

# Small Trees for Small Spaces

When planning your landscape, there is often a situation where only a small flowering or fruiting tree will do. The wrong tree can overgrow a space. Small trees are often the best choice near patios, driveways or sidewalks, within small gardens, beneath the understory of larger trees, in a corner, near a boundary or just the best fit for the landscape design.

When choosing small trees consider the color of the blossom, whether or not it has an edible fruit, soil and shade conditions, whether it is a native or exotic and its general shape and beauty. Often the trees we choose have a sentimental value, something that reminds us of trees we grew up with. Here are some fine choices for those of you looking to enhance your landscape with small trees.

Some native small trees that flower are redbud, flowering dogwood and crabapple. Redbuds reddish pink flowers are a harbinger of spring with stems full of blooms resembling sweet pea flowers. The flowers are followed by bean like pods that persist into winter. The leaves are heart shaped. Redbud works well in the understory, are deciduous and offer great fall color.



Another early bloomer is the flowering dogwood tree. The blooms of the dogwood are actually leaf bracts, which surround the little yellow flower. Dogwoods prefer light shade to full sun, so are adaptable to a wide variety of sites. They are deciduous and have nice fall color.

Don't forget about the native crabapple and plum for blooms and foliage. This deciduous trees produces beautiful fruit that can be made into jelly, and attracts many species of birds.

Some exotic choices for flowering trees are Peggy Clark apricot, Taiwan cherry, Peppermint peach, crape myrtle, bottlebrush and Star magnolia.



Star magnolia trees are among the first to flower. Most magnolias are too large for small spaces, however small growers like the Star magnolia and the Little Girl series will fit well in tight spaces. These magnolias are deciduous.

Just Fruits offers some fruit trees that are grown exclusively for

their blooms rather than their fruit. They are among the earliest to flower and make fine small trees for a variety of situations. This group includes the Peggy Clark apricot, Taiwan cherry and the Peppermint peach. Come to the nursery to find out more about these varieties and see them bloom!

A great choice for a long summer blooming tree is the crape myrtle. With a variety of colors to choose from, they are hardy trees for a variety of locations. They come in a wide variety of growth habits, the mid size growers range in heights of 10 to 15 foot and are the best group for small gardens. The dwarf forms should be avoided if you wish to train them to become a tree. Prune in winter as blooms occur on new

wood. Crape myrtle is also known for its decorative bark.



Another small tree that blooms through the summer is the bottlebrush. Its red summer blooms and wispy foliage make this salt tolerant tree a choice of many,

including hummingbirds. They prefer sunny dry locations and add a tropical look to the landscape.

If you prefer an edible small tree there are many great picks among the fruit trees. Most fruit trees flower nicely before they fruit so you get a double whammy. Among the smallest fruit trees at the nursery are mayhaws, kumquats, figs, some of the persimmons and olive trees.

Consider the mayhaw as a native fruit tree whose fruits are said to make the best jelly. Mayhaws are deciduous and have great fall color.

Among citrus trees the kumquats are the smallest and there are several varieties to choose from, some sweet, some sour and some with variegated leaves. Kumquats, like all citrus, have evergreen leaves.

Fig trees make a great choice for a small tree with delicious fruit.

Two varieties of non-astringent persimmons, the Izu and Ichikikeijiro, are small trees which flower and fruit. Finally, the olive is a popular small tree for small spaces that has its distinctive gray-green foliage and fruit.

It is best to view these trees in person to plan your planting projects so come down to the nursery to see all of these great small trees.

