

Recommended Trees for the City of Golden

The following is a partial list of recommended trees for the City of Golden, Colorado.

Always do your own research to ensure you are choosing the right tree for the right place. Consider mature growth size, soil type, irrigation, sun exposure, mature height, etc. Contact the Forestry Department by calling 303-384-8141 or emailing wiannopollo@cityofgolden.gov if you have questions or need additional advice. We would love to help!

Golden's hardiness zone is 5b. The soil is high alkaline, generally clay loam structure

*Native trees are marked with an asterisk mark and labeled "NATIVE option!" in "Notes"

Shade Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes	Water Requirements
Miyabei Maple	<i>Acer miyabei</i>	tolerant of urban growing conditions, yellow fall color.	Low
		Great fall color, fast growing	Low
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Great fall color, be sure to wrap young trees, can develop chlorosis in alkaline soils	Moderate
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	We recommend a variety, such as: Flashfire 'JFS-Caddo.' Great color, fast growing	Moderate
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Showy flowers, good for birds and butterflies, nice fall color	Moderate
Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Showy flowers, good for birds and small mammals	Moderate
Western Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Beautiful flowers, good for pollinators	Low
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Distinct bark, good fall color, small orange/red fruit is good for wildlife	Low
Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Medium sized, attractive bark, fragrant summer flowers	Moderate
Turkish filbert	<i>Corylus columna</i>	Tolerant tree, attractive bark, produces edible hazelnuts.	Low
European Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Large tree, attractive bark, nice fall color, good for birds, drought intolerant- be diligent to water	Moderate
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Distinct leaves. Disease resistant and tolerant tree. Only purchase male trees!	Moderate
Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	A proven species of our area, somewhat over-planted. Will tolerate a large range of growing conditions	Low
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Tolerant, fragrant flowers, distinct seed pods that persist into the winter	Low
Golden Rain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Smaller tree (~30 ft.), beautiful flowers, distinct "lantern" pods. Unique, showy fruit. Nice fall color.	Xeric
Osage Orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	Incredibly tolerant to most sites. 'White Shield' is a thornless variety.	Low
London Planetree	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	Attractive bark; good for birds and pollinators	Moderate
English Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Tolerant, large growing good fall color, good for birds	Low
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Tolerant, nice fall colors, good for mammals	Low

Shade Trees cont.

Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Tolerant, nice fall colors, good for mammals	Moderate
Texas Red Oak	<i>Quercus buckleyi</i>	Smaller oak (~35). Stately, good fall color. Incredibly tolerant	Xeric
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Tolerant, large growing, good fall color, good for birds and mammals	Low
Chinkapin Oak	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Tolerant, large growing, good fall color, good for birds and mammals	Low
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	A large-maturing, proven performer for Colorado. Beautiful red fall color.	Moderate
Heritage Oak	<i>Quercus x macdanielii 'Clemons'</i>	Tolerant tree, large mature height (50+ ft.), good for mammals	Low
Japanese Pagoda Tree	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Tolerant of urban environments, distinct leaves, summer flowers are good for insect pollinators	Moderate
American Linden	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Tolerant of soil types, fragrant summer flowers, good for birds	Moderate
Littleleaf Linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	More compact and symmetrical than American Linden	Moderate
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	Large maturing, vase shaped shade tree, most varieties available have higher pest, disease, and dutch elm disease resistance	Low
David Elm	<i>Ulmus davidiana</i>	Slightly smaller at maturity compared to other elms, great pest and disease resistance	Low
Triumph Elm	<i>Ulmus 'Morton Glossy'</i>	Large-maturing shade tree. Tolerant of a broad range of soil conditions and urban environments	Low
Japanese Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Tolerant, nice fall colors. Good alternative to elm tree	Moderate
Ornamental Trees			
Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes	Water Requirements
Bigtooth Maple*	<i>Acer grandidentatum</i>	*NATIVE option! Good fall color, can get multi-stemmed option	Low
Hot Wings Maple	<i>Acer tataricum 'Garann'</i>	Discovered in Colorado! Green leaves, red samaras, nice fall color. Small, reliable, tolerant tree	Low
Shantung Maple	<i>Acer truncatum</i>	Glossy leaves, beautiful fall color. Good for pollinators	Low
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Bright pink spring flowers, fall color, showy bark. Good for pollinators	Moderate
Smoke Tree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	Shrub-like tree. Unique flower plumes persist all summer. Nice fall foliage	Low
Russian Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus ambigua</i>	Small, shrub- like tree, beautiful flowers, fruit, and bark. Nice fall color. Great for birds	Xeric
Cockspur Thornless Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crusgalli</i>	Tolerant, beautiful flowers, nice fall color, showy winter fruit. Good for birds. Dangerous thorns unless you buy the thornless variety!	Low
Downy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	White flowers, red fruits. Good for wildlife. Nice fall color. Tolerant. May contain thorns.	Low
Winter-king Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	Most disease resistant species of <i>Crataegus</i> , beautiful flowers, nice fall color, showy winter fruit. Good for birds. Dangerous thorns unless you buy the thornless variety!	Low

Golden Rain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Drought tolerant, ability to grow in wide range of soils and sites, very distinct spring flowers and late summer seed pods	Xeric
Amur Maackia	<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	A compact, rounded tree suitable for smaller landscapes. Distinct silvery-green leaves. Drought tolerant.	Low
Magnolia	<i>Magnolia spp.</i>	Many ornamental hybrids with some being larger trees ('Ann', 'Galaxy', 'Mercury') and some being more shrub-like ('Jane', 'Centennial Blush'). Local nursery availability will have to determine which to use.	Moderate
Weeping Mulberry	<i>Morus alba 'Chaparral'</i>	'Chaparral' is a common, weeping, fruitless variety. Distinct form, nice fall color	Moderate
Sargent Cherry	<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	Beautiful, showy flowers, attractive bark, good for pollinators. Not fruit producing	Moderate
Gambel Oak*	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	*NATIVE option! Shrub style oak. Small, dense, good for wildlife/ mammals.	Xeric
European Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Larger ornamental (~30ft). White flowers, showy red fruit. Good for birds and pollinators.	Moderate
Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Showy, fragrant flowers, attractive bark. Good for birds and pollinators	Low

Conifers

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes	Water Requirements
White Fir*	<i>Abies concolor</i>	*NATIVE option! Tolerant and durable. Large Tree. Screen, shade, good for nesting birds and small mammals.	Moderate
Oneseed Juniper*	<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	*NATIVE option. Durable, multi-stemmed, small (6-20 ft). Sun tolerant, drought tolerant, good for wildlife.	Xeric
Rocky Mountain Juniper*	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	*NATIVE option! Smaller tree (10-30 ft), drought tolerant, good for windbreak, shade, birds and browsers	Xeric
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Cold-hardy, scale-like needles. Gets blue berry-like fruits that attracts birds. Tolerant of many soil types	Low
European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Deciduous conifer in the pine family but loses needles in winter. Good for birds.	Moderate
Colorado Blue Spruce*	<i>Picea pungens</i>	*NATIVE option! Dense, tall (>40ft.), good wind break and screen. Does best planted in pairs or clumps. Good for birds and small mammals. There are many different cultivars made to grow smaller (i.e. Baby Blue Eyes, Fat Albert, Globe Blue, etc.)	Moderate
Bristlecone Pine	<i>Pinus aristata</i>	*NATIVE option! Smaller tree at maturity, slow grower. Tolerates most poor soils but prefers good drainage	Low
Pinyon (or Pinon) Pine*	<i>Pinus edulis</i>	Small tree (<20ft). Seeds produces are edible pine nuts- good for humans and wildlife.	Low
Limber pine*	<i>Pinus flexilis</i>	*NATIVE option! Tolerant, full sun, good for windbreak, shade, birds and browsers	Low

Bosnian Pine	<i>Pinus heldreichii</i>	Grows dense, with long needles. Good for screen or windbreak. Tolerant of many soil types	Low
Ponderosa Pine*	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	*NATIVE option! Gets very tall (50-80ft.). Long needles, cold-hardy, great wind break, strong root system	Low
Southwestern White Pine*	<i>Pinus strobiformis</i>	*NATIVE option! Large tree (up to 80ft), good for wildlife, drought tolerant, sun	Low
Douglas Fir*	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	*NATIVE option! Fast growing, often used for screening, good for birds and mammals, medium tree (40+ ft.), semi- shade tolerant	Moderate

Edible Landscape Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes	Water Requirements
Apple	<i>Malus spp.</i>	Most apples do great in Colorado! Some reliable varieties include: Cox Orange, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, McIntosh, Jonathan, Fameuse, Northwest Greening, Joyce, Wealthy, Lodi and Haralson	Low
Apricot	<i>Prunus americana or Prunus mandshurica</i>	Good, hearty tree with attractive bark. Not as dependable for fruit production because they flower early/ are susceptible to early spring freezes. Some self-pollinating varieties include Tilton, Wenatchee Royal and Moorpark	Moderate
Cherry	<i>Prunus cerasus</i>	Some varieties include: Meteor, Evans Bali	Moderate
Montmorency Cherry	<i>Prunus cerasus 'Montmorency'</i>	The most popular pie and dessert cherry in North America!	Moderate
Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Some varieties include: Italian Prune, Mount Royal, Stanley Prune	Moderate
Plum	<i>Prunus salicina</i>	Some varieties: Superior, Santa Rosa, Pipestone, Toka	Moderate
Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Some varieties include: Bartlett, Comice, D'Anjou, Golden Spice, Luscious, Parker, Summer Crisp	Moderate