FACTSHEET

Small Trees for Small Gardens

As gardens get smaller the demand for trees that are suitable for these gardens grows. Small trees have to work hard in these spaces and have some fabulous attributes that justify the choice in a restricted space. Our tree list is a snapshot of trees held in stock on a regular basis. Each specimen below has something to offer for smaller gardens in addition to a diminutive size whether it's spring blossom, summer colour or autumn fruit.

What constitutes a small tree? For our list of recommendations, we have suggested trees that grow to 8m or below. Large shrubs can also be considered as small trees as can multi stem trees that tend to grow to a much shorter maximum height than in standard form. Trees that are fastigiate or columnar in form are also ideal choices for small gardens. Growing conditions may also affect the eventual height of a tree too.

LATIN NAME	COMMON NAME	DESCRIPTION	HEIGHT
Acer griseum	Paperbark Maple	Extremely decorative cinnamon coloured bark, with excellent autumn colour Suitable as a solitary specimen	3-5m
Acer groseseri hersii	Snake Bark Maple	Distinctive green and white striated bark and dark-green foliage	4-6m
Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium'	Japanese Maple	Best scarlet colour of any maple The broad crown eventually becomes round	5-8m
Acer palmatum 'Atropurpureum'	Japanese Maple	Deeply lobed, red-purple leaves turning brilliant scarlet in autumn before falling	6-8m
Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood'	Japanese Maple	Very similar to A. palmatum 'Atropurpureum' but with darker red leaves and a narrower crown	6-8m
Acer palmatum 'Deshojo'	Japanese Maple	Upright, rounded small tree with shrimp-pink leaves in spring, turning green in summer, scarlet in autumn	2-3m
Acer palmatum 'Dissectum Viride'	Japanese Maple	Mound forming small tree with deeply dissected, lace-like foliage a bright lime green colour in spring and summer	2-3m
Acer palmatum dissectum 'Orangeola'	Japanese Maple	Mound forming, weeping variety with orange-red leaves in spring intensifying in autumn	2-3m
Acer palmatum 'Ryusen'	Japanese Maple	Extreme weeping habit, usually staked It can be used in a container to resemble ivy	2-3m
Acer palmatum 'Skeeters Broom'	Japanese Maple	Upright habit with foliage turning bright red in autumn	2-3m
Acer x pseudosieboldianum 'Ice Dragon'	Hybrid Maple	Extra hardy, small garden maple. Good autumn colour with interesting branch structure for winter	2-3m
Amelanchier alnifolia 'Obelisk	Snowy Mespilus	Columnar small tree well suited to small gardens White flowers	3-5m
Amelanchier 'Ballerina'	Snowy Mespilus	More upright form of Amelanchier with a striking winter silhouette	4-6m

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Amelanchier canadensis 'Rainbow Pillar'	Snowy Mespilus	Vase-shaped, upright growth with excellent autumn colour	4-6m
Amelanchier lamarckii	Snowy Mespilus	Bushy form with spring flowers, spectacular autumn leaf colour and edible autumn berries	6-8m
Betula pendula 'Youngii'	Weeping Birch	Small weeping birch with wide weeping crown	4-6m
Carpinus betulus 'Monumentalis'	Hornbeam	Slow growing, dwarf form with dense foliage and pyramidal shaped habit	3-5m
Cercis canadensis 'Hearts of Gold'	Eastern Redbud	Rounded and spreading shape. Purple spring flowers with new yellow foliage contrasts strikingly with darker older foliage	3-5m
Cercis canadensis 'Merlot'	Eastern Redbud	Noted for tolerance to drought and heat Upright habit with purple flowers	3-4m
Cercis canadensis 'Ruby Falls'	Weeping Redbud	Compact weeping habit with purple foliage	2-3m
Cercis canadensis 'The Rising Sun'	Eastern Redbud	Heart-shaped foliage that emerges deep golden orange and matures through shades of orange, gold and yellow to a speckled lime green	3-4m
Cercis canadensis 'Vanilla Twist'	Eastern Redbud	Weeping cultivar with stunning white blossom	3-4m
Cornus alternifolia 'Argentea'	Silver Pagoda Dogwood	Early spring flowers and variegated foliage to light up a garden corner. Elegant pyramidal crown	4-6m
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	Wide, round crown. White flower bracts in early summer with good autumn foliage colour	4-6m
Cornus florida 'Rainbow'	Flowering Variegated Dogwood	Variegated Cornus with stunning autumn colour and deep green leaves splashed with yellow	2-3m
Cornus kousa 'Cappucino'	Kousa Dogwood	An elegant small tree with a profusion of pure white bracts. Coppery foliage followed by rich autumn colours	2-3m
Cornus kousa chinensis 'China Girl'	Chinese Dogwood	Wide, vase-shaped crown. Profusion of large white flower bracts in early summer. More tolerant of drought than C. florida	6-8m
Cornus 'Venus'	Flowering Dogwood	Recent hybrid. Good drought tolerance and high resistance to diseases. Creamy white bracts with stunning autumn colour	4-6m
Crataegus laevigata 'Crimson Cloud'	Flowering Hawthorn	Abundance of pinkish-red flowers in spring, maturing to a round crown	4-6m
Crataegus laevigata 'Paul's Scarlet'	Hawthorn	Tough tree with double pink blossom in late spring	4-6m

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Crataegus laevigata 'Rosea Flore Pleno'	Pink Hawthorn	Adaptable cultivar that will grow in a variety of positions. Mass of pink spring flowers in spring	4-6m
Euonymus europaeus 'Red Cascade'	Spindle tree	Excellent autumn colour with stunning lipstick-red seed capsules with tangerine seeds	3-4m
Ginkgo biloba 'Mariken'	Maidenhair Tree	Dwarf form grown as a standard with a lollipop head, bright yellow leaves in autumn	2m
Hamamelis x int. 'Diane'	Witch-hazel	Among the best red flowering. Hamamelis, slightly fragrant flowers and fan shaped growth pattern	2-4m
Heptacodium miconioides 'Tianshan'	Seven Son Flower Tree	Peeling bark and fragrant white flowers. The calyx turn red after flowering, vase-shaped crown	5-7m
Ilex 'Nellie R. Stevens'	Holly	Robust variety which is easy to grow with long lasting crop of berries, pyramidal crown	5-7m
Liquidambar 'Gum Ball'	Sweet Gum 'Gum Ball'	Densely branching lollipop form with great autumn colour	4m
Magnolia 'Columnar Pink'	Magnolia	Upright habit with pink goblet-shaped flowers	2-4m
Magnolia 'Livingstone'	Magnolia	Eye-catching purple-pink tulip shaped flowers fairly late in season	5-7m
Magnolia 'Lois'	Magnolia	Compact, conical form with unusual golden yellow flowers in spring	2-3m
Magnolia 'Manchu Fan'	Magnolia	Compact upright form which flowers prolifically in spring with white tulip-shaped flowers	3-5m
Magnolia 'Old Port'	Magnolia	Sweet smelling flowers, wine-purple outside with white on the inside. Compact form	2-4m
Magnolia stellata 'Royal Star'	Star Magnolia	Branching compact cultivar with double star-shaped flowers in spring	3-5m
Malus 'Gorgeous'	Crab Apple 'Gorgeous'	One of the best crab apples for colour and form maturing to a round crown	3-5m
Malus 'Mokum'	Crab Apple 'Mokum'	Reddish foliage with rosy spring flowers and red fruit	4-6m
Malus tschonoskii	Pillar Crab Apple	The best autumnal colour of all ornamental apples with upright flame-like form	5-7m
Olea europaea	European Olive	Low maintenance, stately and architectural	3-6m
Parrotia persica 'Persian Spire'	Ironwood	Narrow, upright form with brilliant autumn colour	2-4m
Pinus nigra 'Brepo'	Austrian Pine	A newly-introduced species of compact, naturally slow rounded, dwarf conifer	0.5- 1.5m



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Prunus 'Amanogawa'	Flagpole Cherry	Slow growing, columnar form with pink blossom	4-6m
Prunus fuki 'Chocolate Ice'	Ornamental Cherry	White spring flowers and contrasting chocolate foliage	3-5m
Prunus 'Kiku-shidare Zakura'	Cheals Weeping Cherry	Small weeping cherry with pink double blossom	4-6m
Prunus 'Royal Burgundy'	Ornamental Cherry	Candyfloss spring blossoms and scarlet autumn leaf colour with upright crown	4-6m
Prunus 'Shirofugen'	Ornamental Cherry	Long lasting display of large double white and pink blossom	4-6m
Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis'	Winter Flowering Cherry	Vase-shaped crown with white blossom between November - March	5-7m
Pyrus salicifolia 'Pendula'	Weeping Pear	Weeping habit with slim, silvery leaves. Profusion of small white flowers in spring followed by small brown fruit	4-6m
Quercus palustris 'Green Dwarf'	Pin Oak	Slow growing spherical variety which can also cope well with wet soil	4-6m
Sorbus aucuparia 'Autumn Spire'	Mountain Ash	Upright, columnar habit, good for attracting wildlife and an excellent choice for vivid autumn colour	4-6m
Sorbus vilmorinii	Rowan	Great all-rounder. Year round interest. White flowers in spring and summer followed by coloured foliage and berries in autumn in winter. Ideal for smaller gardens	3-5m
Styrax japonicus 'Fragrant Fountain'	Japanese Snowbell	Weeping habit and scented summer flowers	2m
Styrax japonicus 'Purple Haze'	Japanese Snowbell	Purple foliage with scented summer flowers	3-5m
Taxodium distichum 'Peve Minaret'	Dwarf Swamp Cypress	Very slow growing, deciduous conifer with gorgeous russet-red autumn colour. Very tolerant of wet or boggy soil	2m
Taxus baccata 'David'	English Yew	Dense, narrowly columnar with green leaves edged with gold which hold their brilliant colour throughout the year	2-3m
Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata Aurea'	Golden Irish Yew	Compact growth with a very dense crown. At 6m its maximum growth remains smaller than T. baccata 'Fastigiata'	4-6m
Thuja occidentalis 'Smaragd'	American Thuja	Semi-dwarf conifer with narrow pyramidal habit and a very dense crown	4-6m