

A Word About Tree Maintenance...

For most people, tree work means the planting of a tree or the removal of a tree. Few understand that as a living thing, a tree requires care to grow properly. Trees that receive little or no maintenance decline and become susceptible to insect infestation and disease. Due to the proximity of urban trees to roadways, pedestrian areas and buildings, a tree in decline becomes a hazard.

The best time to start a tree maintenance program is prior to planting. Look up, down and all around. Make sure the site and soil conditions are right for long, healthy tree growth. Select a species that's right for the site. It is most important that a suitable, stable environment be created and maintained. Routine maintenance, including thorough but infrequent watering, and mulching go a long way to providing a healthy environment. Fertilizers can be used to invigorate the tree in times of stress, but should only be used after soil testing to determine pH and any nutrient deficiency. Trimming should be performed after the first three (3) years to remove any poor branching habit. Activities that may result in soil compaction within the critical root zone of the tree should be avoided. As the tree ages additional trimming to remove dead wood will occasionally be required. Topping should never be permitted, and cuts should be limited to those that maintain the natural shape of the tree. Always consult a certified arborist when dealing with mature tree trimming or stress related tree problems.



ISA International Tree Climbing Champion Mike Cotter trimming the "Major's Oak".

Photo Courtesy of the Aegis

Questions? The Town has a certified arborist on staff.
Contact the Planning Department @ 410-879-9500.

Town of Bel Air



*Created by the
Town of Bel Air Tree Committee
and the*

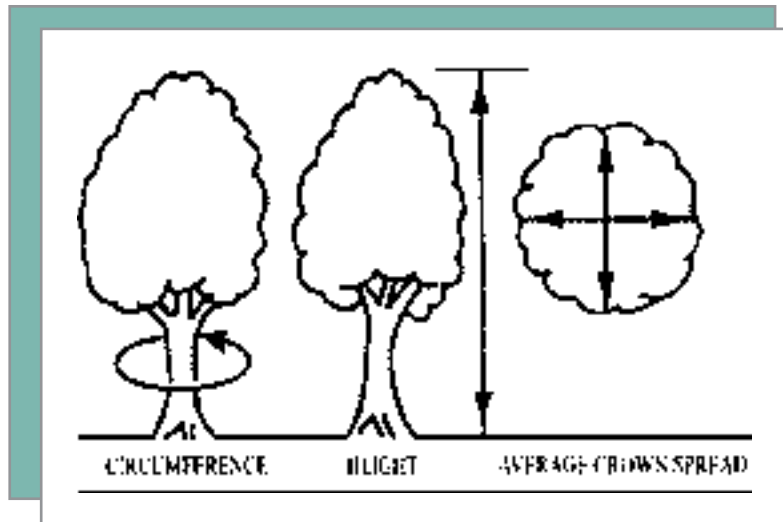
Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service



What is a Champion Tree?

Champion trees are those that are considered the largest of the species. Understanding that the development and growth of a tree is affected by both genetic potential and environmental surroundings, champion trees are to be considered something truly special having withstood the test of time and all its negative impacts--development, pollution, extreme changes in weather. Big trees not only represent the history of an area, they represent its future, symbolizing strength, stability and pride.

Evaluating the size of a tree involves a series of measurements: the girth of the tree in inches at a height 4.5 feet above grade; the height of the tree; and the average crown spread. These calculations are combined as follows:



$$\text{Total points} = \text{Circumference (inches)} + \text{Height (feet)} + 25\% \text{ of the Average Crown Spread (feet)}$$

Maryland was the first state in the nation to attempt to locate and document champion trees by creating The Big Tree Contest back in 1925. The Maryland Big Tree Program State Champions list dated March 7, 2005 created by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service, lists Harford County as having more than 25 state champion trees, 6 of which are located in the Town of Bel Air. This publication of the Town of Bel Air Champion Tree List indicates those trees found to measure a minimum 50% of the state champion.

Spruce, Norway - *Picea abies*

Circumference - 134" Height - 105' Spread - 52'
Owner - William T. Moore, Jr.

Walnut, Black - *Juglans nigra*

Circumference - 126" Height - 90' Spread - 75'
Owner - Bel Air United Methodist Church

Willow, Weeping - *Salix babylonica*

Circumference - 117" Height - 61' Spread - 58'
Owner - Thomas & Josephine Murtaugh



Yellow Buckeye - *Aesculus octandra*

Circumference - 147" Height - 101' Spread - 50'
Owner - Eastern Properties LLC



Town of Bel Air Tree Committee

Created in 1992 as part of a Small Business Administration grant requirement, the Town of Bel Air Tree Committee has since established its presence in the community as an active participant in urban environmental matters. Eager to address any tree planting or maintenance concerns, the five member group meets monthly to discuss ongoing projects and tree-related issues with assistance from the Town's Planning Department and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service. The Committee has designed and implemented several large scale planting projects, including those along the Route 24 and Bond Street Corridors, and is responsible for the Town's Tree City, USA and Maryland PLANT Community Awards. To focus on the history that is so much a part of Bel Air, the Committee recruited the assistance of the residents of Bel Air to document the largest trees in Town for this Champion Tree List.

Following are the Town of Bel Air's champion trees.



Indicates State Champion Tree.

Oak, White - *Quercus alba*

Circumference - 208" Height - 100' Spread - 95'

Owner - Town of Bel Air

Oak, Willow - *Quercus phellos*

Circumference - 111" Height - 80' Spread - 70'

Owner - Tybradan Investments, Inc.

Osage Orange - *Maclura pomifera*

Circumference - 142" Height - 75' Spread - 76'

Owner - Bel Air United Methodist Church

Pecan - *Carya illinoensis*

Circumference - 111" Height - 89' Spread - 76'

Owner - Laura Bearsch

Persimmon - *Diospyros virginiana*

Circumference - 68" Height - 65' Spread - 46'

Owner - Charles Robbins

Pine, Loblolly - *Pinus taeda*

Circumference - 70" Height - 75' Spread - 39'

Owner - Timothy Smith



Pine, White - *Pinus strobus*

Circumference - 120" Height - 116' Spread - 44'

Owner - Vernon J. Jones

Poplar, Yellow - *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Circumference - 162" Height - 112' Spread - 65'

Owner - 725 N. Hickory Avenue LLC

Sassafras - *Sassafras albidum*

Circumference - 115" Height - 85' Spread - 42'

Owner - Bel Air United Methodist Church

Spruce, Blue - *Picea pungens 'Glauca'*

Circumference - 54" Height - 44' Spread - 26'

Owner - Vida Rector Lowe

American Sycamore - *Platanus occidentalis*

Circumference - 202" Height - 108' Spread - 109'

Owner - Michael E. Adams

Ash, White - *Fraxinus americana*

Circumference - 156" Height - 110' Spread - 66'

Owner - Bel Air United Methodist Church

Beech, American - *Fagus grandifolia*

Circumference - 153" Height - 70' Spread - 96'

Owner - Bel Air Lee Professional Building

Birch, Paper - *Betula papyrifera*

Circumference - 68" Height - 55' Spread - 50'

Owner - William B. Miller



Caucasian Wingnut - *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*

Circumference - 115" Height - 94' Spread - 68'

Owner - Harford County

Cedar, Eastern Red - *Juniperus virginiana*

Circumference - 114" Height - 66' Spread - 26'

Owner - Bel Air United Methodist Church

Cherry, Black - *Prunus serotina*

Circumference - 153" Height - 102' Spread - 81'

Owner - William T. Moore, Jr.

Cherry, Kwanzan - *Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'*

Circumference - 103" Height - 36' Spread - 48'

Owner - Lelia Carico

Cherry, Sweet (Bird) - *avium*

Circumference - 181" Height - 68' Spread - 70'

Owner - Eugene A. Summers

Cherry, Weeping - *Prunus sub-hirtella* 'Pendula'
Circumference - 110" Height - 42' Spread - 54'
Owner - Charles Waters

Cedar, Japanese - *Cryptomeria japonica*
Circumference - 48" Height - 49' Spread - 22'
Owner - Tybradan Investments, Inc.

Dawn Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
Circumference - 100" Height - 80' Spread - 48'
Owner - Timothy Smith

Elm, Chinese - *Ulmus parvifolia*
Circumference - 106" Height - 70' Spread - 66'
Owner - Christopher Donato

Hickory, Mockernut - *Carya tomentosa*
Circumference - 88" Height - 124' Spread - 60'
Owner - Timothy Stielper

Hickory, Pignut - *Carya glabra*
Circumference - 70" Height - 85' Spread - 48'
Owner - Town of Bel Air

Holly, American - *Ilex opaca*
Circumference - 57" Height - 48' Spread - 32'
Owner - Shawn & Allison Rowland

Kentucky Coffee Tree - *Gymnocladus dioica*
Circumference - 124" Height - 96' Spread - 63'
Owner - Robert F. Kahoe, Jr.

Larch, European - *Larix decidua*
Circumference - 114" Height - 92' Spread - 40'
Owner - Bel Air United Methodist Church

Linden, American (Basswood) - *Tilia americana*
Circumference - 166" Height - 107' Spread - 67'
Owner - Vernon J. Jones

Linden, European - *Tilia europaea*
Circumference - 134" Height - 95' Spread - 76'
Owner - Bel Air United Methodist Church

Linden, Little Leaf - *Tilia cordata*
Circumference - 171" Height - 98' Spread - 58'
Owner - Eugene A. Summers



Magnolia, Umbrella - *Magnolia tripetala*
Circumference - 75" Height - 44' Spread - 28'
Owner - William E. Hubbard, III

Maple, Boxelder - *Acer negundo*
Circumference - 106" Height - 70' Spread - 63'
Owner - Bel Air United Methodist Church



Maple, Hedge - *Acer campestre*
Circumference - 111" Height - 61' Spread - 35'
Owner - Thomas & Josephine Murtaugh

Maple, Norway - *Acer platanoides*
Circumference - 153" Height - 71' Spread - 60'
Owner - 319 Maitland Street LLC

Maple, Silver - *Acer saccharinum*
Circumference - 212" Height - 104' Spread - 103'
Owner - Jesse P. Lovelace

Oak, Bur - *Quercus macrocarpa*
Circumference - 70" Height - 56' Spread - 48'
Owner - Bel Air United Methodist Church

Oak, Northern Red - *Quercus rubra*
Circumference - 148" Height - 112' Spread - 79'
Owner - Town of Bel Air

Oak, Pin - *Quercus palustris*
Circumference - 116" Height - 85' Spread - 74'
Owner - Harford Co. Public Library, Bel Air Branch