

SELECTING THE RIGHT SHADE OR LANDSCAPE TREE for western Nebraska – 2019



Nebraska Forest Service

Environmental conditions in Nebraska make it difficult for many trees to survive or grow well. Various soil types, heat, fluctuating winter temperatures, desiccating winds, and drought all contribute to stressful conditions for trees.

Matching a tree's requirements for nutrients, light, water, and growing space to its prospective site location can prevent trees from becoming a nuisance or hazard; and if stressed, trees become susceptible to insect and disease problems. Any landscape tree with an inexpensive purchase price may result in expensive treatment costs later in the tree's life if proper tree selection is not carried out.

The following list serves as a guide for selecting trees to plant along streets, in parks, schools and other public areas as well as private yards. Different tree species are listed separately; cultivars are listed in the parentheses.

Small Ornamental Trees, (under 20' tall)

buckeye+, red	lilac, Japanese tree (Copper Curls, Ivory Silk), pekin
crabapple*, flowering	maple – paperbark, tatarian (Hot Wings), Shantung, trident
hawthorn, thornless – cockspur, downy, Russian	oak –dwarf chinkapin, gambel
hornbeam+	redbud
maackia, amur (Starburst)	serviceberry+ (Autumn Brilliance)

Medium Ornamental Trees, (20 – 40' tall)

buckeye+, Ohio	maple – bigtooth (Rocky Mountain Glow), black, miyabe
corktree, amur	(State Street), Norway (Crimson King, Emerald Lustre,
goldenraintree	Royal Red), sugar (Caddo, Green Mountain)
filbert, Turkish	mountainash* - European, oakleaf
hophornbeam+ or ironwood	oak – columnar English
horsechestnut	pagodatree, Japanese

Large Overstory Trees, (over 40' tall)

catalpa, northern	linden - American (native, Frontyard, Redmond), littleleaf,
coffeetree, Kentucky	silver (Green Mountain, Sterling Silver)
elm – American (elm disease resistant varieties), lacebark	oak - bur, chinkapin, English, swamp white, white
elm hybrids (Accolade, Cathedral, Frontier, Triumph)	oak hybrids (Heritage, Regal Prince)
ginkgo (Autumn Gold, Princeton Sentry)	osage-orange (White Shield, Wichita)
hackberry (Prairie Pride, Prairie Sentinel)	sycamore
honeylocust (Shademaster, Skyline)	

Conifers or Evergreens

baldcypress (deciduous conifer)	larch (deciduous conifer)
douglasfir	pine - bristlecone, Bosnian, eastern white, jack, lacebark,
fir, concolor	limber, mugo, pinyon, ponderosa, southwestern white
juniper, ornamental – many cultivars are available	spruce - Black Hills, Colorado, Norway, Serbian

*** Check for fire blight resistance in all cultivars of the Rose family!**

+ Needs afternoon shade, or some shade during the day

NOTE: Trees to avoid planting include: ash, boxelder, white/weeping birch, ornamental pear, cottonless cottonwood, Siberian elm, silver maple, Lombardy poplar, tree of heaven. These trees are prone to early failure, insect & disease problems and/or are likely to drop branches during storms. Also, some species do not do well in alkaline soils like red oaks, red or Freeman maples, etc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum at <http://plantnebraska.org/> has excellent plant material information, as well as site specific information and other helpful links.

Guidelines for Location, Placement and Spacing of Landscape Trees

LARGE TREES	Buildings	No closer than 20'
	Curbs/Sidewalks	No closer than 4'
	Street intersections	No closer than 35'
	Driveway/Alleys/Utility poles	No closer than 15'
	Fireplugs	No closer than 10'
	Underground lines/Mains	Not within 5 lateral feet
	Overhead utility wires	Not under or within 20 lateral feet
SMALL- MEDIUM TREES	Buildings	No closer than 20'
	Curbs/Sidewalks	No closer than 3'
	Street intersections	No closer than 35'
	Driveway/Alleys/Utility poles	No closer than 15'
	Fireplugs	No closer than 10'
	Underground lines/Mains	Not within 5 lateral feet
	Overhead utility wires	Not under or within 20 lateral feet

Considerations:

1. If the grass area distance between curb and sidewalk is less than 4', a "street tree" should not be planted due to lack of space.
2. In areas where no curbs or sidewalks exist, a "street tree" should not be planted.
3. The guidelines shown above are minimum spacing specifications; planting trees at less than these stated guidelines is strongly discouraged, with few exceptions.

Be sure to check your local community tree ordinance for the final approval on all tree plantings on public property.