

The following is non-extensive list of *recommended* trees for the City of Golden in 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 mbrand@cityofgolden.net or wiannopollo@cityofgolden.net if you have questions/ need additional advice. We would love to help!

Golden's hardiness zone is 5b. The soil is high alkaline, generally clay loam structure
https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm?TARGET_APP=Web_Soil_Survey_application_x40lr455vhsqh2ncjb12yer1

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

For a larger list, feel free to reference: <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/treereclist.pdf>

Shade Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
American Linden	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Tolerant of soil types, fragrant summer flowers, good for birds
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Tolerant, large growing, good fall color, good for birds and mammals
Chinkapin Oak	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Tolerant, large growing, good fall color, good for birds and mammals
English Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Tolerant, large growing good fall color, good for birds
European Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Large tree, attractive bark, nice fall color, good for birds, drought intolerant- be diligent to water
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Distinct leaves. Disease resistant and tolerant tree. Only purchase male trees!
Golden Rain Tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Smaller tree (~30 ft.), beautiful flowers, distinct "lantern" pods,
Heritage Oak	<i>Quercus x macdanielii 'Clemons'</i>	Tolerant tree, large mature height (50+ ft.), good for mammals
Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Showy flowers, good for birds and small mammals
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Attractive bark, good fall color, attracts songbirds, seed pods that persist into the winter
Japanese Pagoda Tree	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Tolerant of urban environments, distinct leaves, summer flowers are good for insect pollinators

Japanese Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Tolerant, nice fall colors. Good alternative to elm tree
Katsura Tree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Spring flowers, nice fall colors. Good for pollinators. Not drought intolerant- be diligent to water.
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Tolerant, fragrant flowers, distinct seed pods that persist into the winter
Lacebark elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Attractive, mottled bark. Nice fall color. Tolerant of most conditions
London Planetree	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	Attractive bark; good for birds and pollinators
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Showy flowers, good for birds and butterflies, nice fall color
Osage Orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	Unique, showy fruit. Nice fall color. Incredibly tolerant to most sites. Contain thorns and they may be hard to find in nurseries
Sensation Maple	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Great fall color, fast growing
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	We recommend a variety, such as: Flashfire 'JFS-Caddo.' Great color, fast growing
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Tolerant, nice fall colors, good for mammals
Texas Red Oak	<i>Quercus buckleyi</i>	Smaller oak (~35). Stately, good fall color. Incredibly tolerant
Turkish filbert	<i>Corylus colurna</i>	Tolerant tree, attractive bark, produces edible hazelnuts.
Western Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Beautiful flowers, good for pollinators
Western Hackberry	<i>Celtis reticulata</i>	Distinct bark, good fall color, small orange/red fruit is good for wildlife
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Tolerant, nice fall colors, good for mammals
Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Medium sized, attractive bark, fragrant summer flowers

Ornamental Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
Bigtooth Maple*	<i>Acer grandidentatum</i>	*NATIVE option! Good fall color, can get multi-stemmed option

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!
Downy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	White flowers, red fruits. Good for wildlife. Nice fall color. Tolerant. May contain thorns.
European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Deciduous conifer, in the Pine family, but loses needles. Tolerant. Spring blossoms. Good for birds.
European Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Larger ornamental (~30ft). White flowers, showy red fruit. Good for birds and pollinators.
Gambel Oak*	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	*NATIVE option! Shrub style oak. Small, dense, good for wildlife/ mammals.
Hot Wings Maple	<i>Acer tataricum 'Garann'</i>	Discovered in Colorado! Green leaves, red samaras, nice fall color. Small, reliable, tolerant tree
Japanese Larch	<i>Larix kaempferi</i>	Deciduous conifer, in the Pine family, but loses needles. Tolerant. Good for birds.
Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Showy, fragrant flowers, attractive bark. Good for birds and pollinators
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.
Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	Curled leaves. Native to Colorado region
Oak-leaf Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus x hybrida</i>	Tolerant tree, upright oval shape, beautiful white flower clusters, nice fall color, showy red berries
Persian Ironwood	<i>Parrotia persica</i>	Distinct, exfoliating bark. Can be multi-stemmed. Good fall color. Nice winter appeal.
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Bright pink spring flowers, fall color, showy bark. Good for pollinators
Russian Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus ambigua</i>	Small, shrub- like tree, beautiful flowers, fruit, and bark. Nice fall color. Great for birds
Sargent Cherry	<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	Beautiful, showy flowers, attractive bark, good for pollinators. Not fruit producing

Shantung Maple	<i>Acer truncatum</i>	Glossy leaves, beautiful fall color. Good for pollinators
Smoke Tree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	Shrub-like tree. Unique flower plumes persist all summer. Nice fall foliage
Weeping Mulberry	<i>Morus alba 'Chaparral'</i>	Chaparral' is a common, weeping, fruitless variety. Distinct form, nice fall color
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!

Evergreen Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
Balkan Pine	<i>Pinus peuce</i>	Tolerant. Needs full sun. Good for wildlife. Nice pine variety to use if you can find it in nurseries.
Bosnian Pine	<i>Pinus heldreichii</i>	Grows dense, with long needles. Good for screen or windbreak. Tolerant of many soil types
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.)
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
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
Limber pine*	<i>Pinus flexilis</i>	*NATIVE option! Tolerant, full sun, good for windbreak, shade, birds and browsers
Oneseed Juniper*	<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	*NATIVE option. Durable, multi-stemmed, small (6-20 ft). Sun tolerant, drought tolerant, good for wildlife.

Pinyon (or Pinon) Pine*	<i>Pinus edulis</i>	Small tree (<20ft). Seeds produces are edible pine nuts- good for humans and wildlife.
Ponderosa Pine*	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	*NATIVE option! Gets very tall (50-80ft). Long needles, cold-hardy, great wind break, strong root system
Rocky Mountain Juniper*	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	*NATIVE option! Smaller tree (10-30 ft), drought tolerant, good for windbreak, shade, birds and browsers
Southwestern White Pine*	<i>Pinus strobiformis</i>	*NATIVE option! Large tree (up to 80ft), good for wildlife, drought tolerant, sun
White Fir*	<i>Abies concolor</i>	*NATIVE option! Tolerant and durable.Large Tree. Screen, shade, good for nesting birds and small mammals.

Edible Landscape Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
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
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
Cherry	<i>Prunus cerasus</i>	Some varieties include: Meteor, Evans Bali
Montmorency Cherry	<i>Prunus cerasus 'Montmorency'</i>	The most popular pie and dessert cherry in North America!
Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Some varieties include: Italian Prune, Mount Royal, Stanley Prune
Plum	<i>Prunus salicina</i>	Some varieties: Superior, Santa Rosa, Pipestone, Toka
Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Some varieties include: Bartlett, Comice, D'Anjou, Golden Spice, Luscious, Parker, Summer Crisp