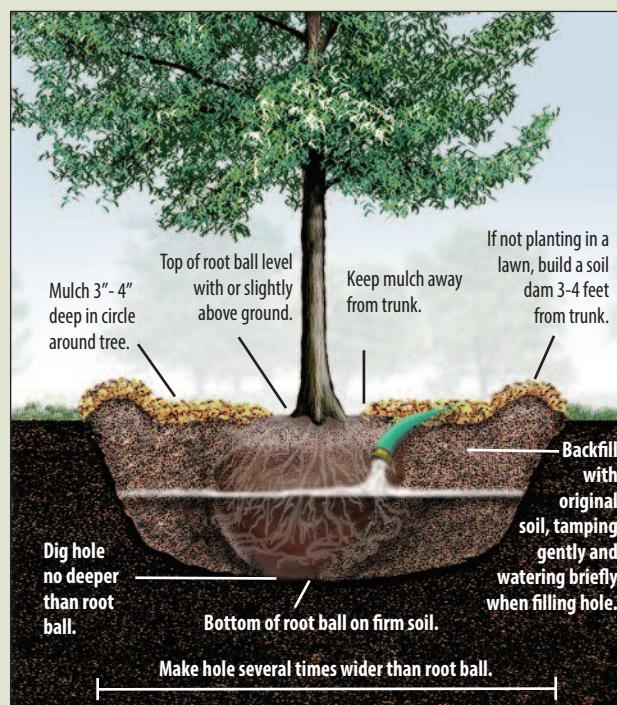
6. Place the tree in the hole. The bottom of the ball should rest on solid undisturbed soil. When finished, the trunk flare should be at or just above the soil surface. Planting too deep is the most common mistake, since soil above the trunk flare causes the bark to rot!

7. Stand back and look at the tree before putting the soil back into the hole. You can make careful adjustments at this time to the planting height and the direction the branches face without seriously harming the roots.

8. Gently backfill with the original soil removed earlier. Do not add fertilizer, compost or other material. Use one-third of the soil at a time. Break up dirt clods and remove any grass, weeds or rocks. Lightly pack the soil with the shovel handle to remove air pockets. Do not stamp on or compress soil heavily. The best soil for root growth has spaces for both air and water, but not large air pockets, which causes problems. Water briefly. Refill and pack again until soil is even with top of root ball. The trunk flare should be slightly above the soil. Water thoroughly.

9. If your tree is not planted in a lawn, construct a small earthen dam or berm, less than 4 inches tall, with excess soil just outside of the root ball zone to help retain

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water. This will help hold water until it soaks into the soil, rather than letting it run off across the surface. The berm is temporary while your tree becomes established and, in most cases should be removed two years after planting.

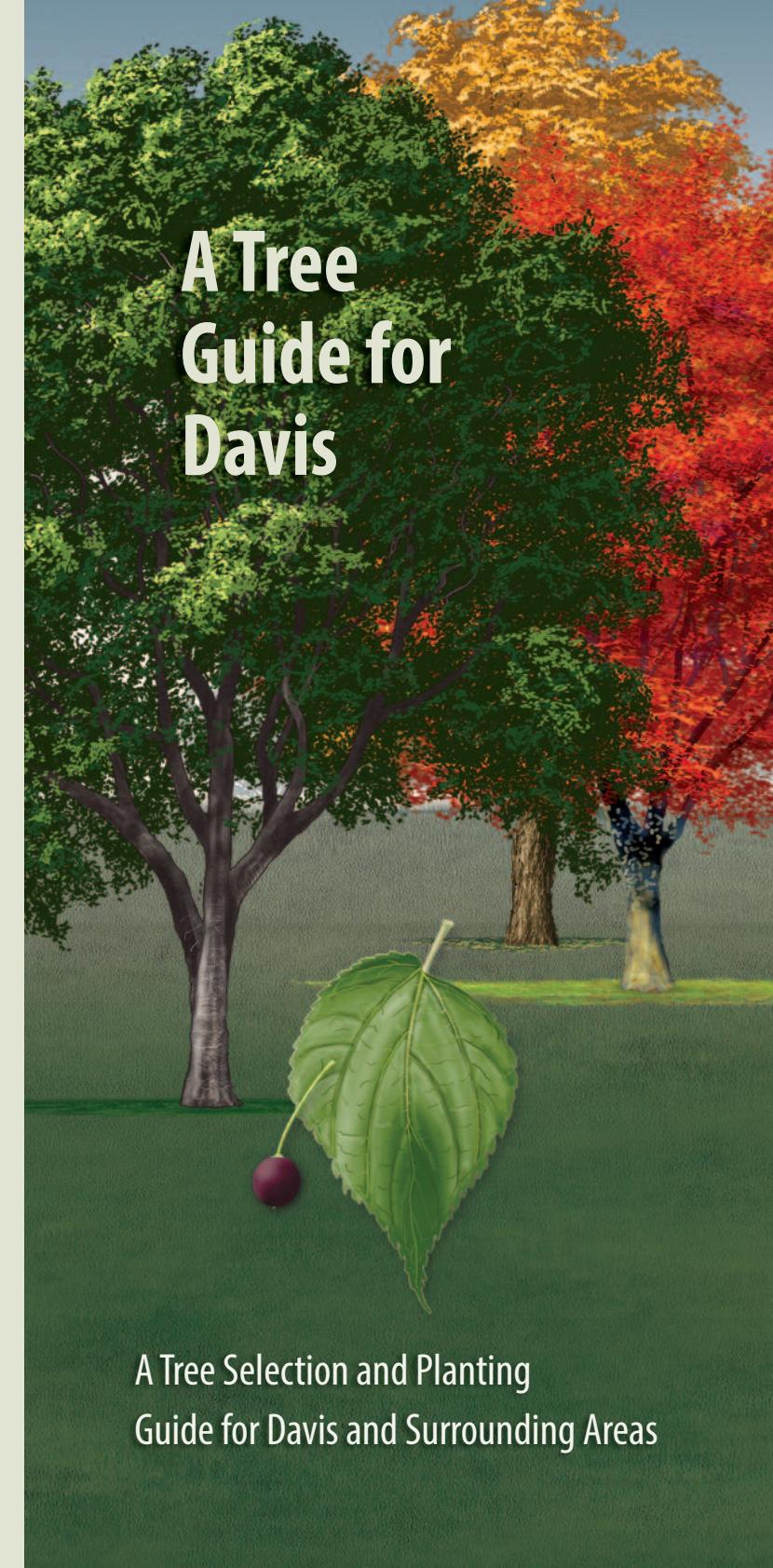
10. Cover the entire loosened area of soil with 3 to 4 inches of mulch (chipped wood or bark, compost, or dry leaves). Mulch will slow water loss, reduce competition from weeds and grasses, will moderate soil temperature and provide a small amount of nutrients. Keep mulch away from trunk of tree to prevent disease.

11. Staking Your Tree (Optional)

Stake only if tree stability is a problem. Staking is a temporary measure to allow the trunk to develop strength — remove as soon as possible. The sooner the stakes and ties are removed the stronger your tree will be. If staked, typically this can be 1-2 years and no longer than three. Reddy stakes are the easiest to use and are available from your local nursery.

A Tree Davis, Pacific Gas and Electric Company and California Center for Urban Horticulture Partnership

The National Arbor Day Foundation has designated the City of Davis a Tree City USA and PG&E a Treeline USA utility — awards granted for their commitment to the urban forest



A Tree Selection and Planting Guide for Davis and Surrounding Areas



We are fortunate to live in Davis, a designated Tree City USA, where we boast a rich urban forest and a population dedicated to improving both the community and the environment. It benefits us all to keep our urban forest thriving for future generations.

Tree Davis is a nonprofit organization committed to inspiring people to plant and care for trees, and to promoting environmental awareness and stewardship in our community. Not only does a healthy urban forest provide cooling shade, it also reduces pollution, provides wildlife habitat, increases property values, and brings people together. You can make a positive impact by planting a tree at your home or becoming a Tree Davis volunteer. Visit www.treedavis.org to learn more about our programs and how to get involved.

To help you get started, Tree Davis has created this tree selection and planting guide. The trees on this list were selected for their exceptional performance in the unique climate, soil, and water conditions of Davis. Refer to the planting guide and utility message from PG&E to help you appropriately place and plant your tree. By selecting the right tree for your location, you will enjoy shade, natural beauty, and energy savings for decades.

Recommended Trees for Davis

Common Name	Scientific Name	Tree Type	Height	Spread	Growth Rate	Water Use	Lawn	Utility*	Comments
SMALL									
Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia</i> hybrids	Deciduous	20-30'	15-25'	moderate	low to moderate	yes	yes	Year-round interest — showy flowers, fall color and decorative bark; only plant disease resistant varieties to keep care low-maintenance.
Fringe Tree, Chinese	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Deciduous	25-30'	15-20'	slow-moderate	low to moderate	yes	yes	Delicate fragrant flowers and decorative bark, disease resistant and tolerates heavy soils if not overwatered, prefers moist acidic soils.
Hawthorn, Washington	<i>Crataegus phaeonopyrum</i>	Deciduous	20-25'	20'	slow-moderate	low to moderate	yes	yes	Year-round interest with spring flowers, fall color and winter fruit that attracts birds. Tolerates poor soils and drought conditions.
Loquat, Bronze	<i>Eriobotrya deflexa</i>	Evergreen	20-25'	10-15'	moderate	moderate	no	yes	Fragrant flowers and edible fruits, leaves emerge a coppery color before becoming a glossy dark green; can be planted as a patio tree.
Blueberry Tree, Japanese	<i>Elaeocarpus decipiens</i>	Evergreen	30-40'	20-30'	moderate	moderate	yes	no	Evergreen with year-round interest — fragrant flowers, blue fruits, red fall color; good as a screen and prefers well-drained, acidic soil.
Flame Tree, Formosan	<i>Koelreuteria elegans</i>	Deciduous	45-55'	30-45'	fast	moderate	yes	no	Tropical appearance due to showy yellow flowers in fall followed by coral-red seed pods. Tolerates poor soils and drought conditions.
Hop Hornbeam, European	<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	Deciduous	40-50'	30-40'	moderate	moderate	yes	no	Branches strung with hoplike fruits in spring; soft yellow leaves in fall. Tree is very hardy and tolerates drought conditions.
Madrone, Marina	<i>Arbutus 'Marina'</i>	Evergreen	25-35'	20-30'	slow-moderate	low to moderate	no	no	Pendulous pink flowers year-round; colorful red and yellow fruit and peeling red bark; tolerates heavy soils if not overwatered.
Maple, Trident	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	Deciduous	25-35'	20-30'	slow-moderate	moderate	yes	no	New growth often emerges bronze; beautiful fall color. Tolerates poor, dry and infertile growing conditions, prefers well-drained soils.
Oak, Blue	<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	Deciduous	25-35'	20-30'	slow-moderate	very low to none	no	no	Low-water California native plant extremely well adapted to drought and dry climates. Oak is charmingly short with an open canopy.
Pistache, Chinese	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Deciduous	35-45'	30-40'	fast	low	no	no	Vibrant fall colors of red and orange-red, excellent heat and drought tolerance. Suggest use only male clones to avoid messy fruits.
MEDIUM									
Coffee Tree, Kentucky	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Deciduous	60-75'	25-35'	moderate	moderate	yes	no	Large leaves emerge bronze; long legume fruit provide visual interest; fast growing for shade; recommend male clones like 'Espresso'.
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Deciduous	50-65'	20-30'	slow-moderate	low to moderate	yes	no	Vibrant yellow fall color, leaves often drop quickly for easy maintenance. Use only male clones to avoid malodorous fruits.
Hackberry, European	<i>Celtis australis</i>	Deciduous	65-75'	30-40'	moderate	low to moderate	yes	no	Fast growing for quick shade; nice shape with rounded top. Tolerates drought and nutrient poor soils; needs sunlight, good drainage.
Oak, Interior Live	<i>Quercus wislizenii</i>	Evergreen	70-80'	55-65'	slow-moderate	low to very low	no	no	Evergreen low-water California native adapted to drought and dry climates. Produces mature acorns faster than other oak species.
Oak, Coast Live	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Evergreen	40-50'	40-50'	slow-moderate	very low to none	no	no	Evergreen low-water California native adapted to drought and dry climates. Sensitive to changes in drainage; prefers good drainage.
Oak, Southern Live	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Evergreen	40-50'	55-65'	moderate	low to moderate	yes	no	Evergreen oak species has glossy dark green leaves and 1" long tapered acorns; both moisture and salt tolerant.
Oak, Valley	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Deciduous	75-100'	60-75'	moderate	low to very low	no	no	Long lived low-water California native plant adapted to drought and dry climates. Deciduous oak has 2" long acorns.
Pine, Canary Island	<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Evergreen	65-75'	25-35'	slow-moderate	low to moderate	yes	no	Drooping needles and pine cones grace this columnar tree; very drought tolerant pine species, tolerates variable irrigation conditions.
Plane, Oriental	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Deciduous	60-80'	50-60'	fast	low to moderate	yes	no	Wide-spreading crown is great for shade; tree is disease resistant and drought tolerant once established.
Zelkova, Sawleaf	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Deciduous	50-60'	30-40'	fast	moderate	yes	no	Fast growing for shade; attractive fall color. Tolerates drought and nutrient poor soils; resistant to Dutch Elm disease.
LARGE									

* Recommended near power lines



Recommended Trees for Davis

AND SURROUNDING AREAS



European Hop Hornbeam
Ostrya carpinifolia

Branches strung with hoplike fruits in spring; soft yellow leaves in fall. Tree is very hardy and tolerates drought conditions.



Japanese Blueberry Tree
Elaeocarpus decipiens

Year-round interest with spring flowers, fall color and winter fruit that attracts birds. Tolerates poor soils and drought conditions.



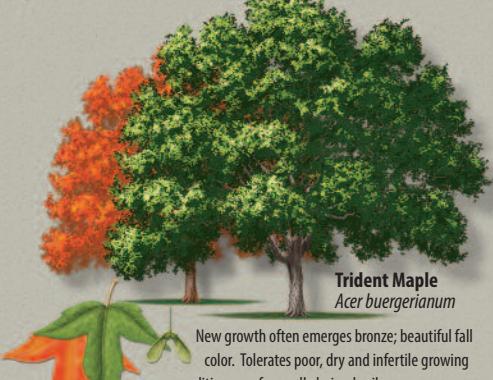
Blue Oak
Quercus douglasii

Low-water California native plant extremely well adapted to drought and dry climates. Oak is charmingly short with an open canopy.



Formosan Flame Tree
Koelreuteria elegans

Tropical appearance due to showy yellow flowers in fall followed by coral-red seed pods. Tolerates poor soils and drought conditions.



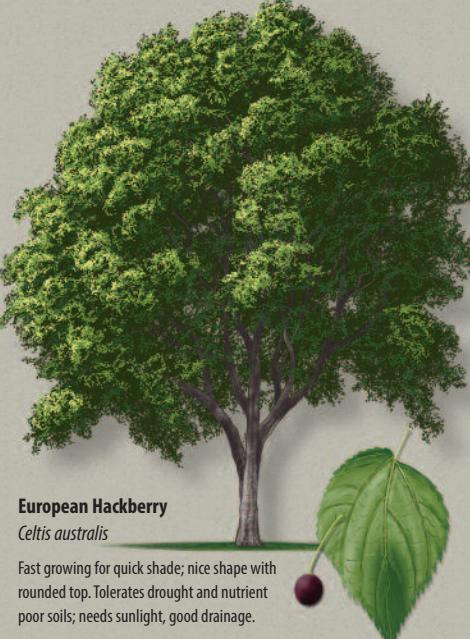
Trident Maple
Acer buergerianum

New growth often emerges bronze; beautiful fall color. Tolerates poor, dry and infertile growing conditions, prefers well-drained soils.



Bronze Loquat
Eriobotrya deflexa

Fragrant flowers and edible fruits, leaves emerge a coppery color before becoming a glossy dark green; can be planted as a patio tree.



European Hackberry
Celtis australis

Fast growing for quick shade; nice shape with rounded top. Tolerates drought and nutrient poor soils; needs sunlight, good drainage.



Washington Hawthorn
Crataegus phaenopyrum

Year-round interest with spring flowers, fall color and winter fruit that attracts birds. Tolerates poor soils and drought conditions.



Canary Island Pine
Pinus canariensis

Drooping needles and pine cones grace this columnar tree; very drought tolerant pine species, tolerates variable irrigation conditions.



Crape Myrtle
Lagerstroemia hybrids

Year-round interest — showy flowers, fall color and decorative bark; only plant disease resistant varieties to keep care low maintenance.



Southern Live Oak *Quercus virginiana*

Evergreen oak species with glossy dark green leaves and 1" long tapered acorns; both moisture and salt tolerant.



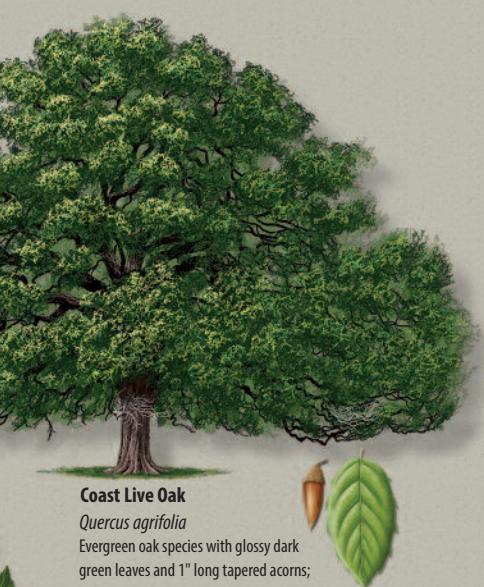
Interior Live Oak
Quercus wislizenii

Evergreen low-water California native adapted to drought and dry climates. Produces mature acorns faster than other oak species.



Valley Oak
Quercus lobata

Long lived low-water California native plant adapted to drought and dry climates. Deciduous oak with 2" long acorns.



Coast Live Oak

Quercus agrifolia
Evergreen oak species with glossy dark green leaves and 1" long tapered acorns; salt tolerant.



Marina Madrone

Arbutus 'Marina'
Pendulous pink flowers year-round; colorful red and yellow fruit and peeling red bark; tolerates heavy soils if not overwatered.



Chinese Pistache

Pistacia chinensis

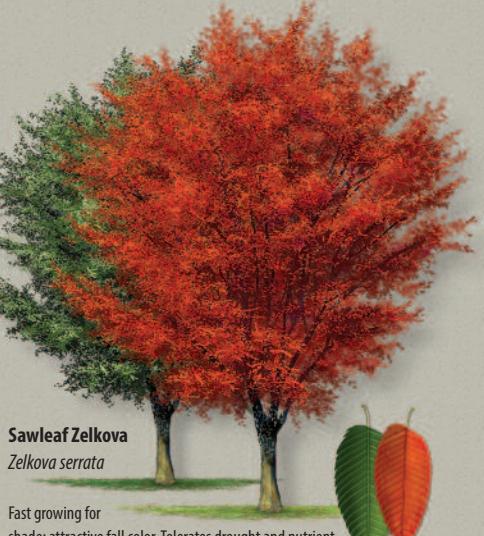
Vibrant fall colors of red and orange-red, excellent heat and drought tolerance. Use only male clones to avoid messy fruits.



Kentucky Coffee Tree

Gymnocladus dioica

Large leaves emerge bronze; long legume fruit provide visual interest; fast growing for shade; recommend male clones like 'Espresso'.



Oriental Plane

Platanus orientalis

Wide-spreading crown is great for shade; tree is disease resistant and drought tolerant once established.



Sawleaf Zelkova

Zelkova serrata

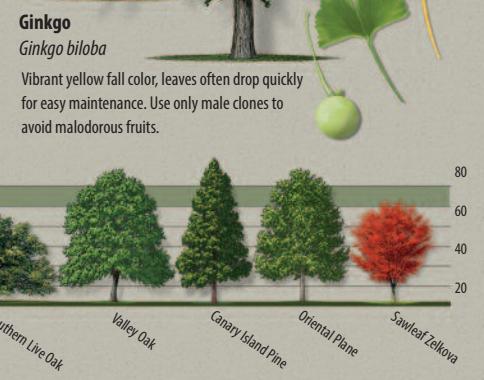
Fast growing for shade; attractive fall color. Tolerates drought and nutrient poor soils; resistant to Dutch Elm disease.



Chinese Fringe Tree

Chionanthus retusus

Delicate fragrant flowers and decorative bark, disease resistant and tolerates heavy soils if not overwatered, prefers moist acidic soils.



Ginkgo

Ginkgo biloba

Vibrant yellow fall color, leaves often drop quickly for easy maintenance. Use only male clones to avoid malodorous fruits.

Relative Tree Heights

