

Boulevard Gardens: Small Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Comments
<i>Acer tataricum</i> ssp. <i>ginnala</i>	amur maple	20-30'	Lightly scented May flowers are followed by double serrated dark colored leaves with lighter undersides; excellent fall color; hardy, adaptable; grown as a free-form clump, standard, or a well-groomed hedge; self-seeds.
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Alleghany serviceberry	15-25'	Minnesota native; large flowers; excellent red fall color; delicious edible purple fruits attract birds in summer.
<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	amur maackia	12-20'	Good drought tolerance; adaptable small tree with a rounded crown; shiny patched bark sheds; lovely flowers; post-flowering pods; foliage emerges with a silvery cast; very slow early growth.
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	bluebeech, ironwood or musclewood	20-30'	Highly tolerant of and adaptable to difficult city conditions, even a bit of shade; Minnesota native; interesting steely blue-tinged bark; lovely red fall foliage.
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	white fringe tree	12-20'	Adaptable to salt and difficult conditions once established, worth the extra care needed initially; "hairy" young branches; fragrant white flowers; shiny deep-green foliage and winter buds provide winter interest.
<i>Corylus americana</i>	filbert or hazelnut	8-15'	Large shrub or small tree; unique early spring catkins; nuts attract wildlife; nice foliage.
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	American smoketree	20-30'	Underused and under-appreciated, this small tree bears round leaves that turn brilliant scarlet or purple in fall; tolerant of a variety of soil types.
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	common witch hazel	10-20'	Under-appreciated Minnesota native bears unusual bright yellow flowers in late fall on very dark brown branches; bright green foliage is slightly hairy and fragrant when crushed.
<i>Malus</i> hybrids	crabapple	15-25'	Tough and hardy in Minnesota; scab can be a conspicuous foliar disease, look for resistant varieties; many flower colors provide vivid displays; various shades of green foliage and winter interest with yellow or red fruit.
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	amur cork tree	20-35'	Excellent salt, compaction and dry soil tolerance; rounded canopy; irregular growth form; deeply furrowed gray-black bark and deep green shiny foliage; use male selections; can naturalize in wooded areas.
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese tree lilac	15-25'	Long-lived and cold tolerant; scented ivory flowers are an early summer hallmark; interesting winter seed pods.
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	nannyberry	12-18'	Native to Minnesota; multi-stemmed, can be grown as a standard; tolerant of most soil types once established; showy white flowers and multicolored fruit.

Small trees can fit into many sites and do not need pruning when used near power lines and other utilities. These are some of the best small trees to use for Minnesota cities and landscapes.

Compiled by Carol Krajewski, Wright Co. Master Gardener. Carol has been a Master Gardener for five years and has made small tree recommendations not only for Wright County locations, but also to gardeners statewide through "Ask A Master Gardener" on the U of M Extension website. Public plantings, whether small trees, annual flower beds or community gardens, are areas where Master Gardeners specialize in teaching research-based recommendations.



Crabapples are tough and easy to grow on a boulevard.



Amur maackia has attractive foliage and makes a good choice for boulevards.