

Common Name: Ginkgo

Scientific Name: *Ginkgo biloba*

This tree is native to China and is the only living species in the genus. The tree has very distinct leaves that look like little fans. They are in an alternate pattern going down the branches of the trees. It also produces a nut-like fruit. Ginkgoes are tall, slim, trees that drop golden leaves every fall. They have survived 270 million years because of a beneficial combination of disease-resistant characteristics. The average height of the Ginkgo is 50-80 feet.



Tree Identification Guide

of 11 common trees of Watertown, MA



By: Watertown Teen Tree
Stewardship Program

For a full color version, please visit:
treesforwatertown.org/uploaded/teentreeguide.pdf

Common Name: Sweet Gum

Scientific name: *Liquidambar styraciflua*

This tree is native to warmer areas like North and Central America and Mexico. This tree produces spiky nuts and the leaves are five pointed and starshaped. It is a very popular ornamental tree. Sweet Gum trees can reach heights of up to 150 ft and they can live up to 400 years. The tree grows in an egg shape.



Common Name: Japanese Zelkova

Scientific Name: *Zelkova serrata*

This tree is native to Japan, Korea, eastern China and Taiwan. *Zelkova Serrata* is a species of the genus Zelkova. The leaves of a Zelkova tree are slim and pointed and are positioned alternately on a stem. The tree produces almost heart-shaped fruits. It is often grown as an ornamental tree and is a good street tree because of its vase shaped growth that provides shade to people, roads and sidewalks. The leaves turn beautiful colors of yellow, copper, dark red and purplish-red in the fall. The average height is approximately 100 feet tall. They also make for good bonsais.



Common Name: Red Maple

Scientific Name: *Acer rubrum*

A medium to large sized tree that as the name suggests, has striking red characteristics throughout the year. These include red buds during the winter, red flowers in spring, red petioles (leaf stalks) in the summer, and striking red leaves in the fall.



Common Name: Cherry Plum

Scientific Name: *Prunus cerasifera*

The Cherry Plum is native to Southeast Asia and Western Asia. It is found scattered throughout North America, and is known for its early flowering of white or pink petals, usually around April, making it a popular choice for landscaping and garden use for visual aspects. The fruit, not common on street trees, is a type of drupe that can be either red or yellow. Cherry Plums are self-pollinating and the flowers can be used to make flower remedies. The trees can reach a height of 40 feet.



Common Name: Honey Locust

Scientific Name: *Gleditsia triacanthos*

The Honey Locust is native to central North America, and ranges east into Massachusetts. In other parts of the world, it is considered an invasive species. These trees can reach a height of 100 feet tall and live up to 150 years. The leaves are pinnately compound and may even be bipinnately compound. Flowers are cream-colored and give off a strong scent. The fruit of a Honey Locust is a pod-like legume. These trees also have thorns on branches, which do not appear on cultivate varieties that we grow in Watertown. It is a popular urban tree due to its ability to adapt easily to where it is planted, even the harshest of conditions found in an urban area.



Common Name: Norway Maple

Scientific Name: *Acer platanoides*

The Norway Maple is the most common tree in Watertown, with much of it planted after the death of the American Elm. The Norway maple is native to Eastern and Central Europe. The Norway Maple can grow 65-100ft tall, has light bark with shallow grooves, and flowers in the spring. The leaves are usually wide and smooth, with a uniform pale green color and relatively deep sinuses. There is also a red/purple-leaved cultivar. This plant drops its seeds, which grow fast and take hold quickly, and can begin to grow in bad conditions with few resources. This proclivity has caused it to be considered invasive by many



Common Name: Callery Pear

Scientific Name: *Pyrus calleryana*

The Callery Pear is a species of pear tree that is very common in Watertown. This tree is native to China and Vietnam, and usually grows 15 to 25 feet tall. This tree is known for its oval but pointed leaves which on top are a dark glossy green, and on the underside are a paler and more matte shade of green. Its bark is broken vertically into narrow plates. This tree flowers in the fall, and often flowers profusely with small white flowers.



Common Name: American Sycamore

Scientific Name: *Platanus occidentalis*

The American Sycamore is a tree native to southern New England as well as the south east coast and some of the mid south-states. It can grow to massive proportions, between 100 to 131 feet tall and up to 6 feet in diameter. It is known for its large maple-like leaves and its peeling bark. It's fruit is a small spiky ball, and its flowers appear around the fruit and fall off once the flowers lifespan is over with. A similar-looking tree, the London plane tree, is a hybrid Sycamore with a similar appearance.



Common Name: Sugar Maple

Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*

The sugar maple is a tree that grows between 80–115 ft in height. The leaves are five lobed and pointed. Its bark has vertical warped lines. It is very important to Canada as it is one of the main maples used for maple syrup along with the black maple. The tree grows in the Northeast region of the United States. It is also known for its large color diversity during the fall. The seeds are also well known as they are of the winged variety. The sugar maple has downward facing wings. The flowers are also downward facing and quite small.



Common Name: Little Leaf Linden

Scientific Name: *Tilia cordata*

A native to Europe, this tree has been planted throughout the U.S. as an ornamental tree. This tree can grow up to 60 feet tall and has small rounded leaves of a dark coloration that grow in an alternate configuration. This tree mostly grows in a specific shape which is a oval shaped or pyramidal shape. The trees produce small yellow flowers that grow in clusters and tend to attract bees in large numbers. It also produces a smooth spherical fruit. Their fall foliage is a bright shade of yellow that dramatically contrasts with the tree's normal color.

