

## EVERGREEN Ornamental Trees for Home Gardens and Landscapes - UCCE Master Gardener Program Tulare & Kings Counties

Common name	Botanical name	Mature Size	Water needs	Growth rate	Flowers	Tree Shape	Potential Problems	Comments
Acacia, Shoestring	<i>Acacia stenophylla</i>	30' T 20' W	Low	Fast	Creamy flower clusters, 1/2" round balls	Weeping		Native to tropical regions including southwestern US. Pale green, drooping leaves, unusually narrow to 16 inches long. Provides light filtered shade. New bark is maroon in color. Flowers in spring.
Arbutus, Marina	<i>Arbutus 'Marina'</i>	20-40' T 20-40' W	Low	Slow to Moderate	Clusters of urn shaped rosy pink flowers	Upright spreading, then drooping	Decorative fruit, aphids	Hybrid of uncertain parentage. Very similar to <i>A. unedo</i> , but easier to grow as a single trunk and has larger leaves. Spring and fall bloom.
Arbutus, Strawberry	<i>Arbutus unedo</i> 'Elfin King' 'Octoberfest' 'Compacta'	20-40' T 20-40' W	Low to moderate	Slow	Clusters of urn shaped white-pink flowers	Upright rounded	Decorative fruit, aphids	Native to southern Europe and Ireland. Branches and trunk have deep red-brown, peeling bark. Dark green leaves. Spring bloom. Attractive multi-trunk trees when full grown. Can be planted in lawns. Dwarf varieties include 'Elfin King' (5' T), 'Octoberfest' (8' T), and 'Compacta' (10' T).
Beefwood, She-Oak	<i>Casuarina stricta</i>	20-35' T 20-35' W	Low to moderate	Fast	Inconspicuous	Upright rounded	Cone-like fruit	Native to Australia. Dark green branches look like pine needles. Tolerates dry or wet soil, salinity, heat and wind. Little pruning needed.
Cedar, Incense	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	75-90' T 10-15' W	Moderate	Slow to Moderate	Small brownish cones	Narrowly pyramidal		Native to mountain areas of Oregon, CA, western Nevada and northern Baja CA. Dark green foliage in flat sprays. Attractive brown bark. Pungent fragrance. Takes hot summer temperatures and tolerates poor soils. No pruning needed. Great tree for screening or windbreak.
Cedar, Blue Atlas	<i>Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'</i> <i>'Glauca Pendula'</i>	65' T 30' W	Moderate	Slow to Moderate	Inconspicuous	Broadly pyramidal	Pollen; sapsuckers	Native to North Africa. Cedars are conifers and bear needles in tufted clusters. Needles less than 1 inch long. Dramatic accent tree. Silvery-blue foliage. Avoid heavy clay soils and provide good drainage. 'Glauca Pendula' (20' T, 15' W) is a weeping form with blue needles.
Cedar, Deodar	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	80' T 40' W	Moderate	Fast	Inconspicuous	Pyramidal		Native to Himalaya. Softer, lighter texture than other cedars. Lower branches sweep down to ground, upper branches tilt upwards, top nods. Avoid heavy clay soils and provide good drainage. Avoid underplanting. Needs space. Various dwarf forms available.
Carob	<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	30-40' T 30-40' W	Low to moderate	Moderate	Small red flowers	Upright rounded	Large seed pods, surface roots	Native to eastern Mediterranean. Glossy dark green, dense foliage. Leaves have 4-10 round leaflets, each about 2" long. Flowers in spring. Flowers of male trees have noticeable odor, but short-lived. Female trees produce 1' long flat brown bean pods, hang on tree and eventually drop. Pods used for carob powder. Very drought tolerant. Resistant to oak root fungus.
Camphor	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	60' T 60' W	Moderate	Moderate	Inconspicuous, but fragrant yellow	Upright rounded	Invasive Roots	Native to China and Japan. Blooms profusely in late spring. Pale green aromatic leaves. Massive tree, substantial structure. Needs space for roots and leaf litter.
Purple Hopseed	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> 'purpurea'	10-15' T 10-15' W	Low to moderate	Moderate to Fast	Inconspicuous	Shrub-like		Native to southwest US and Hawaii. Fast growing shrub with many upright stems. Can be trained to tree form. Willow-like green leaves that turn purple and bronze in winter. Flowers in late spring. Papery seed pods are showy and long lasting.
Japanese Blueberry	<i>Elaeocarpus decipiens</i>	30-60' T 20-30' W	Moderate	Moderate	Tiny white flowers in 1-3" clusters, fragrant	Upright oval		Native to China and Japan. Interesting leaf color: new leaves are rust colored turning green with age, and then red in fall. Flowers in summer. Blue-black fruit resemble small olives, but not problematic. Likes well-drained soils. 'Little Emperor' (6-10' T and W).

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Loquat, Bronze	<i>Eriobotrya deflexa</i>	15-25' T 10-20' W	Moderate	Fast	Creamy white garlands	Shrub-like	Fireblight	Native to China. Shrubby plant easily trained into a tree. Often espaliered. New leaves emerge bright copper and hold that color for a long time before turning green. Flowers in spring. No edible fruit.
Guava, Pineapple	<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>	18-20' T 18-20' W	Moderate	Moderate	4 white petals contrasting with tufts of red stamens	Shrub-like	Fruit drop	Native to South America. Shrubby plant easily trained to a multi-trunk tree. Interesting bark. Leaves are glossy green above, silvery white beneath. Blooms in mid spring. Edible flowers produce fruit about 2-inches long.
Toyon, Christmas Berry (California Holly*)	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	15-20' T 15-20' W	Low to moderate	Slow	Small white flowers in flattish clusters	Shrub-like	Fireblight	Native to California and Baja California. Can be trained as a multi-trunked tree. Thick, leathery, glossy dark green leaves. Flowers in summer. Fall to winter bright red (rarely yellow) berries that are relished by birds. A good substitute for pyracantha.
Sweetshade	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	12-40' T 9-20' W	Moderate	Slow to moderate	Yellow flowers with orange-blossom honey fragrance	Upright, slender, open habit	Training required to strengthen structure	Native to Australia. Narrow, glossy dark green leaves. Flowers in early summer. Plant in well-drained soil, away from strong winds.
Juniper, Canary Island	<i>Juniperus cedrus</i>	20-30' T 12-18' W	Low to moderate	Fast	No flowers, only berry-like small cones	Upright, irregular	Needs good drainage	Gray-green foliage. Long branches create softer form compared to columnar junipers. Deer resistant. Used for poolsidies.
Juniper, Blue Point	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Blue Point'	12' T 8' W	Low to moderate	Moderate	No flowers, only berry-like small cones	Columnar	Needs good drainage	Native to China. Dense blue-green foliage makes good screen. Very little pruning needed. Deer resistant. Used for poolsidies. 'Blue Arrow' (2' W)
Juniper, Spartan	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Spartan'	15' T 3-5' W	Low to moderate	Fast	No flowers, only berry-like small cones	Columnar	Needs good drainage	Native to China. Dense, dark green foliage. Compact and narrow. Very little pruning needed. Deer resistant. Used for poolsidies. Variegated form available.
Juniper, Hollywood	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'kaizuka' ('torulosa')	15' T 10' W	Low to moderate	Moderate	No flowers, only berry-like small cones	Irregular upright	Needs good drainage	Native to China. Rich green foliage. Irregular & upright with twisted appearance. Deer resistant. Used for poolsidies. Variegated form available.
Juniper, 'Moonglow'	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Moonglow'	9-20' T 4-8' W	Low to moderate	Moderate	No flowers, only berry-like small cones	Pyramidal	Needs good drainage	Native to western North America. Silver gray foliage reflects moonlight. Deer resistant. Used for poolsidies.
Juniper, 'Tolleson's Blue Weeping'	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Tolleson'	20' T 5 -7' W	Low to moderate	Moderate	No flowers, only berry-like small cones	Weeping	Needs good drainage	Native to eastern US. Drooping branchlets of blue-green makes a graceful, weeping tree. Deer resistant. Good accent tree.
Juniper	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Blue Arrow' 'Skyrocket' 'Taylor'	15-20 T 2-3' W	Low to moderate	Moderate	No flowers, only berry-like small cones	Columnar	Needs good drainage	Native to eastern US. Very narrow column. Hardy alternative to Italian Cypress. Deer resistant. Good for windbreak. Both 'Sky Rocket' (15-20' T, 2-3' W), sometimes listed as <i>J. scopulorum</i> , and 'Blue Arrow' (12-15' T, 2' W) have blue-grey foliage. 'Taylor' has blue-green foliage and reaches 30' tall.
Sweet Bay (Grecian Laurel)	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> 'Saratoga'	20-35' T 20-35' W	Moderate	Very slow	Small, yellowish white flowers in spring	Dense upright, broadens with age	Scale, small fruits (3/4") can be messy, suckers	Mediterranean native. Leathery, aromatic, dark green leaves (slightly gray underneath), used in cooking. Easily shaped, often hedged. Also used in topiary and containers for a formal look. 'Saratoga' is resistant to psyllid.
Magnolia, Southern	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Little Gem'	80' T 60' W	Moderate to heavy	Slow	Large, white 8-10" across, very fragrant	Broadly pyramidal	Messy, sheds litter from spring to autumn; problematic surface roots	Native to tropical North and South America. Large, glossy leaves. Tolerates heat and damp soils. Chlorosis a problem in alkaline soils. Dense shade prevents lawn growth beneath. 'Little Gem' (25' T, 15' W) is more narrow, has smaller glossy green leaves with rusty undersides, and smaller flowers (5-6" across).

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Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i> 'Little Ollie' 'Majestic Beauty' 'Swan Hill'	25-35' T 25-35' W	Low to moderate	Slow to Moderate	Profuse, tiny white flowers	Rounded and spreading	Olive fruit; allergic reactions to pollen; basal suckers	Native to Mediterranean. Thrives in hot, dry areas. Soft gray, willowlike leaves, branches gnarl with age. Typically grown as a multi-trunk tree. Most varieties produce fruit and abundant pollen that flares allergic reactions; fruitless varieties available, some may still produce pollen. 'Bonita' (25' T, 25' W) less messy, tiny, immature fruit. 'Majestic Beauty' (25-30' T, 25' W) long narrow, gray green leaves give it an airy appearance. 'Swan Hill' (25' T, 25' W) deep green leaves; little or no pollen.
Pine, Canary Island	<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	60-80' T 35' W	Low	Fast	No flowers, only cones	Upright, yet open canopy when young, pyramidal and eventually broad crown	Pollen production increases with tree size, needle litter	Native to Canary Islands. Very tall, erect pine with tiered branching and long, graceful 9-12 in. drooping needles grouped in 3s. Cones 4-9" long. Attractive reddish-brown fissured bark.
Pine, Pinyon (Nut)	<i>Pinus edulis</i>	10- 20' T 8-16' W	Low	Slow	No flowers, only cones	Rounded and spreading	Pollen production increases with tree size	Native to California, New Mexico, Texas. Stiff, dark green needles in groups of 2, that are 3/4 - 1.5 inches long. Cones are 2 in. long and produce edible pine nuts. Dense small pine, suitable for containers.
Pine, Afghan (Mondell)	<i>Pinus eldarica</i>	30- 80' T 15-25' W	Low	Fast	No flowers, only cones	Classic shape when young, top spreads with age	Pollen production increases with tree size	Native to southern Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan. Bright green needles in groups of 3 that are 2-3 in. long. Cones are 3 in. long.
Pine, Italian Stone	<i>Pinus pinea</i>	40-80' T 50-60' W	Low	Fast	No flowers, only cones	Stout and bushy when young; tall, broad, and round headed at maturity	Pollen production increases with tree size, needle litter	Native to Southern Europe and Turkey. Stiff, bright green to gray needles 5-8 in. long in groups of 2. Cones are 4-6 in. long, glossy chestnut brown. Tolerates heat. Source of edible nuts.
Pine, Japanese Black	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i> 'Dwarf Thunderbird'	20-40' T 10-20' W	Low to moderate	Slow to moderate	No flowers, only cones	Pyramidal	Pollen production increases with tree size	Native to Japan. Needles are 3-4½ in. long and arranged in 2s. Cones are 3 in. long. 'Dwarf Thunderhead' (6' T, 5' W in 10 years) has dark foliage.
Podocarpus, Fern Pine	<i>Podocarpus gracilior</i>	20-60' T 10-20' W	Heavy	Slow to moderate	Inconspicuous	Upright rounded	Occasional chlorosis	Native to eastern Africa. 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. Glossy dark green leaves 2" long, ½" wide. With age, leaves have soft gray, bluish-green cast. Tolerates heat and many soil types.
Podocarpus, Yew Pine	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i> P. m. <i>maki</i>	15-50' T 6-15' W	Heavy	Slow to moderate	Inconspicuous	Narrow to upright	Occasional chlorosis	Native to China and Japan. Generally narrow to upright; bright green leaves 4" long, ½" wide. Tolerates heat and many soil types. <i>P.m. maki</i> is slower and shorter (8-15' T, 2-4' W)
English Laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	15-30' T 15-30' W	Moderate to heavy	Fast	Fragrant creamy flower spikes in spring.	Rounded	Occasional scale	Native to southeastern Europe to Iran. Glossy, leathery oblong leaves that are 3-7 inches long. Inconspicuous, small black fruit.
Oak, Cork	<i>Quercus suber</i>	60' T 60' W	Low to moderate	Moderate	Inconspicuous	Rounded	Chlorosis in high alkaline sites, debris	Native to western Mediterranean, North Africa. Trunk and large limbs are covered with thick corky bark, adding interest. Toothed, oval, shiny leaves are dark green above, gray beneath. Tolerates most soils except highly alkaline, needs good drainage. Roots are not problematic. Egg shaped acorns (about 1" long).
Oak, Southern Live	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	50' T 80' W	Moderate to heavy	Moderate to fast	Inconspicuous	Rounded	Surface roots, debris	Native to the southern US. Attractive evergreen oak in hot interior climates. Grows best in deep rich, moist soil. Tolerates landscape watering. Heavy-limbed crown, tree requires great space for roots and canopy. Smooth-edged leaves, dark green above, white beneath. Medium sized acorns (about 1" long) with sharp spine at tip. Harmless, unusual woolly oak galls form on leaves.

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Oak, Interior Live	<i>Quercus wislizenii</i>	30-75' T 30-75' W	Low to moderate	Slow	Inconspicuous	Dense, rounded	Debris	Native to interior California and southern Oregon. Young trees are sparsely branched and angular, eventually forming dense, round canopy. Leaves are elliptical, glossy green, 1-4" long with smooth or spiny margins and pointed tip. Slender acorns about 1" long.
Italian Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> 'John Edwards'	15-18' T 6-10' W	Low to moderate	Fast	Inconspicuous	Rounded oval	Volunteer seedlings	Native to Mediterranean. Evergreen shrub easily trained into a single or multi-trunked tree. Oval, shiny bright leaves to 2 inches long, pea-size black berries. Tolerates heat, full sun or part shade, little to regular water. 'John Edwards' is long lived
Rhaphiolepis	<i>Rhaphiolepis</i> 'Majestic Beauty'	10-25' T 8-10' W	Low to moderate	Slow to moderate	Large pink clusters	Rounded		Native to China. Typically a shrub, but available as a trained single or multi-trunk tree. Blooms in spring. Produces dark blue ¼" berries rarely a nuisance. Takes full sun to light shade, leaf burn in reflected heat. Adapted to many planting sites. Drought tolerant. Must be staked and pruned when young to develop main trunk and good branch structure, requires some annual shaping.
Sumac, African	<i>Rhus lancea</i>	20-30' T 20-35' W	Low to moderate	Slow	Inconspicuous	Open spreading		Native to South Africa. Thrives in heat and sun. Can be trained as single or multi-trunk tree. Leaves divided into 3 willowlike 4-5-inch long leaflets. Clusters of yellow pea-size fruit fall to ground; distinctive, rough, red-brown bark.

Compiled by M. LeStrange & C. Ronk, UC Master Gardener Program - Tulare & Kings Counties-2011