

Trees that thrive in Marin

Chinese pistache

(Pistacia chinensis)

If you're looking for vibrant fall color, this tree will not disappoint. A slow but steady grower, it reaches 40' tall and 25' wide, so be sure you have ample space. It appreciates full sun and moist, well-drained soil, but it's not overly fussy. Ripe berries are attractive to birds and are lovely additions to the winter landscape. It has no serious pests or diseases, and it is deer resistant.



Cherry plum (*Prunus ceracifera*)

A tree of manageable size and considerable beauty, it grows to 25' tall and wide – or wider. Features deep burgundy leaves and pink spring flowers. Performs in full sun or part shade and does not require excessive water. Fruit is attractive to pollinators as well as birds and animals.



Crape myrtle

(Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei 'Natchez')

A nice size for patios, this four-season tree grows 20' tall and wide. Prefers full sun and low water. Blooms in late summer when other plants are fading, then leaves turn lovely fall color. Displays gorgeous cinnamon-colored bark all year – a standout in winter. Provides nectar for honeybees and native bees and is deer resistant.



Crabapple (*Malus spp.*)

Growing at a slow to moderate pace, these sun-loving trees grow 15' to 25' tall and wide – or wider. Lovely springtime flowers are followed by fruits that birds adore. Unfortunately, deer like the leaves. Crabapples can be susceptible to pests and diseases, so be sure to look for resistant varieties.

**Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*)**

A California native beauty, it's our local version of the ubiquitous Japanese maple, typically growing to around 20' tall and wide. Grows fast when young and then tapers off. Grows in full sun or part shade, where it exhibits breathtaking fall foliage color. Attracts deer, birds, and butterflies. Roots can be invasive, but they are valued for holding soil near streambanks. Likes water, but it's drought tolerant once established.

**Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis* 'Forest Pansy')**

A tree of profound beauty, it grows slowly to 20' tall and 15' wide. Stunning pink-purple flowers line naked branches in early spring, followed by the emergence of deep burgundy leaves that retain their color all season long. Likes part sun, but flowers best in full sun. Tolerates low water, but extra will encourage faster growth. Not picky about soil, so long as it drains. Visited by bumble bees and hummingbirds.



Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*)

A large, deciduous California native tree – up to 50' tall and 70' wide – that needs serious room to grow. Grows slowly in full sun and requires little water once established. Blue oaks require dry conditions in summer, so avoid growing in a lawn or irrigated areas. Oaks are one of California's most important trees, home to hundreds of birds, small mammals, and insects. Deer may browse new growth and enjoy the fallen acorns.

**Flaxleaf paperbark (*Melaleuca linarifolia*)**

An Australian native with shredding, peeling bark, it grows moderately fast to 30' tall and 25' wide. Summer flowers are profuse and fragrant. Likes full sun but does not appreciate wind. Prefers regular water when young, but is drought tolerant once mature. Unfussy, it tolerates any type of soil. Flower nectar attracts birds, butterflies, and other insects. Can be messy during flower drop and subject to poor rooting.

**Dr. Hurd Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita* 'Dr. Hurd')**

California native, it slowly grows to 15' tall and wide, exposing blue-green leaves and stunning deep cinnamon red peeling bark. Likes full sun to light shade, and does not require much water once established. White winter blooms are an excellent food source for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other wildlife. Susceptible to some fungi.

