


## 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<br>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<br>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><br>'Elfin King'<br>'Octoberfest' 'Compacta' | 20-40' T<br>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<br>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<br>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</i> 'Glauca'<br>'Glauca Pendula'             | 65' T<br>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<br>40' W       | Moderate        | Fast             | Inconspicuous                                 | Pyramidal                        |                                | Native to Himalaya. Softer, lighter texture than other cedars. Lower branches sweep down to ground, upper branches lilt 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<br>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<br>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><br>'purpurea'                            | 10-15' T<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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 poolsides.   |
| Juniper, Blue Point                        | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i><br>'Blue Point'                       | 12' T<br>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 poolsides. 'Blue Arrow' (2' W)  |
| Juniper, Spartan                           | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i><br>'Spartan'                          | 15' T<br>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 poolsides. Variegated form available.  |
| Juniper, Hollywood                         | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i><br>'kaizuka' ('torulosa')             | 15' T<br>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 poolsides. Variegated form available.  |
| Juniper, 'Moonglow'                        | <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i><br>'Moonglow'                        | 9-20' T<br>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 poolsides.  |
| Juniper, 'Tolleson's Blue Weeping'         | <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i><br>'Tolleson'                        | 20' T<br>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><br>'Blue Arrow' 'Skyrocket' 'Taylor' | 15-20' T<br>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><br>'Saratoga'                              | 20-35' T<br>20-35' W | Moderate          | Very slow        | Small, yellowy 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><br>'Little Gem'                      | 80' T<br>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><br>'Little Ollie'<br>'Majestic Beauty'<br>'Swan Hill' | 25-35' T<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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><br>'Dwarf Thunderbird'                             | 20-40' T<br>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<br>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> <i>P. m. maki</i>                           | 15-50' T<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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><br>'John Edwards' | 15-18' T<br>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  |
| Raphiolepis        | <i>Raphiolepis</i><br>'Majestic Beauty'    | 10-25' T<br>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<br>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