

Acceptable Trees to Plant Near Power Lines

Mature height 30 feet or less • 20 - 25 feet is BEST

When planting near underground utilities, choose trees with LOW root damage potential

Modesto Irrigation District

	Tree Name	Botanical Name	Description	Mature Height (feet)	Mature Height (feet)	Mature Width (feet)	Root Damage Potential
				BEST	OK, but may need some pruning		LOW is BEST
1	African Sumac	Rhus lancea	Tri-foliolate leaf.		20 - 30	20 - 35	low
2	Autumn Brilliance Apple Serviceberry	Amelanchier X grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance'	White flowers; fall color.	15 - 25		10 - 20	low
3	Bottlebrush (various)	Callistemon spp.	Spring blooming with red flowers; attracts hummingbirds.	to 25		15	low
4	Bronze Loquat	Eriobotrya deflexia	Spring blooming with white flowers, great leaves.	to 25		10 - 15	low
5	Cascade Snow Cherry	Prunus yedoensis X 'Cascade Snow'	High irrigation; white flowers.	20 - 25		20	low
6	Chaste Tree	Vitex agnus-castus	Large shrub or small tree; low irrigation; lavender flowers.	10 - 15		15 - 20	low
7	Chitalpa	Chitalpa tashkentensis	Litter; moderate irrigation; showy lavender flowers.		20 - 30	20 - 25	low
8	Citrus Fruit Trees	Citrus, various	Summer fruiting lemon, lime, grapefruit, orange, tangerine.	to 25		25 - 30	low - med
9	Crape Myrtle	Lagerstroemia indica	Summer blooming; impressive red, pink, lavender or white flowers.	15 - 25		10 - 20	low
10	Desert Willow	Chilopsis linearis	Very low irrigation; open shape; showy lavender or pink flowers; needs pruning; attracts hummingbirds. California native.		15 - 30	15 - 25	low
11	English Hawthorn	Crataegus laevigata	Moderate growth rate; round head; white flower clusters.	10 - 25		15 - 20	low
12	Evergreen Pear	Pyrus kawakamii	Moderate irrigation; open irregular shape; white flower clusters.		15 - 30	15 - 30	low
13	Flowering Dogwood	Cornus florida	Moderate growth rate; flat top; white or pink bracts.		20 - 30	20 - 30	low
14	Golden Raindrops Crabapple	Malus X 'Golden Raindrops'	Moderate irrigation; litter; attractive white flowers, showy golden yellow fruit.	15 - 25		15 - 25	low
15	Hopseed Bush	Dodonaea viscosa	Shrubby; mix of purple and green foliage, good for screening.	12 - 15		12 - 15	low
16	Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac	Syringa reticulata	Moderate irrigation; white flowers.		20 - 30	20 - 30	low

	Tree Name	Botanical Name	Description	Mature Height (feet)	Mature Height (feet)	Mature Width (feet)	Root Damage Potential
				BEST	OK, but may need some pruning		LOW is BEST
17	Japanese Maple	Acer palmatum var.	Slow growing; open top; red fall foliage.	15 - 25		to 25	low
18	Krauter Vesuvius Plum	Prunus cerasifera	Moderate irrigation; fruit litter; pink flowers; purple foliage.		20 - 30	20 - 30	low
19	Trident Maple	Acer buergeranum	Moderate irrigation; attractive red fall color.		20 - 30	20 - 30	low
20	Oleander	Nerium oleander	Spring-summer blooming; white, pink or red flowers; good for screening; drought tolerant.	to 20		4 - 12	low
21	Pittosporum	Pittosporum tenuifolium	Vertical in growth; dense green foliage; drought tolerant.	15 - 25		10 - 15	low
22	Redbud, Eastern & Western	Cercis canadensis, occidentalis	Low-moderate irrigation; showy pink or rose flowers; fall color. California native.	15 - 25		15 - 25	low
23	Redrock Oak	Quercus buckleyi 'Redrock'	Low irrigation; red fall color.		20 - 30	20 - 25	low
24	Robinson Crabapple	Malus X 'Robinson'	Spring blooming; pink flowers; fall fruiting, red berries attract birds.	15 - 25		15 - 25	low
25	Saucer Magnolia	Magnolia soulangeana	Slow-growing; oval top; showy white, fragrant flowers.	15 - 25		15 - 25	low
26	Shantung Maple	Acer truncatum	Moderate irrigation; attractive red fall color.		20 - 30	20 - 30	low
27	Shiny Xylosma	Xylosma congestum	Low irrigation; needs training.		15 - 30	15 - 30	low
28	Snowdrift Crabapple	Malus X 'Snowdrift'	Moderate irrigation; litter; attractive white flowers.	15 - 25		15 - 25	low
29	Star Magnolia	Magnolia stellata	Slow-growing; shrubby rounded shape; showy white flowers.	15 - 20		10 - 15	low
30	Strawberry Madrone	Arbutus unedo	White flowers; orange bark; orange fruit; attracts birds. California native.	10 - 20		10 - 20	low
31	Thundercloud Purpleleaf Plum	Prunus cerasifera	Moderate irrigation; fruit litter; pink flowers; purple foliage	20 - 25		20 - 25	low
32	Toyon - Christmas Berry	Heteromeles arbutifolia	Moderate irrigation; drought tolerant; shrub or tree; white flower clusters; red berries in winter. California native.	15 - 25		15 - 25	low
33	Washington Hawthorn	Crataegus phaenopyrum	Moderate growth rate; round zigzag shape; white flower clusters.		20 - 30	20 - 25	low

References: Tree Guidelines for San Joaquin Communities, Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education, USDA Forest Service; U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Plants Database; University of California Agricultural Extension Service; University of Florida IFAS Extension; Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute, College of Agriculture, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo.

Questions? Call MID at 209 557-1520.

Updated Sept. 2010