

Changes to General Tree List

LFP has a “General Tree List” (<https://www.cityofflp.gov/DocumentCenter/View/224/Tree-List?bidId=>) from which replacement trees are supposed to be selected when trees are removed under permit. (Species not on the list may be planted with the approval of the arborist.) The recent tree inventory made us aware that the list contained several species that are listed by King County as “Weeds of concern (*Control is recommended where possible and new plantings are discouraged*)”. After discussion the Tree Board decided to eliminate these trees from the “recommended” list and also create a “banned list” of trees that King Co. lists as Noxious Weeds or Weeds of Concern, which explicitly should not be planted and will not count as replacements for trees that have been removed. This change is underway and will be completed as soon as we have a new arborist/urban forester.

While we’re working on the Tree List there is one remaining question. Former Tree Board chair Tim Hohn, a former UWBG Curator and horticulture instructor at Edmonds Community College, identified 14 more species on the tree list that he thought should be removed for various reasons (mostly pest-related).

- Chamaecyparis lawsoniana (Pathogen: root rot)
- Clerodendrum trichotomum (suckering)
- Crataegus laevigata (pathogen: leaf blight)
- Crataegus x mordenensis (pathogen: leaf blight)
- Fraxinus species (insect: Emerald Ash Borer)
- Gleditsia triacanthos (insect: Pod Gall Midge)
- Halesia monticola (poorly adapted)
- Picea sitchensis (poorly adapted [moist, cool areas only])
- Populus tremuloides (suckering/invasive)
- Prunus subhirtella (pathogen: blossom rot)
- Prunus virginiana (invasive)
- Prunus padus (invasive)
- Quercus robur (invasive)
- Tilia cordata (insect: aphid)

We have 4 options relating to these species.

1. Ignore Tim’s suggestion and do nothing.
2. Leave them in the list but add a note for each noting the possible problem
3. Take them out of the list
4. Take them out of the list and add them to the banned list.

We don’t have to treat them all the same. Any final decision on this should wait until we have a new arborist/urban forester but I’d like to get a sense of the Tree Board’s view before we go on.