

LEXINGTON INVASIVE TREE LIST FOR TREE BYLAW EXEMPTION

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore maple
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree-of-heaven
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	autumn olive
<i>Frangula alnus; Rhamnus frangula</i>	European buckthorn; glossy buckthorn
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	melaleuca
<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	catclaw mimosa
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur cork-tree
<i>Pinus thunbergii</i> *	Japanese black pine*
<i>Pyrus Calleryana</i> **	Callery (Bradford) pear**
<i>Salix atrocinerea; Salix cinerea ssp. oleifolia</i>	large gray willow
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	gray willow; rusty willow

*Listed in 2017. As of 12/31/2022, nursery agents/growers may no longer receive or begin propagation. Existing stock received or propagated before this date may be sold until 12/31/2025. This tree will not be accepted as mitigation planting.

** Listing on the MA Prohibited Plants List expected by the end of June 2024, after a 2022 recommendation by Mass. Invasive Plants Advisory Group. Even if commercially available after this date, this tree will not be accepted as mitigation planting.

Why we have excluded from exemption two trees that are on the MA Prohibited Plant List:

***Acer platanoides* (Norway maple)**

Widely planted as a replacement for American Elm in the early 20th century, Norway maple represents such a large percentage of Lexington's tree canopy that we cannot encourage its wide-scale removal at this time. Exemption from the mitigation requirement of the bylaw does not accurately reflect the value of mature Norway maples. Many municipalities advise that small specimens be removed, and mature ones allowed to live until they decline, at which point they should be replaced with native canopy species.

***Robinia pseudoacacia* (Black locust)**

While the species is native to central portions of Eastern North America, it is not indigenous to Massachusetts. It has been planted throughout the state since the 1700's and is now widely naturalized. It behaves as an invasive species in areas with sandy soils. Black locust seeds do not disperse as widely as do Norway maples, and the trees support many forms of wildlife. The tree's presence in pockets in Lexington provides much-needed shade. As with Norway maples, removal of seedlings and gradual replacement of declining mature trees is a practical approach that retains tree canopy.