

2017 Municipality Tree Demand Survey

Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, in
collaboration with Ontario Parks Association

This project was funded in part through *Growing Forward 2 (GF2)*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Agricultural Adaptation Council assists in the delivery of *GF2* in Ontario.



Table of Contents

1. Objective
2. Background and Survey Methodology
3. Reporting Municipalities
4. Species Demand
5. Tree Demand per Capita
6. Mortality Information
7. Supplemental Information
8. Appendices

Objective

Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, in collaboration with Ontario Parks Association commissioned a survey of municipalities to better understand their tree planting demands for the next 5 years.

The results of the survey would help the Ontario tree grower better understand the demand for trees and provide municipalities with a better understanding of investment into tree assets.

With this valuable insight from municipalities, Ontario tree growers will be able to better match production with demand.

Background

In 2016, Landscape Ontario identified a need to better match tree production with demand as the industry struggles with tree shortages. Municipalities continue to increase the tree canopy coverage across their regions and as a result, are a significant consumer of trees.

The Ontario Parks Association and Landscape Ontario held a joint meeting in November of 2016 to explore the interest in jointly conducting a tree demand survey. The interest was high from both sides.

Municipalities were interested in obtaining benchmarking data across jurisdictions. Growers were interested in having some insight of future production requirements.

Background

In April of 2017, Landscape Ontario attended a meeting with municipal arborists and urban foresters. In attendance were 20 municipalities, representing some of the largest in Ontario. The feedback at this meeting confirmed the municipalities interest in participating in the survey.

The first survey request was sent out to municipalities on June of 2017 by the Ontario Parks Association. Follow-up requests were done in July, August and September of 2017. The requests were done through personal phone calls, emails, newsletters and website posts by the Ontario Parks Association, Landscape Ontario, the International Society of Arboriculture and the Municipal Arborists and Urban Foresters Association.

All municipalities that were personally contacted indicated their desire to participate in the survey. As of October 1, 2017, there were 8 municipalities that submitted survey responses. These are listed on the next page.

Reporting Municipalities

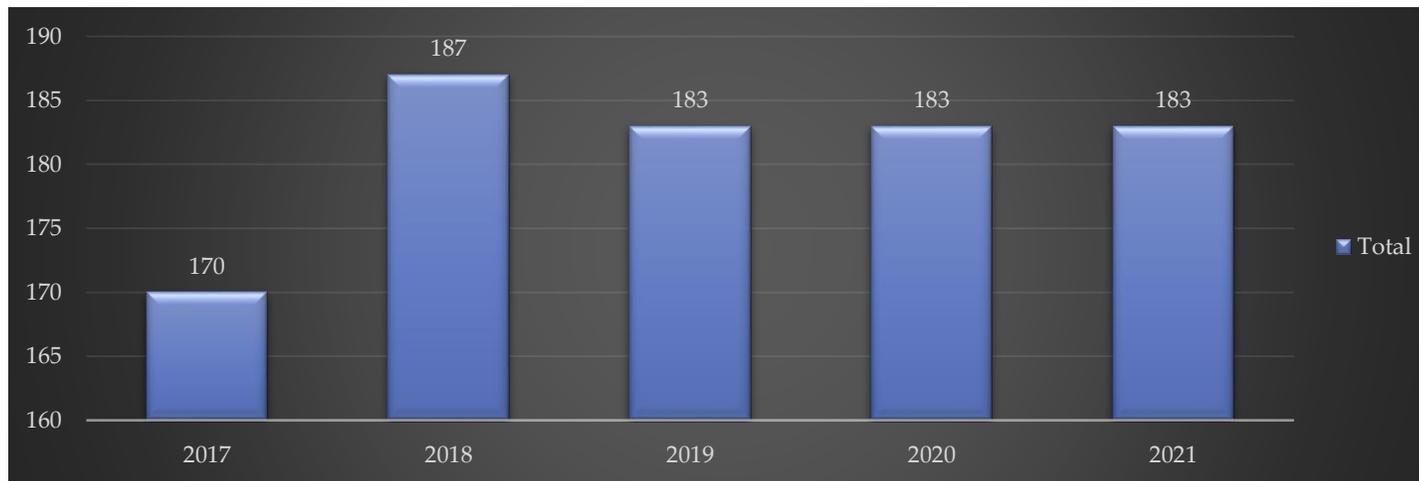
Municipalities	Population	Size (KM2)	Population Density	Number of Dwellings
City of Barrie	145,000	100	1,428	54,227
Town of Bracebridge	16,000	628	25	8,874
Town of Caledon	66,502	688	96	22,021
City of Guelph	131,794	87	1,511	55,927
City of Markham	328,966	212	1,549	106,131
City of Hamilton	536,917	1,117	480	222,918
City of St. Catharines	133,113	96	1,384	59,879
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	45,837	206	222	15,712

Source: 2016 Consensus Canada

Species Demand

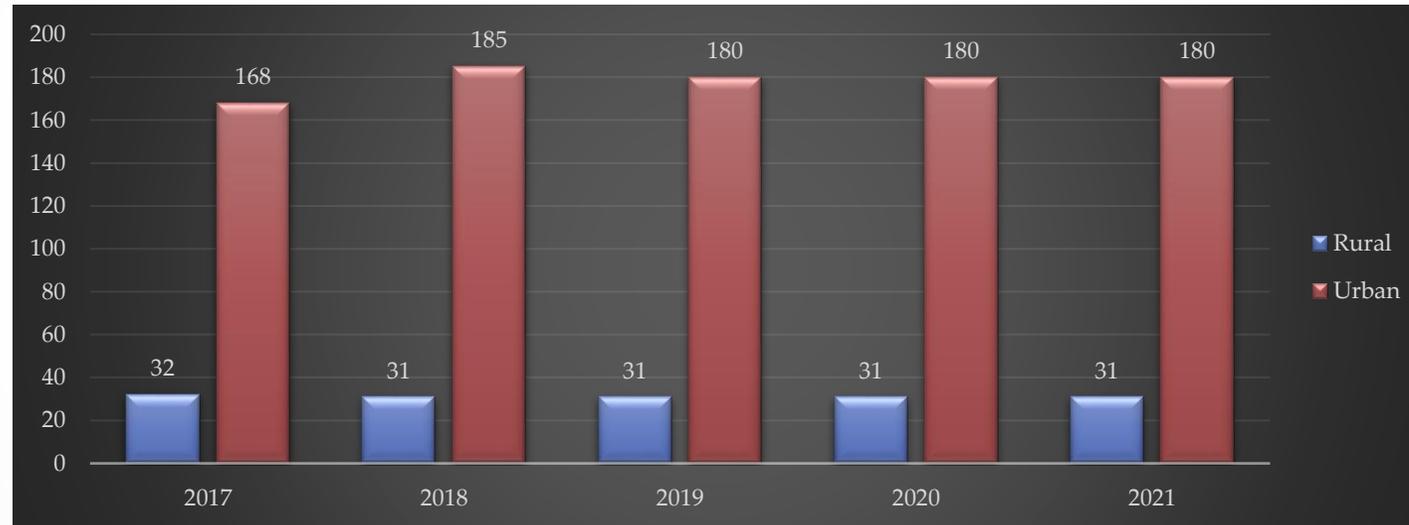
...

Number of Species



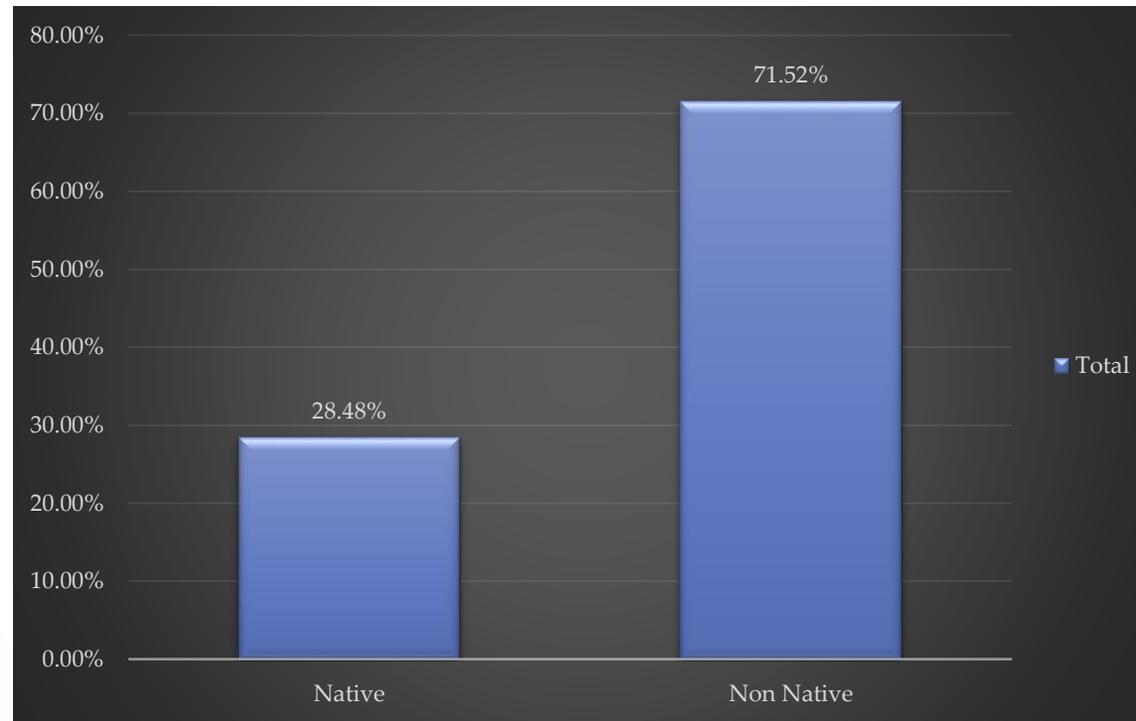
See Appendix 'A' for a detailed, 5 year demand forecast by species.

Number of Species per Municipality Type

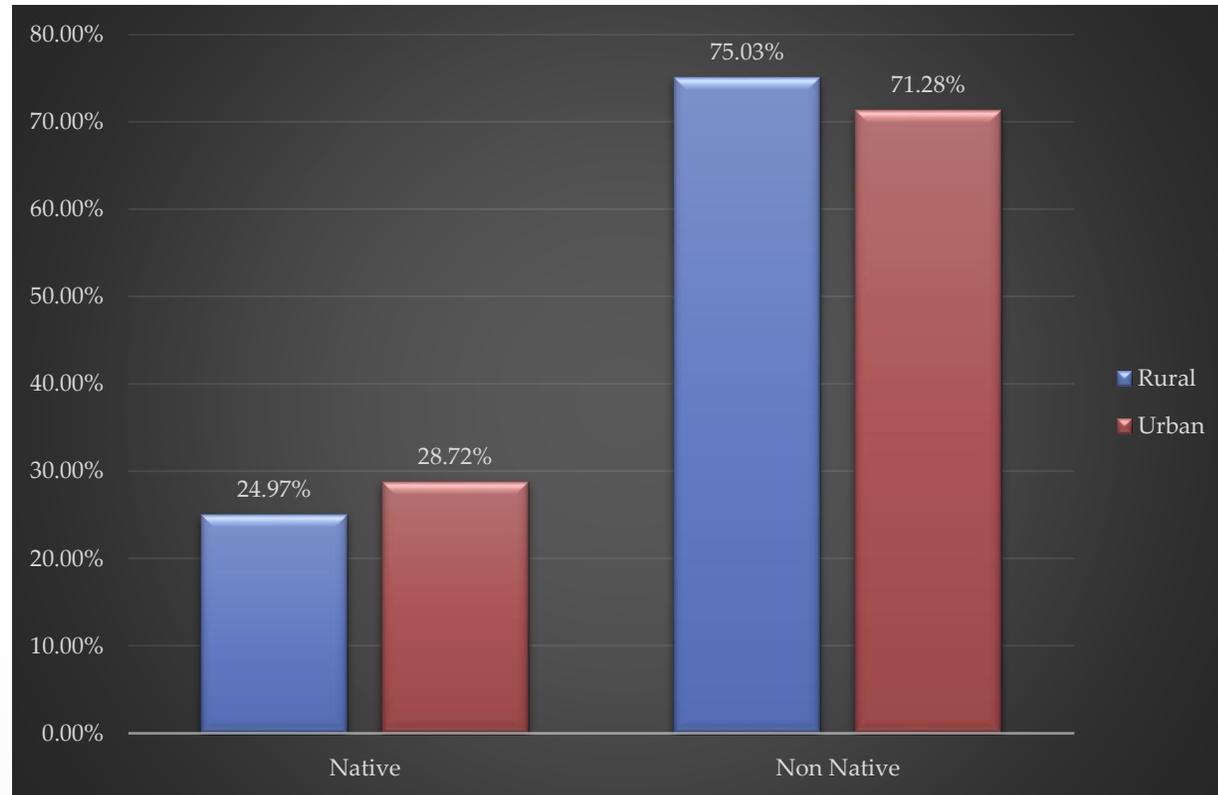


See Appendix 'B' for a detailed, 5 year demand forecast by species by municipality type.

Native Tree Planting



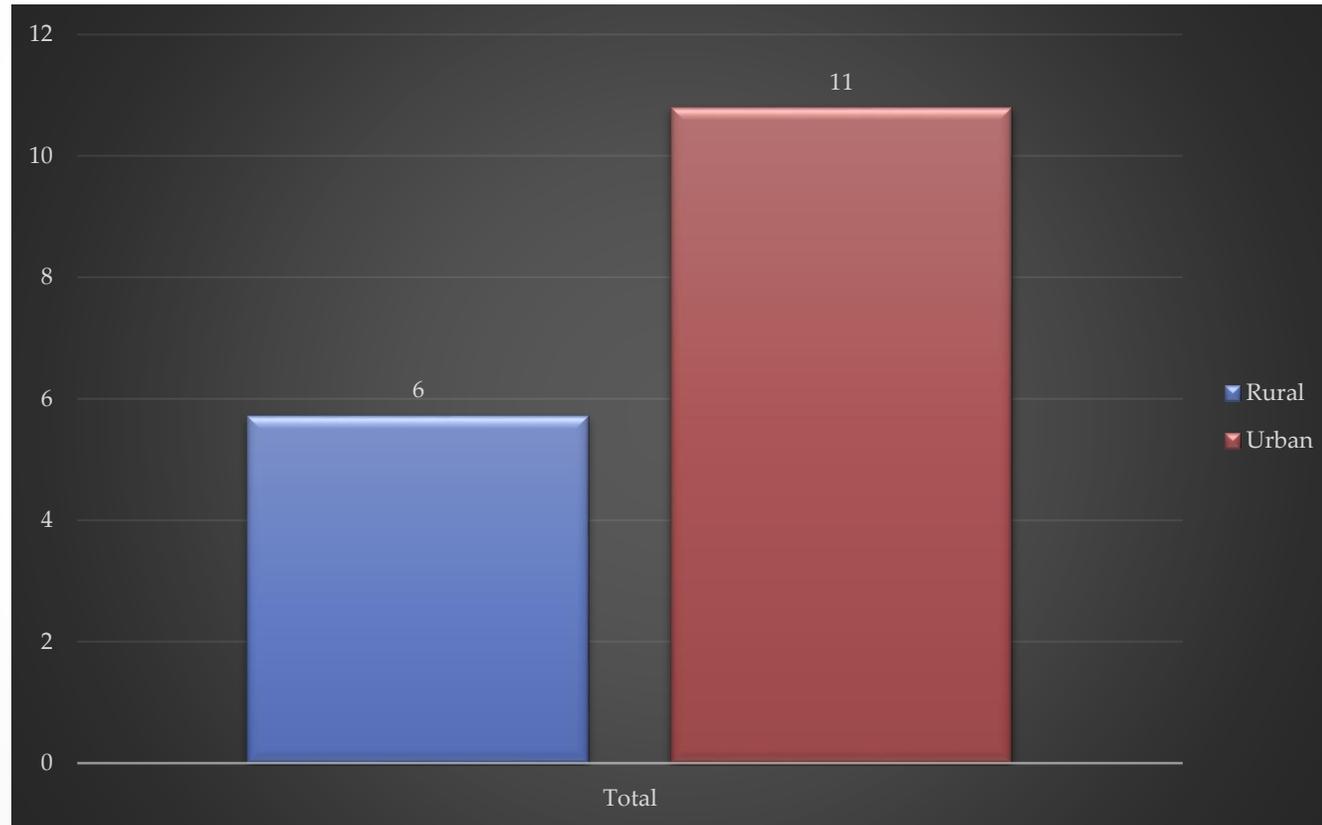
Native Tree Planting by Municipality Type



Tree Demand per Capita

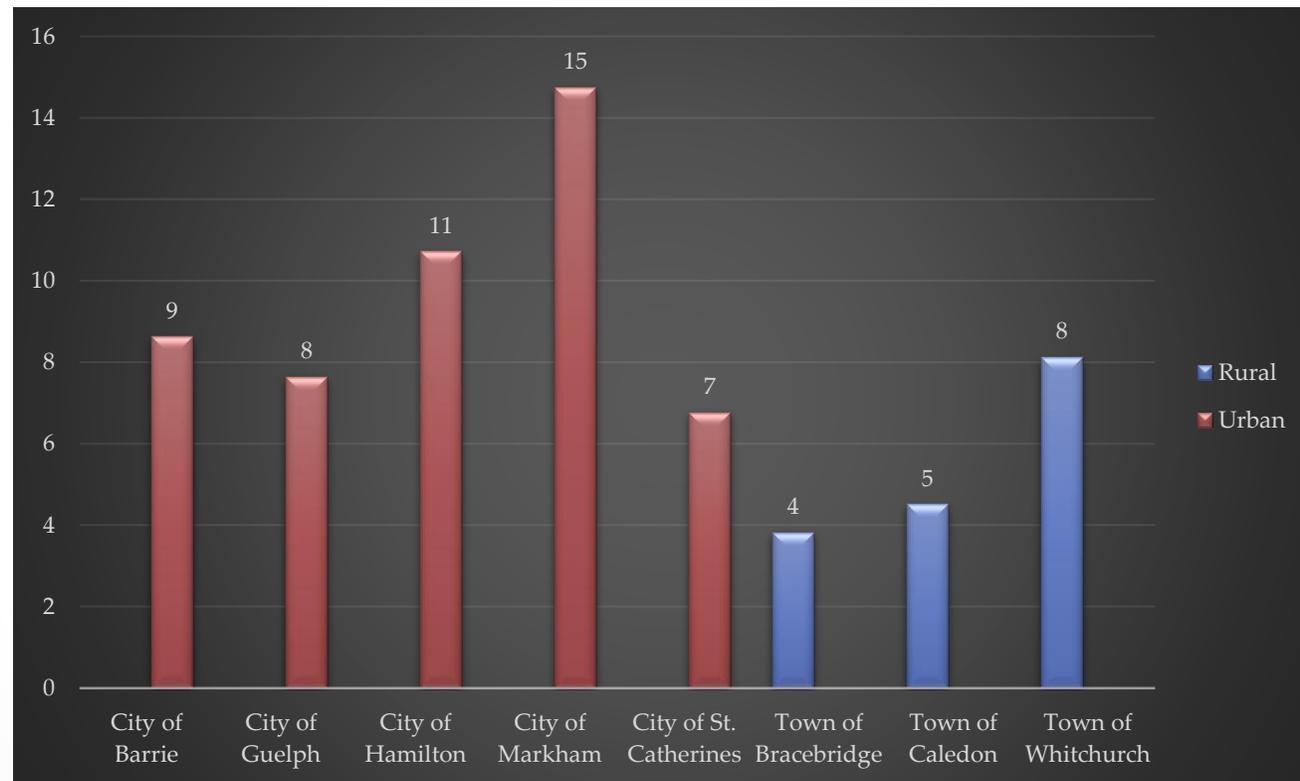
...

Trees Planted per Capita



Per 1,000 Population for reporting year 2017

Trees Planted Per Capita by Reporting Municipality

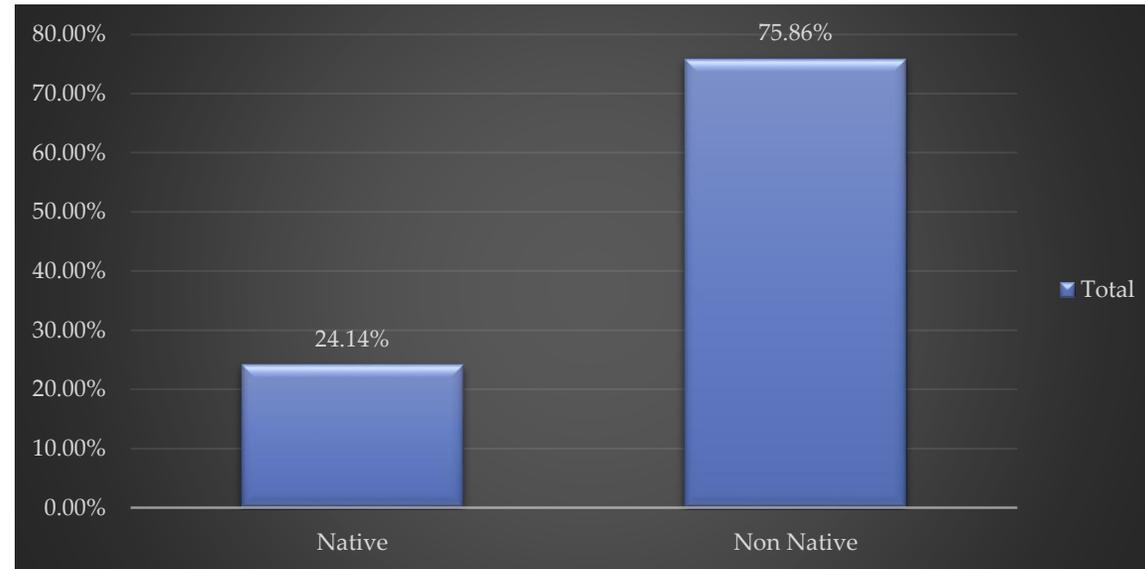


Per 1,000 Population for reporting year 2017

Mortality Information

...

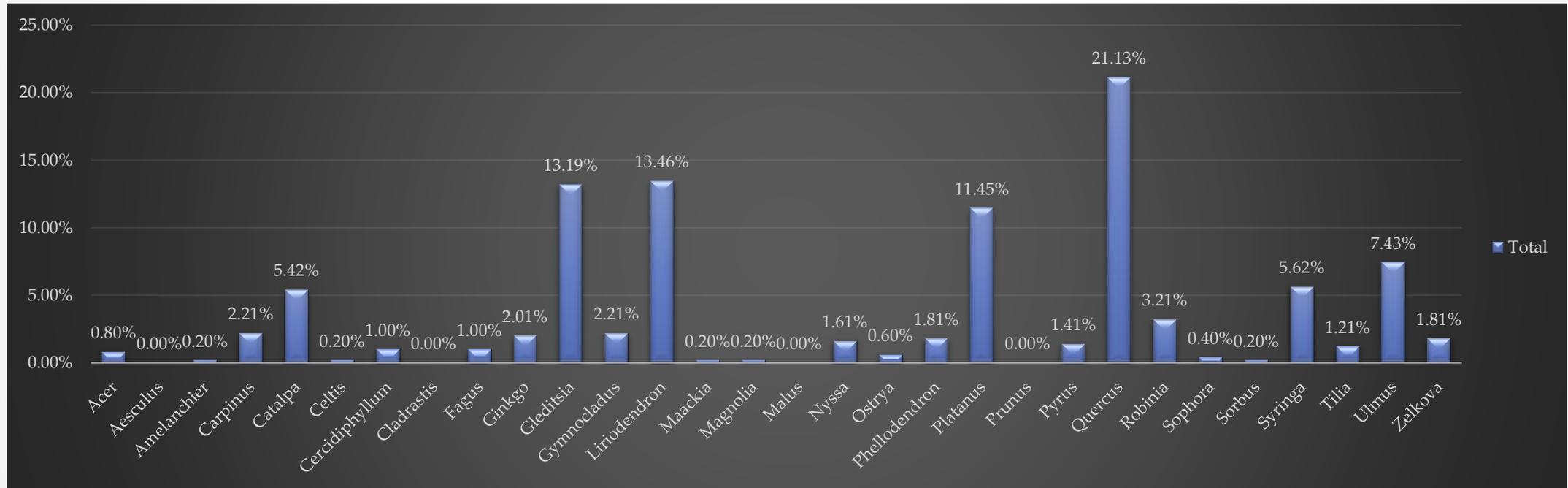
Mortality Native vs Non-Native



Of the trees that did not survive, 76% were non-native, 24% were native.

See Appendix 'C' for the mortality list

Mortality Rate by Genus



Of the trees that did not survive, oaks represented 21% of the mortality.

Supplemental Information

...

Background

We asked municipalities to complete a supplemental survey to gather more information to provide them with some benchmarking data.

There were 3 municipalities that completed the supplemental survey:

- I. Whitchurch-Stouffville
- II. Bracebridge
- III. Hamilton

The summary results are found on the following page.

Supplemental Information

- Only 33% of respondents would accept a container-grown tree for their plantings. All others required field-grown trees.
- 75% of respondents have water frequency and water bags as part of their specifications. Only 25% listed Mycorrhizae as a specification requirement. None listed transplant fertilizer or soil conditioning as a tree planting specification.
- On average, first and second year plantings receive 15 waterings. In the 3rd year, this declines to five waterings.
- 66% of respondents feel it is important or very important to have known seed source.
- 66% of respondents would like to have an online and searchable database for nursery availability.
- None of the municipalities surveyed have a backyard tree planting program or site plan requirement.