

Tree Selection and Planting

By Tom Neiman

Common name: Non-specific identification (what we call it)
Latin name: Scientific name (genus and species)
Other name(s): What else do we call it?

Size:
Small (a height of twenty (20) feet to thirty (30) feet with a mature spread of twenty (20) feet or more)

Medium (a height of thirty (30) feet to forty-five (45) feet with a mature spread of thirty (30) feet or more)

Large (a height of forty-five (45) feet or greater with a mature spread of forty (40) feet or more)

Height: Vertical length of trunk (central leader)
Spread: Horizontal length of branches (drip line)

Growth (vertically):
Slow (less than 12" per year)
Moderate (between 1' and 2' per year)
Fast (more than 2' per year)

Drought tolerant: Can the tree handle hot and dry conditions?
Soils: Sand, silt, clay and combinations;

Sunlight:
Full (at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight per day)
Partial (at least 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight per day)

Water: How long does it take to water the entire diameter of the drip line to a least a depth of 24 inches? (sprinkler can, garden hose, sprinklers, drip irrigation)

Remarks: Bloom time and colors; fall colors; fragrances; attracts animals and insects; pest and disease issues; best locations.



Chinese Pistache

Common name: Chinese Pistache (Deciduous)

Latin name: *Pistacia chinensis*

Other name(s): Chinese Pistachio

Size: Small to medium

Height: 30'

Spread 30'

Growth: Moderate

Drought tolerant: Yes.

Soils: adapts to most types; prefers well-drained; stay away from clay

Sunlight: Full sun

Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: Good shade tree; May need additional pruning; female plants bear red berries; blooms in the spring; red Fall colors; urban tree; used in xeriscaping/landscaping; considered an ugly duckling when young; good Fall red and yellow colors; birds feed on seeds; leaves are 10" long; orange to red cherries (drupes) ripen in October. (acclimate versus establish)

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Common name: Afghanistan Pine (Evergreen)
 Latin name: *Pinus eldarica*
 Other name(s): Afghan Pine, **Calabrian Pine** & **Mondel Pine**

Size: **Medium to large**
 Height: 40'
 Spread: 18'

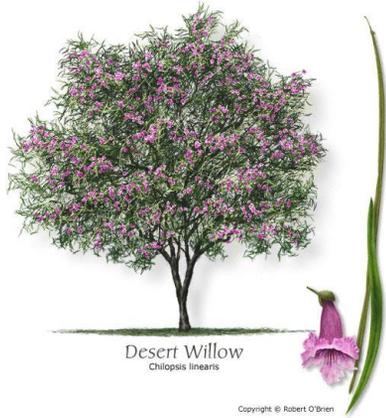
Growth: **Fast**
 Drought tolerant: Yes
 Soils: Adapts to most types; **prefers well-drained**

Sunlight: **Full**

Water: Minimum once a month; once to twice a month in the spring, summer and fall, as necessary

Remarks: **Pyramid shape**; cones are 3" long and **reddish-brown** color; tolerates heat; Has mild fragrance; makes a good windbreak; bird nesting and breeding area; winter seeds are eaten by non-migratory birds





Common name: Desert Willow (Deciduous)
 Latin name: *Chilopsis Linearis*
 Other name(s):

Size: **Small**
 Height: 20'
 Spread: 25'

Growth: **Fast**
 Drought tolerant: Yes

Soils: All varieties
 Sunlight: **Full**

Water: **Little to no supplemental water**

Remarks: Perfect for urban landscapes; **multi-trunked**; can be trained to grow a single trunk; 10" seed pods; **attracts hummingbirds**; water once a month year round; blooms in mid-summer; **tubular flowers are pink, white, lavender and magenta**; very low maintenance.







Golden Rain Tree

Common name: Golden Rain tree (Deciduous)
Latin name: *koelreuteria paniculata*
Other name(s): **Pride of India, China tree, or varnish tree**

Size: **Small to medium**
Height: 25'
Spread 25'

Growth: **Fast**
Drought tolerant:
Soils: Adapts to a wide variety of soils

Sunlight: **Full sun**

Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: blooms early summer with yellow flowers; beautiful landscape tree; **paper-looking lanterns (seed pods)** on branches dangling in the Fall and Winter; susceptible to aphids, elder bugs and twig blight; good park tree. street tree; used in planters; attracts bees; **may take up as much as 3 years before it blooms**; handles heat stress and air pollution; potential 50 year life span.





Common name: Crabapple (Deciduous)
Latin name: *Malus Spp.* (25+ species)
Other name(s): Flowering Crab apple

Size: **Small to medium**
Height: 25'
Spread 20'

Growth: **Moderate**
Drought tolerant: Yes. **Can handle extra water.**
Soils: Adapts to a variety of soils/prefers moist, well-drained

Sunlight: **Full sun**
Water: Once a month and twice in the summer

Remarks: Flower color varies with species; **pink, red and white blooms in the spring**; single trunk; urban tolerant; adapts to poor soil pH (high acidic or alkaline); can be susceptible to pests and disease; typically used as ornamental landscape trees









Common name: Piñon Pine (Evergreen)
 Latin name: *Pinus edulis*
 Other name(s): **Colorado Pine, Two-needle Pinyon**

Size: **Small to medium**

Height: 30'
 Spread: 20'

Growth: **Slow**
 Drought tolerant: Yes

Soils: Adapts to all varieties

Sunlight: **Full**
 Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: Hardy; can handle a variety of soils; cones are round, 1.5" to 2.5" greenish-yellow; **pine nuts are edible**; makes an excellent Christmas tree; attracts pests such as Pine-tip moth, beetles and scale.



Kentucky
Coffee
Tree



Common name: Kentucky Coffee tree (Deciduous)
Latin name: *Gymnocladus dioica*
Other name(s):

Size: **Large**
Height: 50'
Spread 40'

Growth: **Slow to moderate**

Drought tolerant: Yes; **can handle extra moisture**
Soils: moist to well-drained

Sunlight: **Full** sun
Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: **blooms in the Summer**; white and purple flowers; **female plant has rose scent**; leaves turn yellow to brown in the Fall; unique bark; scaly ash-gray to brown; large dark seed pods; disease resistant; seeds look like coffee beans; **raw seeds are toxic to humans and animals**; urban tree; good in parks and golf courses.



Lace bark Elm



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Common name: Lacebark Elm (Deciduous)
 Latin name: *Ulmus parvifolia*
 Other name(s): Chinese elm

Size: Large
 Height: 40'
 Spread 40'

Growth: Moderate to fast

Drought tolerant: Yes and flood tolerant
 Soils: Well-drained

Sunlight: Full
 Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: Exfoliating bark; mottled/peeling; brown, grayish-green and orange; Fall colors green to yellow to reddish purple; good street tree: good nesting sites for birds; home for small animals; **do not confuse with Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) which is invasive (prolific and undesirable).**







Fall color



Flowering plum

Common name: Purpleleaf Plum (Deciduous)
Latin name: *Prunus cerasifera*
Other name(s): Flowering plum, Cherry plum, Pissard's Purple plum, Myrobalan plum

Size: **Small to medium**
Height: 20'
Spread: 20'

Growth: **Moderate to fast**
Drought tolerant: Yes
Soils: Well drained; **do not over water**

Sunlight: **Full sun**
Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: 20 year life span; blooms in spring with pink flowers; purple leaves; **roots need room to spread; don't plant too close to other trees or houses**; susceptible to disease and fungi; spider mites, borers and tent caterpillars, if water stressed; single or multiple trunk; **some trees will become fruiting after a few years**; attracts bees; western USA and BC; has delicate small white flowers.





Flowering Plum



Crapemyrtle

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Common name: Crepe Myrtle (Deciduous shrub)
 Latin name: *Lagerstroemia indica*
 Other name(s): Crape Myrtle

Size: **Small**
 Height: 15'
 Spread 15'

Growth: **Fast**
 Drought tolerant: Yes.
 Soils: well drained

Sunlight: **Full sun**
 Water: Once a month and twice in the summer

Remarks: Vase shape; shrub; **handsome bark**; **peeling**; blooms late Spring through early Fall; many colors; white, pink, purple magenta, lavender; **problems develop in low light and poor air circulation**; iron chlorosis; powdery mildew and aphids; attracts birds; suitable for hot and sunny climates; makes a good screen tree.



Bird of Paradise



Common name: Yellow Bird of Paradise (Deciduous shrub)
Latin name: *Caesalpinia gilliesii*
Other name(s): Bird of Paradise

Size: **Small**
Height: 10'
Spread: 10'

Growth: **Slow**
Drought tolerant: Yes
Soils: Tolerant of most soils; prefers well-drained

Sunlight: **Full sun**
Water: Little to no supplemental water or once per month

Remarks: **Shrub**; yellow, orange and red flowers and long red stamens bloom Summer till Fall; **reseeds freely**; does not grow well above 7500'; has 4" seed pods; tolerates severe pruning; no thorns; may suffer from **iron chlorosis**; can be pruned to small tree form; seeds burst from pods (**cap pistol**).





Common name: Smoke Tree (Deciduous)
Latin name: *Cotinus coggygria*
Other name(s): **Cloud tree, Jupiter's Beard**

Size: **Small**
Height: 10'
Spread: 15'

Growth: **Medium**
Drought tolerant: Yes. **Can handle extra water.**
Soils: Adapts to a variety of soils

Sunlight: **Full sun**
Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: when leaves are crushed, **smells like orange peels**; hairy orange colored flowers bloom June though September giving it a smoky look; also blooms pink to yellow-pink flowers; multi-stemmed trunk; relatively free of pests; attracted by large animals (deer); love to rub, graze and eat nearby; good park tree or home landscape tree; fall color = blue-green to yellow-red-purple? **smokey pink color June through August.**





Vitex

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Common name: Chaste tree (Deciduous)
 Latin name: *Vitex agnus-castus*
 Other name(s): Vitex, Indian Spice, Hemp tree, Sage tree, Lilac Chaste tree

Size: Small to medium
 Height: 20'
 Spread 20'

Growth: Moderate
 Drought tolerant: Yes.
 Soils: well drained

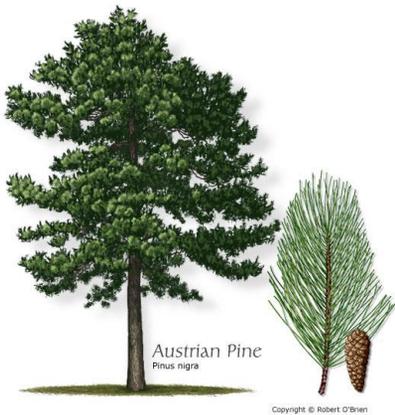
Sunlight: Full sun
 Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: Heat and drought tolerant; smells wonderful; reseeds easily; does not grow well above 7500'; attracts butterflies and carpenter bees; needs additional water until acclimated; can be grown like a large shrub; once established (2-3 years) can become good candidate for xeric garden; produces 8"-12" purple or pink spikes; seeds are aromatic; blooms in the Summer; colors include blue, purple, white and pink.









Common name: Austrian Pine (Evergreen)
Latin name: *Pinus nigra*
Other name(s): European black pine

Size: **Medium**
Height: 35'
Spread: 25'

Growth: **Moderate**
Drought tolerant: No
Soils: Prefers moist soils-well drained

Sunlight: **Full or partial sun**
Water: Minimum, once a month; once to twice a month in the spring, summer and fall, as necessary

Remarks: Has oval light brown cones, 2"-4" in length; dark green needles; low weeping branches; great street tree; handles urban air pollution; **birds and squirrels eat the seeds; nesting place for owls.**





Austrian Pine

Oklahoma
Redbud



Common name: Oklahoma redbud
Latin name: *Cercis reniformis* 'Oklahoma'
Other name(s): Redbud,

Size: **Small**
Height: 15'
Spread: 10'

Growth: **Fast**
Drought tolerant: Yes
Soils: Prefers well drained soils

Sunlight: **Full sun**
Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: Small pink-purple and lavender colored flowers **bloom early Spring**; **good plant for limited space**; parking lots, lawns, near deck or patio and residential streets; purple fruit pod 1"-3"; vase shaped.





Common name: New Mexico Olive (Deciduous)
Latin name: *Forestiera neomexicana*
Other name(s): **Privet, Desert olive, New Mexico privet**

Size: **Small**
Height: 15'
Spread: 15'

Growth: **Fast**
Drought tolerant: Yes
Soils: Prefers sandy soils

Sunlight: **Full sun or full shade**
Water: Once a month and twice a month in the summer

Remarks: Yellow flowers bloom in the spring; **flowers are fragrant**; female trees provide ¼ inch egg-shaped, blue-black fruit; wildlife (birds) eat the fruit; pest resistant; multi-trunked; Ideal as a hedge along property; **do not confuse with a Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) which have thorns and are considered invasive (prolific and undesirable).**





What to plant?

Matching the tree and its requirements to the planting site conditions

Bare root (lightweight, portable and may require staking)

Container: Field grown plant placed in a container for a time

Balled and burlapped (B & B): Tree removed from the ground for replanting, with the roots and soil wrapped in natural (biodegradable) burlap or synthetic, including cotton cover, wire, wire basket and string or rope

When purchasing-examine the entire tree

Roots should be white or light tan (locate the root flare)

Identify circling roots

Look for

Trunk damage (transportation or mechanical)

Broken branches

Co-dominant leaders (a no-no)

Disease or insect damage

8 steps to tree planting

1)The **depth of the hole** should be equal to the distance between the root flare and bottom of the roots (bare root), the bottom of pot (container) or the base of the root ball (B & B).

2)The diameter of the hole should be **two to three times** the diameter of the root ball at the surface and narrowing at the bottom.

3)Avoid glazing (smooth) sides; use garden tools to break up smooth surface.

4)**Make sure the root flare is no more than 1" to 3" below the surface.**

5)Remove all packing and containers; if B & B, cut away all twine, burlap and wire from top and sides.

6)Back-fill with soil from hole; add water and tamp slightly.

7)Build a **berm** two-thirds of the tree well diameter to capture excess water.

8)Cover tree well with 2" to 4" of wood mulch.

Nurseries and Garden Centers

Albuquerque	Albuquerque Garden Center	10120 Lomas Blvd NE	505-296-6020
Albuquerque	Albuquerque Water Gardens	2704 Duranes Rd NW	505-246-8278
Albuquerque	Dugan's Nursery	395 Alameda Blvd NW	505-897-2600
Albuquerque	Garden Accent	5419 Academy Rd NE	505-823-1857
Albuquerque	Murphy's Earthworks	3116 9th St NW	505-761-9629
Albuquerque	Osuna Nursery	501 Osuna Rd. NE	505-346-6644
Albuquerque	Plants of the Southwest	6680 4th St NW	505-344-8830
Albuquerque	Rehm's Nursery	5801 Lomas Blvd NE	505-266-5978
Albuquerque	Rio Valley Greenhouses	2000 Harzman Rd SW	505-242-4423
Albuquerque	Rowland Nurseries	4349 Irving Blvd NW	505-898-4833
Albuquerque	Rowland Nurseries	615 Rio Grande Blvd NW	505-242-8705
Albuquerque	Rowland's Nursery	7402 Meneal Blvd. NE	505-883-5727
Bernalillo	G L Trees & Landscape Products	1050 W Highway 550	505-263-9929
Bernalillo	Santa Ana Garden Center	960 W Highway 550	505-867-1322
Los Lunas	Trees That Please	3084 Highway 47	505-866-5027
Rio Rancho	Rio Rancho Garden Center	975 Western Hills Dr SE	505-891-2600
Truchas	Tooley's		505-689-2400

References

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
www.isa-arbor.com

What Tree is this? Identification Guide
National Arbor Day Foundation
www.arborday.org

New Mexico State University Plant Selector
Sandovalextension.nmsu.edu

Trees of Texas
texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/listOfTrees/

Thank You

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