

Grand Valley All-Star Tree List

In early spring of 2023, the city of Grand Junction Forestry Board worked together to compile a comprehensive list of all trees with strong track records and known reliability within the Grand Valley of Western Colorado.

Most trees listed require only some watering and all of them have individual benefits worth weighing.

This list was created for public use and is intended to help property owners find a tree and/or several trees well-suited for their property.

For more detail on any tree or a tree already on your property contact: a local certified arborist, the City of Grand Junction Forestry Division, CSU Tri-River Extension, or a nursery.

Please consider planting a tree that you rarely see around town or in your neighborhood. This will strengthen our urban forest and help prevent future monocultures.

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Large Shade Trees (*mature size greater than 40 feet*)



Acer negundo 'Sensation'
Box Elder, Sensation

Hardy, mid-size shade tree, susceptible to storm damage.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 25' – 80'
Spread: 30' – 50'
Type: Native, Deciduous
Growth Rate: Fast
Water Demand: Low/Medium

Quercus macrocarpa
Bur Oak

Round, tolerant of heat and pollution.
Light: 6+ hours direct
Height: 60' – 80'
Spread: 60' – 80'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Slow
Water Demand: Xeric

Quercus muehlenbergii
Chinkapin Oak

Tolerates most soils, attracts many wildlife species.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 45' – 60'
Spread: 50' – 70'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Low/Medium

Celtis occidentalis
Common Hackberry

Tolerates most soils, easily transplanted.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 30' – 60'
Spread: 40' – 60'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium/Fast
Water Demand: Xeric

Quercus robur
English Oak

Tolerates most soils, low maintenance, hardy.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 40' – 60'
Spread: 40' – 60'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Medium

Large Shade Trees (*mature size greater than 40 feet*)



Morus alba cultivars
White Mulberry, Fruitless

Hardy, with dense canopy, in fruiting and fruitless varieties.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 30' – 50'
Spread: 30' – 50'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Fast
Water Demand: Low



Eucommia ulmoides
Hardy Rubber Tree

Glossy foliage, remains green in drought, minimal pruning.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 40' – 60'
Spread: 30' – 50'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Low



Gledistia triacanthos inermis
Honeylocust

Demonstrated local success, hardy under most conditions.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 60' – 80'
Spread: 60' – 80'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Fast
Water Demand: Xeric



Ulmus spp.
Hybrid Elm

Tough, select variety resistant to Dutch Elm Disease.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 30' – 60'
Spread: 20' – 40'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Fast
Water Demand: Xeric/Low



Styphnolobium japonica
Japanese Pagoda Tree

Tolerates pollution and mild drought, storm damage risk.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 50' – 70'
Spread: 50' – 70'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium/Fast
Water Demand: Low

Large Shade Trees (*mature size greater than 40 feet*)



Zelkova serrata
Japanese Zelkova

Tough, drought tolerant,
requires early pruning.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 50' – 80'
Spread: 50' – 80'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Xeric/Low



Gymnocladus dioica
Kentucky Coffee Tree

Hardy, tolerates most soils,
few pests, successful locally.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 60' – 80'
Spread: 40' – 55'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Xeric



Platanus x acerifolia
London Planetree

Hybrid of sycamore and
planetree, tolerates heat.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 60' – 70'
Spread: 40' – 50'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium/Fast
Water Demand: Medium



Pyrus spp.
Ornamental Pear

Tolerates most soils, white
flowers with strong scent.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 20' – 40'
Spread: 15' – 30'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium/Fast
Water Demand: Low/Medium



Catalpa x erubescens
Purple Catalpa

Purple leaf color when young,
tolerates most soil conditions.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 30' – 50'
Spread: 20' – 40'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium/Fast
Water Demand: Medium

Large Shade Trees (*mature size greater than 40 feet*)



Acer miyabei 'Morton'
State Street Maple

Tolerates urban conditions,
good street tree.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 30' – 40'
Spread: 30' – 40'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Moderate
Water Demand: Medium



Celtis laevigata
Sugarberry

Texture trunk, prefers clay soil,
tolerates poor air quality.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 60' – 80'
Spread: 60' – 80'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Fast
Water Demand: Xeric/Low



Maclura pomifera
Osage Orange

Large inedible fruits, scaly and
furrowed bark.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 35' – 55'
Spread: 35' – 55'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Fast
Water Demand: Xeric



Catalpa speciosa
Western Catalpa

Hardy, long fruit pods,
compatible with xeriscaping.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 40' – 70'
Spread: 20' – 50'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium / Fast
Water Demand: Xeric / Low

Medium Ornamental Trees (*mature size between 20-40 feet*)



Maackia amurensis
Amur Maackia

Hardy, pollinator friendly, with fragrant blossoms.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 20' – 30'
Spread: 15' – 20'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Slow
Water Demand: Xeric



Acer grandidentatum
Bigtooth Maple

Tolerates rocky soils and drought, colorful fall foliage.
Light: 4 – 6 hours
Height: 20' – 30'
Spread: 15' – 25'
Type: Native, Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Xeric



Catalpa ovata
Chinese Catalpa

Tolerates poor soils and high moisture, long fruit pods.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 20' – 30'
Spread: 20' – 30'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium/Fast
Water Demand: Medium



Pistacia chinensis
Chinese Pistache

Drought-tolerant shade tree, successful in Southwest.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 30' – 35'
Spread: 20' – 30'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Xeric/Low



Quercus x maxei
Colorado Foothills Oak

Hardier than most oaks, drought tolerant, shrublike in poor soils.
Light: Full
Height: 35'
Spread: 30'
Type: Native Deciduous
Growth Rate: Slow
Water Demand: Xeric

Medium Ornamental Trees (*mature size between 20-40 feet*)



Malus spp.
Crabapple

Diverse flowering trees with small fruits.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 10' – 30'
Spread: 10' – 30'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium / Fast
Water Demand: Medium/High

Quercus gambelii
Gambel Oak

Tolerates rocky, alkaline soils. Spreads from root system.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 6' – 25'
Spread: 10' – 12' + sprouting
Type: Native, Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Xeric

Koelreuteria paniculata
Golden Rain Tree

Smaller shade tree with showy blossoms and fruits.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 30' – 40'
Spread: 30' – 40'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium/Fast
Water Demand: Xeric

Crataegus viridis cultivars
Green Hawthorn cultivars

Dense, easy to grow, disease-resistant, occasional thorns.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 20' – 35'
Spread: 20' – 35'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Low

Acer campestre
Hedge Maple

Frost hardy, for streets, yards, or hedges, easy to grow.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 25' – 35'
Spread: 25' – 35'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Slow to Medium
Water Demand: Medium

Medium Ornamental Trees (mature size between 20-40 feet)



Syringa reticulata
Japanese Tree Lilac

Prefers moist soil, unique flowers, sometimes shrub-like.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 20' – 30'
Spread: 15' – 20'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Low



Crataegus phaenopyrum
Washington Hawthorn

Red fruit, bright blossoms, tolerates most soils.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 25' – 30'
Spread: 25' – 30'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Low



Cercis canadensis
Redbud

Pink spring flowers, short trunk, ornamental.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 15' – 25'
Spread: 15' – 30'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Medium



Crataegus ambigua
Russian Hawthorn

White blossoms, horizontal branches, does well locally.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 18' – 25'
Spread: 18' – 25'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Xeric



Quercus buckleyi
Texas Red Oak

Bright red foliage in fall, sometimes multitrunked.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 25' – 40'
Spread: 20' – 35'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium/Fast
Water Demand: Xeric/Low

Small Ornamental Trees (*mature size less than 20 feet*)



Cotinus obovatus
American Smoketree

Quercus undulata
Wavey Leaf Oak

Crataegus submollis
Northern Downy Hawthorn

Syringa pekinensis
Peking Tree Lilac

Acer tataricum
Tatarian Maple

Showy ornamental, tolerates a wide of moisture levels.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 15' – 20'
Spread: 10 – 15'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Low

Shrub-like, produces acorns, with blue-green leaves.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 10' – 20'
Spread: 10' – 15'
Type: Native Deciduous
Growth Rate: Slow
Water Demand: Xeric

Tolerates most soils, white flowers, pollinator friendly.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 20' – 30'
Spread: 20' – 30'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Low

Often multi-stemmed, tolerates urban areas.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 15' – 20'
Spread: 10' – 15'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Xeric/Low

Sometimes shrub-like, upright, winged seeds.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 15' – 20'
Spread: 15' – 20'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Fast
Water Demand: Xeric / Low

Small Ornamental Trees (*mature size less than 20 feet*)



Crataegus crus-galli
Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn

Notable horizontal structure,
tolerates most soils, red fruit.

Light: Full Sun
Height: 15' – 20'
Spread: 15' – 30'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Xeric

Crataegus x mordenensis
'Toba'
Toba Hawthorn

White flowers, adaptable,
needs good drainage.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 15' – 20'
Spread: 15' – 20'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Low

Conifers



Pinus nigra
Austrian Pine

Hardy, good for windbreaks, tolerates most soils.
Light: 6+ hours direct
Height: 40' – 60'
Spread: 20' – 40'
Type: Evergreen
Growth Rate: Medium / Fast
Water Demand: Low



Cupressus arizonica
Arizona Cypress

Juniper-like foliage, tolerates heat and most soil types.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 30' – 40'
Spread: 15' – 25'
Type: Deciduous
Growth Rate: Medium
Water Demand: Xeric



Pinus heldreichii
Bosnian Pine

May not tolerate extreme heat/high winds, purple cones.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 30' – 40'
Spread: 20' – 30'
Type: Evergreen
Growth Rate: Slow
Water Demand: Low



Pinus edulis
Piñon Pine

Attracts wildlife, good screening, modest size.
Light: Full Sun
Height: 15' – 25'
Spread: 12' – 25'
Type: Native Evergreen
Growth Rate: Slow
Water Demand: Low



Juniperus osteosperma
Utah Juniper

Very slow growing, hardy in drought and wind.
Light: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 15' – 20'
Spread: 8' – 12'
Type: Native Evergreen
Growth Rate: Slow
Water Demand: Xeric

Conifers



Juniperus scopulorum 'Wichita Blue'
Wichita Blue Juniper

For screens and hedges, wind blocking, bright blue.
 Light: Full Sun
 Height: 10' – 15'
 Spread: 4' – 8'
 Type: Native Evergreen
 Growth Rate: Medium
 Water Demand: Xeric



Juniperus scopulorum 'Skyrocket'
Skyrocket Juniper

Columnar, narrow base, grows rapidly to maturity.
 Light: Full Sun
 Height: 15' – 20'
 Spread: 4' – 6'
 Type: Native Evergreen
 Growth Rate: Fast
 Water Demand: Xeric



Juniperus scopulorum 'Cologreen'
Cologreen Juniper

Wide columnar, cone-shaped, endures high temperatures.
 Light: Full Sun
 Height: 15' – 20'
 Spread: 5' – 7'
 Type: Native Evergreen
 Growth Rate: Medium
 Water Demand: Xeric



Juniperus scopulorum 'Gray Gleam'
Gray Gleam Juniper

Columnar form, dense, silvery-gray foliage.
 Light: Full Sun
 Height: 10' – 15'
 Spread: 5' – 7'
 Type: Native Evergreen
 Growth Rate: Fast
 Water Demand: Xeric