

TREES FOR WESTMINSTER

In this section you'll find a list of tree species and cultivated varieties (cultivars). Additional comments on each tree are provided concerning the previously discussed considerations before planting. Tips on nursery selection criteria and transportation will also be discussed.

The species lists to follow are arranged by smaller ornamental trees, larger shade trees, and conifer trees with various notes on each species. It should be noted that for each tree there is an estimated size for average mature heights and widths.

Colorado Champion Tree Program

The goal of the Colorado Champion Tree Program is to note the biggest and best specimens of individual tree species currently growing in our state. The list is maintained by the Colorado Tree Coalition (for more information go to www.coloradotrees.org), and it is another way to evaluate tree performance in Colorado. Anyone can nominate a tree to be a Colorado Champion, and the current list has over 700 trees from all across the state. We've taken this list of state champs, and noted the height and spread of the current state champion. Species that do not have current documented champions are noted as NA on the species list.

Full Symbology Descriptions for Species Lists
♣- Water Lover: Tree performs best long term when grown in soils that often have high moisture
❖- Drought Tolerant: Tree is able to adapt to sites that are often dry for extended periods of time
⚡- Avoid Alkaline Soils: Tree performs poorly in alkaline soils or in areas with a pH greater than 7.2
⌘- Flowers: Tree will produce noticeable and attractive flowers
♂- Insect or Disease Issues: Tree has a common yet significant insect or disease association
🍌- Fleshy Fruit: Tree will produce a fleshy fruit
🍂- Fall Color: Tree will often have a fall color of orange, red or purple
🌳- Forester Favorite: Trees listed as favorites from a survey of local City Foresters and Arborists



Small, Deciduous Trees

The following list includes trees that typically do not exceed 30 feet in height when fully grown. Use one-half of branch spread (diameter) to locate a tree planting location near structures.

●- Water Lover ❖- Drought Tolerant ⚡- Avoid Alkaline Soils ⌘- Flowers ♂- Insect or Disease Issues 🍌- Fleshy Fruit ♃- Fall Color 🌲- Forester Favorite

Plant Name	Average & CO Champion Height/Spread	USDA Zone	Symbols	General Comments on the Tree Species
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Small Deciduous Trees

Alder, Thinleaf <i>Alnus tenuifolia</i>	25/15 & 48/15	2	●	Rocky Mountain native able to tolerate moist soils. Most often sold in a clump form and is a good alternative for aspen plantings. Amber bark and interesting cone-like fruits give this tree notable winter interest.
Amur Maackia <i>Maackia amurensis</i>	25/35 & NA	4	⌘	This legume is a good choice for poor soils as it is a nitrogen fixing plant and it can tolerate alkaline soils. Many small leaflets make up the foliage of this tree. Expect white flowers mid-summer turning into 3 to 4 inch flat pods.
Apple, Fruit Tree <i>Malus spp.</i>	20/25 & 41/46	3-5	⌘ 🍌	So many choices to choose from with a great variety of sizes and shapes. Don't just settle for species you like at the supermarket as some varieties' fruit ripens too late in the season. Be sure to look into fireblight susceptibility.
Apricot <i>Prunus mandshurica</i>	15/15 & 44/30	4	⌘ 🍌	This small fruit tree develops with a spreading, round-headed crown filled with dark green heart-shaped leaves. Before leaf emergence, the branches of this tree will be filled with 1 1/4 inch pink flowers in April.
Ash, Single Leaf <i>Fraxinus anomala</i>	15/15 & 31/15	4	❖	This tree is native to southwestern Colorado and may be difficult to find at nurseries. Canopy is made up of gray-green leaves with light brown samaras forming in summer. Tree is able to tolerate poor soils and dry conditions.
Aspen, Quaking <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	30/20 & 109/33	2	♂	This white-barked Colorado native is a favorite for Front Range homeowners. Unfortunately this tree tends to struggle with numerous biotic and abiotic disease issues. Tree is often short-lived.
Birch, Western River <i>Betula occidentalis</i>	15/15 & 33/32	3	●	Rocky Mountain native able to tolerate moist soils. Most often sold in a clump form, and is a good alternative for aspen planting. Cherry colored bark dotted with white lenticels. Tree can tolerate shady locations.
Boxelder <i>Acer negundo</i>	30/30 & 72/88	2	♂ ♃	Fast growing medium sized tree that tends to be prone to storm damage. Tolerant of poor soil conditions. Leaf form will vary from branch to branch. Can be attractive to boxelder bugs. There are some new and improved cultivars with nice red fall color.
Cherry, European Bird <i>Prunus padus</i>	20/20 & NA	3	⌘ 🍌	Cold hardy tree very similar to chokecherry. Tree will fill with fragrant drooping white flowers in early spring. The flowers will develop into small black fruits that birds enjoy. Trees of the <i>prunus</i> genus are often short-lived.

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Cherry, Cornelian <i>Cornus Mas</i>	20/15 & 12/12	5		An interesting species of dogwood with a knockout display of yellow flowers covering leafless branches in late February to early March. These flowers lead to bright red fruits that birds enjoy. Can grow into a very nice specimen.
Cherry, Sour/Pie <i>Prunus spp.</i>	Various & 37/25	3-5		There are many cultivars of pie cherry to choose from. This species is much easier to grow in our area than sweet cherries, and you only need one for fruit production. Birds will fight you for the fruit from these trees.
Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana</i>	25/25 & 35/12	2		Plant grows naturally along our mountain streams as large shrubs. Nurseries sell the native form and various cultivars that boast red summer foliage. Tree perform best when grown as a clump or with a shaded trunk. Fragrant white spring flowers lead to fruits good for jelly making or bird attraction.
Chokecherry, Amur <i>Prunus maackii</i>	25/25 & 31/12	2		Most notable characteristic of this tree is its metallic-like copper colored bark that is very smooth to the touch in areas where it isn't exfoliating. White spring flowers lead to fruit for the birds.
Corktree, Amur <i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	25/35 & 42/65	5		Tree often boasted as being tolerant of urban conditions, but mixed review from local growers. Tree leafs out late and drops its leaves early losing some interest but avoiding storm damage. Mature bark is spongy and interesting to the touch.
Crabapple varieties <i>Malus spp.</i>	Various	3-5	 	Classic tree for the Front Range with spring blossoms of white, pink, or red. Foliage can range from green to purple with mature canopy forms of various shapes and sizes. Fruit can be large for jellies, small and persistent on branches leading to little mess, or non-producing. Always ask about an individual cultivar's resistance to fireblight.
Dogwood, Pagoda <i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	15/20 & NA	5	 	Small statured ornamental excellent for tight spaces. Tree will perform well in shady conditions. Small pale yellow flowers in May leading to small black fruit. Light red fall color. Excellent choice for shady spots.
Golden Rain Tree <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	30/30 & 35/32	5		Tolerant of poor soils and drought. Tree has an exotic look with incised leaves and an open form. Bright yellow flowers in July lead to interesting small lantern-like fruit. Tree is able to tolerate drought and poor soils.

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Hawthorn, Cockspur <i>Crataegus crusgalli</i>	15/20 & NA	3	⌘❖ 🍌 ♪🌲	Inch long thorns provide excellent shelter for birds but make pruning and tree climbing difficult (there is also a very nice thornless variety of this species). White spring flowers lead to bright red 1/2 inch fruits. Notable orange to red fall color.
Hawthorn, Downy <i>Crataegus mollis</i>	25/30 & 39/46	3	⌘❖ 🍌♪ 🌲	Two inch thorns provide shelter for birds, and add great winter interest to the bare silhouette of this tree. White spring flowers lead to bright red 1 inch diameter fruits. Fall color can vary from yellow to red. Able to tolerate drought and poor soils.
Hawthorn, Russian <i>Crataegus ambigua</i>	15/20 & NA	3	⌘❖ 🌲🍌	Tree naturally has a twisted and gnarled form great for specimen trees. White spring flowers lead to showy, cherry-like red fruit. Thorns are much smaller and fewer than other hawthorns. Tree is able to tolerate drought and poor soils.
Hawthorn, Washington <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	15/15 & NA	4	⌘❖ 🍌♪ 🌲	Another well-armed tree with 3/4 inch long thorns. White spring flowers lead to smaller 1/4 inch sized red fruits that hang on into winter. Fall foliage turns scarlet orange and can be very attractive. Tree is able to tolerate drought and poor soils.
Ironwood <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	25/15 & 38/20	4		Interesting ornamental with grayish bark that has a muscle-like appearance. Tree will develop spring catkins and fall hop-like fruits. Tree naturally grows as an understory species and will tolerate shade.
Lilac, Japanese Tree <i>Syringa reticulata</i>	20/15 & 36/25	4	⌘	Upright tree form of the popular lilac species. Large white clusters of flowers are filled with the well known fragrance of traditional lilac shrubs. Younger bark tends to be an attractive shiny reddish-brown.
Lilac, Peking Tree <i>Syringa pekinensis</i>	15/15 & 38/25	4	⌘	Tree form of lilac that has smaller foliage than the Japanese tree lilac. Creamy white flowers are very fragrant. Attractive brown bark is often exfoliating on trees as they mature.
Magnolia, Star <i>Magnolia stellata</i>	15/10 & NA	5	⌘	Hardy species of magnolia that develops well in a large shrub-like form. Early spring opens large buds to striking white star-shaped flowers. Grows best in a soil with adequate drainage.
Maple, Bigtooth <i>Acer grandidentatum</i>	30/20 & 31/27	3	❖♪	Rocky Mountain native is quite tolerant of dry conditions. Develops well as a small tree or large shrub. Very attractive traditional maple leaves that turn to a soft red in the fall. One of the few maples tolerant of alkaline soils. 4.

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Pear, Callery <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	30/15 & NA	4	⌘ 🍌 ♃ 🌳	Many cultivars of this species are available, and all have outstanding spring displays of white flowers before leaves emerge. Can be susceptible to early and late season freeze damage. Cultivars available with outstanding red fall color.
Pear, Ussurian <i>Pyrus Ussuriensis</i>	25/20 & 40/24	3	⌘ 🍌 ♃ 🌳	Most cold hardy of all the ornamental pears. White spring flowers before leaves emerge are very showy. Fall color ranges from yellow to orange to burgundy red. Tree has shown good fire blight resistance. Larger fruit potential.
Plum, American <i>Prunus americana</i>	10/10 & 18/28	2	⌘ ❖ 🍌	Native tree or large shrub with fragrant white spring flowers that open before leaves emerge. One inch diameter plums will develop with good flavor. Tree can tolerate dry alkaline soils. Trees tend to sucker and form thickets.
Plum, Fruit Tree <i>Prunus spp.</i>	Various	5	⌘ 🍌	There are a wide variety of plum trees that will easily grow in our climate. Most varieties only need one tree to pollinate. Trees typically will bear young with a fruit crop that can be quite plentiful.
Plum, Ornamental <i>Prunus spp.</i>	Various	3-5	⌘ 🍌 ♃	There are several species and cultivars of ornamental plums boasting impressive spring displays of white flowers. Tree foliage will vary from dark green to distinctive purple. Some cultivars have nice red fall color.
Redbud, Eastern <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	25/20 & 38/28	5	⌘	The early spring purplish-pink flowers are very eye-catching as they cover leafless branches. Leaves are heart-shaped and have a nice yellow fall color. Trees may need shelter, but there are many nice specimens up and down the Front Range.
Russian Olive <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	25/25 & 58/73	2	⌘	A noxious weed that has taken over many of Colorado's riparian water ways. Gray foliage, pleasant smelling flowers, and ability to tolerate poor soils/harsh conditions make this plant tempting. This is not a recommended tree.
Salt Cedar <i>Tamarix spp.</i>	15/20 & NA	2	⌘	A noxious weed that has taken over many of Colorado's riparian water ways. Pink spikes of summer flowers make this plant tempting, but it is strongly encouraged that trees be removed to control spreading.
Serviceberry Varieties <i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Various	3-5	⌘ 🍌 ♃	There are many species of serviceberry ranging from small shrubs to small ornamental trees. Most bear attractive white spring flowers that turn to fruit good for birds. Many cultivars have nice red fall color, and are good alternative to aspens.

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Sumac, Staghorn <i>Rhus typhina</i>	15/15 & NA	3	❖ ♪	An aggressive sumac that can overwhelm a gardener with a strong tendency to sucker and colonize an area. Tree grows quickly and is able to tolerate very poor soils. The leaves are long and serrated with an impressive fall color display of red and orange.
Wafer Ash <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	10/15 & NA	5	❖	Native tree that is able to tolerate very dry conditions. Its small leaves are joined by fragrant 1/2 inch white flowers late in the summer. The flowers turn to small wafer-like fruits adding further interest to the tree's reddish bark. Leaves out late.
Yellowhorn <i>Xanthoceras sorbifolia</i>	20/15 & NA	5	⌘	Unusual smaller ornamental often with a form closer to a large shrub. The most notable attribute of this tree is the red-throated white flower clusters developing in May. Tolerant of alkaline soils and difficult to find at nurseries.



Large Trees for Shade.

The following list includes trees that will exceed 30 feet in height when fully grown. These trees should not be placed under or near power lines or other overhead structures. Use one-half of branch spread (diameter) indicated on chart to locate trees near structures.

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Ash, Green <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	55/30 & 68/69	3	♂	Extremely popular shade tree that has developed more significant insect problems in recent years. May need to spray this tree for lilac/ash borer on an annual basis to keep the tree healthy. Tolerant of poor soil conditions and nice yellow fall color.
Ash, White <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	55/30 & 78/81	4	♂♂	Extremely popular shade tree that has developed more significant insect problems in recent years. May need to spray this tree for lilac/ash borer on an annual basis to keep the tree healthy. Tolerant of poor soil conditions and nice purple fall color.
Ash, Misc. Varieties <i>Fraxinus spp.</i>	40/25 & NA	3-4	♂	Many different species of ash trees are available from nurseries. Most can grow well in poor soils and are reliable shade trees if insect problems are prevented. Trees are often sold as seedless cultivars with yellow fall color.
Birch, Cutleaf Weeping <i>Betula pendula</i> 'Gracilis'	35/25 & 61/53	3	♂♠	White peeling bark and pendulous branches make this tree quite striking. There are many nice specimens of this species along the Front Range, but weeping birch struggle with dry winters and infestations of bronze birch borer.
Birch, Paper <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	35/20 & 39/26	3	♂♠	As this tree matures, white peeling bark adds great interest. Tree offers a nice display of yellow foliage in the fall. This medium sized tree will struggle if forced to deal with dry winter soils and may be prone to borer attacks.
Buckeye, Ohio <i>Aesculus glabra</i>	40/35 & 54/37	3	⌘🍌 ♂	Eye-catching five-lobed palmate leaves. Large greenish-yellow flowers stand upright from branches in spring, turning to prickly seed pods later in the season. Dark green foliage turns to shades of orange or yellow in fall.
Catalpa, Western <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	55/35 & 60/48	4	⌘❖ 🌳	This tree is most distinguishable by its large leaves that resemble elephant ears. Attractive clusters of white flowers develop towards the end of June. These blossoms develop into 12 inch long cigar-like bean pods.
Cherry, Black <i>Prunus serotina</i>	55/30 & 73/53	4	⌘🍌	This is the tree of the Prunus genus that can become the largest in our area. Early season fragrant white flowers turn to reddish-black fruit great for the birds. Tree is seldom planted today, and is likely hard to find at nurseries.
Cottonwood, Lanceleaf <i>Populus x acuminata</i>	55/45 & 99/103	3	♠	This native hybrid of plains and narrowleaf cottonwood is a fast-growing tree, quite tolerant of poor soil conditions. Prefers a wet soil and may not be a long-lived tree. Most nurseries sell only sterile clones - not cotton-bearing. 7.

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Cottonwood, Narrowleaf <i>Populus angustifolia</i>	60/40 & 115/48	2	♠	This native cottonwood is very cold tolerant. It naturally grows up to 8000' elevation. Tree is prone to sprouting up new shoots around its root zone making it a nuisance when planted in the wrong location. Typically sold as cottonless clones.
Cottonwood, Plains <i>Populus sargentii</i>	75/55 & 94/89	4	♠	This is the large native cottonwood lining the waterways of the Front Range. Tree needs moisture to survive, but can live for over 100 years. Tree needs space, and is best utilized in open areas. Typically sold as cottonless clones.
Elm, American Cultivars <i>Ulmus americana</i>	60/40 & NA	4	♂ ❖	American elms were devastated by Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s, but the species is beginning to make a comeback with new introductions less susceptible to the disease. This is one of the great street trees of our past, and we should learn from this tree.
Elm, Hybrids/Species <i>Ulmus spp.</i>	Various	3-5	❖ ♀	There are numerous other species of elms and a variety of cultivars that are beginning to become more common in the tree trade. Many of these hybrids have shown very good resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. Fall color, insect & disease resistance, interesting bark, and sight adaptability continue to impress.
Elm, Siberian <i>Ulmus pumila</i>	60/40 & 95/97	4	❖ ♂	This tree is commonly referred to as a weed/trash tree. The tree is resistant to Dutch Elm Disease, but the foliage is like candy to elm leaf beetle. The seeds from this tree are plentiful and will lead to many unwanted new trees. Not a recommended species.
Ginkgo <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	40/30 & 65/34	4	🍌	A truly historic tree being traced back over 150 million years. This tree is actually classified as a gymnosperm (as are pine trees). Fan-shaped leaves are very unusual. Nice yellow fall color. Ask for male cultivars to avoid malodorous fruit.
Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	55/40 & 90/56	3	❖ 🍌 ♂	A rugged and adaptable shade tree able to tolerate very harsh conditions. Corky and rough bark as it matures adds winter interest. Leaves likely to develop small bumps or galls that are an aesthetic problem. Nice yellow fall color.
Hickory, Shagbark <i>Carya ovata</i>	55/40 & 61/45	4		This tree is seldom planted along the Front Range, yet there are some impressive specimens scattered across the state. Bark becomes peeled and plated as so named. Tree will develop an edible sweet nut as a fruit.

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Honeylocust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	55/40 & 81/59	4	❖ ♀	A classic tree used commonly along the Front Range. This tree continues to be impressive through tolerance of harsh and dry sites. Small leaves turn yellow in the fall, and most nurseries only sell seedless cultivars (no more brown spiraling pods).
Hornbeam, European <i>Carpinus betulus</i>	40/30 & NA	5		Tree often sold as an upright columnar cultivar, but it is naturally a medium sized shade tree. Smaller leaves with jagged serrated edges turn to yellow in the fall. Buds of this tree are large and notable in winter.
Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	45/40 & 59/63	4	⌘ 🍌 ♀	The seven-lobed palmate leaves are eye-catching. Large flowers with hints of yellow and red stand upright from branches in spring, turning to prickly seed pods later in the season. Dark green foliage turns to shades of yellow and brown in the fall.
Katsuratree <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	40/20 & NA	5	♀	This tree is not common around the Front Range, but is noted to be cold tolerant to extremes greater than our own. Its heart-shaped leaves emerge reddish-purple, turn to bluish green in summer, and then fade to orange-yellow in the fall.
Kentucky Coffeetree <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	55/45 & 73/55	4	⌘ ❖ ♀	A rugged tree able to tolerate poor soil and drought. Young trees tend to look empty as the tree grows without small twiggy branches. Matures to an impressive looking specimen. Female trees produce white flowers which turn to interesting bean pods.
Linden, American <i>Tilia americana</i>	60/40 & 75/69	3	⌘ ♀	A classic American tree with a mature canopy form that is very pyramidal. Heart shaped leaves change from dark green to yellow in the fall. Mid-season yellow flowers produce a pleasant aroma. Avoid use in areas with high reflective heat.
Linden, Littleleaf <i>Tilia cordata</i>	45/30 & 96/42	4	⌘ ♀	This is the most popular of the linden trees also forming a pyramidal canopy. Small heart shaped leaves change from dark green to yellow in the fall. Mid-season yellow flowers produce a pleasant aroma. Avoid use in areas with high reflective heat.
Linden, Redmond <i>Tilia x euchlora</i>	50/40 & 52/34	4	⌘ ♀	This linden tends to be one-sided when young, but still develops to a pyramidal canopy. This has much larger heart shaped leaves with nice yellow fall color. Mid-season yellow flowers produce a pleasant aroma. 9.

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Locust, Black <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	40/30 & 62/43	4	⌘ ❖ ⚡	A very adaptable tree capable of growing in very poor soils. Depending on cultivar, the tree will produce showy white to purple chains of flowers in early June. This is a thorn bearing species, and may require annual preventative spraying for borer.
London Plane Tree <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	65/45 & 86/79	5		A hybrid between American sycamore and oriental plane tree with large maple-like leaves. A fast growing tree with beautiful bark made up of a mix of colors ranging from cream to green to light brown. Tree will bear light brown 1” diameter seed balls.
Maple, Autumn Blaze <i>Acer x freemanii</i> ‘ <i>Jeffersred</i> ’	50/40 & NA	4	≡ ♀	Extremely popular retail tree, now commonly planted. A cross between red maple and silver maple, and will often display a good red fall color. Often struggles in our soils with pH issues, and iron chlorosis is a common problem.
Maple, Norway Varieties <i>Acer plantanoidies</i>	50/35 & 79/57	4	≡	Species of maple with a wide array of cultivars to choose from at the nursery. Classic maple leaves come in dark green, purple, to variegated. Trees perform best in areas with low reflective heat. Trees bear twin-winged seed pods.
Maple, Red <i>Acer rubrum</i>	45/35 & 54/41	4	≡ ♀	Tree with the classic red fall color so strongly desired by residents. Trees can be grown in our area, but soils are the limiting factor. Look for lower, acidic, pH and good drainage to have success. Don’t use in areas with high reflective heat.
Maple, Silver <i>Acer saccharinum</i>	65/55 & 82/103	3	≡	This species of maple was widely used as street trees as the Front Range cities developed. Over time they proved to be prone to branch failure and decay, lowering their popularity. Best used in open areas where fast growth and large size is desired.
Maple, Sugar <i>Acer saccharum</i>	50/45 & 79/66	3	≡ ♀	The tree of maple syrup can be grown along the Front Range and can reach a notable mature size. Successful establishment and growth typically takes place in soils with a lower pH and good drainage. Don’t use in areas with high reflective heat.
Mulberry, White <i>Morus alba</i>	35/35 & 42/65	5	❖ 🍌	Tree can be somewhat invasive and is often considered good only for the birds. The tree is able to tolerate poor soils and dry conditions. Weeping forms of this species may be the most useful for landscape purposes.

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Oak, Bur <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	60/45 & 97/78	3	❖ 🌲	Forester favorite Tolerates poor soils and drought. Rugged corky branches and stems give this long-lived tree good winter interest. Bears an acorn with a fuzzy cap, and leaves are dark green on top and gray green beneath.
Oak, Chinkapin <i>Quercus muehlenbergi</i>	45/45 & 60/60	5	♀	Another large oak showing good potential as it is able to deal with the high pH in many of our soils. Leaves have a margin that is sharply serrated, and typically the tree has a russet fall color. Will bear an acorn about 3/4" long.
Oak, English <i>Quercus robur</i>	60/45 & 99/70	5		Impressive oak has performed well in our poor soils and dry climate. Dark green leaves turn brown in the fall and often hold onto branches into winter. Often sold as a columnar cultivar. Bears a slender acorn that is about 1" long.
Oak, Red <i>Quercus rubra</i>	65/45 & 96/72	4	⚡ ♀	Beautiful oak with green leaves often turning to dark red in the fall. Tree can struggle in our soils as high pH brings on chlorosis. Best used in neutral to acidic, well-drained soils.
Oak, Shumard <i>Quercus shumardii</i>	65/45 & 90/77	5	⚡ ♀	Less commonly used in our area, but there are some impressive specimens on the Front Range. Tree can often struggle in our soils as high pH brings on chlorosis. Best used in neutral to acidic well-drained soils.
Oak, Swamp White <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	45/40 & 84/69	4		A very nice oak that may struggle in high pH soils depending on seed source. Dark, lustrous green leaves on top and the bottoms are fuzzy with a light gray color. Shaggy peeling bark adds winter interest. Bears one inch long acorns.
Pagodatree, Japanese <i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>	45/40 & 68/58	4		Good tolerance of urban conditions. Canopy of small leaves and unusually green-colored stems. Upright creamy white flowers fill the tree in late July, changing to interesting small seed pod. May be prone to storm damage.
Pecan <i>Carya illinoensis</i>	65/55 & 82/82	4	⌘	Not a common tree along the Front Range, but with a state champ reaching over 80 feet there is potential. Species prefers a well-drained soil. Tree develops a tap root, making it more difficult to transplant.
Poplar, Silver <i>Populus alba</i>	65/50 & 80/74	3	♀	Commonly found along waterways; identified by the white color of its upper trunk and silvery leaves. Females produce cotton. Produces sprouts to colonize an area.
Poplar, Upright <i>Populus nigra</i>	50/15 & N/A	3	♀	Many cultivars are available and are most appealing to those with small yards not allowing space for large trees. These trees grow very quickly, but are very short lived, leading to difficult removals in tight backyards. 11.

♠ - Water Lover ❖ - Drought Tolerant ⚡ - Avoid Alkaline Soils ⌘ - Flowers ⚗ - Insect or Disease Issues 🍌 - Fleshy Fruit ♀ - Fall Color 🌲 - Forester Favorite

Plant Name	Average & CO Champion Height/Spread	USDA Zone	Symbols	General Comments on the Tree Species
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Large Deciduous Trees

Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	75/55 & 115/74	4		A fast growing tree with beautiful bark made up of colors ranging from cream to green to light brown. Tree will bear light brown 1” diameter seed balls. Has the potential to become a very large tree, so make sure you have space.
Tree of Heaven <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	45/35 & 67/64	4	❖	This tree can be quite aggressive and it can easily colonize an entire lot if allowed to sucker/sprout at will. This tree may be rugged and drought tolerant, but it holds little landscape value and is not a recommended tree.
Tuliptree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	50/40 & 75/48	4	⌘	Tree will perform best in a well-drained, more acidic soil limiting its use in our area. The shape of this tree’s leaves is quite unique with a notable broad flat tip. Tree produces interesting orange flowers in late May.
Turkish Filbert <i>Corylus colurna</i>	5/20 & 43/24	4		A medium-sized tree that maintains a more upright form. Margins of the dark green leaves are sharply serrated and have a nice yellow fall color. Catkins on the tree add interest in early spring. Tree produces a nut with an unusual casing.
Walnut, Black <i>Juglans nigra</i>	55/40 & 83/70	4	♀	A classic tree known for the value and beauty of its wood. Tree will produce walnuts that will be attractive to wildlife. Development of taproot makes this species difficult to transplant. New issues with a beetle/fungus complex that may be a serious concern.
Walnut, English <i>Juglans regia</i>	35/35 & 47/42	5	♀	A smaller tree than the nigra species with interesting silver gray bark when mature. Performs best in a well-drained soil. Tree will bear 2” diameter edible nuts. New issues with a beetle/fungus complex may be a serious concern.
Whitebeam, Swedish <i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	35/35 & 51/51	4	⌘ 🍌	Medium-sized tree with leathery leaves with an oak-like shape. The leaves are dark green on top and velvety gray underneath. Tree produces white clusters of flowers in late spring turning to bright orange berries in fall.
Yellowwood <i>Cladrastis kentuckea</i>	40/35 & 52/29	5	⌘	Medium-sized tree developing smooth gray bark. Tree will produce dangling chains of fragrant white flowers. Tree is able to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and is tolerant of alkaline soils. Attractive yellow fall color.
Zelkova, Japanese <i>Zelkova serrata</i>	40/30 & 48/36	5	♀	Medium-sized vase shaped tree that may need more protection than other tree species. Tree may have potential for our area if our average lowest temperatures continue to rise. A fast grower with decent bronze-red fall color. 12.



Coniferous (Evergreen) Trees

The trees found in the following list are often referred to as evergreens, but there are some conifers that will drop their needles and should be considered deciduous.

♠ - Water Lover ❖ - Drought Tolerant ≡ - Avoid Alkaline Soils ⌘ - Flowers
⚡ - Insect or Disease Issues 🍌 - Fleshy Fruit ♀ - Fall Color ☞ - Forester Favorite

Plant Name	Average & CO Champion Height/Spread	USDA Zone	Symbols	General Comments on the Tree Species
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Coniferous Trees

Arborvitae <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	25/15 & 46/24	3		Many cultivars of this plant are available with options of green to yellow foliage and a variety of mature sizes. Foliage is soft to the touch. Tree may develop best out of strong winter winds and hot afternoon sun. Heavy snow can disfigure this tree.
Baldcypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	45/25 & 56/43	4	♀	A conifer that drops all its foliage in the fall. Green needles turning to orange-brown in October. Cones are small 1/2” in diameter and quite unique. Trees do not perform well in high pH soils and may suffer from chlorosis problems.
Cedar, Blue Atlas <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> ‘Glauca’	35/25 & 24/17	6		An eye-catching evergreen with silvery blue foliage. Not known for its cold tolerance, this species may be best used in a microclimate with shelter. Current state champion is in Westminster and is quite striking.
Cypress, Arizona <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>glabra</i>	30/15 & 29/15	5	❖	An unusual native evergreen found in the mountains of New Mexico. This tree has an upright form becoming broader with age. Foliage is an attractive bluish-gray color with a pungent aroma. Bark is reddish and exfoliating.
Fir, Douglas <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	60/30 & 111/40	4		Stands of species are commonly found across the Rocky Mountains. This tree is not used frequently in the urban landscape. Soft short needles are a nice dark green color. Three-inch cones covered with unusual bracts can be quite abundant as trees mature.
Fir, White or Concolor <i>Abies concolor</i>	60/25 & 138/34	3		An evergreen with an appearance very similar to the blue spruce. Foliage can range from green to icy-blue. Unlike the blue spruce, the needles of the fir are very soft to the touch. Tree maintains narrower form as it matures. 13.

- Water Lover
 - Drought Tolerant
 - Avoid Alkaline Soils
 - Flowers

- Insect or Disease Issues
 - Fleshy Fruit
 - Fall Color
 - Forester Favorite

Plant Name	Average & CO Champion Height/Spread	USDA Zone	Symbols	General Comments on the Tree Species
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Coniferous Trees

Juniper, One Seed <i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	20/15 & 22/23	4		This native tree has an impressive ability to withstand extremely dry conditions. Tree will develop a large mounded habit as it often becomes as wide as it is tall. Foliage ranges from casts of blue to green.
Juniper, Rocky Mountain <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	30/15 & 40/23	3		This native upright juniper species offers a variety of cultivars allowing for many selections yielding various mature sizes and colors of foliage. Most are columnar in form with good tolerance of drought and poor soil.
Larch, European <i>Larix decidua</i>	70/30 & 81/50	2		Another conifer that drops all its foliage in the fall. Green needles grow from unique pedestals on the twigs, and the foliage will turn an eye-catching yellow in the fall. Tree is very cold tolerant and able to adapt to alkaline soils.
Pine, Austrian <i>Pinus nigra</i>	55/30 & 76/65	4		One of the most commonly used conifers in our area. Dark green stiff needles of about 3 to 5 inches add nice winter color. This tree is very tolerant of poor urban soils and conditons. Two to three inch cones form as tree matures.
Pine, Bristlecone <i>Pinus aristata</i>	30/20 & 63/41	2		Specimens of this Rocky Mountain native are said to be some of the oldest living things on earth (4,000 yrs. old). Needles are dark-green and coated with dots of white resin. Tree often has an irregular form, and branches appear similar to a bottlebrush.
Pine, Limber <i>Pinus flexilis</i>	40/25 & 62/67	4		This is a drought tolerant Rocky Mountain native that has an open form. Bark will develop to a smooth texture with a white cast. Needles are flexible and soft to the touch. Tree performs best in a well-drained soil.
Pine, Pinyon <i>Pinus cembroides edulis</i>	20/15 & 30/42	4		This tree is native to the southern Rocky Mountains and has an impressive ability to tolerate extremely dry conditions. Tree has short green needles and will grow with a mounding habit. Cones will bear edible seeds. Do not overwater this tree.
Pine, Ponderosa <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	55/30 & 144/52	3		Classic Rocky Mountain native with an open form. Needles are quite long and on some trees can be up to 10 inches. Good tolerance of dry conditions and performs best in well-drained soils. Bears cones of 3" to 6" as tree matures.
Pine, Scotch <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	55/25 & 60/53	2		The bark of this pine is quite notable as it is colored with a mix of oranges and reds. Needles are bluish-green, short and stiff, giving the tree a more open mature appearance. Tree is quite tolerant of windy and exposed sites. 14.

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Coniferous Trees

Pine, Southwestern White <i>Pinus strobiformus</i>	45/35 & 90/42	5	❖	This pine is native to Colorado’s southern mountains and is closely related to limber pine. Needles up to 6 inches long are soft to the touch, and can be quite attractive with a bluish-green color. Best performance in sheltered areas.
Spruce, Black Hills <i>Picea glauca</i> Densata	45/25 & 63/44	2		A spruce that maintains a more compact form as it matures. This cultivar of white spruce has dark green needles and will bear smaller 2-inch cones. Tree is tolerant of alkaline soils and is very cold hardy.
Spruce, Colorado <i>Picea pungens</i>	80/30 & 153/26	2	🌲	This is the Colorado State tree. Genetics will determine needle color ranging from dark green to icy-blue. Cultivars are available to ensure color or smaller mature sizes. This native tree needs lots of space and regular watering.
Spruce, Norway <i>Picea abies</i>	60/30 & 68/60	2		Dark green needles make up the canopy of this spruce, and the tree will bear unusually long cones for a spruce (up to 6 inches long). Trees can perform well in average soils if there is adequate moisture. The fastest growing of the spruces.
Spruce, Serbian <i>Picea omorika</i>	55/25 & NA	4		This spruce has a narrow and pyramidal mature form. Needles are dark green with a silvery underside giving the tree a blended appearance of gray and green. Tree will bear a small 1 1/2” cone. Tree is native to limestone mountain areas of Yugoslavia.



SELECTING TREES AT THE NURSERY

Once you have chosen your tree species, it's time to select it at the nursery. To successfully transplant a tree into your landscape it is imperative you start with a healthy specimen. Too often the buyer will be lured by low prices on certain trees that have either been held over from previous years or poorly maintained in a nursery field or holding area. You often “get what you pay for” when it comes to nursery trees.

Look for a healthy tree that has a good growth rate. Careful observation of the twigs will reveal growth from year to year. Choose a tree that has a good trunk taper. Avoid trees that have been pruned severely or headed back. Foliage should be evenly distributed on the upper 2/3 of the tree. The tree should have a main, central stem with several lateral branches distributed evenly around it. An exception to this would be on small-growing, multi-stemmed ornamental trees. Check the tree for mechanical damage. Do not purchase a tree that has an injury to the main stem. Look closely at the leaves and twigs of the tree. Any sign or symptom of an insect or disease should discourage you from purchasing the tree. Get down in the dirt. Examine the root ball of the tree. Balled and burlapped trees should have a solid ball with a basket and twine around it. The trunk should not rock back and forth inside the ball. Make sure the twine is not too tight and girdling the tree. Avoid trees with circling roots.

The healthier the tree you choose the sooner it will become established in the landscape. Larger trees are not always better and they often take longer to establish. Unhealthy nursery trees are unhealthy landscape trees leading to unwanted insect and disease problems. Selection of the tree in the nursery is as important as selection of the right tree species.

Good Tree Structure



Courtesy of the University of Florida