

Species Suitability Guide for Colorado

Common Name	Mature height (approx. ft.)	Growth form	Cold hardiness*	Drought resistance*	Tolerance to alkaline soils*	Windbreak suitability*	Wildlife suitability*	Elevational range (ft.)
Deciduous Shrubs								
Caragana	10	dense	E	E	G	E	E	below 9,500
Cotoneaster	6	dense	E	G	F	E	E	below 9,500
Honeysuckle	10	spreading	E	G	G	E	G	below 8,000
Chokecherry	10	spreading	E	G	G	E	E	below 9,000
Lilac	8	dense	E	G	G	E	G	below 8,500
Native Plum	8	open	E	G	G	G	E	below 8,000
Sumac (skunkbush)	4	dense	E	E	E	E	E	below 8,000
Sand cherry	4	open	E	G	G	F	G	below 7,500
Nanking cherry	6	spreading	E	G	F	G	G	below 8,000
European sage	5	spreading	E	E	F	P	E	below 6,000
Woods rose	4	dense	E	E	G	E	E	below 10,000
Buffaloberry	10	dense	E	G	E	E	E	below 7,500
Four-wing saltbush	4	open	E	E	E	G	E	below 8,000
Golden currant	5	open	E	F	E	E	E	below 8,000
Serviceberry	6	spreading	E	G	F	E	E	below 9,000
Mountain mahogany	6	irregular	G	E	E	E	E	below 9,000
Red-osier dogwood	8	irregular	E	F	G	E	E	below 11,000
New Mexico forestiera (privet)	10	irregular	G	G	E	E	G	below 7,500
Deciduous Trees								
Green ash	35	elliptical	E	E	G	E	F	below 8,500
Siberian elm	40	spreading	E	E	G	F	F	below 8,000
Hybrid cottonwood	60	spreading	E	P	E	F	F	below 7,000
Narrowleaf cottonwood	50	irregular	E	F	G	G	F	5,000 to 9,500
Native willow mix	12	spreading	E	P	G	F	G	below 9,500
Golden willow	35	spreading	E	P	G	F	F	below 8,000
Hackberry	35	spreading	E	G	F	E	G	below 7,000
Honeylocust	35	spreading	E	E	G	F	G	below 7,500
Lombardy poplar	40	columnar	E	P	P	P	E	below 8,000
Lacebark elm	40	irregular	P	G	G	E	F	below 5,000
Bur oak	50	spreading	E	F	E	F	P	below 5,000
Black locust	40	irregular	F	G	G	G	P	below 6,000
Coyote willow	10	irregular	E	P	G	F	G	below 9,500
Peachleaf willow	40	irregular	E	P	G	F	G	below 9,500
Aspen	35	open	E	P	P	P	E	above 6,000
Evergreens								
Austrian pine	40	open crown	G	E	G	F	F	below 7,500
Colorado blue spruce	60	dense crown	E	G	F	G	G	below 9,500
Douglas-fir	70	dense crown	E	G	F	G	G	6,000 to 9,000
Engelmann spruce	70	dense crown	E	G	F	G	G	above 8,000
Eastern red cedar	18	dense crown	E	E	G	E	E	below 7,500
Lodgepole pine	60	open crown	E	E	G	F	G	above 6,000
Piñon pine	15	dense crown	E	E	E	G	G	below 7,500
Ponderosa pine	40	open crown	E	E	G	E	G	below 9,000
Rocky Mountain juniper	15	dense crown	E	E	E	E	E	below 9,000
Scotch pine	40	open crown	G	G	F	F	F	below 7,000
White fir	60	dense crown	E	G	F	G	G	below 9,000
Bristlecone pine	40	open crown	E	E	G	E	G	below 11,000
Limber pine	35	conical	E	G	F	G	G	below 11,000
Subalpine fir	80	conical	E	P	F	F	F	8,000 to 11,000

* E = excellent G = good F = Fair P = poor