Approved Trees for Xeriscaping

Plant Name	Height/spread (in feet)	Comments
Bigtooth maple (Wasatch maple)* Acer grandiidentatum	25-30 20-25	Slow growth rate; red-yellow fall color.
Bristlecone pine Pinus longaeva (formerly P. aristata)	15-40 15-25	Dark green, dense foliage; must have good drainage.
Bur oak* Quercus macrocarpa	70-80 50-80	Stately, long-lived; adapts to alkaline soil.
Cherry Prunus cerasus	20-30	Needs deep well draining soil
Eastern red cedar Juniperus Virginiana	30-50 10-20	Pyramidal shape that fruits cones.
Gambel oak* Quercus gambeli	5-15 10-15	Spreads by root sprouts; often shrubby.
Goldenrain tree* Koelreuteria paniculata	20-35 10-25	Yellow flowers in July; lantern-like pods in late summer; salt tolerant.
Common hackberry* Celtis occidentalis	25-45 30-40	Normally an upright, vase-shaped tree; attractive corky bark.
Japanese pagoda tree Sophora japonica	40-60 45-70	Does well in alkaline, saline soils; cream-colored flowers in early summer.
Kentucky coffeetree Gymnocladus dioicus	50-70 35-50	Slow growth; thick pods on female tree; flowers of male are fragrant.
New Mexican locust Robinia neomexicana	10-20 10-20	Fragrant pink flowers in June; often shrubby and spread from root sprouts.
Oneseed juniper Juniperus monosperma	20-25 15-20	Among the most drought-enduring evergreens.
Pinyon pine Pinus cembroides edulis	15-25 15-20	Must have good drainage.
Ponderosa pine* Pinus ponderosa	45-50 35-40	Must have good drainage.
Rocky Mountain juniper Juniperus scopulorum	25-30 15-20	Numerous varieties available
Shademaster honeylocust* Gleditsia triancanthos inermis	30-60 25-50	Several varieties available; avoid "sunburst" variety in non-irrigated sites.
Tartarian maple Acer tataricum	15-30 15-18	Green leaves with yellowish-white flowers in the spring that are followed by red samaras in the fall.
Thornless honeylocust* Gleditsia triancanthos inermis	30-60 25-50	Several varieties available; avoid "sunburst" variety in non-irrigated sites.
Western catalpa* Catalpa speciosa	40-50 20-30	Showy white flowers in early summer, cigar-like pods into fall.

^{*} Indicates a tree approved for planting in a right-of-way

Approved Shrubs for Xeriscaping

Plant Name	Height/spread (in feet)	Comments
Apache plume Fallugia paradoxa	3-5 5-6	Graceful arching stems; large showy flowers; plumy seed heads.
Barberry (Japanese) Berberis thunbergii	3-6 3-5	Purple-leaved and dwarf forms available; shade tolerant
Bladder-senna Colutea arborescens	4-6 4-6	Yellow sweet pea-like flowers in early summer; bladdery pods into fall and winter.
Buffaloberry (silver) Shepherdia argentea	10-15 8-10	Silvery leaves; scarlet fruit.
Ceanothus (fendler) Ceanothus fendieri	1-2 3-5	Gray-green foliage; spiny, low-growing; well drained soils only.
Cinquefoil (Potentilla) Potentilla fruticosa	1-4	Showy white to yellow flowers in summer. Needs full sur for best flowers.
Cliff fendlerbush Fendlera rupicola	5-6 5-6	White to rose-pink followers; arching shrub.
Cliff rose Cowania mexicana	10-15 5-10	Stiffly upright shrub or small tree; fragrant white flowers semi-evergreen; well-drained soils only.
Cotoneaster Cotoneaster sp.	0.5-10	A highly variable group; most have shiny, small leaves; berries are red or black; C. acutifolia is common.
Juniper Juniperus sp.	0.5-10	Available in various heights, foliage colors and foliage textures. Requires good drainage. Pfitzers, "Tammy" and Buffalo varieties are commonly used.
Leadplant A. Amorpha canescens	2-3 3-4	Silvery-gray foliage; purple flowers in summer; fruticosa has greener foliage and up to 10 feet tall.
Mountain-mahogany Cercocarpus sp.	10-1 8-20	Two types – C. montanus is deciduous; C. ledifolius is evergreen; both are stiffly upright shrubs.
New Mexican privet	10-15	Male shrub has showy yellow flowers in spring.
Peashrub Caragana sp.	3-15 5-10	Several forms available; dwarf – C. microphyllus and C. pygmaea; tall – C. arborescens.
Rabbitbrush Chrysothamnus sp.	2-5 3-4	Greenish to white stems; yellow flowers in summer; tolerates salty soils.
Rock spirea Holodiscus dumosus	3-8 8-10	Graceful arching shrub; creamy white flowers; well-drained soils only.
Saltbrush Atriplex canescens	2-6 4-5	Gray-green leaves; doubtfully hardy in N.E. Colorado; tolerates very high salts.
Sand cherry Prunus besseyl	3-4 4-5	Fragrant, white flowers; edible black fruit; well-drained soils only.
Sage Artemisia sp.	variable	Many hardy forms; gray-green to silvery foliage; some are evergreen.
Sea buckthorn Hippophae rhamnoides	3-5 6-8	Grayish foliage; female plants have attractive red-orange fruit.
Sumac (smooth) Rhus glabra cismontane	4-6	Spreads by root suckers; red velvety fruit; scarlet fall color.
Sumac (threeleaf) Rhus trilobata	3-6 8-10	Glossy dark green leaves; showy red velvety fruit.
Yucca Yucca sp.	0.5-3 1-3	Sword-like foliage; showy spikes of creamy-white tinged pink flowers. Y. baccata has large broad, green leaves.

Approved Vines for Xeriscaping

Plant Name	Height/spread (in feet)	Comments
Jasmine Jasminum spp.	10-15	Fragrant, white flowers that are present all summer into fall.
Lady Bank's Rose Rosa banksiae	10-20	A big, thorn-less evergreen rose plant.
Potato Vine Solanum jasminoides	6-10	Flower producing vine that blooms between May and September.
Cape Honeysuckle Tecomaria capensis	25-30	Evergreen vine that produces orange and red trumpet shaped flowers.
Star Jasmine Trachelospermum jasminoids	25-30	Fragrant vine known to attract bees and produce starshaped flowers.
Wisteria Witeria spp.	10-30	Fast grower that produces blue and purple flowers.

Approved Grasses for Xeriscaping

Plant Name	Height/spread (in feet)	Comments
Buffalo Grass <i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>	N/A	Low growing, fine-textured grayish-green grass.
Indian Ricegrass Achnatherum (oruzopsis) hymenoides	1-3	Tight rolled, slender leaves that has a wiry appearance.
Sideoats Grama Bouteloua curtipendula	1-3	Clump forming grass with blue-green flowering stalks.
Blue Grama Bouteloula gracilis	1-2	Short flowering stems with narrow leaf blades.
Little Bluestem Schizachyrium scoparium	2-5	Ornamental bunchgrass with blue-green stems that turn to red with white in the fall.
Indian Grass Sorghastrum	3-8	Broad blue-green blades with a large, soft golden-brown seed head.
Tahoma 31 Cynodon dactylon	N/A	Fine texture, high density turf. Exceptional winter survivabilit and high level drought resistance.
Dog Tuff Grass Cynodon PWIN04S	N/A	Similar characteristics to buffalo grass, resistant to pet waste and is drought tolerant.