



# City of La Cañada Flintridge

## City Protected Trees

### Preservation, Protection and Removal of Trees



The City of La Cañada Flintridge is a rural community with trees dating back over 100 years. Accordingly, the City Council adopted Chapter 4.26 of the Municipal Code concerning the "Preservation, Protection, and Removal of Trees." The purpose

of this code is: "...to preserve and protect the trees that are of historic or aesthetic importance, and to provide for the protection and replacement of trees in order to maintain the community's wooded character; protect the scenic beauty of the area; reduce erosion of topsoil...and to address fire concerns by discouraging the planting of...highly flammable trees. The intent is to preserve and encourage the regeneration of a healthy urban forest..."

The City has designated five trees to be protected under the Municipal Code: native California Oak, Sycamore, Deodar Cedar,

Chinese Elm, and California Pepper. On residential property, all protected trees with a trunk measuring (12) inches or more in diameter, shall not be removed or extensively trimmed (more than 25%) without a tree removal permit issued by the Planning Department. If a tree has multiple trunks, the combined diameter of all trunks is considered as the diameter. Any protected tree with a diameter of thirty-six (36) inches or greater is considered to be a Heritage tree and requires additional environmental review.



### Trimming and / or Pruning Trees

All trees in nonresidential zones are protected and require tree permits and work done by City-licensed commercial tree services.

Only City-licensed commercial tree services are permitted to trim protected trees on single-family residential properties. The only exception is if a property owner / resident solely performs all the work. If a property owner decides to trim their own tree, the City recommends picking up a "How to Prune Trees" guide which is available at City Hall in the Planning Department. The requirements for City licensing include:

1. Proof of certification with the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
2. Proof of possession of a state contractor's license (C61 / D49); or
3. Attend City-approved tree pruning classes and demonstrate knowledge of pruning techniques by passing a written exam.

La Canada Flintridge residents should make sure that any company they hire complies with the above regulations. Contact the City for a list of currently approved arborists.

#### Quick Tree Care Tips

- Plant new trees at least 10 feet from all structures
- Avoid planting trees above or near water or sewer lines
- If tree roots are possibly causing structural damage, consult a City authorized professional to construct a root shield
- Avoid excessive trimming / pruning
- Avoid filling, trenching, or paving near root protection zone

# City Protected Trees

## California Native Oak



- Scientific Name:  
*Quercus*
- Sun Exposure:  
Prefers full sun, but tolerates shade
- Water:  
Needs good drainage; very little water is necessary once established
- Growth:  
Log lasting tree (100+ years), but grows slowly

### TREE CARE

The California Native Oak is considered a deciduous tree (drops leaves every fall) that is very adaptable and tolerant to its surrounding environment. The wood on these long-lasting trees is very hard and strong. The leaves are small and thick with a waxy film that acts as protection from harsh sun. It is important to keep in mind that once established, oak trees do not tolerate abrupt change or over-watering.

## Deodar Cedar



- Scientific Name:  
*Cedrus Deodara*
- Sun Exposure:  
Prefers full sun
- Water:  
Needs good drainage and daily watering in warm/dry weather
- Growth:  
70' – 80' tall; 20'-40' wide; rapid growth rate

### TREE CARE

The Deodar Cedar is an evergreen that prefers full sun exposure. For the most part, the fast growing evergreen is drought resistant once established. The leaves of a Deodar Cedar are needles that are grayish-green in color. The branches have a drooping or dropping appearance.

## Chinese Elm



- Scientific Name:  
*Ulmus Parvifolia*
- Sun Exposure:  
Prefers full sun
- Water:  
Needs good drainage and prefers moist soil
- Growth:  
40' – 50' tall; 30' wide; rapid growth rate

### TREE CARE

The Chinese Elm is a deciduous tree that prefers full sun exposure. This fast growing tree has a multi-colored bark that sheds thin flakes, exposing an orange/red/brown inner bark. The leaves tend to be 2-3 inches long.

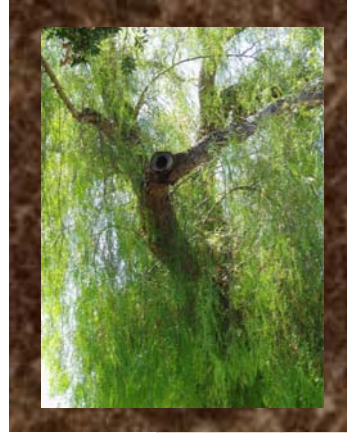
# City Protected Trees

## California Pepper

- Scientific Name:  
*Schinus Molle*
- Sun Exposure:  
Prefers full sun; heat and drought tolerant
- Water:  
Needs good drainage and little water once established
- Growth:  
25' – 40' tall; 40' wide; rapid growth rate

### TREE CARE

The California Pepper is a fast growing evergreen that produces colorful pink berries in the fall and white flowers in the summer. Regular irrigation helps maintain ornamental character. Tree experts recommend watering California Peppers once a month during summer droughts.



## Sycamore

- Scientific Name:  
*Platanus Racemosa*
- Sun Exposure:  
Prefers full sun
- Water:  
Needs well to moderately drained soil that is rich and moist; can tolerate dry and poor soils
- Growth:  
60' – 100' tall; 20'-40' wide; rapid growth rate

### TREE CARE

The Sycamore is a fast growing tree that needs plenty of room to mature and spread. The scaly bark of this large tree is smooth and off-white. The bright green leaves have 3-5 lobes between 4" – 8" wide. Mature Sycamore trees can have one tall trunk or multiple trunks near ground level.



A list of City Authorized arborists is available in the Planning Department and on the City's website. All information in this flyer may also be found on the City of La Canada Flintridge website: [www.lcf.ca.gov/City/Planning/Trees](http://www.lcf.ca.gov/City/Planning/Trees). For further information or questions, please contact the La Cañada Flintridge Planning Department at 818-790-8881.

## Findings for a Tree Removal Permit

At least one of the following findings must be determined in order to obtain approval from the Director of Community Development, the Planning Commission, or the City Council:

### Chapter 4.26 Preservation, Protection, and Removal of Trees

- 1) Where the tree itself, its excess foliage or its limbs are interfering with a structure or building and there is no feasible alternative to mitigate the interference.
- 2) Where, upon taking into account the size, shape, topography and existing trees upon the lot, the denial of the permit would create an unreasonable hardship on the property owner.
- 3) Where a written determination has been made by an ISA certified arborist after a visual inspection and scientific evaluation, that the tree is so diseased or damaged, it is no longer viable or is a threat to property or to other trees. The Director may waive the requirement for an arborist's statement when: The tree can reasonably be determined to be dead by a lay person's visual inspection; or after conducting an inspection of the tree, the Director determines that the tree poses an obvious and imminent threat to life or property.
- 4) Where the removal of one or more trees in an urban grove is necessary for the preservation of the health of the grove as determined by an ISA certified arborist.
- 5) Where the Fire Department has deemed that removal of the tree(s) is critical to providing an effective firebreak.

*Tree Removal Permits are available in the Planning Department and on the City of La Canada Flintridge website:*

*[www.lcf.ca.gov>City>Planning>Planning>Planning Forms>Tree Removal Permit.](http://www.lcf.ca.gov/City/Planning/Planning/PlanningForms/Tree%20Removal%20Permit)*



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