

Recommended Trees for the Golden Plains Area

This is a listing of some underused trees that would do well here based on trials in the Colorado State University Arboretum by Jim Klett Ph.D., CSU Ornamental Specialist, published in Dependable Landscape Trees. Added in this list are my tree suggestions based on area wide county site visit observations.

- Acer nigrum 'Greencolumn' Greencolumn Black Maple, Maple Family, Aceraceae

No pest or disease problems; good heat tolerance. 40 high x 35 wide

- Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance' Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry, Rose Family, Rosaceae

Some tendency toward suckering, but overall outstanding specimens with a fall color mix of orange, red and purple, lasting two weeks. No disease and pest problems observed in the arboretum trees. 25 high x 30 wide

- Catalpa speciosa Northern Catalpa, Bignoniaceae Family

Tolerates hot weather, drought tolerant and grows in a wide range of soils including alkaline. Early summer flowers, white with purple markings. Fast-growing tree which can attract powdery mildew, leaf spot and verticillium wilt. 40 to 60 high x 20 to 40 wide.

- Gleditsia triacanthos inermis 'Shademaster' Shademaster Thornless Honeylocust

Minor insect problems; a 1979 specimen has stayed in good health in the CSU arboretum. 45 high x 40 wide, Pea Family, Fabaceae Family

- Heptacodium miconioides Seven-son flower Plant Select Introduction

Can be a small shrub or tall tree to 25 feet. Fast-growing and very adaptable to many soils. Flowers are white with moderate to dry water requirements. Has exfoliating bark. Member of the Honeysuckle Family. 25 high x 15 wide. Caprioliaceae Family, Honeysuckle Family

- Malus sargentii 'Select A' Firebird Flowering Crabapple (white flowering)

Highly resistant to mildew, apple scab, fireblight and cedar apple rust. 8 high x 7 wide, Rose Family, Rosaceae

- Malus 'Thunderbird' Thunderbird Flowering Crabapple (pink flowering)

Resistant to fireblight. No pest problems have been observed. 16 high x 10 wide, Rose Family, Rosaceae

- Ostrya virginiana American Hophornbeam, Ironwood

Gray-brown bark attractive; some minor leaf spot in recent years.

40 high x 30 wide, Betulaceae Family, Birch Family

- Phellodendron amurense Amur Corktree,

No disease or insect problems; no cultural problems such as chlorosis and dieback. 45 high x 45 wide, Cork Tree Family, Rutaceae

- Prunus x 'Accolade' Accolade Flowering Cherry, Rose Family, Rosaceae

This tree is fruitless. When these trees suffer from stress they attract borers and gummosis. One out of three samples in the arboretum have suffered from stress. The others are in good health. 50 high x 25 wide

- Quercus macrocarpa Bur Oak, Beech Family, Fagaceae

Adapts to different soil types, urban conditions and dry conditions. Difficult to transplant, but once established will be a long-lived, slow-growing tree with no pest or disease problems except slight injury from galls. 55 high x 45 wide.

- Quercus muchlenbergii Chinkapin Oak, Yellow Chestnut Oak, Beech Family

Adaptable to alkaline soils, no chlorosis or dieback, no problems with pests or disease. Recently planted in Plant Select® multi site trials throughout Colorado and has done well. 50 high x 60 wide

- Syringa reticulate 'Summer Snow' Summer Snow Japanese Tree Lilac

No disease or insect problems. Yellow fall color. 18 high x 14 wide, Oleaceae, Olive Family

- Syringa pekinensis 'Peking Tree Lilac'

Light creamy white flowers with a light fragrance appear in early summer. Winter hardy plants and have adapted well to alkaline soil. 25 high x 20 wide, Oleaceae, Olive Family

- Tilia cordata 'June Bride' June Bride Littleleaf Linden

The best Tilia cultivar. Minor pest problems such as aphids and sooty mold. 30 high x 25 wide. Malvaceae Family

- Tilia americana 'Redmond' Redmond American Linden

Overwintering feature of red buds and twigs; attracts aphids and sooty mold follows – inconsistent with each season. 50 high x 40 wide. Malvaceae Family

- Tilia cordata 'Chancole' Chancellor Littleleaf Linden

Pyramidal growth habit that is very attractive and uniform, no dieback or chlorosis and minor problems with leaf spot and aphids. Malvaceae Family

- Ulmus parvifolia, Chinese or Lacebark Elm

Resistant to Dutch elm disease. This has been proven to be a pest-free tree. 40 high x 50 wide. It has exfoliating bark. Ulmaceae Family

- Ulmus x 'Mortan Stalwart' Commendation Elm

A mix of many elm species; resistant to Dutch elm disease with some leaf minor and leaf tatter. 25 high x 25 wide. Ulmaceae Family

- Ulmus x Frontier Frontier Elm

Resistant to Dutch elm disease. Prefers moist, rich soils but adaptable to poor soils; full sun; very tolerant of urban conditions and drought tolerant. Fall color is red-purple-burgundy and summer leaves are glossy, dark green. 35 high x 25 wide. Ulmaceae Family

- Ulmus x 'Triumph' Triumph™ Elm

Excellent disease and pest resistance to Dutch elm disease, Elm Yellows and Elm Leaf Beetle; arching branches with aggressive roots to be planted away from sidewalks; adapt easily to extremes in pH, moisture, wind and heat. 50 high x 40 wide – elliptical form. Ulmaceae Family

- Xanthoceras sorbifolium Yellowhorn (white flowers with red & yellow centers)

This does have pea-sized edible seeds. Looks good all summer. No pest problems; likes colder climates. Soapberry Family, Sapindaceae Family

Plant select: Clear Creek® Golden Yellowhorn

Spring white flowers with yellow centers turning maroon and leathery seedpods through winter; can be large tree or small shrub to 22 feet; moderate to xeric water requirements.

One final note when selecting trees for your landscape based on Morton Arboretum and the Arbor Day Foundation:

The more closely related tree species are, the more likely they are to be vulnerable to the same pests and damage. Keep the following 30/20/10 rule in mind when making tree selections. In your community, plant trees with no more than 30 percent of species within the same family, no more than 20 percent should be from the same genus, and no more than 10 percent should be the same species.