

Some Trees Suitable for Park Planting

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As a result of World War II many of the trees planted in our parks, public plazas, school grounds and areas for recreation were destroyed. One important problem at hand is the selection of trees that are suitable for planting to replace those that were destroyed and for new plantings in order to restore the beautiful landscape of the country. We have both native and introduced species which meet some of the requirements for ideal park trees. The requirements are: (1) It should have big evergreen leaves. (2) Deep rooted to be wind resistant with tough strong symmetrical wide spreading branches. (3) Ornamental leaves, flowers and fruits. (4) Resistant to drought, insect and fungus attack. (5) Non-poisonous. While no particular species meet all the essential qualities for an ideal park tree, yet many of those that will be discussed later possess some of the essential ones. It is not enough that a tree will grow in a place. It should be there for a particular purpose. A tree may be grown for shade and at the

same time for the fruits or for the flowers. In our public forests there are several species which when brought under cultivation promise to be beautiful trees for park planting. Some of those tried are Balitbitan, *Cynometra ramiflora* Linn., *Podocarpus philippinensis* Foxw., Malaruhut, *Syzygium simile* Merr., Makaasim, *Syzygium benthamii* (A. Gray) Merr., Agoho, *Casuarina equisetifolia* Linn., Botong, *Barringtonia asiatica* (L) Kurz., Anchoan, *Cassia javanica* L., Liusin, *Parinarium corymbosum* (Blume) Miq., etc.

The usual size height and crown spread of the tree should be known in order to be able to plant them properly in the park. We say that the crown is small when the spread is not over five meters, medium when the spread is over five and less than ten meters and large when the spread is more than ten meters. This refers to average conditions because the spread of the crown is affected greatly by the fertility of the soil, distance of planting, soil moisture and other environmental conditions.

LIST OF TREES SUITABLE FOR PARK PLANTING

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Qualities
<i>Acacia confusa</i> Merr.	Ayangile	Leaves
<i>Acmena acuminatissima</i> (Blume) Merr.	Binoloan	Shade
<i>Agathis alba</i> (Lam) Foxw.	Almaciga	Leaves-shade
<i>Aleurites moluccana</i> (L) Willd.	Lumbang	Leaves-flowers
<i>Aleurites trisperma</i> Blanco	Baguilumbang	Shade
<i>Alphonsea arborea</i> (Blanco) Merr.	Bolon	Leaves-shade
<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L) R. Br.	Dita	Branches
<i>Artocarpus blancoi</i> (Elm) Merr.	Antipolo	Shade-leaves
<i>Artocarpus adoratissima</i> Blanco	Marang I	Shade-fruit
<i>Artocarpus cumingiana</i> Trec	Anubing	Shade
<i>Barringtonia asiatica</i> (L) Kurz	Botong	Shade-fruit
<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> L.	Purple Bauhinia	Flowers-shade
<i>Bischofia javanica</i> Blume	Tuai	Shade
<i>Buchanania arborescens</i> Blume	Balinghasai	Shade
<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> L.	Bitag	Shade

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Qualities
Canarium aspersum Benth	Pagsahingin	Shade
Canarium luzonicum (Blume) A. Gray	Piling-liitan	Shade
Canarium ovatum Engl.	Pili	Shade-fruit
Cassia fistula L.	Caña fistula	Shade-flowers
Cassia javanica L.	Anchoan	Shade-flowers
Casuarina equisetifolia L.	Agoho	Shade-leaves
Casuarina rumphiana Mig.	Agoho del monte	Shade-leaves
Cynometra ramiflora Linn.	Oringen Balitbitan	Shade-leaves
Delonix regia (Boj) Raf.	Fire tree	Shade-flowers
Dispyros discolor Willd.	Kamagong	Shade-fruits
Ficus baleta Merr.	Balete	Shade-roots
Ficus elastica Roxb.	India rubber	Shade-leaves
Heritiera littoralis Dry	Dungon late	Shade-leaves
Hydnocarpus alcala C.Dc	Dudua	Shade-fruits
Hynocarpus hutchinsonii Merr.	Bagarbas	Shade-fruits
Intsia bijuga (Colebr) O. Ktze	Ipil	Shade
Koordersiodendron pinnatum (Blanco) Merr.	Amuguis	Shade-flowers
Lagerstroemia periformis Kochne	Batitanan	Shade-flowers
Lagerstroemia speciosa (L) Pers.	Banaba	Shade-flowers
Mangifera indica L.	Mango	Shade-fruit
Manifera monandra Merr.	Malapaho	Shade
Melia dubia Cav.	Bagalunga	Flowers
Michelia alba DC	Champaka-puti	Flowers-shade
Michelia champaca L.	Champaka	Flowers-shade
Nauclea orientalis L.	Bangkal	Shade-branches
Pahudia rhomboidea (Blanco) Prain	Tindalo	Shade
Parinarium corymbosum (Blume) Miq	Liusin	Shade
Parinarium glaberrimum Hassk	Tabontabon	Shade-fruit
Parkia javanica (Lam) Merr.	Kupang	Shade-flowers
Peltophorum inerme (Roxb) Llanos	Siar	Shade-flowers
Planchonia spectabilis Merr.	Lamog	Shade-leaves
Pterocarpus spp.	Narra	Shade-flowers
Pygeum vulgare (Koehne) Merr.	Lago	Shade
Samanea saman (Jacq) Merr.	Rain tree	Shade
Sandoricum koetjape (Burm f.) Merr.	Santol	Shade-fruit
Sapindus saponaria L.	Kusibeng	Shade
Sindora supa Merr.	Supa	Shade-leaves
Spathodea campanulata Beauv.	African tulip	Shade-flowers
Streblus asper Lour.	Kalios	Shade
Sapindus saponaria L.	Palosanto	Flowers-shade
Swietenia macrophylla King	Mahogany, L.L.	Shade
Swietenia majogani Jacq.	Mahogany, S.L.	Shade
Syzygium benthamii (A. Gray) Merr.	Makaasim	Shade
Syzygium simili Merr.	Malaruhat	Shade
Tamarindus indica L.	Sampalok	Shade-leaves
Tarrietia sylvatica (Vid) Merr.	Duñgon	Shade-leaves
Tectona grandis L.	Teak	Shade-leaves
Terminalia catappa L.	Talisai	Shade-leaves

Shade means that the tree is good shade tree; leaves mean that the leaves are ornamental; flowers, mean ornamental flowers; Fruits mean edible or ornamental fruits; branches mean horizontal branches.

DESCRIPTION OF SOME TREES SUITABLE FOR PARK PLANTING

Agathis alba (Lam) Foxw., Álmaciga. Large sized tree with pyramidal crown when young. Evergreen foliage, horizontal

- branching order. Leaves are opposite or nearly so of leathery texture. Fruits are in cones often in purplish color.
- Artocarpus cumingiana* Trec., Anubing. A medium to large tree. The crown is rather open. The leaves are big varying from 15 to 20 centimeters long and from 7 to 12 centimeters wide, hairy beneath.
- Calophyllum inophyllum* L., Bitao. Large sized tree with open crown adapted to places not far from the sea. Branches are tough. Leaves are simple opposite yellowish green in color with yellow midrib. Flowers are small borne in cluster, rather fragrant and white. The fruit contains oil.
- Canarium ovatum* Engl., Pili. Medium sized tree with medium crown. The crown is fairly open. It has a tendency to form buttress. The leaves are compound, flowers small and fragrant, fruits consist of thick shelled triangular nut surrounded by a pulp. The pulp when cooked is edible as well as the nut.
- Cassia fistula* L., Caña fistula. Medium sized tree, partly deciduous with open crown. It has compound leaves but does not produce heavy shade. The flowers are beautiful golden yellow and numerous, arranged in pendulous racemes from top to the lower part of the crown.
- Cassia javanica* L., Anchoan. A medium sized tree. Deciduous, open crown with compound leaves. It does not give heavy shade but the branches are tough. The whitish pink flowers are very well disposed among the leaves and very showy from May to June.
- Casuarina equisetifolia* L., Ago. Medium sized lofty tree that resembles the pine. It is especially adapted for locations near the shore where the soil is sandy. It has fine filiform branchlets instead of leaves. It has pyramidal crown when young. The shade is not heavy but is planted because of its graceful appearance and resistance to windthrow.
- Chrysophyllum cainito* Linn., Star Apple. Small sized tree, introduced in the Philippines for its fruits. It is evergreen, the leaves dark green, oval which is coppery yellow beneath. Suitable for small space of ground.
- Cynometra ramiflora* Linn., Balitbitan or Oringen. Small sized evergreen tree with compact dense crown and persistent lower branches. The leaves are deep green when old. The young leaves are developed in long drooping greenish white bunches at the tip of the branches.
- Barringtonia asiatica* (Linn) Kurz, Botong. Medium sized tree with dense spreading crown. The leaves are large, leathery, shiny, larger at the apex than at the base. It is suitable for situations near the seashore where the soil is sandy.
- Delonix regia* (Boj) Raf, Fire tree. Medium sized tree, almost deciduous, rather open crowned and produces light shade. From March to July, it produces immense sprays of scarlet flowers which make the tree a gorgeous one.
- Diospyros discolor* Willd., Camagon. Medium sized evergreen tree with compact dense crown. The leaves are simple alternate, leathery and densely covered with fine white hairs beneath. The fruits are as large as the apple, covered with brown hairs. It is found in many sections of the city of Manila.
- Ficus elastica* Roxb, India Rubber. Large handsome quick growing evergreen tree. It has open crown. The leaves are large, oval, leathery and shiny. It develops enormous aerial buttressed roots which makes it very attractive tree for park planting.
- Hydnocarpus hutchinsonii* Merr, Bagarbas. Medium sized evergreen tree with short straight bole. The leaves are oblong and leathery from 15 to 25 centimeters long and from 5 to 9 centimeters wide. The fruits are globular of about 8 centimeters in diameter, and very attractive.
- Koordersiodendron pinnatum* (Blanco) Merr, Amuguis. Large sized tree with symmetrical crown, ridged bole and deep

green leaves. It produces heavy shade. The whitish terminal flowers on February and March are showy.

Lagerstroemia speciosa (Linn) Pers. Bana-ba. Medium sized partly deciduous tree. It has dense foliage and semi-open crown. It produces at the ends of the branches large erect panicles of beautiful flowers during the months of from May to July.

Mangifera indica Linn, Mango. Large sized evergreen tree highly esteemed fruit tree in the Philippines. It produces wide spreading branches with short trunk. It is shallow rooted and sometimes blown down in strong winds. It furnishes excellent shade during the dry season.

Peltophorum inerme (Roxb) Llanos, Siar. Large attractive tree. The crown is symmetrical with spreading branches and dense compound leaves. The flowers are bright yellow in dense mass which are very showy during the months of March and April.

Pterocarpus spp., Narra. The national tree of the Philippines. A medium to large tree with wide spreading crown. It is deciduous. The trunk produces buttress which make it very stately when grown in the open. The leaves are alternate compound. The flowers are numerous bright yellow and last for about twenty four hours. The wood produces valuable timber.

Sapindus saponaria L, Kusibeng. Medium sized tree usually growing in the parang or at the edge of the forest, resistant to drought and windfall. The crown is symmetrical with compound leaves.

Spathodea campanulata Beauv, African Tulip. A tall erect fast growing evergreen tree. The leaves are compound. The large, bright orange scarlet, erect cupshaped flowers borne at the tip of the branches, render the tree strikingly handsome. The tree is in bloom from November to February. The branches are weak and broken in strong winds but the danger is not much when grown in groups.

Swietenia macrophylla King, Mahogany, Large Leaf. This species is introduced from tropical America and the source of the Mahogany wood of commerce. It is a large-sized deciduous tree. The leaves are compound, ripen at the same time and drop on the ground practically in mass in March and April. The old leaves are replaced within a few days. It is getting popular as a roadside tree and is found in many places in the Philippines.

Terminalia catappa L, Talisai. Large handsome tree with horizontal branches. The crown is pyramidal in shape when young. The leaves are big and oftentimes perforated by insects. It does well on sandy soil near the seashore.

It is said, with some degree of truth, that no man is a villain when you know him.—*Dr. Hamilton Fyfe.*

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