



## Invasive Trees Found in Seattle's Parks

Seattle Urban Nature Project (SUNP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life in the Puget Sound Region by engaging communities to improve urban forests. Since 1999, SUNP has surveyed and monitored habitat conditions on public lands in the Seattle area. For more information about our current or past projects, please visit [www.seattleurbannature.org](http://www.seattleurbannature.org).

**Cherry laurel** (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is an evergreen tree and is among the most prevalent invasive species in Seattle's parks and open spaces. This popular garden species grows and reproduces in the forest environment, and competes with native species. The seeds are dispersed by birds who eat the berries.



Cherry laurel

**English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*) is another invasive evergreen plant also dispersed by birds. This traditional landscape plant is one of the most common invasive species found in Seattle's urban forests and can be spread from miles away.



English holly

**Portugal laurel** (*Prunus lusitanica*), an evergreen invasive tree, is an often overlooked threat to our urban forests. This plant is able to reproduce in the forest understory in low light conditions. It competes with and displaces native species when established. It is spread by birds who eat the berries.



Portugal laurel

**European hawthorn or one-seed hawthorn** (*Crataegus monogyna*) is a deciduous tree which is capable of reproducing in forest conditions. It is a common invasive species found in Seattle's forests and often creates dense thickets in disturbed areas. It is spread by fruit-eating birds who eat the clusters of red berries produced in the fall. European hawthorn is a popular horticultural plant.



European hawthorn

**European mountain ash** (*Sorbus aucuparia*) is a deciduous horticultural tree with clusters of orange-red berries that attract birds. This tree can be frequently found in our urban forests, courtesy of birds dropping seeds.



European mountain ash

**Horse chestnut** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) is another commonly planted European horticultural plant. This deciduous tree has five-lobed leaves and attractive flowers. The nuts are spread to natural areas by birds and animals. Once established, it competes with native vegetation for space, light and nutrients.



Horse chestnut