

Street Tree Lists F.A.Q. from City of Portland website

What are the specific threats to maple trees in Portland?

Of current concern is the threat of Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). Portland is one of three U.S. cities with the highest ALB infestation potential, according to the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. ALB has already been found in Oregon but thus far has been contained. ALB attacks all species of maples and several other hardwood genera, killing healthy trees within a short number of years. There is no known cure for ALB, and the only available management remedy is removal of infected and susceptible trees.

Maples are also susceptible to anthracnose, a fungal disease that can cause repeated defoliation and lead to declining tree vitality.

Suggested alternatives to Pacific Sunset Maple:

Cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*)

Hornbeam, European (*Carpinus betulus*)

Ironwood, Persian (*Parrotia persica*)

Magnolia, Elizabeth (*Magnolia acuminata* 'Elizabeth')

Suggested alternatives to Crimson King Maple:

Beech, Rivers Purple (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Riversii')

Dove Tree (*Davidia involucrata*)

London Planetree, Columbia (*Platanus x acerifolia* 'Columbia')

Oak, Oregon White (*Quercus garryana*)

Why are maples not approved for planting in the City right-of-way?

Maples are currently overrepresented in the City of Portland, making up 28% (+ 5%) of Portland's street tree population and almost 29% of the park tree population, according to Urban Forestry's 2007 *Urban Forest Canopy Assessment*. Ongoing inventories across the city indicate that the percentage of maples in the street tree population varies between 22% and 45% per neighborhood.

These figures are disproportionately high, creating a significant risk that any pests affecting maples will catastrophically reduce the city's tree canopy. Decreasing the dependence of Portland's urban forest on maples and increasing its diversity will help protect the forest from significant future risks. In order to prevent a catastrophic canopy loss, PP&R Urban Forestry is encouraging planting diverse trees throughout the urban forest, not just in the City rights-of-way. This is an important step toward creating a healthier and more resilient urban forest in the long term.

[return to top](#)

What are the specific threats to maple trees in Portland?

Of current concern is the threat of Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). Portland is one of three U.S. cities with the highest ALB infestation potential, according to the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. ALB has already been found in Oregon but thus far has been contained. ALB attacks all species of maples and several other hardwood genera, killing healthy trees within a short number of years. There is no known cure for ALB, and the only available management remedy is removal of infected and susceptible trees. [Click here](#) for more information about ALB.

Maples are also susceptible to anthracnose, a fungal disease that can cause repeated defoliation and lead to declining tree vitality.

[return to top](#)

Will maples be allowed for street tree planting in the future?

Maples may be included in the approved street tree planting lists in the future if canopy or inventory studies show that maples are more appropriately represented in the City's urban forest.