Thank you for your interest in planting trees!

This year, we’re offering 13 different tree species — 7 California native trees and 6 fruit trees well-adapted to San Francisco’s unique climate. They’re all listed below, followed by pictures and a description of each tree.

Note: Species will be available at Adopt-A-Yard-Tree events on a first-come, first-served basis. This list is not updated as inventory changes.
## California Native Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common &amp; Scientific Name</th>
<th>Mature Size</th>
<th>Mature Height (H) &amp; Spread (S)</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>Tolerates shady conditions</th>
<th>Watering Needs</th>
<th>Evergreen or Deciduous</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>California buckeye</strong> Aesculus californica</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>H: 25 ft S: 20-30 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>Atypically deciduous: loses leaves June-Feb. All parts are toxic if ingested (unless you're a squirrel); pollen is toxic to non-native bees. Beautiful spring flowers and winter silhouette. <em>Common pests: bark beetles, caterpillars</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>California lilac</strong> Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>H: 20 ft S: 15-20 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>Produces stunning blue flowers in the winter and spring. Does not like too much summer water once established, so plant well out of reach of sprinklers and water by hose only through the first dry season. Prune after flowers have faded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toyon</strong> Heteromeles arbutifolia</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>H: 25 ft S: 8-15 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>Also known as &quot;California Holly.&quot; Beautiful summer flowers and red berries in the fall and winter. Do not eat the fruit, as it is potentially harmful. <em>Common pests: scales and thrips</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pacific wax myrtle</strong> Morella californica</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>H: 30 ft S: 10-30 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Low to Medium</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>This tree tolerates salt spray and wind. Its small gray or purple berry is not edible. <em>Common pests: scales, thrips, spider mites, and white flies</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hollyleaf cherry</strong> Prunus ilicifolia</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>H: 30 ft S: 10-25 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>The fruit is purple or red drupe. The pits of the fruit are toxic and should not be ingested. Susceptible to root rot if over-watered. <em>Common pests: white flies</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>California coast live oak</strong> Quercus agrifolia</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>H: 70 ft S:20-70 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>Iconic Bay Area tree with large, spreading canopy. <em>Susceptible 'Sudden Oak Death' disease, indicated by a canker on the tree.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blue elderberry</strong> Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>H: 20 ft S:10-20 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Low to Medium</td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>It has cream-colored flowers in the spring and purple berries in the fall that are edible when ripe. Attracts birds. <em>Common pests: bean aphids, scales, elder borers</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Non-native Fruit Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common &amp; Scientific Name</th>
<th>Mature Size</th>
<th>Mature Height (H) &amp; Spread (S)</th>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>Tolerates Shady Conditions</th>
<th>Watering Needs</th>
<th>Evergreen or Deciduous</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brown Turkey</strong> <em>(Common Fig)</em></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>H: 30 ft S: 10-20 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>Usually produces two fruit crops per year - one in late spring and another in later summer. The ripe fruit is sweet with brownish-purple skin and amber-colored flesh. Fruit is edible right off of the plant. Common pests: spider mites, June beetles</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Ficus carica</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fuji/ Gala</strong></td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>H: 12-15 ft S: 12-15 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>Beautiful white flowers in early spring. Ripe apples in early fall. Prune the apple tree every year to get the best crop. Fruit is edible right off of the plant. Common pests: aphids</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Malus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hass Avocado</strong></td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>H: 40 ft S: 25-35 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>Cross pollination increases the fruit crop (pollinators are great for this fruit’s success). It fruits in Fall, Spring, or Summer. Fruit is edible right off of the plant. Common pests: avocado mites, avocado thrips, persea mites, mealybugs</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Persea americana</em> ‘Hass’</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Japanese Loquat</strong></td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>H:30 ft S:15-30 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>Fragrant Fall-blooming flowers. Orange/yellow fruits in the Spring or Summer. Fruit is edible right off of the plant. Common pests: aphids, scales, fruit flies, caterpillars</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Eriobotrya japonica</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mission Olive</strong></td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>H: 30 ft S: 25-30 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>Beautiful ornamental tree with silver-green leaves. Olive fruits are edible if prepared properly - can be cured to eat at the table or pressed to make olive oil. Common pests: scales, mealybugs, and white flies</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Olea Europaea</em> ‘Mission’</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Japanese Plum</strong></td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>H: 30 ft S: 15-20 ft</td>
<td>Loam or Sand or Clay</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Deciduous</td>
<td>Beautiful white flowers in early spring. Fruits in the Spring or Summer. The fruit is either red, purple, yellow, or green. Fruit is edible right off of the plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Prunus salicina</em> ‘Santa Rosa’</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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California Buckeye
*Aesculus californica*

- Sun exposure: Partial shade to full sun
- Watering needs: Low
- Height: 25 ft
- Spread: 20-30 ft
- Tree Size: Small
- Growth Rate: ~24 in/year
- Character: Deciduous, rounded

### Key Features

**Flowers:**
- Pinkish-White bloom
- Flower in April, May and June

**Seeds:**
- Poisonous
- Known as “buckeye nuts”
Blue elderberry
*Sambucus nigra ssp. Cerulea*

- **Sun exposure:** Full, partial, or full shade
- **Native**
- **Watering needs:** Medium to low
- **Height:** 20 ft
- **Spread:** 10-20 ft
- **Tree Size:** Small
- **Growth Rate:** ~36 in/year
- **Character:** Deciduous, rounded

**Key Features:**

**Flowers:**
- Showy
- Cream/white
- Flowers in spring/summer

**Fruit:**
- Small black/blueberry
- Fall or summer
- Edible

[Image of blue elderberry tree]

[Image of blue elderberry flowers and fruit]

[Link to website: www.friendsoftheurbanforest.org/adopt-a-yard-tree] [Email: freeyardtrees@fuf.net] [Phone: (415-680-4865)] [Friends of the Urban Forest]
California Coast live oak
Quercus Agrifolia

- Sun exposure: Full sun, partial shade
- Watering needs: Low
- Height: 70 ft
- Spread: 20-70 ft
- Tree Size: Large
- Growth Rate: ~24 in/year
- Character: Evergreen, rounded

Key Features:

**Flowers:**
- Inconspicuous

**Fruit:**
- Large brown acorn
- Edible if prepared
California lilac (Ray Hartman)

Ceanothus

Sun exposure: Full sun, partial sun

Watering needs: Low

Height: 20 ft

Spread: 15-20 ft

Tree Size: Small

Growth Rate: ~24-36 in/year

Character: Evergreen, rounded

Key Features:

**Flowers:**
- Showy, fragrant, blue
- Bloom in Spring

**Fruit:**
- Small, black, purple capsule
- Fruit in winter or summer
- Edible if prepared
Hollyleaf Cherry
*Prunus ilicifolia*

- **Sun exposure:** Full sun
- **Watering needs:** Low
- **Height:** 30 ft max
- **Spread:** 10-25 ft
- **Tree Size:** Small
- **Growth Rate:** ~24 in/year
- **Character:** Evergreen, rounded

**Key Features:**

**Flowers:**
- Showy; cream or white
- Flower in Spring

**Fruit:**
- Medium purple or red drupe
- Fruit in Summer
- Pits are toxic—do not ingest
Pacific Wax Myrtle
Morella Californica

- Sun exposure: Full sun
- Watering needs: Medium to low
- Height: 30 ft max
- Spread: 10-30 ft
- Tree Size: Medium
- Growth Rate: ~24 in/year
- Character: Evergreen, rounded/conical

Key Features:

**Flowers:**
- Inconspicuous
- Purple/red/yellow colors
- Flower in Spring

**Fruit:**
- Small gray or purple berry
- Fruit in Fall
- Edible but strong taste

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Toyon
*Heteromeles arbutifolia*

- Sun exposure: Partial shade to full sun
- Watering needs: Low
- Height: 25 ft
- Spread: 8-15 ft
- Tree Size: Small
  - Growth Rate: ~12-24 in/year
  - Character: Evergreen, rounded/vase

**Key Features:**

**Flowers:**
- Showy
- White
- Flowers in summer

**Fruit:**
- Red Berry
- Fall or Winter
- Not recommended to eat
Brown Turkey (Common Fig)

Ficus carica

- Sun exposure: Partial shade to full sun
- Watering needs: Medium
- Height: 30 ft
- Spread: 10-20 ft
- Tree Size: Small
- Growth Rate: ~36 in/year
- Character: Deciduous, rounded/vase

Key Features:

**Flowers:**
- Inconspicuous, fragrant
- Bloom in Winter/Spring

**Fruit:**
- Brownish-purple skin
- Late Spring or Late Summer
- Edible

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## Fuji / Gala Apple

*Malus*

- **Sun exposure:** Full sun
- **Watering needs:** Medium
- **Height:** 12-15 ft
- **Spread:** 12-15 ft
- **Tree Size:** Small
- **Growth Rate:** ~13-24 in/year
- **Character:** Deciduous; rounded, upright

### Key Features:

#### Flowers:
- Fragrant, white flowers
- Bloom in mid/late Spring

#### Fruit:
- Red fruit (apple)
- Fruit in early Fall
- Edible
Hass avocado
Persea americana ‘Hass’

- Sun exposure: Full sun
- Watering needs: Medium
- Height: 40 ft
- Spread: 25-35 ft
- Tree Size: Large
- Growth Rate: ~36 in/year
- Character: Evergreen, rounded

Key Features:

**Flowers:**
- Inconspicuous
- Yellow
- Flowers in Winter

**Fruit:**
- Large black or purple berry
- Fall, Spring, Summer
- Edible
Japanese Loquat

*Eriobotrya japonica*

- **Sun exposure:** Partial shade to full sun
- **Watering needs:** Medium
- **Height:** 30 ft
- **Spread:** 15-30 ft
- **Tree Size:** Medium
- **Growth Rate:** ~36 in/year
- **Character:** Evergreen, rounded/vase

### Key Features:

**Flowers:**
- Showy and fragrant
- White
- Flowers in Fall

**Fruit:**
- Large orange/yellow pome
- Spring/Summer
- Edible
Mission Olive

Olea Europaea ‘Mission’

Sun exposure: Full sun
Watering needs: Low
Height: 30 ft
Spread: 25-30 ft
Tree Size: Medium/Large
Growth Rate: ~12 in/year
Character: Evergreen, rounded

Key Features:

Flowers:
- Inconspicuous and fragrant
- Flowers in Spring

Fruit:
- Medium or black purple drupe
- Fruit in Fall
- Edible

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Japanese Plum

Prunus salicina ‘Santa Rosa’

Sun exposure: Full sun
Watering needs: Medium
Height: 30 ft
Spread: 15-20 ft
Tree Size: Medium
Growth Rate: ~36 in/year
Character: Deciduous, rounded

Key Features:

Flowers:
- Showy/white
- Flowers in Spring

Fruit:
- Large to very large purple, red, yellow, or green drupe
- Spring or summer
- Edible
References and Resources

FUF Urban Tree Species Directory
https://www.friendsoftheurbanforest.org/urban-tree-species

SelecTree
https://selectree.calpoly.edu/

California Native Plant Society CalScape
https://calscape.org/

Gardenia
https://www.gardenia.net/

Glossary

Deciduous — A tree or shrub that sheds its leaves annually

Evergreen — A plant that retains green leaves throughout the year

Root rot — A disease that attacks the roots of trees that grow in wet or damp soil

Sudden Oak Death — A tree disease caused by a fungus-like plant pathogen. It kills most oak trees.