



Director's Rule 7-2023

Applicant: City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections	Page 1 of 2	Supersedes: 16-2008
	Publication: 7/6/2023	Effective: 7/26/2023
Subject: Design of Tier 2 Trees	Code and Section Reference: Table A for SMC 25.11.050 Tree Protection	
	Type of Rule: Code Interpretation	
	Ordinance Authority: SMC 3.06.040	
Index: Land Use Code/Technical Standards and Procedural Requirements	Approved	Date
	_____ Nathan Torgelson, Director, SDCI	

Purpose and Background

The purpose of this Rule is to designate Tier 2 trees pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 25.11.

Rule

TIER 2 TREE DESIGNATION

Table 1 of this rule provides a list of size thresholds for Tier 2 trees. In addition, any named cultivars or subspecies of species on the following list have the same diameter threshold as the species on the list. For example, a Japanese maple cultivar (*Acer palmatum* “Burgundy Lace”) has the same threshold diameter as Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*).

For all species not listed in Table 1, the threshold diameter is 24” DSH or greater, except that the following are not Tier 2 trees regardless of the size measured at DSH:

- Red alder (*Alnus rubra*), black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’), and bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*)

- Any tree that is listed on the adopted and as subsequently revised King County Noxious Weed List, including invasive trees and/or nuisance trees which means any tree species that is documented on the King County Noxious Weed Board's Class A, Class B, Class C Noxious Weed, or any Weeds of Concern Lists, except that the following trees shall not be considered an invasive tree or nuisance tree: Black locust – (*Robinia pseudoacacia*); Harlequin (prev. Norway) maple – (*Acer platanoides*); and Horse chestnut – (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

Table 1: Size Thresholds for Tier 2 Trees

ALDER, Sitka – <i>Alnus sinuata</i>	6"
APPLE, Orchard (Common) – <i>Malus sp.</i>	20"
ASH, European – <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	22"
ASPEN, Quaking – <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	12"
BIRCH, Paper – <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	20"
CASCARA – <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	8"
CHERRY, Japanese Flowering – <i>Prunus sp. (kwanzan, serrula, serrulata, sargentii, subhirtella, yedoensis)</i>	23"
CRABAPPLE, Pacific – <i>Malus fusca</i>	12"
DOGWOOD, Eastern – <i>Cornus florida</i>	12"
DOGWOOD, Kousa – <i>Cornus kousa</i>	12"
DOGWOOD, Pacific – <i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	6"
HAWTHORN, Black – <i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	6"
HAWTHORN, Washington – <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	9"
HORNBEAM, European – <i>Carpinus betulus</i>	16"
LOCUST, Honey – <i>Gleditsia triancanthos</i>	20"
MADRONA – <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	6"
MAGNOLIA, Southern – <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	16"
MAPLE, Dwarf or Rocky Mountain – <i>Acer glabrum var. Douglasii</i>	6"
MAPLE, Japanese – <i>Acer palmatum</i>	12"
MAPLE, Paperbark – <i>Acer griseum</i>	12"
MAPLE, Vine – <i>Acer circinatum</i>	8"
MONKEY PUZZLE TREE – <i>Araucaria araucana</i>	22"
OAK, Oregon White or Garry – <i>Quercus garryana</i>	6"
PEAR, Callery – <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	13"
PINE, Lodgepole – <i>Pinus contorta</i>	6"
PINE, Shore – <i>Pinus contorta 'contorta'</i>	12"
PLUM, CHERRY – <i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	21"
SERVICEBERRY, Western – <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	6"
SNOWBELL, Japanese – <i>Styrax japonica</i>	12"
SPRUCE, Sitka – <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	6"
WILLOW (All native species) – <i>Salix sp. (Geyeriana ver meleina, erioccephala ssp. mackenzieana, Hookeriana, Piperi, Scouleriana, sitchensis)</i>	8"
YEW, Pacific – <i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	6"

¹ This table is based on Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast, 2016, by Jim Pojar, Andy MacKinnon; Trees and Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest, 2014, by Mark Turner, Ellen Kuhlmann; Trees of Seattle, 2nd edition, 2006, by Arthur Lee Jacobson; Champion Trees of Washington State, 1996, by Robert Van Pelt; International Society of Arboriculture, <https://www.isa-arbor.com/>