



Small Trees for a Big Impact

Many people are looking for smaller trees—to anchor a small bed, to plant in a parking strip or under power lines, or even to grow in containers on a deck or patio. You can find flowering trees, shade trees, and evergreens in weeping, columnar, pyramidal, or rounded forms that can be maintained at 15' or under. Here are some of the recommended smaller trees Sky usually carries. Please call for availability!

Dwarf Conifers

Dwarf conifers are available in a huge array of sizes, colors, and forms—too many to list in detail. Sizes range from bonsai subjects on up. Colors range from true green, blue green, gray green, chartreuse, rust, pinkish, gold, and olive, to green tipped with cream, gold, or white. Conifer shapes include contorted forms, spires, “Christmas Trees”, vasselike, spreading, and weeping. There are even dwarf deciduous conifer like ‘Miss Grace’ Dawn Redwood. Sky carries hundreds of evergreens year-round—come in and see our current selection.

Espaliers (Trees Trained as A “Fence”)

‘Espalier’ is an age-old technique originally employed to grow fruit trees in small gardens along walls and fences. It involves training the plant to grow two-dimensionally, as though along a flat surface. An espalier tree can grow along a wall or can replace a fence. Sky carries several kinds of fruit trees trained as 3-tier espaliers: apples, European pears, and Asian pears. We sometimes carry other plants such as camellias as espaliers.

Fruit Trees

Most fruit trees are available grafted on dwarfing rootstocks that will keep trees smaller. Some are also available as genetic dwarves that naturally stay small, or (some apples) as columnar forms that stay both short and narrow. Many fruit trees are highly ornamental. See Sky fruit tree list for detailed variety descriptions and pollination requirements.

Ornamental Flowering Trees

Many flowering trees have been bred to stay compact for urban gardens. Others, such as some cherries, have been grafted (like fruit trees) onto rootstocks that keep them smaller.

Crabapples (*Malus hybrids*)

Crabapples generally bloom in April in Seattle. The small, brightly colored fruit provides a second season of interest in the fall and attracts birds. Dwarf and compact varieties include:

Evereste 8-10'X8-10'. Elegant semi-weeping form. White flowers, edible red fruit.

Louisa 12-16' X 12-14'. Nice weeping form. Rosy pink flowers, small yellow fruit

Sargent Tina 10X5-6'. Small rounded dwarf tree. Fragrant white flowers, 1/4:" red fruit.

Dogwoods (*Cornus* species & hybrids)

Cornelian Cherry 12-15'X10-15'. Vase-like form. Bright yellow spidery flowers in February. Edible red fruit is like a tart elongated cherry. The variety **Saffron Sentinel** only gets 8-10' wide.

Stellar Pink 12-15'X10-12'. Vase-like form, soft pink flowers in May. Red fall color.

Summer Fun 12-15'X12-15'. White flowers in June. Foliage edged in white; red fall color.

Flowering Cherries & Plums (*Prunus* species)

Unless noted otherwise, cherries usually start blooming in March and plums in April. Dwarf and compact varieties include:

Akebono Dwarf Cherry 12-14'X12-14'. Upright spreading form. Delicate pink flowers, very early blooming.

Kwanzan Dwarf Cherry 12-14'X8-12'. Upright vase-like form. Showy double rose-pink flowers.

Little Twist Cherry 5-6'X5-6'. Very unique form—branches and twigs zigzag! Single flowers are white with pink centers. Maroon fall color. Blooms April.

Mount Fuji Dwarf Cherry 8-10'X10-15'. Horizontal spreading form. Abundant 2", semi-double fragrant white flowers.

Pink Cascade Cherry 10-12'X10-12'. Cascading form with bright pink flowers.

Snow Fountains Cherry 12-14'X12-14'. Cascading form, semi-double snow-white flowers.

Weeping Double Pink Cherry 12-15'X12-15'. Weeping form, profuse double pink flowers.

Yoshino Dwarf Cherry 8-10'X8-10'. Single, light pink to white blooms with almond scent.

Big Cis Plum 12-14'X10-12'. Upright, rounded, dense form. Pink flowers, purple foliage.

Cistena Plum 7-10'X5-7'. Upright bushy form. Fragrant pink flowers, purple foliage.

Magnolias (Deciduous)

Ballerina 10-12 feet. Fragrant starry flowers are white blushed pink.

Genie 10-15'X6-8'. Rounded shape. Fragrant dark burgundy flowers.

Susan 6-8'X4-7'. Compact rounded shape. Prolific reddish-violet flowers.

Centennial Star 8-10'X 6-8'. Vase-like form. Fragrant white star-shaped flowers in March.

Royal Star 10-20'X 6-8'. Vase-like form. Fragrant double white star-shaped flowers in March.

Evergreen Magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

Evergreen magnolias have large, fragrant white cup-shaped flowers in spring/summer and dramatic glossy foliage. Dwarf varieties include:

Little Gem 8-10'X 6-8'. Narrow small tree. Blooms in March; often reblooms in late summer.

Teddy Bear 10-15'X6-8'. Upright form. Smaller foliage and flowers than most magnolias.

Fairy Michelia 9-12'X5-7'. Evergreen magnolia relative with fragrant white flowers that literally cover the branches. Bushy form.

Redbuds (*Cercis species and hybrids*)

Redbuds have lavender-pink sweet pea-like flowers in spring, followed by large heart-shaped leaves. Dwarf varieties include:

Golden Falls 8-10'X3-4'. Golden foliage. Weeping contorted form.

Redbud, Merlot 12-15'x12-15'. Dark purple leaves.

Redbud, Ruby Falls 6-8'X5-6'. Burgundy heart-shaped leaves. Weeping contorted form.

Other Flowering Trees

Dwarf Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo 'Compacta'*) 6-8'X 4-6'. **Evergreen.** Upright shrubby form. Handsome year-round—red peeling bark in winter, white flowers & red “strawberry” fruits in fall.

Smoke Tree (*Cotinus coggyria*) 12-15'X10-15'. Rounded, often multitrunked form; can be grown as bush or tree. Purple-pink “smokelike” flowers. Purple and gold-leaf forms are available. Good fall color.

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis species*) 8-15'X10-15'. Open, vasselike, often multitrunked tree. Fragrant spidery flowers in late winter—yellow, copper, or red. Good fall color.

Japanese Snowbell ‘Fragrant Fountains’ (*Styrax japonicus*) 5-6'X 4-5'. Fragrant white nodding, bell-shaped flowers in June. Dense weeping form. Yellow to orange fall color.

Other Broadleaf Ornamental Trees

Gingkoes:

Beautiful fan-shaped green foliage; bright yellow fall color. Dwarf varieties include:

'Everton Broom' 8-10'X5-6'. Bright green foliage.

'Folkert's Select' 12-15'X8'. Thick, deeply cut foliage gives a frilly appearance. Very unusual!

'Jade Butterfly' 7-8'X3-5'. Very dwarf upright variety with dark green foliage.

'Marieken' 2-3'X2-8'. Very dwarf, spreading, somewhat pendulous variety.

Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*)

Numerous laceleaf, dwarf, and compact varieties are available—see Sky's current Japanese Maple list for details.

Bay Tree (*Laurus nobilis*) 10-15'X6-10'. **Evergreen.** Pyramidal form. Handsome tree with fragrant foliage—this is the true bay tree whose leaves are used for seasoning.

Pussy Willow, Weeping (*Salix caprea* 'Pendula') 3-8'. Weeping form of the pink pussy willow. Foliage dark green above, pale underneath. Yellow fall color.