

# LANDSCAPING – list of trees and shrubs to avoid

Updated February 2019

Written in 1998, Covenant II.33 references “Exhibit B” of the Covenants as the only list of trees approved to be planted in the subdivision. However, that list includes several species that have since been determined to be invasive, as well as species considered to be nuisance trees. In response to this, the Covenants were changed in December 2018 through ratification of Amendment #7 – this reworded Covenant II.33, thereby rendering “Exhibit B” null and void.

Under the direction of a horticulturalist, the following list was been developed and maintained by the Landscape Committee. The list is a guide for Walden Pond Estates property owners to help them avoid a multitude of problems within their landscape. If homeowners currently have existing plantings from “Exhibit B” (now nullified), this current list does not imply that homeowners need to remove those previously required plantings.

If planting on your own, or working with a landscaper, it is recommended to reference this current list. It will be updated periodically by the Landscape Committee under advisement of a horticulturalist.

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## Ornamental pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

- Highly susceptible to fungal disease (e.g. fire blight), which is extremely difficult to treat effectively.
- Frequently breaks in the wind due to weak wood.
- There is emerging evidence of invasiveness, meaning that it will seed and grow elsewhere on your property and that of your neighbors.

## Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*)

- Grows poorly in clay soils (which are prevalent in new construction), which leaves the tree with an abnormally yellow coloration that cannot easily be remedied.

## Spruce (particularly Colorado Blue) (*Picea pungens*)

- Spruce in general are pretty stressed in central Illinois because our summers are far too hot. This stress makes the tree susceptible to fungal diseases that can disfigure the tree. Affected trees need constant monitoring and repeated treatment.

## White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

- White birch are pretty stressed in central Illinois because our summers are far too hot. This stress makes the tree susceptible to the bronze Birch borer, which will either kill the tree, or at least leave it severely disfigured. Affected trees need constant monitoring and repeated treatment.

## Ash (*Fraxinus* genus)

- The emerald Ash borer (EAB) has decimated the ash tree population throughout the Midwest, including here in central Illinois. The EAB destroys the tree. All species in *Fraxinus* genus are susceptible to EAB. While treatment for EAB invasion is possible, it is very expensive and must occur annually for 20+ years.
- The “Mountain Ash” is not a true Ash, as it is not in the *Fraxinus* genus.

## Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)

- Ginkgo trees of unknown sex (typically seed-grown) may in fact be female trees, which produce fruits that smell like fresh vomit—which would be a nuisance to everyone. The sex of a ginkgo tree is not known until they are approximately 20-40 years old. **However, if a ginkgo tree is a certified male cultivar (i.e., propagated from known male ginkgo trees), these problems may be avoided.**