SUGGESTED LANDSCAPE TREES FOR TULARE & KINGS COUNTIES

Master Gardeners of Tulare & Kings Counties
University of California Cooperative Extension
The UC Master Gardeners offer free information on gardening.
Tulare: (559) 685-3309 ext. 225 Hanford: (559) 582-3211 ext. 2736
Visit our website: http://cetulare.ucdavis.edu
Landscape Trees for Tulare & Kings Counties*
Suggested by Master Gardeners of Tulare & Kings Counties

DECIDUOUS TREES

Small – up to 20' height

Japanese Maple .......................................................... *Acer palmatum* ............ 3

Redbud

Western Redbud...................................................... *Cercis occidentalis* .......... 3

Mexican Redbud, *Cercis Canadensis ‘Mexicana’ or Cercis mexicana* ........... 3

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Saucer ........................................................................... *Magnolia x soulangeana* ...... 3

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Flowering Plum

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‘Dwarf Red-Leaf Plum’.................................................. *Prunus cistena* ............ 4

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Chaste Tree ..................................................................... *Vitex agnus-castus* .......... 4

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Goldenrain Tree ......................................................... *Koelreuteria paniculata* .... 5

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Pin Oak ........................................................................... *Quercus palustris* ............ 6

Red Oak ........................................................................ *Quercus rubra* ............. 6

Chinese Elm .................................................................... *Ulmus parvifolia* .......... 6
EVERGREEN TREES

Small – up to 20’ height

Manzanita ‘Dr. Hurd’.............. Arctostaphylos manzanita ‘Dr. Hurd’ ..... 6
Weeping Atlas Cedar.................... Cedrus atlantica ‘glauc pendula’ ..... 6
Citrus...................................................... selected varieties of citrus fruit trees ..... 6
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Juniper
  Blue column.................................. Juniperus chinensis ‘columnaris’ ..... 7
  Hollywood ........................................... Juniperus chinensis ‘torulosa’ ..... 7
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  .............................................................................. Casuarina stricta ..... 8
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Large – Greater than 40’ height

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Deodar Cedar.................................. Cedrus deodara ..... 9
Red Ironbark ................................ Eucalyptus sideroxylon ..... 9
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Canary Island Pine.......................... Pinus canariensis ..... 9
Holly Oak.......................................... Quercus ilex ..... 10
Cork Oak .......................................... Quercus suber ..... 10
Southern Live Oak.......................... Quercus virginiana ..... 10
Coast Redwood .................................. Sequoia sempervirens ..... 10

February 2003
*There are many more landscape trees suitable for planting in local landscapes. Consult with Master Gardeners, Nursery Personnel, and reputable resources for more information. This list is not intended to be comprehensive, but represents some of our favorites!

UC Master Gardeners of Tulare & Kings Counties
### DECIDUOUS TREES: SMALL - up to 20’ height

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Height &amp; Spread of Mature Tree</th>
<th>Relative Rate of Growth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Maple</td>
<td>Acer palmatum</td>
<td>20’ Tall 20’ Wide</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Most airy and delicate of all maples. Young spring growth is glowing red;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Redbud</td>
<td>Cercis occidentalis</td>
<td>10 - 18’ Tall 10 - 18’ Wide</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Likes full sun or light shade, moderate to regular water. Western redbud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Redbud</td>
<td>Cercis canadensis ‘Mexicana’ or</td>
<td>15’ Tall 15’ Wide</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Most widely distributed is a single trunk form. Leathery blue-green leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Fringe</td>
<td>Chionanthus retusus</td>
<td>20’ Tall 15’ - 20’ Wide</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Has female &amp; male trees. Both bear flowers, but only females bear fruit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crape Myrtle</td>
<td>Lagerstroemia indica ‘Seminole’</td>
<td>6 - 15’ Tall 6 - 10’ Wide</td>
<td>Slow to Moderate</td>
<td>Likes full sun, moderate water, has bright pink flowers with red fall color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>Magnolia ‘Galaxy’</td>
<td>20’ Tall 25’ Wide</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Broadly conical tree. Medium green leaves to 8 inches long. Abundant bright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>Magnolia x soulangeana ‘Lilliputian’</td>
<td>Up to 25’ Tall 25’ Wide</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Same as above, only deep pink flowers with white edge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>Magnolia x soulangeana</td>
<td>18’ Tall 10-15’ Wide</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Good choice when a smaller saucer Magnolia is needed. Flowers are pink</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Star
Magnolia stellata
10’ Tall
20’ Wide
Moderate
White flowers 3” across with 12-18 narrow strap-shaped segments. Profuse bloom comes late winter to early spring, before leafout.

Flowering Crabapple
Malus sp.
20 - 25’ Tall
20 - 25’ Wide
Moderate
‘Snowdrift’ and ‘Strawberry Parfait’ are cultivars that are heat, pest, and disease resistant. Fine lawn tree, good for under planting with bulbs or bedding plants. Showy spring bloom. Does have small fruit. Prune to shape. ‘Red Jade’ has irregular, weeping form; small, single white flowers; moderate disease resistance.

Flowering Plum
Prunus cerasifera ‘Purple Pony’
10 - 12’ Tall
12’ Wide
Moderate to Fast
Naturally semi-dwarf. Single pale pink flower appears with the leaves. No fruit. Available budded low or high. Deep purple foliage holds color throughout season. Will fall if soil is waterlogged for prolonged periods. Aphids and spider mites are possible pests.

Prunus cistena ‘Dwarf Red-Leaf Plum’
6 - 10’ Tall
6 - 8’ Wide
Moderate to Fast
Dainty multi-stemmed shrub. Can be trained as single-trunk tree. Intensely red-purple new leaves mature to coppery purple. Fragrant single white flowers appear after leaf-out providing striking contrast to foliage. May produce small ½” blackish purple fruit.

Chinese Snowball
Viburnum macrocephalum
12 - 20’ Tall
12 - 20’ Wide
Moderate to Fast

Chaste Tree
Vitex agnus-castus
25’ Tall
25’ Wide
Fast
Pink, white, or lavender flower clusters in summer and fall that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Usually multi-trunk. Resists oak root fungus. Requires moderate water, but thrives in heat.

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**DECIDUOUS TREES: MEDIUM - 20’ to 40’ height**

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<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shantung, Purpleblow Maple</td>
<td>Acer truncatum</td>
<td>25’ Tall 20’ Wide</td>
<td>Moderate to Fast</td>
<td>Broad-crown, dense foliage with deeply lobed leaves to 4 in. wide. Leaves emerge purplish red, turn green in summer, yellow to orange in fall. Good lawn or patio tree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Redbud</td>
<td>Cercis canadensis texensis ‘Oklahoma’</td>
<td>25 - 30’ Tall 25 - 30’ Wide</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Largest and fastest growing of the redbuds. 'Oklahoma' is best variety for our area with wine red flowers and thick, glossy, heat-resistant leaves.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
American Smoke Tree  
*Cotinus obovatus*

- **Height & Spread of Mature Tree**: 20 - 30' Tall, 20 - 30' Wide
- **Relative Rate Of Growth**: Moderate

Chinese Flame Tree  
*Koelreuteria bipinnata*

- **Height & Spread of Mature Tree**: 20 - 40' Tall, 20 - 40' Wide
- **Relative Rate Of Growth**: Moderate to Fast
- **Comments**: Provides late summer/fall color with yellow flowers that become attractive papery fruit capsules in shades of orange, red, or salmon. Prettier capsules than Goldenrain Tree.

Goldenrain Tree  
*Koelreuteria paniculata*

- **Height & Spread of Mature Tree**: 20 - 35' Tall, 25 - 40' Wide
- **Relative Rate Of Growth**: Moderate
- **Comments**: Open branching gives light shade. Papery fruit capsules last into fall. Adapts to different soils. Takes wind, cold, heat. Prune to shape. Valuable street, lawn, or terrace tree. Unusual cultivar ‘Fastigata’ is 25 ft. tall, only 3 ft. wide.

Chinese Pistache  
*Pistacia chinensis*

- **Height & Spread of Mature Tree**: 30 - 45' Tall, 30 - 45' Wide
- **Relative Rate Of Growth**: Slow to Moderate
- **Comments**: Multiple uses; street tree, shade tree, garden tree. Good fall color. Foliage turns luminous orange to red and sometimes yellow. Female trees can produce clusters of tiny fruit. Tolerates a wide range of watering regimes from little to regular. Grows in a wide range of soil conditions.

Japanese Snowdrop Tree or Japanese Snowbell  
*Styrax japonica*

- **Height & Spread of Mature Tree**: 30' Tall, 30' Wide
- **Relative Rate Of Growth**: Moderate

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### DECIDUOUS TREES: LARGE – greater than 40’ height

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<tr>
<td>Maidenhair Tree</td>
<td><em>Ginkgo biloba</em></td>
<td>65' Tall, 40' Wide</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Select male trees as fruit is foul smelling. Lovely fan-shaped foliage turns yellow in Fall and drops at one time. ‘Fairmount’, ‘Autumn Gold’, and ‘Saratoga’ are good varieties, with ‘Fairmount’ being the fastest growing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Sweet Gum</td>
<td><em>Liquidambar styraciflua</em></td>
<td>60' Tall, 40' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate to Fast</td>
<td>Maple-like leaves provide magnificent fall color. Purchase in fall for foliage color choice. Surface roots are problematic. Produces spiny round seedpods. Variety ‘Rotundiloba’ has no seedpod formation and has rounded leaf edge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulip Tree</td>
<td><em>Liriodendron tulipifera</em></td>
<td>70' Tall, 40' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate to Fast</td>
<td>Unusual leaf shape and unusual flower color and shape. Yellow fall color. Good shade or lawn tree. Insects, especially aphids, may be a problem.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
London Plane (A Sycamore Variety)  
*Platanus x acerifolia*

80’ Tall  
40’ Wide  
Fast  
Attractive sculptural branch pattern in winter. ‘Bloodgood’ resistant to Anthracnose, ‘Columbia’ is resistant to Anthracnose and mildew. Needs deep fast draining soil with regular amounts of water. Deeply lobed leaves turn dusty brown in autumn. Ball shaped seed pods hang on through winter.

Valley Oak  
*Quercus lobata*

70’ Tall  
70’ Wide  
Moderate  
Massive tree native to the Central Valley. Resents root disturbance. Rain of debris from older trees can be a nuisance. Likes a deep soil. Tolerates heat and moderate alkalinity.

Pin Oak  
*Quercus palustris*

80’ Tall  
40’ Wide  
Moderate to Fast  
Magnificent tree needing a neutral or acid soil. Doesn’t tolerate alkaline soils. Dead foliage hangs on tree until new growth begins in spring.

Red Oak  
*Quercus rubra*

75’ Tall  
50’ Wide  
Fast  

Chinese Elm, Chinese Evergreen Elm  
*Ulmus parvifolia*

60’ Tall  
70’ Wide  
Fast  
Semi-evergreen. Pendulous branching. Mottled bark. Aphids and scale can be a problem. Carefully prune to avoid wind damage.

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**EVERGREEN TREES: SMALL - up to 20’ height**

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<tr>
<td>Manzanita ‘Dr. Hurd’</td>
<td><em>Arctostaphylos manzanita ‘Dr. Hurd’</em></td>
<td>15’ Tall 15 - 20’ Wide</td>
<td>Slow to Moderate</td>
<td>CA native with picturesque crooked branching habit; mahogany colored bark, large light green leaves, white winter flowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeping Atlas Cedar</td>
<td><em>Cedrus atlantica ‘Glauc Pendula’</em></td>
<td>20’ Tall 15’ Wide</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Cedars bear needles in tufted clusters. Prefers well drained soil. Tolerates many soils and wide pH range. This is a weeping form with blue needles. Needs little water once established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Hopseed</td>
<td><em>Dodonaea viscosa ‘purpurea’</em></td>
<td>10 - 15’ Tall 10 - 15’ Wide</td>
<td>Moderate to Fast</td>
<td>Fast growing shrub with many upright stems, but can be trained to tree form. Strongly bronze tinted foliage that darkens in winter; flowers are insignificant but ornamental papery seed pods are showy and long lasting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Name</td>
<td>Height</td>
<td>Width</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pineapple Guava</td>
<td>10 - 20' Tall</td>
<td>18 - 20' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Large multi-stemmed plant that can take almost any kind of training or pruning. Oval 2-3 leaves are glossy green above, silvery white beneath. Unusual flowers with tufts of red stamens contrasting with 4 white petals. Edible flowers. Produces oval shape fruit about 2 inches in long. Plant is drought tolerant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyon, Christmas Berry or California Holly</td>
<td>15 - 20' Tall &amp; almost as wide</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Typically a shrub, but can be trained as a multi-trunked tree. Thick, leathery, glossy dark green leaves that are 2 to 4 inches long, edged with bristly, pointed teeth. Small white flowers in flattish clusters appear in summer and are followed by pea-sized bright red (rarely yellow) berries that are relished by birds. Drought tolerant but looks better if watered. Likes full sun or partial shade. Tolerates clay and serpentine soils. Great for bird and butterfly gardens. The fruit is edible.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junipers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Column shape; narrow blue green cone. Tolerates wide range of soil types. Avoid over-watering where drainage is slow. Drought tolerant when established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue column juniper</td>
<td>12 - 15' Tall</td>
<td>6' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Has glossy leaves and big, fragrant white blossoms. Offers advantage of heat resistance and tolerates damp soil. Tends to be messy, shedding big, hard leaves and other litter from late spring into autumn. Flowers are 5” to 6” wide and form spring through late summer. Fewer blooms form during mid-summer heat. Narrow shape makes it good in containers or espalier in confined area. Branches form to the ground. Its half-size leaves (compared to Southern Magnolia) are dark green above, rusty beneath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollywood juniper</td>
<td>15 - 20' Tall</td>
<td>10' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Has glossy leaves and big, fragrant white blossoms. Offers advantage of heat resistance and tolerates damp soil. Tends to be messy, shedding big, hard leaves and other litter from late spring into autumn. Flowers are 5” to 6” wide and form spring through late summer. Fewer blooms form during mid-summer heat. Narrow shape makes it good in containers or espalier in confined area. Branches form to the ground. Its half-size leaves (compared to Southern Magnolia) are dark green above, rusty beneath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian Buckthorn</td>
<td>10 - 20' Tall</td>
<td>10 - 20' Wide</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Evergreen shrub easily trained into a single or multi-trunked tree. Oval, shiny bright leaves to 2 inches long, small black berries. Tolerates heat, full sun or part shade, little to regular water. Variegated forms available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## EVERGREEN TREES: MEDIUM - 20’ to 40’ height

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<tr>
<td>Arbutus</td>
<td>Arbutus</td>
<td>20 - 40' Tall 20 - 40' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate to Slow</td>
<td>All have ornamental, peeling bark; dark green leaves with red stems; clusters of urn-shaped, white to pinkish flowers; decorative fruit. Needs little water once established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madrone - Arbutus andrachne</td>
<td>Arbutus andrachne</td>
<td>20 - 40' Tall 20 - 40' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate to Slow</td>
<td>Very similar to the CA native, Pacific madrone (A. menziesii) but has slightly smaller leaves and is easier to grow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina - Arbutus ‘Marina’</td>
<td>Arbutus ‘Marina’</td>
<td>20 - 40' Tall 20 - 40' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate to Slow</td>
<td>Similar to the Strawberry Tree, but has larger leaves and rosy pink fall flowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberry - Arbutus ‘unedo’</td>
<td>Arbutus ‘unedo’</td>
<td>20 - 40' Tall 20 - 40' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate to Slow</td>
<td>This species tolerates more water than the other two. A favorite tree for lawns and raised beds. Does produce ¾ inch fruit that turns from yellow to red at maturity. Varieties include ‘Elf in King’ a dwarf form (5’ ht.), ‘Octoberfest’ (8’ ht.), and ‘Compacta’ (10’ ht.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Oak, Drooping She-oak, Coastal beefwood</td>
<td>Casuarina stricta</td>
<td>20 - 35' Tall 20 - 35' Wide</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Dark green branches look like pine needles. Cones are 1 in. long. Tolerates dry or wet soil, salinity, heat and wind. Needs deep watering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweetshade, Hymenosporum flavum</td>
<td>Hymenosporum flavum</td>
<td>12 - 40’ Tall 9 - 20’ Wide</td>
<td>Moderately Slow</td>
<td>Upright, open shape. Yellow flowers with orange-blossom honey fragrance in early summer. Narrow, glossy dark green leaves, 2 – 6 in. long. Early training needed to strengthen branches. Plant in well-drained soil, away from strong winds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Black Pine, Pinus thunbergii</td>
<td>Pinus thunbergii</td>
<td>20 - 40’ Tall 10 - 20’ Wide</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Handsome tree – spreading branches form broad conical tree; needles are 3-4½ inches long and arranged in 2’s. Cones are 3 inches long. A ‘Dwarf Thunderhead’ (6’ tall, 5’ wide in 10 years) has dark foliage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Podocarpus  
**Fern Pine, Podocarpus gracilior**  
20 - 60' Tall  
10 - 20' Wide  
Slow to Moderate  
Among the cleanest most pest free trees for street, lawn, patio, garden or screen. Seedling trees have juvenile growth phase with longer leaves, airier branching. With age, leaves have soft gray, bluish-green cast. Tolerates heat and many soil types.

Yew Pine, *Podocarpus macrophyllus*  
15 - 50' Tall  
6 - 15' Wide  
Slow to Moderate  
Generally narrow to upright; bright green leaves 4” long, ½” wide. Tolerates heat and many soil types.

## EVERGREEN TREES: LARGE – greater than 40’ height

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<tr>
<td>Deodar Cedar</td>
<td><em>Cedrus deodara</em></td>
<td>80' Tall, 40' Wide</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Softer lighter texture than other cedars. Lower branches droop, upper ones graceful, nodding tip is key identification characteristic. Pyramidal shape. Won’t tolerate wet soil. Drought tolerant at maturity. Designated as the California Christmas tree. Dwarf varieties available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Ironbark</td>
<td><em>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</em></td>
<td>30 - 90' Tall, 30 - 60' Wide</td>
<td>Moderate to Fast</td>
<td>Slender blue green leaves turn bronze in winter. Nearly black trunk is deeply furrowed. Fluffy pink to crimson flowers in drooping clusters from fall to spring. Small capsules. Not susceptible to the red gum lerp psyllid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Magnolia</td>
<td><em>Magnolia grandiflora</em></td>
<td>80' Tall, 60' Wide</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Sturdy branch structure forms pyramidal to oval canopy. Roots can be problematic around sidewalks. Large, glossy leaves. Drops litter throughout the year. Big white showy flowers. Tolerates heat and damp soil. Chlorosis a problem in alkaline soils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canary Island Pine</td>
<td><em>Pinus canariensis</em></td>
<td>80' Tall, 35' Wide</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Very tall, erect pine with long, graceful 4-9” drooping needles. Slender, open canopy in youth becomes more pyramidal with age. At maturity, this pine has a broad-crown. Attractive reddish-brown fissured bark. Tolerates both wet and dry conditions. Resistant to oak root fungus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Type</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Height</td>
<td>Width</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus ilex</em></td>
<td>60'</td>
<td>60'</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus suber</em></td>
<td>60'</td>
<td>60'</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Live Oak</td>
<td><em>Quercus virginiana</em></td>
<td>80'</td>
<td>80'</td>
<td>Moderate to Fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast Redwood</td>
<td><em>Sequoia sempervirens</em></td>
<td>100'+</td>
<td>50’</td>
<td>Fast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>