



DROUGHT TOLERANT TREES

Plant	Common Name	Ht./Width	Bloom	Sun/Shade	Hardiness Zone	Comments
Acer campestre	Hedge Maple	30' x 30'	Green	Sun/Pt Shade	5+	Tolerates drought/compacted soil; slow growing
Acer ginnala	Amur Maple	15-20'	Yellow	Sun/Pt Shade	2+	Multi-trunked; fall color; adaptable
Acer glabrum	Rocky Mtn. Maple	20' x 15'	Green/yellow	Sun/Pt Shade	4+	Multi-trunked, best in moist, partly sunny areas
Alnus cordata	Italian Alder	30-70'	Catkins/spring	Sun/Pt Shade	5+	Shiny dark green leaves
Catalpa speciosa	Northern Catalpa	40-60'	White/early summer	Sun/Pt Shade	4+	Prefers moist soil; fruit is messy
Celtis occidentalis	Common Hackberry	40-60'	Greenish/spring	Sun/Pt Shade	3+	Tough; adaptable; fruit attracts birds
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	10-15'	Pink/early spring	Sun/Pt Shade	5+	Brilliant magenta blossoms, heart-shaped leaves
Cotinus coggygria	Smoke Tree	10-15'	Yellow	Sun	5+	Multi-stemmed; soft cloudlike masses of pinkish seed clusters
Crataegus crusgalli	Cockspur Hawthorne	15-25'	White/spring	Sun	4+	Long thorns; fall color; prone to pest and disease problems
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree	50+ ft	Green	Sun	5+	Fan shaped leaves turn soft yellow in fall; plant only males; adaptable
Gleditsia tricanthos var. inermis	Thornless Honey Locust	30-70'	Greenish	Sun	4+	Airy, lacy leaves in late spring; good yellow fall color; pods can be messy; adaptable

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C205– Drought Tolerant Trees

Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucky Coffee Tree	60-70' x 40-50'	Green/white	Sun/Pt Shade	4+	Bold year-round texture; late to leaf out; fruit pods can be messy
Juniperus scopulorum	Rocky Mountain Juniper	To 30' x 8-15'		Sun	3+	Evergreen; very drought tolerant; good wildlife tree; adaptable; deer resistant
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Raintree	20-30' x 25-35'	Yellow/mid-summer	Sun	5+	Showy yellow blooms; fast growing; mod. drought tolerance; prone to winter dieback
Pinus aristata	Bristlecone Pine	20-30' x 10-15'		Sun	2+	Very slow-growing; water during dry spells
Pinus flexilis 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'	Limber Pine	20-25' x 10-15'		Sun	4+	Slow growing tree for rocky slopes; soft blue needles
Pinus mugo	Mugo Pine	3-10' x 10-15'		Sun/Pt Shade	2+	Sawfly and pine needle scale can be a problem; may need pruning
Pinus nigra	Austrian Pine	40-60' x 20'		Sun	4+	Good city/windbreak tree; Diplodia tip blight may be a problem
Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa Pine Tree	80-100' x 25-30'		Sun/Pt Shade	3+	Problem with pine bark beetle
Prunus virginiana	Chokecherry	12-25' x 10-15'	White/spring	Sun/Pt. Shade	2+	White flowers followed by red berries; good for wildlife; used for jam. Cut root suckers
Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak	60-80' x 50-70'		Sun	3+	Adapts to moist or dry soils; slow growing
Robinia neomexicana	New Mexico Locust	6-20' x 10-20'	Pink/early summer	Sun	4+	Suckers from roots, especially when over-watered; native to Southwest
Sophora japonica	Japanese Pagoda Tree	40-60'	Yellow-white	Sun	5+	Beautiful tree; occasional small branch cankers; weak branches prone to storm damage
Tilia tomentosa	Silver Linden	40-60' x 25-40'	Yellow	Sun	4+	Fragrant flowers; attractive foliage; nice shade tree

Please note that the following trees were deleted from the previous version of this publication.

Eliminated because of invasive potential:

European bird cherry (*Prunus padus*); European mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*); Russian olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*); Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*); White mulberry (*Morus alba*); Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).

Eliminated for poor/less drought tolerance than reported:

Horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*); Sour gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*); Quaking aspen; Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

Eliminated because of significant (fatal) pest issues:

Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvannica*) – Emerald Ash Borer is expected to kill most true ash species in the US.

Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) – Thousand canker disease often kills these trees, also not very good drought tolerance.