

## Approved Tree List

### City of Boulder Properties and Public Street Rights of Way

Trees, when properly selected and cared for, are appreciating assets to the City of Boulder. They provide positive impacts and benefits to our ecosystem, economy, and community through cleaning the air and purifying water, providing habitat, and by enhancing our neighborhoods and commercial districts. This document serves to guide planners, developers, landscape architects, and other professionals in proper tree selection for planting on City of Boulder properties.

**The following trees may not be planted in the public street right-of-way or other City properties due to poor suitability, structural concerns, or invasive qualities:**

- *Acer negundo* (boxelder) except for the 'Sensation' cultivar
- *Acer x freemannii* (autumn blaze/freeman maple)
- *Ailanthus altissima* (tree-of-heaven) – **invasive species**
- *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian-olive) – **invasive species**
- *Populus* spp. – hybrid cottonwoods or aspen
- *Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford' (Bradford flowering pear)
- *Salix* spp. (willow)
- *Ulmus pumila* (Siberian elm) – **invasive species**
- Multi-stemmed trees
- Weeping or pendulous trees

**The following trees may not be planted in the public Right of Way or City property due to insect, disease or wildfire concerns:**

- *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple) - sunscald susceptibility
- *Fraxinus* spp. (ash) - emerald ash borer
- *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Sunburst' - fungal canker susceptibility
- *Juglans* spp. (walnut) - Thousand Cankers Disease
- *Juniperus* spp. (junipers) – wildfire concerns
- *Platanus occidentalis* (sycamore) – anthracnose susceptibility
- *Tilia cordata* (littleleaf linden) - Japanese beetle
- *Quercus rubra* (northern red oak), *Quercus shumardii* (Shumard oak), *Quercus palustris* (pin oak), *Quercus ellipsoidales* (northern pin oak) - kermes scale and drippy blight disease
- *Pinus nigra* (Austrian pine), *Pinus sylvestris* (Scotch pine) – pine wilt

**The following trees may not be planted in the public Right of Way but are allowed on other City properties:**

- Coniferous trees (deciduous conifers are allowed in the right-of-way)
- *Populus* spp. – native cottonwoods only (Plains, narrowleaf and lanceleaf); no hybrid cottonwoods or aspen allowed
- *Salix* spp. (willow) – native species only

#### Spacing Requirements:

- 30-35 feet between medium and large statured shade trees (over 35 feet at maturity)
- 20-25 feet between small statured ornamental trees (under 25-30 feet tall at maturity)
- 25 feet from intersections
- 10 feet from streetlights
- 10 feet from alleys, driveways, and fire hydrants
- 10 feet from water meters

Trees not included in this document may not be planted in City parks, City properties, or Public Right of Way without permission from the City Forester. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis, but not guaranteed. Authorization is needed from Boulder Forestry before planting, pruning, spraying, or removing any tree in the public street right-of-way. This enables Boulder Forestry to keep an up-to-date tree inventory and ensures proper species selection, placement, and care of new or existing trees.

**Boulder Forestry Contact:**  
**Office:** 303-441-4406

City of Boulder Park Operations  
5200 Pearl Pkwy Boulder CO, 80301

## Approved Deciduous Trees

Species Name	Common Name	Acceptable Cultivars	Hardiness Zone	Approved for the following locations G=grate/pit, P=Parks, R=ROW	Water Needs	Mature Size (S, M or L)	Mature Height (ft)	Mature Width (ft)	Mature Canopy Area (sq. ft)	Form	Fall Color	Flowers	Fruit	Additional Notes
<i>Acer campestre</i>	hedge maple	Queen Elizabeth	5	R, P	low to medium	Medium	30	30	707	oval	yellow	insignificant	samara	Tolerates clay soil, air pollution, susceptible to winter dieback in early freezes
<i>Acer glabrum</i>	Rocky Mountain maple		5	R, P	low to medium	Small	20	15	177	rounded	orange	insignificant	samara	Prefers moist soils
<i>Acer grandidentatum</i>	bigtooth maple	Rocky Mountain Glow	4	R, P	low to medium	Medium	25	25	491	rounded	orange, red	insignificant	samara	Tolerates alkaline soil, drought once established
<i>Acer griseum</i>	paperbark maple		4	R, P	medium to high	Medium	25	20	314	oval	orange, red	insignificant	samara	Tolerates clay soil, intolerant of drought, protect from strong winds
<i>Acer miyabe</i>	miyabe maple	State Street	4	R, P, G	medium	Medium	40	30	707	oval	yellow	insignificant	samara	Tolerates wet sites, alkaline soils, clay soils
<i>Acer negundo</i>	boxelder	Sensation	3	R, P, G	low to medium	Large	40	40	1257	rounded	yellow	insignificant	seedless for cultivar listed	Tolerates clay soil, drought once established, air pollution, alkaline soils
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore maple		4	R, P	medium	Large	35	30	707	rounded	yellow	insignificant	samara	Tolerates alkaline soils, road salts
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	sugar maple	Fall Fiesta, Legacy, Caddo	4 to 5	R, P	medium	Large	60	45	1590	rounded	orange	insignificant	samara	Intolerant of soil compaction, road salts, air pollution, some cultivars may develop chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer tataricum</i>	tatarian maple	Hot Wings, Pattern Perfect	3	R, P	low to medium	Small	20	15	177	rounded	red, yellow	white clusters	samara	Tolerates soil compaction, clay soil
<i>Aesculus flava</i>	yellow buckeye		4	R, P	medium	Large	60	40	1257	rounded	orange, yellow	yellow cluster	nut	Intolerant of drought, prone to leaf scorch in hot and dry sites

<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	common horsechestnut		4	R, P	medium	Large	60	50	1963	oval	yellow	pink to white cluster	nut	Intolerant of drought, prone to leaf scorch in hot and dry sites
<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	red horsechestnut	Briotti, Fort McNair	4	R, P	medium	Medium	35	30	707	rounded	yellow	pink upright	nut	Intolerant of drought, prone to leaf scorch in hot and dry sites
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	downy serviceberry		4	R, P	low to medium	Small	20	15	177	rounded	orange, yellow	white	berry, edible	Tolerates clay soil, soil compaction, best used as multi stem
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	shadblow serviceberry		3	R, P	low	Small	20	15	177	rounded	orange, yellow	white	berry, edible	Tolerates clay soil, best used as multi stem
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	spring flurry serviceberry		4	R, P	low to medium	Small	22	15	177	oval	orange, yellow	white	berry, edible	Tolerates air pollution, wide range of soils, best used as multi stem
<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i>	apple serviceberry	Autumn Brilliance	4	R, P	low to medium	Small	20	15	177	rounded	orange, yellow	white	berry, edible	Tolerates wide range of soils, best used as multi stem
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European hornbeam	Fastigiata, Frans Fontaine	5	R, P	medium	Medium	35	25	491	rounded	yellow	insignificant	nutlet	Tolerates air pollution, dry sites, alkaline soils, protect from strong winds
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American hornbeam		3	R, P	medium	Medium	30	30	707	rounded	orange, red	insignificant	nutlet	Tolerates clay soil, alkaline soils, dry sites
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	pecan		5	R, P	medium	Large	75	40	1257	oval	yellow	insignificant	nut, edible	Tolerates wet sites, alkaline soils, choose stock with northern seed source if possible
<i>Carya ovata</i>	shagbark hickory		5	R, P	medium	Large	70	50	1963	oval	bronze, yellow	insignificant	nut	Tolerates drought once established, alkaline soils, dry sites
<i>Catalpa ovata</i>	Chinese catalpa		4	R, P	low to medium	Medium	25	25	491	oval, irregular	yellow	white orchid like	seed pod	Tolerates dry sites, alkaline soils, wet sites, clay soils, and road salts
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	western catalpa		5	R, P, G	low to medium	Large	65	30	707	oval, irregular	yellow	white orchid like	seed pod	Tolerates drought once established, clay soil, and air pollution

<b><i>Catalpa x erubescens</i></b>	purple catalpa		5	R, P	low to medium	Large	40	35	962	rounded, irregular	yellow	purple, yellow	seed pod	Tolerates dry sites, alkaline soils, road salts
<b><i>Celtis laevigata</i></b>	sugar hackberry	All Seasons, Magnifica	5	R, P	low to medium	Large	45	40	1257	oval	yellow	insignificant	drupe	Tolerates clay soil, wet soil, air pollution
<b><i>Celtis occidentalis</i></b>	common hackberry		3	R, P, G	low to medium	Large	50	50	1963	rounded	yellow	insignificant	drupe	Tolerates drought once established, clay soil, wet soil, and air pollution
<b><i>Celtis reticulata</i></b>	netleaf hackberry		3	R, P	low to medium	Medium	25	25	491	rounded	yellow	insignificant	drupe	Tolerates alkaline soil, drought.
<b><i>Cercis canadensis</i></b>	eastern redbud		4	R, P	medium to high	Small	25	30	707	rounded	yellow	pink to purple	seed pod	Tolerates clay soil
<b><i>Cladrastis kentukea</i></b>	yellowwood		4	R, P	medium	Medium	60	40	1257	rounded	yellow	white clusters	seed pod	Protect from strong winds
<b><i>Corylus colurna</i></b>	Turkish filbert		4	R, P, G	low	Medium	45	25	491	pyramidal	bronze	insignificant	nut, edible	Tolerates drought once established and most soils but not heavy clay
<b><i>Crataegus ambigua</i></b>	Russian hawthorn		4	R, P	low	Small	20	15	177	rounded	orange	white	berry	Tolerates drought, clay soils, and dry soils. Has thorns
<b><i>Crataegus lavellei</i></b>	lavelle hawthorn		4	R, P	medium	Small	25	15	177	oval	red	white	berry	Has thorns
<b><i>Crataegus mollis</i></b>	downy hawthorn		4	R, P	low to medium	Small	20	15	177	rounded	red	white	berry	Tolerates alkaline soils, clay soils. Has thorns.
<b><i>Crataegus viridis</i></b>	green hawthorn	Winter King	4	R, P	low to medium	Small	25	25	491	rounded	red	white	berry	Tolerates drought, clay soils, and dry soils. Has thorns
<b><i>Fagus sylvatica</i></b>	European beech	Purpurea, Tricolor	4	R, P	high	Large	50	40	1257	oval	bronze	insignificant	nut, edible	Intolerant of wet, poorly drained soils
<b><i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i></b>	thornless honeylocust	Imperial, Shademaster, Skyline	3b to 4	R, P, G	low to medium	Large	60	60	2827	rounded, spreading	yellow	insignificant	seedless for cultivars listed	Tolerates drought once established, clay soil, and air pollution
<b><i>Gymnocladus dioica</i></b>	Kentucky coffeetree	Espresso, Stately Manor	4	R, P, G	low-medium	Large	60	40	1257	rounded, irregular	yellow	insignificant	seed pod, seedless cultivars available	Tolerates drought once established, air pollution
<b><i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i></b>	goldenrain tree		5	R, P	low	Medium	35	35	962	rounded, irregular	yellow	yellow clusters	seed capsule	Tolerates drought, clay soil, air pollution

<b><i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i></b>	sweetgum		5	R, P	medium	Large	60	40	1257	oval, irregular	orange, purple, red	insignificant	seed ball	Tolerates clay soil
<b><i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i></b>	tuliptree		4	R, P	medium	Large	60	35	962	oval	yellow	yellow tulip like	seed capsule	Tolerates clay soil, wet soil
<b><i>Maackia amurensis</i></b>	Amur maackia		3	R, P	low to medium	Medium	25	25	491	rounded	yellow	white	seed pod	Adapts to a wide range of soils
<b><i>Magnolia acuminata</i></b>	cucumbertree magnolia		4	R, P	medium to high	Large	55	30	707	pyramidal	bronze, yellow	green, yellow	seed cluster	Intolerant of most urban pollutants
<b><i>Magnolia Galaxy</i></b>	galaxy magnolia		4	R, P	medium	Small	25	15	177	rounded	bronze	pink to purple	seed cluster	Protect from strong winds
<b><i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i></b>	saucer magnolia		4	R, P	medium	Small	20	20	314	rounded	bronze	white to purple	seed cluster	Tolerates clay soil
<b><i>Malus sylvestris</i></b>	crabapple	Golden Raindrops, Indian Magic, Prairiefire, Royal Raindrops, Spring Snow, Thunderchild	4	R, P, G	low to medium	Small to Medium – depends on cultivar	varies by cultivar	varies by cultivar	varies by cultivar	rounded	varies on cultivar	varies by cultivar	pome, size varies on cultivar, fruitless cultivars available	Tolerates air pollution, adapts to a wide range of soils. Select cultivar with good resistance to the following: fireblight, scab, cedar apple rust, and mildew
<b><i>Morus alba</i></b>	white mulberry		4	R, P	medium	Large	40	40	1257	rounded	bronze	insignificant	fruitless cultivars available	Tree permitted in parks but not in the Public Right of Way. Tree attracts wildlife and is not permitted west of Broadway Avenue. tolerates drought once established, air pollution.
<b><i>Ostrya virginiana</i></b>	American hophornbeam		3	R, P	low to medium	Medium	30	25	491	rounded	yellow	insignificant	seed capsule	Tolerates drought once established, clay soil
<b><i>Phellodendron amurense</i></b>	amur corktree	His Majesty, Macho, Eyestopper	4	R, P	medium	Medium	40	45	1590	rounded	yellow	insignificant	fruitless cultivar	Tolerates drought once established
<b><i>Prunus maackii</i></b>	Amur chokecherry		3	R, P	medium	Medium	25	20	314	rounded	yellow	white	berry	Excellent cold hardiness
<b><i>Prunus virginiana</i></b>	chokecherry	Sucker Punch, Canada Red	3	R, P	low to medium	Medium	25	15	177	rounded	yellow	white	berry	Tolerates drought, dry soil, shallow and rocky soil

<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	common hoptree		3	R, P	low	Medium	20	20	314	rounded, irregular	yellow	white	seed cluster	Tolerates drought once established, dry soil
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	flowering pear	Cleveland Select, Chanticleer, Autumn Blaze	4	R, P	low to medium	Medium	35	15	177	oval	red	white	drupe	Tolerates drought, clay soil, air pollution
<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak		3	R, P	low to medium	Large	65	65	3318	rounded	red	insignificant	acorn	Tolerates drought once established, clay soil, dry soil, shallow and rocky soil
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak		4	R, P, G	medium	Large	55	55	2376	rounded	bronze, orange	insignificant	acorn	Tolerates drought once established, wet soil
<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	gambel oak		5	R, P	low	Medium	20	20	314	rounded, irregular	bronze	insignificant	acorn	Best used as multi-stem
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	shingle oak		5	R, P, G	medium	Large	50	50	1963	oval	bronze, red	insignificant	acorn	Tolerates drought once established, adapts to a wide variety of soils
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	bur oak	Bulletproof	3 to 4	R, P, G	low to medium	Large	70	70	3848	rounded	bronze	insignificant	acorn	Tolerates drought once established, clay soil, dry soil, choose gall-less tree stock as galls attract yellow jackets
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	chinkapin oak		3	R, P, G	low to medium	Large	50	60	2827	rounded	bronze	insignificant	acorn	Tolerates drought once established
<i>Quercus prinus</i>	chestnut oak		4	R, P	low to medium	Large	65	65	3318	rounded	red	insignificant	acorn	Tolerates alkaline soils, drought once established
<i>Quercus undulata</i>	wavy-leaf oak		4	R, P	low to medium	Small	10	5	20	rounded	yellow	insignificant	acorn	Best used as multi-stem
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	whitebeam tree		5	R, P	medium	Medium	40	25	491	oval	bronze, yellow	white	drupe cluster	Susceptible to fireblight, tolerant of alkaline soils
<i>Sorbus hybrida</i>	oakleaf mountain-ash		3	R, P	medium	Medium	30	15	177	oval	bronze, red	white	drupe cluster	Susceptible to fireblight, intolerant of road salts
<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>	Japanese pagoda tree		5	R, P, G	medium	Medium	45	40	1257	rounded	yellow	white	seed pod	Tolerates drought once established, air pollution

<i>Syringa pekinensis</i>	Chinese tree lilac	China Snow	5	R, P	low	Small	20	15	177	oval	bronze, yellow	white clusters	seed capsule	Resistant to mildew
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese tree lilac	Ivory Silk	3	R, P	low	Small	25	15	177	oval	yellow	white clusters	seed capsule	Tolerates clay soil, urban conditions
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American linden	*check with Boulder Forestry for approved cultivars	3	R, P	medium	Large	60	40	1257	oval, rounded	yellow	pale yellow	nutlet	Tolerates drought once established, clay soil
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	silver linden		5	R, P	medium	Large	60	40	1257	oval	yellow	pale yellow	nutlet	Tolerates drought one established
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm	*check with Boulder Forestry for approved cultivars (only those resistant to Dutch elm disease & European elm scale allowed)	4	R, P	low to medium	Large	70	55	2376	vase	yellow	insignificant	samara	Tolerates drought once established, air pollution
<i>Ulmus davidiana</i>	David elm	Discovery	3	R, P	low to medium	Large	45	45	1590	vase	yellow	insignificant	samara	Tolerates drought once established, air pollution
<i>Ulmus x accolade</i>	accolade elm		4	R, P, G	low to medium	Large	55	35	962	vase	yellow	insignificant	samara	Tolerates drought once established, air pollution
<i>Xanthoceras sorbifolium</i>	golden yellowhorn	Clear Creek	5	R, P	low to medium	Small	20	20	314	rounded	yellow	white	capsule	Tolerates drought one established, adaptable to a wide range of growing conditions

## Approved Coniferous Trees

Species	Common Name	Hardiness Zone	Approved for following locations (G=grate, P=Parks, R=ROW)	Water Needs	Mature Height (ft)	Mature Width (ft)	Mature Canopy Area (sq. ft)	Additional Notes
<i>Abies concolor</i>	white fir	3	P	medium	55	25	688	Prefers moist soils

<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	atlas blue cedar	6	P	medium	50	25	625	Drought tolerant once established, protect from strong winds
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	dawn redwood	4	R, P	medium	85	20	850	Deciduous conifer, tolerates clay soil, air pollution, wet soil
<i>Picea glauca</i>	white spruce	2	P	medium to high	50	15	375	Very cold hardy, sensitive to road salt and air pollution
<i>Picea pungens</i>	blue spruce	2	P	medium to high	50	15	375	Tolerates drought, air pollution
<i>Pinus aristata</i>	bristlecone pine	4	P	low to medium	15	10	75	Tolerates poor, rocky soils, and alkaline soils
<i>Pinus edulis</i>	pinyon pine	3	P	low to medium	35	15	263	Tolerates drought
<i>Pinus flexilis</i>	limber pine	4	P	low to medium	50	30	750	Adaptable to a wide variety of soils
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Ponderosa pine	3	P	low to medium	90	25	1125	Tolerates drought
<i>Pinus strobiformis</i>	southwestern white pine	4	P	low to medium	90	30	1350	Prefers moist soils
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas-fir	4	P	medium	55	25	688	Prefers moist soils
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	giant sequoia	6	P	medium to high	100	40	2000	Intolerant of clay soils, prefers moist, well drained soils
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	baldcypress	4	R, P	medium to high	60	35	1050	Deciduous conifer, tolerates clay soil, air pollution