

# 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**

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



*Quercus undulata*  
**Wavey Leaf Oak**

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



*Crataegus submollis*  
**Northern Downy Hawthorn**

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



*Syringa pekinensis*  
**Peking Tree Lilac**

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



*Acer tataricum*  
**Tatarian Maple**

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