



Maclura pomifera Osage Orange

VILLAGE OF MEDINA MUNICIPAL TREE BOARD 600 MAIN STREET MEDINA, NEW YORK 14103

"Roots in the past, planting for the future."

More of What Kind of Tree Should I Plant?

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Selecting a tree that will thrive in a given set of site conditions is the key to long-term tree survival. Once you have filed an application to plant a tree, the Tree Board will assess the site conditions. The following list contains six key points that will be considered before selecting a tree:

- **soil conditions**
- **exposure (sun, wind, and salt)**
- **human activity**
- **drainage**
- **space constraints**
- **hardiness zone**

The amount and quality of soil in a proposed planting site can limit planting success. In urban sites such as a right of way, the topsoil often has been disturbed and frequently is shallow, compacted, and subject to drought. Under these conditions, trees are continuously under stress. Some species actually thrive in these conditions, while others will die. The Tree Board will help you determine what tree can survive in your environment.

The amount of sunlight available in a location will affect tree species selection. Most woody plants require full sunlight for proper growth and flower

bloom. Some do well in light shade, but few tree species perform well in dense shade. Exposure to wind is also a consideration. Wind can dry out soils, causing drought conditions and damage to branches and leaves during storms, and can actually uproot newly planted trees that have not had an opportunity to establish root systems.

This aspect of tree selection is often overlooked. The reality of the situation is that the top five causes of tree death are the result of things people do: soil compaction, underwatering, overwatering, vandalism, and the number one cause—*planting the wrong tree*—account for more tree deaths than all insect and disease-related tree deaths combined.

Many different factors can limit the planting space available to the tree: overhead or underground utilities, pavement, buildings, other trees, visibility. The list goes on and on. The Tree Board will help you make sure there is adequate room for the tree you select to grow to maturity, both above and below ground.

Hardiness is the plant's ability to survive in the extreme temperatures of the particular geographic region in which you are planting the tree. Plants can be cold hardy, heat tolerant, or both. Medina's hardiness zone is zone 6a, however it is best to select a tree that is hardy to zone 5a or 5b to insure survivability in a harsh winter.

Insect and disease organisms affect almost every tree species. Every plant has its particular pest problems, and the severity varies geographically. These pests may or may not be life threatening to the plant. You should select plants resistant to pest problems for your area. There are two scourges that are of concern to Tree Boards around the country: The Asian Long-Horned Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer. Both of these pests were inadvertently imported from Asia in hardwood packing material, and both attack and kill many of our native hardwoods, especially maple and ash. Because of them, entire populations of maple and ash have been wiped out in some areas of the U.S and Canada. Subsequently, Medina refrains from planting any ash, and very few maples.

Personal preferences play a major role in the selection process. Now that

the Tree Board has helped you complete your research, you are ready to select a species for your proposed planting site. The species must be suitable for the geographic region (hardy), tolerant to the moisture and drainage conditions of your soil, be resistant to pests in your area, and have the right form and size for the site and function you have envisioned.

Remember, the beautiful picture of a tree you looked at in a magazine or book was taken of a specimen that is growing vigorously because it was planted in the right place. The Tree Board will help you ensure that your tree selection will be just as picture perfect.

USDA Hardiness Zones – New York State

Average Annual Minimum Temperature

Temperature (F)	Zone
Below -50	1
-45 to -50	2a
-40 to -45	2b
-35 to -40	3a
-30 to -35	3b
-25 to -30	4a
-20 to -25	4b
-15 to -20	5a
-10 to -15	5b
-5 to -10	6a
0 to -5	6b
5 to 0	7a
10 to 5	7b
15 to 10	8a
20 to 15	8b
25 to 20	9a
30 to 25	9b
35 to 30	10a
40 to 35	10b
40 +	11

