

# Beginner Trees for the Wheat Ridge Area

## Tree Shapes:



**Figure 1:** Columnar. Sides more or less parallel, much more tall than broad.



**Figure 2:** Weeping. Branches tend to weep downward.



**Figure 3:** Round or globe. About as broad as tall.



**Figure 4:** Conical. Cone-shaped. Broad at base, tapering to a narrow top.



**Figure 5:** Broad spreading. A wide vase shape.



**Figure 6:** Upright spreading. A narrow vase shape.



**Figure 7:** Elliptical. More tall than broad, widest branching at or near the middle.

## Key for Tree Table:

Growth Rate:	f = fast	m = moderate	s = slow
Soil Moisture:	L = Low water needs; can withstand drought once established	M = Moderate water needs; normal law watering	H = Heavy water needs; more than normal lawn watering

## Small Deciduous Trees

Plant Name	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Tree Shape	Growth Rate	Soil Moisture	Remarks
<i>Acer ginnala</i> Amur maple	20	15	Broad, spreading	m	M	Available as single-stemmed tree or multi-stemmed shrub; scarlet fall color; avoid alkaline soils.
<i>Acer glabrum</i> Rocky Mountain maple	15	15	Upright	m	M	Native, small tree or large shrub, gray bark, yellow fall color, bright red winter buds.
<i>Acer tataricum</i> Tatarian maple	20	20	Irregular, rounded	m	L	Single or multi-stemmed tree, pink to red winged seeds in summer, yellow fall color, tolerant of alkaline soils, more adaptable than Amur maple.
<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i> 'Autumn Brilliance' Autumn Brilliance serviceberry	20	15	rounded	m	M	White flowers, red to purple fruit, orange to red fall color, single-stemmed tree or multi-stemmed shrub.
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> American hornbeam	25	25	Rounded, spreading	s - m	M	Low branched smooth gray bark, "muscle" branches, yellow-orange fall color.
<i>Corylus colurna</i> Turkish filbert	40	35	Pyramidal	m	M	Dark green leaves turn yellow in fall. Adaptable to many soils.
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> Goldenrain tree	25	20	Upright, rounded	m	L	Best grown on dry sites to avoid fast, brittle branch growth; large panicles of yellow flowers in summer; Chinese lantern-like pods.

<i>Malus</i> spp.	Varies	Varies	Varies	m-f	M-L	Suggested varieties: Centzam, Coralcole David, Indian Summer, Spring Snow, & Sargent.
<i>CentPrunus cerasifera</i> 'Newport' Newport plum	20	20	Upright, rounded	m-f	M	Pinkish-white flowers followed by maroon-red foliage; avoid wet sites.
<i>Syringa pekinensis</i> Pekin lilac	15	15	Upright Rounded	m	M-L	Large white flowers, exfoliating brown bark, can be tree or shrub form.

## Large Deciduous Trees

Plant Name	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Tree Shape	Growth Rate	Soil Moisture	Remarks
<i>Acer plantanoides</i> Norway maple	50	40	Rounded	m	M	Dark green, dense foliage. Yellow fall color, subject to leaf scorch in dry conditions and limited rooting situations.
<i>Acer rubrum</i> Red maple	45	40	conical	f	H	Red flowers in early spring. Red fall color. Avoid very alkaline soils.
<i>Acer saccharum</i> 'Green Mountain'	40	35	oval	s-m	H	Thick waxy leaves resist scorch and retain summer color. Tolerates dry soils. Red-orange fall color.
<i>Acer saccharum</i> 'John Pair'	35	35	rounded	s	L-M	More tolerant of alkaline soil. Excellent fall color.
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i> Northern catalpa	50	25	Narrow, upright	s	M	Showy, white, orchid-like flowers in early summer. Bean-like pods often remain on trees all winter. Large heart-shaped leaves.
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> Common hackberry	55	50	Broad, spreading	m	L	Adapts to most soils. Yellow fall color. Warty bark. Drought and wind tolerant.
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> Kentucky coffeetree	50	40	variable	s	L	May be male or female. Female has leathery seed pods. Interesting winter form. Yellow fall color.

<i>Populus angustifolia</i> Narrowleaf cottonwood	55	40	columnar	f	H	Yellow fall color. Root suckers, thus should be used where it can spread in groves.
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> Bur Oak	60	50	Broad, spreading	s	L	Tolerates alkaline soils and drought. Flaky bark. Corky ridged twigs. Fringed cap on acorn.
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> Chinquapin Oak	40	40	Broad, spreading	m	L	Alkaline soil tolerant. Sharp-toothed leaves that are green above and white below.
<i>Tilla americana</i> American linden	60	50	Broad, conical	m	M	Large heart-shaped leaves. Fragrant flowers in early summer. Yellow fall color. May sucker near base.
<i>Tilla cordata</i> Littleleaf linden	45	30	conical	m	M	Dense foliage. May sucker near base. Creamy-yellow fragrant flowers. Attracts bees.
<i>Ulmus</i> x 'Frontier' Frontier Elm	35	25	elliptical	m	M	Small stature with red fall color. Dutch elm disease tolerant.
<i>Ulmus</i> x 'Triumph' <sup>®</sup> Triumph Elm	50	40	elliptical	m	m	Glossy dark green leaves have yellow fall color.

Source: Colorado State University Extension