How Parks Procures and Plants Street Trees

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Red Oak (Quercus rubra)
London Planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)
Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax japonica*)
‘Okame’ Cherry (Prunus x okame)
Extension of a Vision

Katsuratree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) in autumn
Upward and Outward
Urban Foresters
A Numbers-Game

On average 140-150 unique trees planted each season

- 41 Unique genera of trees
- 22 Unique families of trees
- Species or Cultivar Specific
  - 24 species of Oaks
  - 23 Cultivars of Cherries
  - 12 Cultivars of Elms
  - 10 Cultivars of Lindens
  - 7 Cultivars of Sweetgum
  - 5 Cultivars of Honeylocusts
Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)
Persian Parrotia (**Parrotia persica**)

![Persian Parrotia Trees](image)
American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
Magnolia ‘Rustica Rubra’ (*Magnolia x soulingeana* ‘Rustica Rubra’)
‘Regal Prince Oak (Quercus ‘Regal Prince’)
Types of trees
From Where They Hail
Tree Planting Standards

City of New York
Parks & Recreation

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner

April 2008
A. PLANTS

a. Digging. All trees shall be dug immediately before moving unless otherwise specified. All trees shall be dug to retain as many fibrous roots as possible. Balled and burlapped trees shall have a solid ball of earth of the minimum specified size (28"), securely held in place by untreated burlap and stout rope (nylon rope is NOT acceptable). Oversize or exceptionally heavy trees are acceptable if the size of the ball or spread of roots is proportionally increased. Loose, broken, or manufactured balls are unacceptable.

b. Form and structure. All trees shall be typical of their species or cultivar. They shall have normal, well developed branches and a fibrous root system. They shall be sound, healthy, vigorous trees, free from defects, disfiguring knots, sunscald, injuries, abrasions of the bark, plant diseases, insect eggs, borers and all forms of infestations. All trees shall have a single, straight trunk, with leader intact and be branched at least six feet from the ground. All trees shall be limbed up to a minimum of 5 feet.

c. Provenance and tree size. All trees shall be nursery grown in a USDA hardiness zone of 7B or lower (material collected from the wild is unacceptable), except with permission from Central Forestry. Tree size shall be at least 2.5 inches measured at six inches from the ground and no larger than 3.5 inches in caliper unless otherwise authorized by Parks & Recreation.

d. Plant names. Plant names shall agree with the nomenclature of “Standardized Plant Names” as adopted by the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature 1942 edition. Size and grading standards shall conform to those of the American Association of Nurserymen American Standards for Nursery Stock, 1996 Edition, unless otherwise specified. All tree cultivars, patented or otherwise must be certified by the supplying nursery. All nurseries shall be required to have a registration certificate from the Department of Agriculture & Markets, Division of Plant Industry, New York State certifying that plant material is apparently free from injurious insect and plant diseases. A similar certificate shall be required from other states where plant material is obtained.

e. Species selection. Species shall be selected from the list of approved Street Trees for New York City. Guidelines on this chart must be followed, as well as any conditions described on the permit. Restrictions may include species recommended for specific planting seasons and locations. Ultimately, it is Parks' decision what species of tree will be planted. Take special note of species prohibited from planting in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and parts of Staten Island due to the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

B. BACKFILL

Material shall consist of natural loam topsoil with the addition of humus only, and no other soil type, such as a sand or clay soil type, shall be accepted. Topsoil must be free from subsoil, obtained from an area which has never been stripped. It shall be removed to a depth of one (1) foot, or less if subsoil is encountered. Topsoil shall be of uniform quality, free from hard clods, stiff clay, hardpan, sods, partially disintegrated stone, lime, cement, ashes, slag, concrete, tar residues, tarred paper, boards, chips, sticks or any other
Tagging

Tree tags
Tagging

Shantung Maple—(*Acer truncatum*)
Tagging

Japanese Zelkova – Zelkova serrata
Tagging

Metasequoia ‘Gold Rush’
The Dog Days
Excurrent – Well-defined Central Leader
Decurrent – No Defined Leader
Decurrent – No Defined Leader
Limb Height
‘Akebono’ Cherry (Prunus x yedoensis ‘Akebono’)

NYC Parks
Planting Depth
Planting Depth, Cont.
Root Flare
Cosmetics
Pruning Wounds
A Full Head of ...
Bright Light, Big City
Bright Lights, Big City, Version 2
Underground utilities
Street Tree Block Planting

Planted in Fall 2008 and previous seasons
Street Tree Block Planting

Planted in Spring 2009 and previous seasons
Street Tree Block Planting

Planted in Fall 2010 and previous seasons
Street Tree Block Planting

Planted in Fall 2011 and previous seasons
Street Tree Block Planting

Planted in Spring 2012 and previous seasons
Thank you!
Do you have questions or ideas for another lecture topic?
Please email stewards@milliontreesnyc.org or call 212-360-8237.