

Trees in Tollgate Crossing

The list of trees available to Colorado residents is constantly changing, making it difficult to maintain an up-to-date listing of species and cultivars acceptable for planting in our neighborhood. Rather, the association recommends certain trees based on input from multiple sources supporting their long-term success in our difficult environment, and denies the planting of certain trees based on their tendency to create maintenance issues for neighboring properties. The homeowner may plant any species of tree not on the “denied” list, but may increase their chances of success by choosing from the recommended list. Evergreen species taller than three feet should not be planted between the sidewalk and the street so as not to create blind spots.

Recommended List:

Autumn Blaze Maple – large hybrid tree with nice fall color. Wrap trunks of young trees in winter to prevent sun scald.

Bigtooth, Tartarian Maples – smaller trees that may have nice fall color – Hot Wings has bright red winged seeds.

Hawthorns – smaller trees with white or pink flowers in spring and red or orange berries in fall – beware of large thorns.

Seven Son Flower Tree – A small, cold-hardy multi-trunked tree from China. Blooms white in August!

Common Hackberry – A large shade tree fairly well adapted to Colorado. Nice yellow fall color. Insects sometimes cause small galls on leaves, which do no harm to the tree and need no control.

Crabapples – Nice small trees with beautiful spring flowers and colorful fruit – variable disease resistance and thousands of varieties, so do some homework. Centurion, Coralburst, Indian Summer, Profusion and Radiant are highly rated.

Callery Pear – Ornamental trees with white flowers and variable fall color. Aristocrat, Chanticleer, Cleveland Select, Capital, and Redspire are highly rated. Avoid Bradford and Autumn Blaze.

Linden – Popular shade trees, but they do not tolerate road salt, so not for planting near the street.

Honey Locust – Tiny leaves tend not to be damaged by hail. Imperial, Shademaster and Skyline recommended, but wrap young trunks in winter to prevent sun scald.

Japanese Tree Lilac – Smaller upright tree to about 20ft with clusters of creamy flowers in spring.

Evergreens – Most pines and spruces do well along the front range, but for safety reasons should not be planted near the street unless in dwarf shrub form. Know that Colorado Blue Spruce and Austrian Pines are capable of very large sizes, but are available in smaller/slower growing varieties that may better fit our smaller yards.

Denied List:

Russian Olive – re-seeds everywhere, messy in every season, illegal to sell or plant

Aspen – Best enjoyed in the mountains. Invasive, short-lived, subject to insects and cankers at our altitude. Suckers travel long distances and will invade neighboring yards.

Cottonwood (to include Poplars) – massive in size, and messy, drops large branches and produces truckloads of cottony seeds that can coat everything for a block around.

Ash – not adapted to the front-range climate, not drought tolerant, susceptible to borer damage. May live a few years, then decline, forcing you to start over. Nearly guaranteed to fail

Willows – short-lived, susceptible to canker and insects, invasive roots seek out water lines. Will thrive in a wet, boggy spot, then die immediately if the water source dries up.

Silver Maple – fast growing, but weak wooded and messy, with dense, invasive roots that prevent growing grass (or anything else) underneath, and millions of weedy seedlings.

Black Locust – highly susceptible to locust borers, which kill main trunk, then roots will send up suckers on the other side of your neighbors yard.

Sources of information: A tree that you may have for decades is worth doing some research to select properly. Be aware that vendors that sell trees may recommend what they have in stock rather than those species best suited to your specific conditions. Sources such as CSU that are not selling trees have no motivation to lead you astray. Online documentation may sometimes be out-of-date, recommending trees that were once considered adapted to Colorado, but time has proven otherwise.

<http://www.milehighmillion.org/pages/trees/tree-planting/the-right-tree>

https://www.denvergov.org/Portals/747/documents/forestry/Street_tree_guide.pdf

http://www.denverpost.com/ci_18146116

<http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/CoopExt/4dmg/Trees/command.htm>

<http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/CoopExt/4dmg/Trees/trees.htm>