

From: [Paul Woodmansee](#)
To: [Stacie Pratschner](#)
Subject: FW: CPAC question
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 7:39:35 AM
Attachments: [Tree information .docx](#)

Caution External Message

Stacie,

I tried to get some information as Commissioner Curry asked the question about trees.

The tree information in the doc attached is a source I used online, and I posed the same question to our local landscape architect Patrik Dylan who does great work and has good knowledge. See his answer below.

I was hoping you could share this with the group.

*Be Blessed,
Paul Woodmansee
President*

From: Patrik Dylan <eccosdesign@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 1:00 PM
To: Paul Woodmansee <Paul@bykconstruction.com>
Subject: Re: CPAC question

Hi Paul-

Thanks for being on that committee!!!

Q1 - Evergreens, like fir or pine, absorb more CO2 than deciduous trees like oak or cherry. They absorb year-round. Beyond that, bigger is better.

Q2 - The best trees are ones that do not outgrow their space and can reach full maturity without becoming a nuisance. Columnar or skinny trees, in my opinion, do this best, as even a dwarf tree can get wide in tight spaces. Beyond that, they have to be rugged, drought-resistant, and available in the trade..

Thx

PD

Patrik Dylan, PLA
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On Wed, Sep 3, 2025 at 11:02 AM Paul Woodmansee <Paul@bykconstruction.com>
wrote:

Patrik,

I am on the City of Mount Vernon's Citizens Advisory committee. We are working with planning commission members to update the code for the City of Mount Vernon.

The question of the planning commission is a two part question-

1. What trees are the best trees for CO2 absorption that work in our region?
2. What trees are also the best future shade trees for housing units?

Thank you for your help on this!

Be Blessed,

Paul Woodmansee

President

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Large Shade Trees (50+ ft at maturity)

These trees are ideal for larger properties or areas where you want significant shade coverage:

1. **Oregon White Oak**

- Native to the region
- Extremely drought-tolerant once established
- Long-lived and sturdy

1

2. **Shumard Oak**

- Not native but well-adapted
- Offers vibrant fall color

1

3. **Norway Maple**

- Common in Washington
- Broad canopy, excellent for shading roofs

1

4. **American Beech**

- Dense summer shade
- Attractive foliage

2

5. **Tulip Poplar**

- Fast-growing
- Beautiful spring flowers and yellow fall foliage

2

6. **Southern Live Oak**

- Evergreen foliage
- Excellent for coastal and storm-prone areas

2

Medium to Small Shade Trees (30–50 ft or less)

Great for smaller yards or planting closer to buildings:

1. **Yellowwood**

- Fragrant, wisteria-like blooms
- Rounded canopy

1

2. **Black Tupelo**

- Pyramidal shape
- Stunning red/orange fall color

1

3. **Chinese Pistache**

- Tolerant of many conditions
- Brilliant fall foliage

1

4. **'Shademaster' Honey Locust**

- Classic rounded canopy
- Minimal leaf litter

1

 **Evergreen Options for Year-Round Screening & Shade**

These are especially useful for privacy and winter shade:

1. **Western Red Cedar**

- Thrives in wet climates
- Aromatic and attractive

3

2. **Douglas Fir**

- Native and hardy
- Tall and stately

3

3. **Leyland Cypress / Thuja Giant**

- Fast-growing

- Great for living screens

2

Planting Tips

- **Best placement:** Shade west and south exposures to reduce summer heat.
- **Distance from structures:** Allow room for canopy spread and root growth.
- **Soil:** Loamy, well-drained soil is ideal; amend clay-heavy soil with organic matter.
- **Timing:** Late summer to early fall is ideal for planting in the PNW due to consistent rainfall

3

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