

# Two native shade trees are city-tough

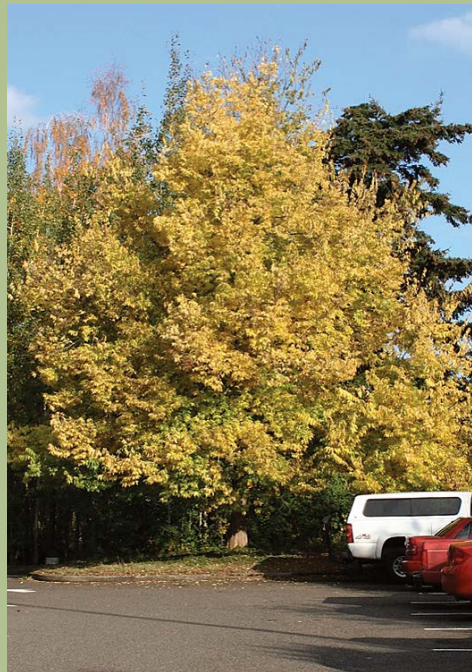
Shading city streets is a tough job that not just any tree can handle. Hot summers, cold winters, windstorms, air pollution, soil compaction, insects and diseases are among the many challenges faced by urban trees, not to mention long hours, hazardous working conditions and low pay.

Some of the finest and most adaptable of shade trees, including the stately Red Oak and Hackberry, originate in North America, and are widely planted across the continent.



**Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) is a particularly adaptable native, occurring across a wide swath of Eastern North America and thriving in many other parts of the country. Fast-growing and broad headed, it is well suited for lawns, parks, commercial areas, boulevards and other large-scale landscapes. This long-lived tree is resistant to air pollution, varied soils and other urban challenges. Its rich, dark green leaves turn dark red in the fall.

**Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*) is among the rare trees that survive the harsh growing conditions of Zone 3, and looks good doing it. This deep-rooted tree rarely lifts sidewalks and is tolerant of urban abuse including air pollution, salt spray, drought and high pH soils. Elm-like in character, this broad-spreading, determined grower matures into an airy, graceful tree. Foliage is light green and turns yellow in the fall. Rough corky bark adds visual interest and resists damage from sunscald.



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