



Invasive Tree Species

Common Name	Botanical Name	Urban Design Consideration
Princess Tree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Aggressive rapid growth outcompetes native vegetation.
Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix romosissima</i>	Aggressively consumes water capable of disturbing streams and altering ground chemistry.
Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Rapid and dense spread colonizes recently disturbed sites, often hosting nuisance pests such as elm seed bug.
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	
English Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	
Scots Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	
Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Aggressively fast-growing, known to damage hard surface, utilities and structures, hosts two known invasive pest species that threaten vineyards, orchards and the forestry industry.
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Reproduces through seed pods and aggressive root suckering, stems have long sharp thorns that easily pierce skin, roots capable of damaging hard surface, utilities and structures.
English Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Outcompetes native vegetation, aggressively consumes water and alters soil chemistry.
Chinaberry	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Aggressively reproduces from its toxic fruit and root systems.
Silver Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	Forms thick single-species colonies that readily shed limbs once mature.
Golden Chain Tree	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Aggressively reproduces from its toxic seed pods and root systems.
Common Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Forms dense thickets covered in sharp thorns preventing native tree regeneration.

Tree Species Experiencing Landscape Level Pest/Disease Outbreaks

Common Name	Botanical Name	Urban Design Consideration
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Bronze birch borer, a native forest pest targets weakened birch trees particularly in urban environments, slowly killing them from the top down. Infested trees are prone to branch and stem failure. Birch continues to proliferate naturally in Richmond though their life spans are critically impacted by the beetle.
Himalayan birch	<i>Betula utilis</i>	
Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	

Tree Species Experiencing Landscape Level Pest/Disease Outbreaks

Common Name	Botanical Name	Urban Design Consideration
Flowering ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle discovered in 2024 in BC's lower mainland is expected to cause near total mortality of ash trees causing significant economic impacts. The 1:1 replacement policy recognizes that where ash can be pre-emptively removed and replaced with more appropriate tree species, the expected landscape level outbreak will be less financially burdensome, and will reduce risks and liabilities associated with a dead and dying urban canopy.
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	
European ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	
Oregon ash	<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	

Unsuitable Tree Species in Densified Urban Environments

Note: Tree species in this category continue to be viable and suitable tree species in forested settings, riparian areas, and large open spaces where structures and utilities do not exist, and/or where human access is restricted or infrequent.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Urban Design Consideration
Black Cottonwood	<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	Extremely fast-growing tree species that exhibits weed-like proliferation. Known for causing hard surface, utility, and structure damage. Readily sheds large limbs, produces nuisance seed pods, often become high hazard at maturity, and can be extremely costly to maintain and/or remove.
Balsam Poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	Extremely fast-growing tree species that exhibits weed-like proliferation. Known for causing hard surface, utility, and structure damage. Readily sheds large limbs, produces nuisance seed pods, often become high hazard at maturity, and can be extremely costly to maintain and/or remove.
Lombardi Poplar	<i>Populus nigra 'italica'</i>	Extremely fast growing with an upright, tightly branched growth habit, prone to decay in its tightly included branch unions resulting in large branch shedding. Known for causing hard surface, utility, and structure damage. Extremely costly to maintain and/or remove.
Red Alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>	Pioneer species that proliferates rapidly, grows quickly and has a short life-span. Trees often have asymmetric canopies prone to shedding large limbs or main stems, highly sensitive to root zone impacts on development sites resulting in whole-tree failures.