



Prepare Now For Ice Storms

The Midwest has had several severe ice storms this winter resulting in dozens of deaths and widespread property loss and damage. Ice accumulation requires a unique set of weather conditions which, fortunately, do not occur frequently. However, it is simply a matter of time before Tennessee experiences another ice storm. Minimizing and managing ice storm damage requires not only maintenance of existing trees, but also careful selection of which species to plant in the future. Therefore, the following table has been reproduced, which includes tree species classified as either susceptible, intermediate or resistant to damage from ice accumulation. The publication from which the table is taken can be viewed temporarily by [clicking here](#).

Ice Storm Susceptibility of Tree Species Found in Urban Areas

Susceptible	Intermediate	Resistant
American basswood	American beech	American hornbeam
American elm	Boxelder	Amur maple
Bigtooth aspen	Chestnut oak	Baldcypress
Black ash	Choke cherry	Bitternut hickory
Black cherry	Eastern white pine	Black walnut
Black locust	Green ash	Blackgum
Black oak	Loblolly pine	Bur oak
'Bradford' pear	Northern red oak	Catalpa
Butternut	Paper birch	Colorado blue spruce
Common hackberry	Pin oak	Crabapple
Eastern cottonwood	Red maple	Eastern hemlock
Honey locust	Red pine	Eastern redcedar
Jack pine	Scarlet oak	Ginkgo
Pin cherry	Scots pine	Hophornbeam
Pitch pine	Slash pine	Horsechestnut
Red elm	Sourwood	Kentucky coffeetree
River birch	Sugar maple	Littleleaf linden
Siberian elm	Sycamore	Mountain ash
Silver maple	Tulip poplar	Northern white cedar
Virginia pine	White ash	Norway maple
Willow	Yellow birch	Norway spruce
		Ohio buckeye
		Pignut hickory
		Shagbark hickory
		Swamp white oak
		Sweetgum
		White oak
		Witch-hazel
		Yellow buckeye

Reproduced from: Richard J. Hauer, Jeffrey O. Dawson, and Les P. Werner. 2006. *Trees and Ice Storms: The Development of Ice Storm-Resistant Urban Tree Populations*, Second Edition. Joint Publication 06-1, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and the Office of Continuing Education, University of Illinois at



Tree Characteristics Make or Break a Planting

Choosing the right tree for the right spot involves knowing the characteristics of tree species. Here are some traits of commonly found trees.

TREES WITH MANY SURFACE ROOTS

Water oak (*Quercus nigra*)
 Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
 Elms (*Ulmus spp.*)
 Maples (*Acer spp.*)
 Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
 White poplar (*Populus alba*)
 American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
 Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)
 Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
 Willow oak (*Quercus phellos*)
 Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*)
 Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
 Lindens (*Tilia spp.*)
 Canadian hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
 Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*)
 Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)

TREES GRASS IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GROW UNDER

American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
 Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
 American holly, and other hybrids (*Ilex spp.*)
 Japanese cryptomeria (*Cryptomeria japonica*)
 Chinese evergreen oak (*Quercus myrsinifolia*)
 China fir (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*)
 Japanese blue oak (*Quercus glauca*)
 White pine (*Pinus strobus*)

TREES WITH INCONVENIENT LITTER

Big Leaves Hard to Rake

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
 Blackjack oak (*Quercus marilandica*)
 Empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)
 Chinese parasol tree (*Firmiana simplex*)

Narrow Leaves Quick to Clog Gutters

Willow oak (*Quercus phellos*)
 Weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*)

River birch (*Betula nigra*)
 White poplar (*Populus alba*)
 Sugar hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*)
 Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)

Seeds and Pods Messy or Hard to Walk Over

Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
 Pines (*Pinus spp.*)
 Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)
 Sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
 Empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)
 Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
 Pecans and hickories (*Carya spp.*)
 Thornless honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos 'Inermis'*)
 Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
 Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
 Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)

Fruit Drop Is a Mess

Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) — buy a male tree
 Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
 Flowering crabapples (*Malus hybrids*)
 Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*)

TREES WITH WEAK WOOD OR STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

Use Only as a Last Resort

Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)
 Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)
 White poplar (*Populus alba*)
 Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
 Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*)
 Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Good Trees but Could Break in Severe Storm

Tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
 River birch (*Betula nigra*)
 Golden-rain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)
 Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'*)
 Water oak (*Quercus nigra*)
 Pines (*Pinus spp.*)
 Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
 Scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
 Leyland cypress (*X Cupressocyparis leylandii*)

TREES WITH FRAGRANT BLOSSOMS

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
 Southern crabapple (*Malus angustifolia*)
 Fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
 Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
 Japanese flowering cherry (*Prunus serrulata* and cultivars)
 Sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
 Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)
 Little-leaf linden (*Tilia cordata*)
 Sargent crabapple (*Malus sargentii*)
 Silver eleagnus (*Eleagnus angustifolia*)