

**ASH TREES ARE NO LONGER RECOMMENDED.** Find replacement trees in this guide. Use good planting practices & diverse material for a healthy landscape.

# Front Range Tree Recommendation List<sup>®</sup>

This Front Range Tree Recommendation List<sup>®</sup> was developed through the collaborative efforts of 12 individuals, three from each of the four participating professional groups: the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association (CNGA), municipal arborists representing the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC), and the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension. Based on the committee's collective education, knowledge, and experience over 250 trees or varieties were evaluated and rated, resulting in a single reference list for professionals to use and share with their customers or residents.

The purpose of this project was to create a Front Range tree list for use by Green Industry professionals based on decades of actual experience growing and caring for trees in our area. This list is intended to assist those involved in the buying, growing, selling, selection, siting, and specification of trees, with the ultimate goal of a healthy, diverse, and geographically appropriate landscape and urban forest. The ratings apply to the Colorado Front Range, generally defined as the region from Colorado Springs to the Wyoming border and from the foothills to the eastern plains. We encourage industry professionals to prepare similar lists for other geographic regions using this as a template.

The initial list of evaluated trees was based on a compilation of six 2010 Front Range Nursery catalogs plus recommendations from committee members. The group evaluated each tree based upon 5 Critical and 8 Cautionary Cultural Factors, resulting in one of four ratings:

## **A - Generally Recommended.**

A tree is Generally Recommended if it has consistently displayed no serious vitality issues related to any of the five Critical factors.

**B - Conditionally Recommended.** A tree is Conditionally Recommended if it has consistently displayed serious vitality issues related to one or more of the five Critical factors. Some cultural factors such as sun scald can be mitigated thru proper horticultural care, in this case using tree wrap.

**C - Potential/Unproven.** A tree is listed as Potential/Unproven if it is offered for sale locally and has the potential to do well here (a USDA Hardiness Zone Rating of 5 or below), but the committee has less than ten years of experience growing and maintaining a significant population of the tree in our area. As this list is periodically updated, the intention is to move trees with a C rating to one of the other categories based upon the collective experience of the list users.

**D - Not Recommended.** A tree is Not Recommended if it has consistently displayed overwhelming vitality issues related to one or more of the five Critical factors or can be expected to do poorly under normal circumstances.

When using this list to assist in tree selection for a specific planting location, a site analysis relating to the cultural factors, including a soil test to determine pH, texture, and composition should be performed. We assume the list users are aware of

the physical attributes of these trees (mature size, fall color, growth habit, texture, flowers, fruit, etc) or have access to this information.

The Front Range Tree Recommendation List<sup>®</sup> is downloadable on the websites of the CNGA, ASLA, CTC, and CSU Extension. This hardcopy document was paid for with contributions from the GreenCO Foundation and the Colorado Nursery Research and Education Foundation (CNREF). If you are interested in participating in future updates of this list, please provide your contact information on the CNGA website, [coloradonga.org](http://coloradonga.org). Click on Resources and Tree List.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Landscape Architects - ASLA:** Gail Barry; David Flaig; Don Godi

**Nurserymen - CNGA:** Stan Brown; Matt Edmundson; Gary Epstein

**CSU Representatives:** Robert Cox; Jim Klett, PhD; Alison O'Connor

**Municipal Arborists - CTC:** Tim Buchanan, Fort Collins; Scott Grimes, South Suburban Parks; Michael Swanson, Denver

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DECIDUOUS ALPHA-BOTANIC

Botanical Name	Variety or Common	Rating	Cultural Factors														Other		Comments:	
			Critical					Cautionary												
			SC	ST	ID	CH	SA	TS	WW	SL	SU	RS	TR	LS	EX	WN	LA			
<b>Acer</b>	<b>Maple</b>																			
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Hedge	B				x												I-m	x	Variable hardiness from seed; prone to winter dieback in hard early freezes
<i>Acer x freemanii</i>	Freeman - 'Armstrong', Autumn Blaze®, Autumn Fantasy®, Celebration®, Sienna Glen®	B	x				x	x										m		Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur/ Ginnala - 'Flame'	B	x				x							x				I-m		Can develop chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer glabrum</i>	Rocky Mountain	B		x														m-h		Prefers more moisture
<i>Acer grandidentatum</i>	Big Tooth	A																I-m	x	
<i>Acer grandidentatum</i>	Big Tooth - Manzano™	C				x												I-m	x	More tree-like than <i>Acer grandidentatum</i>
<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark	C				x								x			x	m	x	Needs a protected site; does not transplant well when bare rooted
<i>Acer miyabei</i>	Miyabe	C				x					x							I-m	x	Typically budded to <i>A.campestre</i> that shows variable hardiness from seed
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Boxelder/ Ash-leaved - 'Sensation'	C									x							I-m	x	Tolerant of alkaline soils; holds a strong dominate leader; male tree so no boxelder bugs
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese	B	x	x		x					x							m-h		Prefers well drained soils low in salt content with some protection
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway - 'Columnare', 'Crimson King', 'Crimson Sentry', 'Deborah', Emerald Lustre®, 'Emerald Queen', Fairview®, 'Royal Red'	B								x								m		<i>Acer platanoides</i> is prone to sunscald and leaf scorch in hot dry sites
<i>Acer pseudosieboldianum</i>	Korean/Purplebloom	C								x								m	x	More tolerant of heavy soils than <i>Acer palmatum</i> , but still needs protection
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red - Autumn Flame®	B	x				x	x										m		Chlorosis; <i>Acer rubrum</i> needs an acidic soil
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red - Burgundy Belle®	C	x				x	x										m	x	Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red - Northwood®	B	x				x	x										m		Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red - October Glory®	B	x				x	x										m		Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red - Redpointe®	C	x				x	x										m	x	Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red - Red Sunset®	B	x				x	x										m		Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver - 'Silver Queen'	B	x				x	x	x									m		Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver - 'Skinner'	B	x				x	x	x									m	x	Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar - Green Mountain®	B	x	x			x	x										m		<i>Acer saccharum</i> prefers well drained, neutral to acidic soils
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar - Legacy®	B	x	x			x	x										m	x	Can develop chlorosis in alkaline soils
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar - Caddo 'John Pair', 'Autumn Splendor'	C				x		x										I-m	x	Alkaline tolerant; needs protected site
<i>Acer tataricum</i>	Tartarian	A												x				I-m	x	
<i>Acer tataricum</i>	Tartarian -Hot Wings®	A												x				I-m		
<i>Acer tataricum</i>	Tartarian - Pattern Perfect™	A												x				I-m		
<i>Acer truncatum x platanoides</i>	Norwegian Sunset®	C				x												I-m	x	Prone to winter dieback in early hard freezes & possible death at -30°
<b>Aesculus</b>	<b>Buckeye/Horsechestnut</b>																			
<i>Aesculus arguta</i>	Texas	A																I-m	x	More heat tolerant than <i>A.glabra</i>
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio	A																m	x	Some chlorosis; prone to leaf scorch in hot dry sites
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Common Horsechestnut	A																m	x	
<i>Aesculus octandra(flava)</i>	Yellow	C																m	x	
<i>Aesculus x camea</i>	'Briotti'	C																m	x	
<i>Aesculus x camea</i>	'Fort McNair'	C																m		
<b>Alnus</b>	<b>Alder</b>																			
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Common /Black	B				x												m-h		Leaf miner; leaf scorch in hot dry sites
<i>Alnus tenuifolia</i>	Thinleaf/ Mountain	A				x												m-h		Leaf miner; leaf scorch in hot dry sites
<b>Amelanchier</b>	<b>Serviceberry</b>																			
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Saskatoon	A																I-m		Best used as multi-stem

KEY

**CRITICAL:** SC=Soil Chemistry • ST=Soil Texture • ID=Insects & Diseases • CH= Cold Hardiness • SA=Salt Tolerance  
**CAUTIONARY:** TS=Tree Wrap/Sun Scald • WW=Weak Wood • SL=Short Lived • SU=Suckers • RS= Re-seeds • TR=Transplants • LS=Leaf Scorch • EX=Exposure  
**OTHER:** WN= Water Needs • LA= Limited Availability



DECIDUOUS ALPHA-BOTANIC

Botanical Name	Variety or Common	Rating	Cultural Factors														Other		Comments:	
			Critical					Cautionary							Other					
			SC	ST	ID	CH	SA	TS	WW	SL	SU	RS	TR	LS	EX	WN	LA			
<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	Black - 'Fallgold'	B			x						x						m		EAB not yet detected in CO.	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green - 'Bergeson'	C			x												m	x	EAB not yet detected in CO.	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green - Cimmarron®	B			x												m	x	EAB not yet detected in CO.	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green - Dakota Centennial™	C			x												m	x	EAB not yet detected in CO.	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green - 'Marshall's Seedless'	B			x												I-m		EAB not yet detected in CO.	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green - 'Patmore'	B			x												I-m		EAB not yet detected in CO.	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green - Prairie Spire®	C			x												I-m	x	EAB not yet detected in CO.	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green - 'Summit'	B			x												I-m		EAB not yet detected in CO.	
<b>Ginkgo biloba</b>	<b>Ginkgo/ Maidenhair Tree</b>	B				x											x	m	x	
<b>Gleditsia</b>	<b>Honeylocust</b>																			
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos v. inermis</i>	Thornless Common -Halka™	B							x								I-m	x	Wrap young tree	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos v. inermis</i>	Thornless Common - Imperial®, Shademaster®, Skyline®	A							x								I-m		Wrap young tree	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos v. inermis</i>	Thornless Common - Sunburst®	B				x			x	x							I-m		Wrap young tree	
<b>Gymnocladus</b>	<b>Kentucky Coffeetree</b>																			
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree	A															I-m			
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Kentucky Coffeetree - 'Espresso'	C															I-m	x		
<b>Heptacodium miconiodes</b>	<b>Seven-Son Flower</b>	C				x											m	x		
<b>Hibiscus syriacus</b>	<b>Rose-of-Sharon - 'Aphrodite', 'Ardens', 'Coelistic', 'Lucy', 'Red Heart', 'Woodbridge'</b>	C																m	x	
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut	D			x												I	x	Thousand cankers disease	
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Panicked Goldenraintree	B								x							I			
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	American Sweetgum	C		x		x												m	x	Needs a well drained soil
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tuliptree	C				x												m	x	
<b>Maackia amurensis</b>	<b>Amur Maackia</b>	C																I-m	x	
<b>Magnolia</b>																				
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumbertree	C																m	x	
<i>Magnolia x 'Galaxy'</i>	Galaxy	C																x	m	x
<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>	Saucer	A																x	m	
<b>Malus</b>	<b>Apple</b>																			
<i>Malus 'Gala'</i>	Gala	B			x													m		Not reliable fruit producer, fireblight
<i>Malus 'Granny Smith'</i>	Granny Smith	D			x	x	x											m	x	Considered zone 6, fire blight
<i>Malus 'Haralred'</i>	Haralred	B					x											m		Good northern apple, subject to codling moth
<i>Malus 'Honeycrisp'</i>	HoneyCrisp	C																m	x	Subject to codling moth
<i>Malus 'Jonathan'</i>	Jonathan	B			x													m		Fireblight, subject to codling moth
<i>Malus 'Liberty'</i>	Liberty	C																m		Subject to codling moth
<i>Malus 'McIntosh'</i>	McIntosh	B			x													m		Fireblight, subject to codling moth
<i>Malus 'Red Delicious'</i>	Red Delicious	A																m		Subject to codling moth
<i>Malus 'Royal Gala'</i>	Royal Gala	B			x													m		Fireblight, subject to codling moth
<i>Malus 'Sweet Sixteen'</i>	Sweet Sixteen	C																m		Northern selection, subject to codling moth
<i>Malus 'Yellow Delicious'</i>	Yellow Golden Delicious	A																m		Subject to codling moth
<i>Malus 'Zestar'</i>	Zestar	C																m	x	Subject to codling moth
<b>Malus</b>	<b>Crabapple</b>																			
<i>Malus 'Adams'</i>	Adams	A																I-m	x	
<i>Malus x 'Branzam'</i>	Brandywine®	B			x													I-m		Large messy fruits, firelight

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Botanical Name	Variety or Common	Rating	Cultural Factors														Other		Comments:
Plant Nomenclature from <i>Manual of Woody Landscape Plants</i> by Michael A. Dirr 2009 edition.			Critical				Cautionary						Other						
			SC	ST	ID	CH	SA	TS	WW	SL	SU	RS	TR	LS	EX	WN	LA		
<i>Prunus padus</i>	European Birdcherry	A							x				x			m		Some breakage after storms	
<i>Prunus padus</i>	European Birdcherry Summer Glow®	A							x							m	x	Some breakage after storms; red leaf form	
<i>Prunus persica</i>	'Elberta', 'Polly'	B				x									x	m		Seldom sets fruit along the front range	
<i>Prunus persica</i>	'Reliance'	B				x									x	m	x	Seldom sets fruit along the front range	
<i>Prunus</i>	'Santa Rosa'	A														m		Needs a cross pollinator	
<i>Prunus</i>	'Stanley'	A														m		Self fruitful plum	
<i>Prunus</i>	'Superior'	A														m	x	Needs a cross pollinator	
<i>Prunus</i>	'Toka'	A														m	x	Needs a cross pollinator	
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Common Chokecherry - 'Canada Red', 'Schubert'	B			x				x	x	x					l-m		Tree form suckers, best as shrub	
<i>Prunus x fontanesiana</i>	Plum - Des Fontaines	C														m	x	Zone 3 ornamental cherry; long lived for a <i>Prunus</i>	
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Wafer ash, Hoptree	A							x			x				l-m	x	Best as a multi-stem	
<b>Pyrus</b>	<b>Pear</b>																		
<i>Pyrus</i>	Pear - 'Bartlett', 'Early Gold', 'Golden Spice', 'Luscious', 'Parker'	B			x											l-m		Fireblight	
<i>Pyrus</i>	Pear - 'Summercrisp'	B														l-m	x		
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery - 'Bradford'	D				x			x	x						l-m			
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery - 'Aristocrat', 'Chanticleer', 'Cleveland Select'	A														l-m			
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery - 'Autumn Blaze'	B			x											l-m		Fireblight	
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery - 'Capital'	A			x											l-m			
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery - 'Redspire'	A														l-m			
<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Ussurian - 'Prairie Gem', 'Burgandy'	B			x											l-m	x	More cold hardy than <i>P.calleryana</i> , fireblight	
<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Ussurian - 'Mt. Frost'	B			x											l-m	x	Fireblight	
<b>Quercus</b>	<b>Oak</b>																		
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White	B	x	x			x									l-m	x	Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils	
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White	B	x				x									m		Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils	
<i>Quercus buckleyi</i>	Texas Red	C				x										l	x	Many seed sources not predictably hardy	
<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	Northern Pin	C	x													m	x	Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils	
<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	Gambel	A									x					l			
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur	A														l-m			
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Chinkapin	A														l-m	x	From northern seed source	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English	A														l-m			
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English 'Columnaris'	B				x										l-m			
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English 'Skyrocket', 'Skymaster'	C														l-m	x		
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red	B	x													m		Develops chlorosis in alkaline soils	
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard	B				x										l-m		From a northern source	
<i>Quercus undulata</i>	Wavyleaf	A														l			
<i>Quercus alba x robur</i>	Crimson Spire®	A														l-m			
<i>Quercus robur x bicolor</i>	Regal Prince®	C														l-m			
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust - 'Purple Robe'	D			x				x	x						l-m		Highly susceptible to borer damage	
<b>Salix</b>	<b>Willow</b>																		
<i>Salix alba</i>	Niobe Weeping - 'Tristis'	B			x				x							h		Aphids and cankers	
<i>Salix alba</i>	Russian Golden - 'Vitellina'	B			x				x							h	x	Aphids and cankers	
<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Peachleaf	B			x				x							l-m	x	Aphids and cankers	

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<b>Plant Nomenclature from <i>Manual of Woody Landscape Plants</i> by Michael A. Dirr 2009 edition.</b>																					
<i>Salix matsudana</i>	Globe - 'Navajo'	D			x	x											h	x	Aphids and cankers		
<i>Salix</i> x 'Prairie Cascade'	Prairie Cascade	B															h		Aphids and cankers		
<b><i>Sophora japonica</i></b>	<b>Japanese Pagodtree</b>	B				x											x	m	x		
<b><i>Sorbus</i></b>	<b>Mountain-ash</b>																				
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	Swedish Whitebeam	C							x									m	x		
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European	B			x				x									m	x	Fireblight	
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European - Cardinal Royal®	B			x				x									m	x	Fireblight	
<i>Sorbus x hybrida</i>	Oak Leaf	C							x									m	x		
<b><i>Syringa</i></b>	<b>Lilac</b>																				
<i>Syringa pekinensis</i>	Peking - 'Summer Charm'	C																I-m	x		
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese - 'Ivory Silk'	A																I-m			
<b><i>Tilia</i></b>	<b>Linden</b>																				
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American - 'Legend', 'American Sentry'	A																m		Not tolerant of road salts	
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf - 'Greenspire®'	A																m		Not tolerant of road salts	
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver - 'Sterling Silver'	A																m	x	Not tolerant of road salts	
<i>Tilia cordata</i> x <i>mongolica</i>	'Harvest Gold'	C																m	x		
<i>Tilia x flavescens</i>	'Glenleven'	A																x	m	Not tolerant of road salts	
<i>Tilia x euchlora</i>	'Redmond'	A																x	m	Not tolerant of road salts	
<b><i>Ulmus</i></b>	<b>Elm</b>																				
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American - 'Princeton'	C			x														I-m	x	Some susceptibility to DED, scale
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American - 'Valley Forge' 'Triumph'	C																	I-m		Good DED resistance, scale
<i>Ulmus davidiana</i>	David	C																	I-m	x	
<i>Ulmus propinqua</i>	'Emerald Sunshine'	C																	I-m	x	Holds leaves late
<i>Ulmus wilsoniana</i>	'Prospector'	C																	I-m	x	Holds leaves late
<i>Ulmus japonica</i> x <i>U. pumila</i>	'Vanguard'	C																	I-m	x	Not best growth habit
<i>Ulmus japonica</i> x <i>U. wilsoniana</i>	'Accolade' 'Triumph'	C																	I-m	x	
<i>Ulmus minor</i> x <i>U. parvifolia</i>	'Frontier'	C				x													I-m	x	Subject to early fall frost
<i>Ulmus</i> 'Urban' x <i>U. wilsoniana</i>	'Patriot'	C																	I-m	x	Narrower growth habit
<i>Ulmus wilsoniana</i> x <i>U. pumila</i> x <i>U. minor</i>	'Commendation'	C																	I-m	x	Early frequent pruning needed when young
<b><i>Xanthoceras sorbifolium</i></b>	<b>Yellowhorn, Clear Creek®</b>	C																	I-m	x	
<b><i>Zelkova serrata</i></b>	<b>Japanese Zelkova</b>																				
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	'Musashino'	C				x													m		
<i>Zelkovia serrata</i>	'Green Vase'	C				x													m		
<i>Zelkovia serrata</i>	'Village Green'	C				x													m		

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