



THE
PERSHORE PLANT EMPORIUM
LIMITED

Trees for Smaller Gardens

We sometimes liken the difference between the place of trees in a large garden and in a small garden to the contrast between a full symphony orchestra and a string quartet playing chamber music. In chamber music each note must earn its place. Below is a selection of the trees we recommend for small gardens, many of which provide interest over more than one season.

Evergreen Trees

Ilex aquifolium – the Holly – we offer a range of hollies in a range of sizes. Our favourite are half-standard *Ilex aquifolium* ‘*Argentea Marginata*’ whose silver-edged leaves combine brightness and formality which are perfect for small gardens.

Magnolia grandiflora ‘*Gallisonniere*’ would be worth growing just for its large, striking, dark-green leaves with foxy-red, suede-like undersides, but add the large goblet-shaped flowers it bears in late summer and it’s a winner.

We offer *Pinus sylvestris* ‘*Globosa*’ – a naturally mop-headed variety of the native Scots Pine - grafted as quarter and half standards, making it perfect for the smaller garden and for the Japanese-style garden.

Quercus ilex – the Holm Oak is tolerant of a range of soils, thrives on shallow chalk and has attractive, dark-green, leaves.

Acers

We adore Acers and so many of them are ideal for smaller gardens.

About 20 species of *Acer* whose trunks are patterned with vertical dark green, brownish green, or reddish stripes are known as the Snakebark Maples. We particularly like *Acer capillipes* with its crimson bark, *A. davidii* with its green and green-grey bark and *A. conspicuum* ‘*Phoenix*’ and *A. conspicuum* ‘*Red Flamingo*’ with their vivid red bark

Acer griseum – the slow-growing Paperbark Maple has glossy, chestnut-coloured bark which peels gently back as the plant grows. The mid-green leaves turn deep red in autumn.

Acer japonicum ‘*Aconitifolium*’, with its deeply-lobed delicate green leaves that turn deep red in autumn and the very-slow growing *Acer shiraswanum* ‘*Aureum*’ whose pale yellow-gold springtime foliage darkens to greenish-yellow over the summer and in autumn turns golden with red margins are particular favourites of ours.

Acer palmatum cultivars and *Acer palmatum dissectum* cultivars are slow-growing and small at maturity. Their shape is often delightful, their leaves are lobed, often deeply and in *A. palmatum dissectum* cut into a delicate filigree. They are excellent subjects for container-growing.

Our gold medal for brilliant autumn colour goes to *A. palmatum* ‘*Osakazuki*’ whose 7-lobed leaves turn red and are held for a prolonged period before leaf-fall.

Other Deciduous Trees

Amelanchier lamarkii – white, star-shaped spring flowers and gorgeous autumn colour

Betula pendula ‘*Youngii*’ – Young’s Weeping Birch with white bark and branch-tips that seem in perpetual movement is better-suited to small gardens than *Betula pendula* ‘*Tristis*’

Cercidiphyllum japonicum – the Katsura Tree - often gives a spectacular display of yellows and purples in autumn and the fallen leaves smell of burnt sugar. Tolerates some lime, but grows best on neutral to acid soils and tends to give its best autumn colour on acid soils.

Cercis canadensis 'Avondale' – height and spread of 3m – a showy profusion of magenta flowers emerges from the branches before the leaves and is followed in summer by red-brown seed pods. The leaves turn gold in autumn.

Cercis canadensis 'Lavender Twist' – height and spread 2-3m, weeping habit and lilac-coloured flowers in spring before the leaves emerge

Cercis squilustrum (Judas Tree) – prefers sandy soils, tolerates a higher pH, but also performs well in neutral to slightly acidic soil. The pinky-magenta flowers appear on the bare branches in spring and are followed by shapely blue-green leaves which open bronze and turn yellow in autumn.

Cornus kousa – produces showy white bracts in spring and has good autumn colour

The Magnolias, including our favourites the spring-flowering *Magnolia x loebneri* 'Leonard Messel' whose large, pink flowers cover the plant before the leaves emerge and *Magnolia* 'Yunan' which produces whose large, pale cream, goblet-shaped flowers do likewise. We offer both as standards, which are better suited to smaller gardens, as well as bushes.

Magnolia liliifolia 'Betty' is a small tree that bears spectacular flowers in April – deep purple outer petals open to reveal deep pink inner ones. A wonderful specimen for a sheltered spot.

Magnolia 'Stellata' – the Star Magnolia is the smallest Magnolia, growing very slowly to 1.5m after 10 years. The abundant, lightly-fragrant, white flowers can persist for several weeks.

Malus – the Crab Apples make wonderful ornamental trees. M. 'Red Sentinel' holds onto its small, glossy, red fruit well into the autumn, attracting birds to the garden and M. 'Evereste' acts as a good pollinator for dessert and cooking apples

Prunus 'Amanogawa' – is a columnar Flowering Cherry giving pink double flowers in spring and good autumn colour. We also like the white-flowered *Prunus Kajo-no-mai*, whose name means 'Flight of Butterflies', which we offer as a half-standard as well as a bush.

Pyrus salicifolia 'Pendula' a gracefully weeping pear with silvery leaves

Salix caprea 'Pendula' – the weeping Kilmarnock Willow produces its welcome pussy-willow flowers in early spring before the leaves emerge.

Sorbus cashmiriana – the Kashmir Rowan is a beautiful Rowan, ideal for smaller gardens, whose white berries hang on well into the winter as they're a bit too large for birds to eat and gives good autumn leaf colour