

TREES FOR COLORADO SPRINGS

UNSUITABLE AS STREET TREES - SUITABLE FOR YARDS, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACES

TREE		Hard-ness Zone	PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS				HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	MAINTENANCE CHARACTERISTICS			ORNAMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS				Comments
Common Name	Botanical Name		Tree Shape	Canopy Density	Rate of Growth	Longevity (years)	Soil Type	Irrigation Need	Insect and Disease Problems	Flowers	Fruit	Bark	Foliage f.c. = fall color	Objectionable Features	
UNSUITABLE AS STREET TREES - NOT approved for use as street trees by City Forestry (Many of these are good for yards, parks, and open spaces. Some of these have undesirable characteristics that should be carefully considered before planting.)															
Large (over 49') 40' minimum spacing															
Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum	3	broad	medium	fast	50-100	adaptable, but not alkaline	high	iron chlorosis sometimes		winged samara	flaky white	silver underneath	sidewalk/sewer problems, storm damage	decays when old
Silver Poplar	Populus alba	4	broad, irregular	medium	fast	0-50	adaptable	medium	cytospora canker		catkin	smooth green to white	silver underneath	roots invasive, suckering habit, sheds	Bolleana is a columnar variety
Lombardy Poplar	Populus nigra 'italica'	2	narrow, columnar	medium	very fast	0-50		medium	cytospora canker			smooth green to white		very short lived	often used as a hedgerow
Cottonwood	Populus spp.	2	broad	medium	fast	0-100	adaptable	medium	cytospora canker, bacterial wetwood		catkin	furrowed light gray	f.c. yellow	cotton, sheds twigs, sidewalk/sewer problems	native in stream beds (hardy), cottonless varieties available
Siberian Elm	Ulmus pumila	3	broad, round	medium	fast	50-100	very adaptable	low	bacterial wetwood, elm leaf beetle		samara heavy spring	furrowed brown	no fall color	sheds twigs, branches, sidewalk/sewer problems	volunteer tree
Hybrid Elms	Ulmus x	varies	broad	medium	medium	50-100	adaptable	low	Dutch elm disease resistance			rough dark gray		might uplift sidewalks	Homestead, Lincoln, Regal, Sapporro
Medium (31 - 49') 30' minimum spacing															
Box Elder	Acer negundo	3	broad, irregular	medium	fast	0-50	very adaptable	low	box elder bug, aphids (nuisance insects)		winged samara	furrowed brown-black		sheds twigs, box elder bugs, honeydew	decays when old
Birch	Betula spp.	1	oblong, pendulous	open	fast	0-50	deep moist loam	medium	bronze birch borer (serious)		catkin	peeling white	f.c. yellow	very susceptible to dry conditions, borers	requires extra care
Quaking Aspen	Populus tremuloides	1	oval	medium	fast	0-50	adaptable, likes moist	high	cytospora canker, oyster shell scale, leaf spot		catkin	smooth white	f.c. brilliant yellow	suckering habit, insect/disease problems	reproduces from roots
Black Locust	Robinia pseudoacacia	5	broad oval	open	fast	0-50	very adaptable	low	black locust borer	white fragrant		furrowed black	compound	borers serious in most trees	
Willow	Salix spp.	1-6	broad, can be shrub form	medium	fast	0-50	adaptable, prefers wet soils	high	aphids, cytospora canker			yellow-orange twigs		sheds twigs, honeydew (aphids)	many species
Small (up to 30') 25' minimum spacing															
Serviceberry	Amelanchier laevis	5	fastigate (upright)	dense	medium	50-100	coarse, sandy loams	medium			edible berry		f.c. orange-red	root suckering habit	good for wildlife
Crabapple / Apple	Malus spp.	5	round	medium	medium	0-50	adaptable	medium	fireblight common	pink or white	pome	mottled brown	f.c. red to brown	fruit litter, fireblight	choose disease resistant varieties
Newport Plum	Prunus cerasifera	4	round	dense	fast	0-50	adaptable, prefers loam	medium	peach tree borer, plum slug	pink spring	seldom fruits	dark red to black	purple-red	trunk cracking	
Canada Red Cherry	Prunus virginiana	2	round	dense	fast	0-50	adaptable	low			seldom fruits			root suckering habit	
Gambel Oak	Quercus gambellii	4	shrubby	medium	slow	100+	prefers coarse soils	low	galls common, leaf roller periodically (aesthetic only)		acorn	rough brown	f.c. yellow, red	difficult to transplant, creeping root habit	don't over-water, poor availability, native to foothills, extremely hardy
European Mountain-Ash	Sorbus aucuparia	2	upright, oval	open	medium	0-50	adaptable except to very alkaline	medium	highly susceptible to fireblight	white early summer	clusters of red berries	smooth orange	f.c. orange-red	fireblight	colorful ornamental
CONIFERS (Many of the pines can be approved as Street Trees with special permission)															
Large (over 49') 40' minimum spacing															
White Fir	Abies concolor	4	conical	dense	slow	100+	prefers loam	medium	tussock moth sometimes		disintegrating cone	gray	bluish long needle		nice landscape tree
Englemann Spruce	Picea engelmannii	2	conical	dense	slow	100+	adaptable, prefers loam	medium	spruce budworm, tussock moth sometimes		2" cone	red-brown	green needle	shallow roots	high elevation tree
Blue Spruce	Picea pungens	2	conical	dense	slow	100+	prefers loam	medium	tussock moth, cooley spruce gall sometimes (aesthetic only)		4" cone	red-brown	blue needle	shallow roots	beautiful landscape tree
Austrian Pine	Pinus nigra	4	broad oval	dense	medium	100+	very adaptable	low			3" cone	platey gray	long needles	needle litter	better urban tolerance than Ponderosa
Ponderosa Pine	Pinus ponderosa	4	broad oval	dense	medium	100+	adaptable, prefers coarse	low	mountain pine beetle, dwarf mistletoe (both infrequent)		3" cone	platey red-yellow	long needles	needle litter	native to foothills
Douglas-Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii	4	conical	dense	medium	100+	prefers loam	medium	tussock moth sometimes		1" cone	brown			does well on shade sites
Medium (31 - 49') 30' minimum spacing															
Lodgepole Pine	Pinus contorta	2	oval to columnar	dense	slow	100+		low	mountain pine beetle, mistletoe		1" cone	gray-brown	yellow-green		high elevation tree
Limber Pine	Pinus flexilis	2	broad, irregular	dense	slow	100+	prefers coarse soils	low			4" cone		long needles, groups of 4-5		
Scotch Pine	Pinus edulis	3	broad, irregular	dense	medium	100+	prefers loam	medium			1" cone	scaly orange-brown	light green		nice ornamental pine
Small (up to 30') 25' minimum spacing															
Upright Juniper	Juniperus chinensis	4	columnar	dense	medium	100+	adaptable	low	spider mites sometimes		blue berry	flaky brown	scale-like		many varieties
Rocky Mountain Juniper	Juniperus scopulorum	4	columnar	dense	slow	100+	prefers coarse soils	low			blue berry	flaky brown	scale-like		native to foothills
Bristlecone Pine	Pinus aristata	1	irregular	very dense	slow	100+	prefers coarse, rocky soils	low			2" cone		needle groups 4-5		dense, bushy branches
Pinyon Pine	Pinus edulis	5	round, shrubby	dense	slow	100+	prefers coarse soils	low	pitch mass borer, spindle gall (both sometimes)		1" cone	brown	short needles		don't over-water, edible seed