

TREES FOR YOUR XERISCAPE

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Deciduous Trees

Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*)

- Outstanding Rocky Mountain native found from Montana south to Colorado, Arizona, Texas and Mexico.
- Can take the form of a small tree or large shrub.
- Five-lobed dark green leaves turning shades of yellow, orange and red in the fall.
- Thrives in alkaline clay soils, very drought tolerant.
- Mature height 25-30', spread 25'. Zone 4
- Full sun. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Hotwings® Maple (*Acer tartaricum* 'GarAnn')

- Small spring flowers give way to brilliant scarlet-red samaras that persist all summer.
- Gives the tree the appearance of being in bloom all season long.
- Fall color fades from orange-red on the outside of the tree to yellow in the middle.
- Strong branch unions make it less prone to storm damage than the species.
- Mature height 20-25', spread 18 to 20'. Zone 3
- Full sun. 2007 Plant Select introduction. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Weeping Siberian Peashrub (*Caragana arborescens* 'Pendula')

- Bright green pinnately compound leaves cascade down arching branches.
- Grafted plant that can be used in harsh exposed areas.
- Yellow pea-like flowers are partially hidden when they bloom in May-June, followed by small pea pods.
- Adapts to most soils (even poor sites). Olive green to golden branches.
- Mature height 12-16', spread 10 to 15'. Zone 2
- Full sun. Extremely drought tolerant. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

Western Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)

- Narrow irregular crowned tree with large light green heart-shaped leaves.
- Fragrant white flowers borne in 4" to 8" long upright panicles late June.
- 12"-18" long, thin seed pods persist into winter.
- Adaptable to most any conditions, tolerates dry soils well.
- Mature height 50 to 60', spread 30 to 40'. Zone 2
- Full sun, very hardy tree. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)



- A large shade tree with an irregular growth habit when young; matures to a stately rounded crown.
- Similar in appearance to Elms, it has a corky, knobbed bark that provides great winter interest.
- A Colorado native; the light green foliage can be susceptible to Hackberry nipple gall, a cosmetic injury.
- Tolerant of heavy soils and dry conditions, it will shed its leaves early to escape severe drought.
- Mature height 40 to 60', spread 40 to 60'. Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Reddish purple berries attractive to birds; yellow fall color. Max. Elev. 9,000 ft.

Turkish Filbert (*Corylus colurna*)

- Broadly pyramidal tree that thrives in poor soil. Dark green leaves turn yellow in the fall.
- Ornamental catkins in early spring may produce small nuts in the fall – seldom happens in Colorado.
- Adapts to a wide pH range in soils. Once established, it displays good drought tolerance.
- A tree that is little known, and is uncommon in the trade.
- Mature height 35 to 50', spread 30 to 40'. Zone 4
- Full sun. Great choice for Colorado! Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Russian Hawthorn (*Crataegus ambigua*)



- Small, attractive broad headed tree with a moderate growth rate.
- Horizontal branching and irregular growth habit presents an interesting silhouette.
- Dark green, deeply lobed foliage turns yellow to orange in the fall. Yellow-green to golden branches.
- Showy white flowers turn into abundant ½" cherry-like dark red fruits that are attractive to birds.
- Mature height 15 to 25', spread 20 to 25'. Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Available as a single or multiple stem form. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Cockspur Thornless Hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli* 'Inermis')



- Distinctive low branched tree with dark green, glossy foliage.
- Clusters of white flowers appear in late May followed by ½" bright red fruit.
- Fall color ranges from orange-red to purplish-red.
- Branches tend to have a horizontal growth habit; thornless.
- Mature height 20 to 30', spread 20 to 35'. Zone 3
- Full sun. Available as a single or multiple stem form; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Crimson Cloud Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata* 'Superba')



- Unique red, single flowers with a white star-shaped center.
- Glossy red fruit persists into winter and is favored by birds.
- Dark glossy green foliage with no notable fall color.
- Branches tend to have a horizontal growth habit; thornless.
- Mature height 20', spread 20'. Zone 5
- Full sun, deer resistant. Max. Elev. 6,000 ft.

Imperial® Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis* 'Impcole')



- A symmetrical, compact variety of thornless, seedless honeylocust.
- Bright green, pinnately compound foliage turns a soft yellow in the fall.
- More compact, rounded and uniform in growth habit than other honeylocusts.
- Works well in smaller landscapes or as a street tree.
- Mature height 35 to 40', spread 35 to 40'. Zone 4
- Full sun, deer resistant. Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.

Shademaster® Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis* 'Shademaster'®)



- Forms a graceful vase-shape to oval-rectangular outline.
- Branches are upright with lower branches held horizontally on older specimens.
- Rich green, pinnately compound foliage turns a lemon yellow in the fall.
- Tolerates compacted soils, does well in dry, alkaline soils; thornless and seedless.
- Mature height 40 to 50', spread 30 to 40'. Zone 4
- Full sun, deer resistant. Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.

Skyline® Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis* 'Skycole')



- A honeylocust cultivar with a more pyramidal form.
- Leaves are dark green and slightly larger than other locusts; yellow fall color.
- Young trees usually develop a central leader with little encouragement.
- Well suited for street tree planting, as lower branches can be removed without deforming the crown.
- Mature height 40 to 50', spread 35 to 45'. Zone 4
- Full sun, deer resistant. Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.

Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*)

- A large shade tree that has a narrow habit when young, maturing to an open broad spreading crown.
- Leaves are bi-pinnately compound, with many small leaflets making up a huge leaf up to 3'.
- Leaves are green to blue-green, yellow fall color. Deeply furrowed bark creates great winter interest.
- Fragrant flowers on female trees mature to mahogany colored seed pods.
- Mature height 50 to 60', spread 40 to 50'. Zone 4
- Full sun, superior drought tolerance. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

Goldenrain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)

- A distinctive ornamental tree with large compound leaves that emerge red then turn to dark green.
- Long 12 to 15" bright yellow flower panicles in mid-summer.
- Papery "Chinese-lantern" like pods appear in July, persisting through November.
- Irregular branching that results in a broad rounded crown, very picturesque in the winter.
- Mature height 30', spread 25 to 30'. Zone 4
- Full sun. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Crabapples (*Malus* spp.)

- Many cultivars are available, all well adapted to the Front Range and relatively drought tolerant.
- In Colorado, very few problems with traditional crabapple diseases such as scab and cedar-apple rust.
- Choose cultivars that are fireblight resistant, such as Indian Summer, Radiant, Prairifire, Brandywine and David.
- Newer cultivars have smaller fruit that is ornamental and persistent through the winter months.
- Mature height 8 to 30', spread 10 to 30'. Zone 4
- Full sun. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Wafer Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*)

- Unique multi-stemmed small tree with a rounded crown.
- Clusters of fragrant, ½" greenish-white flowers in June produce persistent elm-like wafers 1" in diameter.
- Leaves are tri-foliolate with 3" long, light green waxy leaflets. Bright yellow fall color.
- One of the few small trees which performs well in shade. No major insect/disease issues.
- Mature height 15', spread 12 to 15'. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade; leaves have a pungent aroma when bruised. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

- Grows nearly as tall as it does broad; forms an open, rounded crown.
- Leaves are lustrous dark green with whitish, velvety undersides.
- Attractive reddish-brown to gray bark sheds in papery flakes when young, aging to thick and furrowed.
- Shiny light brown 1" acorns; leaves have a brown to gold/orange/red fall color.
- Mature height 40 to 60', spread 40 to 60'. Zone 4
- Full sun. Very drought tolerant, but can be used in irrigated turf. Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.

Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

- Pyramidal to oval when young, gradually maturing into a broad crowned tree with a massive trunk.
- Bark is rough and deeply furrowed, with corky twigs; dark gray to gray-brown in color.
- Acorns up to 1 ½" are enclosed by an ornamental heavily fringed cap.
- Leaves are dark green on top, gray green beneath; yellow to brown fall color with some occasional reds.
- Mature height 50 to 60', spread 35 to 45'. Zone 3
- Full sun. Withstands drought, wind, extreme cold and heavy soils. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

- A broad spreading native oak of unusual beauty. Somewhat open, irregular habit.
- Attractive sharply toothed leaves are dull green above with a pale silvery lower surface.
- Fall color ranges from yellow to brown. Must have a well-drained soil.
- Has been proven to be a great shade tree for our area, but is underutilized.
- Mature height 35 to 50', spread 35 to 50'. Zone 5
- Full sun. Very tolerant of alkaline soils. Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.

English Oak (*Quercus robur*)

- Stately, broad, round-topped tree with spreading branches and deeply grooved bark.
- Dark green leaves turn golden yellow then brown in fall often clinging through winter.
- Tolerant of heavy clay soils; moderate rate of growth.
- The branches grow out almost horizontally, casting a dense shade.
- Mature height 50', spread 40'. Zone 4
- Full sun. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

- Relatively fast growing tree with broad spreading branches.
- Pyramidal when young, maturing to a symmetrical, rounded crown.
- Leaves are dark green, lustrous and sharply lobed; turn from bronze to wine-red in the fall.
- Wide, plated, shallowly grooved bark ranges from ashy gray to black.
- Mature height 40 to 60', spread 40 to 60'. Zone 5
- Full sun. May be difficult to establish at higher elevations. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*)

- Blooms prolifically with 10 to 18" panicles of creamy white flowers in early to mid-June.
- One of the latest lilacs to bloom, it is a small tree with an oval crown. 'Ivory Silk' is an improved cultivar.
- Young branches have a glossy dark red-brown to cinnamon-brown exfoliating bark.
- Foliage is attractive, but can become tattered if exposed to severe spring winds.
- Mature height 15 to 25', spread 15 to 20'. Zone 4
- Full sun; available as a clump or single stem. Fall color is insignificant. Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.

Yellowhorn (*Xanthoceras sorbifolium*)

- Also known as Popcorn Shrub, this unusual small ornamental has an upright, spreading bushy habit.
- The showy flower clusters bloom early to mid-May as new leaves emerge.
- The white flowers with bright red and yellow throats resemble popcorn.
- Large 3" rounded fruit, insignificant fall color.
- Mature height 15 to 25', spread 15 to 20'. Zone 5
- Full sun; a Plant Select for 2007. Max. Elev. 6,000 ft.

Evergreen Trees

Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*)

- Native to the Rocky Mountain States, it can take the form of a small tree or large shrub.
- Slow growing evergreen with a narrow, pyramidal growth habit.
- Useful as a privacy screen or a specimen plant.
- Common cultivars available include Cologreen, Moonglow and Skyrocket.
- Mature height 30 to 40', spread 10 to 15'. Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant; tolerant of dry and alkaline soils. Max. Elev. 8,900 ft.



Colorado Spruce (*Picea pungens*)

- Native only to the Rocky Mountain States, but widely used throughout the country.
- Blue Spruce prefer rich, moist soil in full sunlight, but are very adaptable to most any condition.
- Very hardy tree with a slow to moderate growth rate (30 feet after 35 years).
- Color can vary from green to blue to silver, depending on genetics and the cultivar.
- Mature height 60', spread 25'. Zone 3
- Full sun to part shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 9,500 ft.



Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*)

- Hardy, very drought tolerant native pine. *Buy only Nursery Grown trees!*
- Holds its needles longer than other pines. White speckles on the needles are a secreted resin.
- Grows well in poor, rocky alkaline soils. Prefers full sun.
- This may be one of the most long-lived species in the world. Some specimens in California are over 5000 years old.
- Mature height 30', spread 15'. Zone 4
- Full sun and dry soils; deer resistant. Do not plant in irrigated areas! Max. Elev. 10,000 + ft.



Pinon Pine (*Pinus cembroides edulis*)

- Slow growing native pine. Do not plant in lawn areas!
- *Buy only Nursery Grown trees!*
- The current recommendation is to plant trees that are 6' tall or less in height.
- Well adapted to 9" to 15" of annual precipitation – requires no irrigation once established.
- Mature height 30', spread 20'. Zone 4
- Full sun and well-drained soil preferred; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.



Limber Pine (*Pinus flexilis*)

- This Colorado native grows on some of the harshest sites – high elevations that are rocky, dry and exposed.
- It typically grows at elevations of 9,000 to 11,000 feet, but is found below 5,000 feet on the plains NE of Ft. Collins.
- Sensitive to soil compaction; drought, heat and salt resistant.
- Branches can be bent double without breaking - withstands heavy snows and wind.
- Mature height 40', spread 20 to 30'. Zone 2
- Full sun; cold hardy. Max. Elev. 11,000 ft.

Vanderwolf's Pyramid Pine (*Pinus flexilis* 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid')

- Densely branched, compact pyramidal form. Hardy to - 40.
- Interestingly twisted soft bluish-green needles with a shaggy grey bark.
- It adapts very well to dry conditions, and does well where soils are thin and poor.
- Slow rate of growth, with a lifespan of over 100 years under ideal conditions.

- Mature height 20 to 25', spread 10 to 15'. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade; prefers dry to average moisture in well drained soils. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.

Bosnian Pine (*Pinus leucodermis*)

- Very slow growing (3" to 6" a year) with stiff dark green needles that hold on for 5 to 6 years.
- Salt tolerant; extensively used in Europe. 'Emerald Arrow' is an improved cultivar with a more compact form.
- Intriguing specimen with unique purple-blue cones when young, maturing to brown.
- Dense, pyramidal tree makes a fine landscape accent tree.
- Mature height 30', spread 15'. Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant; well drained soils preferred. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.



Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*)

- Dark green long needles; tolerates heat and cold.
- Withstands overwatering, transplanting and planting in sodded areas better than most pines.
- Adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions, but will not tolerate extremely wet or soggy soils.
- Much overused - *Use sparingly!*
- Mature height 50', spread 20'. Zone 3
- Full sun; well-drained soil preferred. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)

- Native pine with a medium rate of growth. Difficult to transplant
- *Buy only Nursery Grown trees!*
- The current recommendation is to plant trees that are 6' tall or less in height.
- Stressed trees are susceptible to engraver beetles (Pine Ips, MPBB)
- Mature height 50', spread 25'. Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant; intolerant of wet or poorly drained soils. Max. Elev. 9,000 ft.



Southwestern White Pine (*Pinus strobiformis*)

- Native to southwestern Colorado and the mountains of Arizona, west Texas and central Mexico.
- Soft dark bluish-green needles and large ornamental cones.
- Also known as Mexican white pine or Chihuahua white pine.
- Tolerant of urban settings, drought, exposure, alkaline soils, salt and heat.
- Mature height 50', spread 30'. Zone 4
- Full sun; adaptable to a wide range of soil types. Max. Elev. 6,000 ft.