

SELECTING TREE SPECIES

Recommended species lists can help you get started, but before making final decisions take the time to evaluate several conditions specific to each site.

- **Soil Conditions and Soil Type** – clay, loam, sandy, and pH.
- **Hardiness zone** – determine your zone at PlantHardiness.ars.usda.gov
- **Soil Moisture** – wet, medium or dry.
- **Sun Exposure** – sunlight, partial shade, or full shade.
- **Available Space** – both below ground and above ground, including proximity to buildings, overhead power lines, underground utilities, and other trees.
- **Species Diversity** – consider what species are already on the site and avoid planting too many trees of any one species.
- **Tree size** – give the tree enough room to attain its mature size, both above and below ground. Also pay attention to utility lines.
- **Color and Texture** – foliage color, flower color, stem color, and fine-textured to coarse-textured leaves.
- **Form** – branches create a shape for the tree that make it appear vase-like, round, columnar, or oval
- **Deciduous vs. Evergreen** – normally only deciduous trees should be used in street tree projects. They can be pruned to maintain needed clearances, can be adapted to a narrow planting right-of-way, and can create a desirable canopy effect. Evergreens are typically used to screen undesirable views, provide winter interest, or for windbreaks.
- **Resistance to Stressors and Other Threats** – be aware of plant diseases, insects, and conditions that affect certain species.
- **Tree Debris** – seeds or tree litter could be a problem on the street or high traffic areas.

